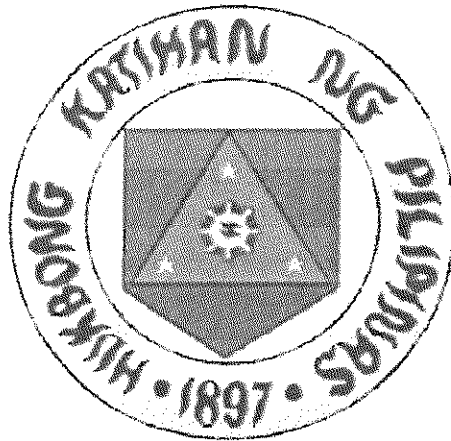


Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

10 February 2016

Wednesday

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

10 FEBRUARY 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	Mla. Times p.A8
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	And they're off!		Phil. Star p.1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4	Truce brokers trapped in fighting between gov't, BIFF	Ali G Macabalang	Mla. Bulletin p.15
5	New Commander	Mike Crismundo	Mla. Bulletin p.15
6	Army steps up security ops in Davao region	Alexander Lopez	Mla. Bulletin p.15
7	20 BIFF combatants slain in Maguindanao	Elena Aben	Mla. Bulletin p.2
8	9 BIFF killed in Maguindanao clashes	Moh Saaduddin	Mla. Times p.A7
9	Troops, BIFF clash anew in Maguindanao	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B6
10	Soldiers, BIFF men clash in Maguindanao	John Unson	Phil. Star p.14
11	Entrustment of FAs II Stormtroopers has new assault rifles		www.dwdd.com
12-13	Families displaced as clash breaks out between troops, BIFF	John Unson	www.philstar.com
14	Changing of the Guard		The Standard p.A3
AFP RELATED NEWS			
15	AFP to bets: Not in our cramps	Julie M Aurelio	PDI p.A5
16-17	Reds admit killing of security chief in N. Cotabato	Williamor Magbanua	PDI p.A10
18	MILF to pursue peace talks despite BBL's 'demise'	Mario Mallari	Tribune p.3
19	Pemberton, ililipat sa ISAFP jail	Beth Camia	Balita p.4
20	Owner of car used by Marcelino surfaces	Cecile Suerte Felipe	Phil. Star p.13
COMMENTARY			
21-22	The casualty: BBL		PDI p.A14
23	Dahil sa kagustuhang mapuksa ang mga rebelde sa Timog, ibang parte ng 'Pinas na dapat bantayan napabaya' na!	TG Guingona	Bulgar p.5
ONLINE NEWS			
24	AFP deliberates on shortlist for new PMA superintendent		www.interaksyon.com

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

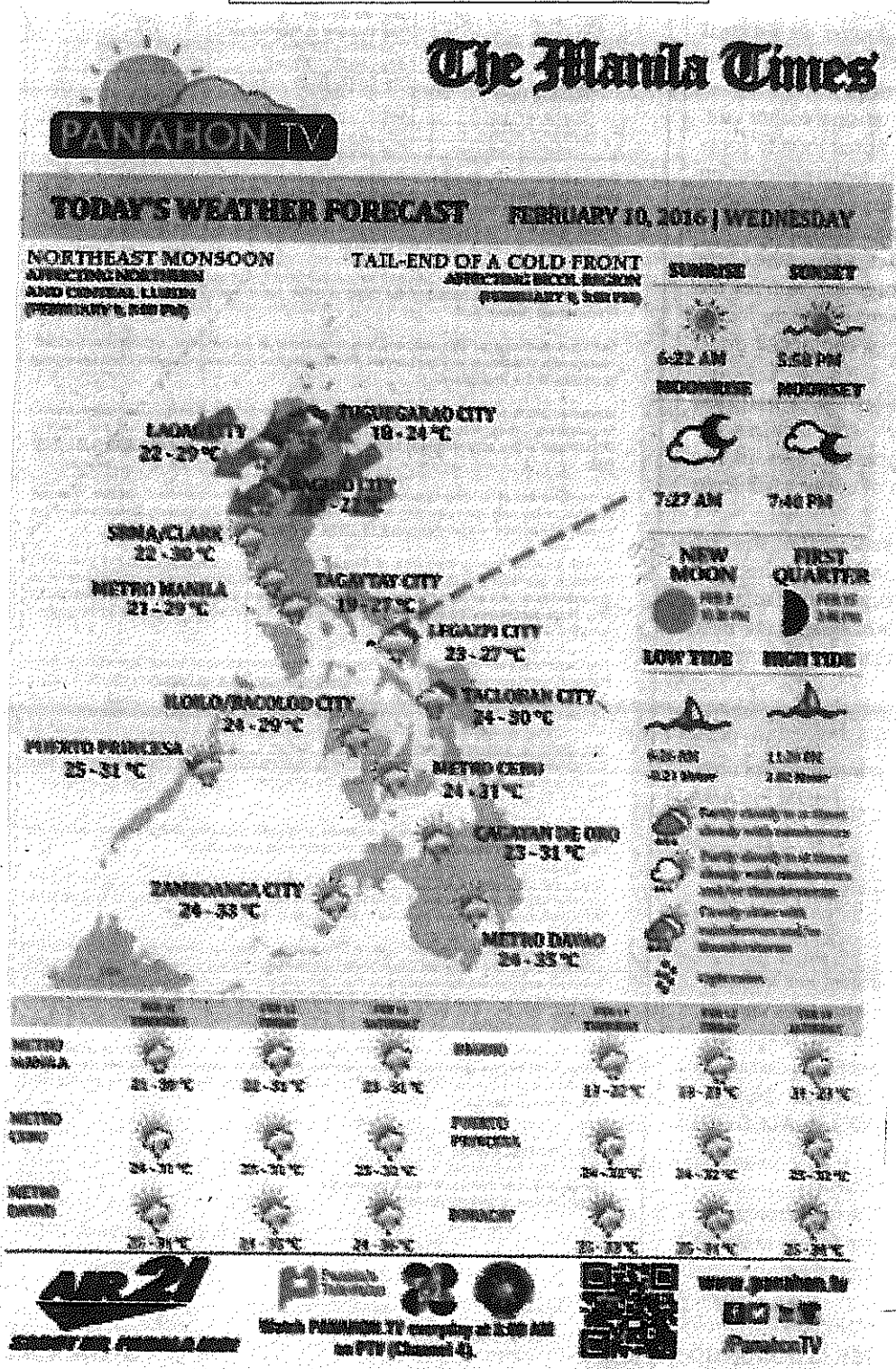
25	Cops, soldiers prevent violence in demolition of Digos City homes		www.inquirer.net
26	Jolo test mission bomb plot barred		www.philstar.com

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

10 February 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A8



10 February 2016



Page: 1

And they're off!

Cliffhanger presidential race begins

A cliffhanger of a race to lead the country began yesterday with five candidates claiming to have a genuine chance of succeeding President Aquino.

Since emerging from dictatorship three decades ago, the Philippines has seen its political scene dominated by elite families, celebrities, corruption and violence, which have contributed to near-constant chaos.

Those factors are once again dominant themes in this year's contest for the presidency, as well as the thousands of national and local posts up for grabs in the May 9 elections.

The current presidential front-runner is Sen. Grace Poe, an inexperienced politician who is riding a wave of popularity among the tens of millions of poor Filipinos, due in part to her adopted father, Fernando Poe Jr.

FPJ became one of the nation's most loved actors by playing characters who championed the poor, and nearly translated that popularity into political success by coming in second in the 2004 presidential elections.

Grace Poe, 47, launched her political career only three years ago when she entered the Senate, but has enjoyed huge success by trading on her father's name while portraying herself as a reliable, honest advocate of the poor.

However, opponents have petitioned the Supreme Court to disqualify Poe, arguing she cannot prove she is a natural-born Filipino because she does not know who her biological parents are.

Turn to Page 6

And they're From Page 1

The SC could also disqualify Poe for failing to meet residency rules, because she spent many years living in the US and gained US citizenship before renouncing it and returning home.

If Poe is knocked out, with a court ruling expected during the campaign, the nation would be plunged into

political turmoil with three contenders who are currently each polling about 20 percent support ready to pounce.

A major contender is Vice President Jejomar Binay, who heads the main opposition party.

Binay, 73, has spent decades building a vast political machine but he has had to endure

a barrage of corruption allegations that have seen him lose his front-runner status.

A Senate committee recently recommended Binay be charged with graft for kickbacks allegedly taken during his long stint as mayor of the nation's financial capital, Makati.

President Aquino, who has overseen growth averaging 6.2 percent since 2010 and won international applause for trying to fight corruption, wants

to hand over the keys to the presidential palace to longtime ally Mar Roxas.

However Roxas, 58, a US-educated investment banker from one of the nation's richest families, has consistently trailed Poe and Binay in surveys. Analysts blame a lack of charisma and inability to connect with the poor masses.

In contrast, controversial populist politician Rodrigo Duterte, 70, is making a spectacular charge for the presi-

dency by vowing a ruthless crackdown on crime.

Human rights groups have accused Duterte of running vigilante "death squads" that killed more than 1,000 suspected criminals during his many years as mayor of the major southern city of Davao.

Duterte has acknowledged the existence of the death squads and said in speeches and press conferences in recent months that he had overseen the killing of drug traffickers.

The fifth contender is Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who chose Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as her runningmate.

Santiago reiterated that she will be running for the highest position for the third time to stop the corruption in the government.

Despite claims she has beaten cancer and her popularity among the younger voters with her strong presence in social media, Santiago has consistently trailed in the surveys.

10 February 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 15

Truce brokers trapped in fighting between gov't, BIFF

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY – Combatants of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) blocked a road along Datu Piang town in Maguindanao Tuesday in the latest spate of confrontation by the outlawed group with government security forces, a civil society group brokering a truce said.

Bobby Benito, secretary general of the Mindanao People's Caucus (MPC), said heavily armed rebels blocked entry and exit along the road between barangays Butalo and Tee, effectively trapping him and fellow peace activities trying to broker a truce between the government and the BIFF.

"We are being trapped at (barangay) Butalo Bridge where (military) clearing operation is going on. Very high-powered explosions are being heard around (us)," Benito said in a text message to the Bulletin Tuesday noon.

Col. Felicisimo Badiangan, head of Army's 1st Mechanized Brigade, confirmed the continued massing of BIFF rebels, saying his command was firing mortar rounds of mortar shots in a bid to "drive away the increasing number of enemies."

According to him, the bandits have occupied barangay Tee, an adjacent village of Butalo where bridge construction and dredging projects are underway.

The outlawed group, according to its spokesman Abu Mesri, the BIFF was taking the cudgel for its members who were demanding that unpaid rights of way on lands traversed by the government projects be immediately settled.

Musri claimed that five soldiers securing construction workers were slain in sporadic clashes that began on Friday. The military belied the claim, saying it was the rebel group that suffered three fatalities and scores of wounded. But it admitted the wounding of three soldiers including an Army captain.

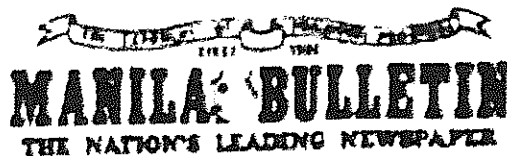
- Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Army Core Purpo

ne land.

10 February 2016



Page: 15

• New commander

BUTUAN CITY – The 30th Infantry (Python) Battalion (30th IB) under the Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) has a new commander in Surigao del Norte and Province of Dinagat Islands (PDI), Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez, spokesperson of 4th ID yesterday said. Lt. Col. Arsenio Sadural, the outgoing commander of 30th IB, turned over the baton to his successor, Lt. Col. Rico Amaro, a member of Philippine Military Academy "Bantay-Laya" Class of 1994, last Monday. The ceremony was presided by Maj. Gen Oscar T. Lactao, commander of 4th ID and was attended by local chief executives, partner agencies, and other stakeholders in Surigao del Norte and PDI. (Mike U. Crismundo)

10 February 2016

THE BULLETIN
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 15

Army steps up security ops in Davao region

By **ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ**

DAVAO CITY – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is intensifying its security operations in Davao region as fresh armed encounters with the communists New People's Army (NPA) rebels were recently recorded in the area.

Tenth Infantry (Agila) Division commander Major General Rafael Valencia, in a statement to the media here, said the campaigns against the NPA rebels in the region will be relentless.

"We will continue our peace and development initiatives for the people of Davao Region. We encourage NPA members to abandon the armed struggle and return to the folds of the law. But for those who continue to choose the path of violence, we will vigorously pursue and defeat them using legitimate force," Valencia pointed out.

The intensified security actions of the army have already resulted in a series of armed confrontations against the NPA rebels in the area, Capt. Rhyen Batchar, chief information officer of 10th ID said.

Last February 6 at around 5:00 a.m., elements of Bravo Company of the 73rd Infantry Battalion engaged

a group of fully armed NPA rebels belonging to guerrilla front 71 of the Far South Mindanao Region (FSMR) in the boundaries of Jose Abad Santos town in Davao occidental and Glan, Sarangani, Batchar said.

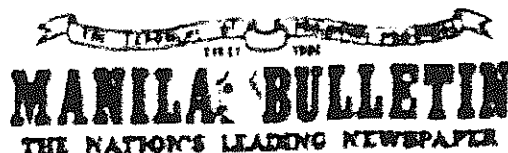
Batchar added a second encounter took place on the same date, at around 2:30 p.m. in Sitio Binotaam, Barangay Kingking, Pantukan, Compostela Valley province when troopers belonging to 46th Infantry Battalion engaged an escaping group of NPA rebels belonging to guerrilla front 2 of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC) led by a certain Alias Raden.

The next day, at around 3:00 p.m., another armed encounter that lasted for six minutes took place between the elements of 46th IB and NPA rebels in Sitio Logpaton, Barangay Kingking, Pantukan.

"No soldier was hurt on these incidents while the NPAs were believed to have suffered casualties as they left behind traces of bloodstains and various personal effects and other paraphernalia's after immediately fleeing the site of the incidents," Batchar emphasized.

Elements of 46th IB and 73rd IB are still conducting pursuit operations against the NPAs in their respective areas of operation.

10 February 2016



Page: 2

20 BIFF combatants slain in Maguindanao

By ELENA L. ABEN

A least 20 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were reported killed as fresh fighting between the brigand group and government security forces erupted early Monday morning in Maguindanao, a military spokesperson said.

Monday's clashes took place after a two-day lull. Last Friday, soldiers backed by armored personnel carriers also engaged BIFF fighters in series of encounters, wherein two Army troops, including a Captain, were wounded.

Capt. Jo Ann Petinglay, Army Sixth Infantry Division (6ID) spokesperson, said fighting first broke out around 4:30 p.m. Friday last week when BIFF bandits attacked soldiers guarding a government flood control project in Sitio Dagading, Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo town. Sporadic fires lasted until early Saturday morning.

"After that, the BIFF became more aggressive... and on Sunday, BIFF gunmen harassed a nearby military detachment," she said.

Yesterday at around 7:00 a.m., fighting occurred anew between the BIFF and government troops, wherein some 20 members of the brigand group were allegedly killed.

However, Petinglay said they have yet to validate the number of casualties among the BIFF, saying there was no actual body count.

"Based on eyewitness reports from civilians, the BIFF suffered approximately 20 fatalities. But it's just an estimate and we have yet to validate this.

There is no body count," she said.

Sporadic fighting was still on-going as of press time.

The BIFF gunmen behind the attacks are said to be under Commanders Bungos, Abusaiden, Kagui Tatang and Ustadz Roman.

According to the military, the BIFF, which already declared its allegiance to the Islamic State, is opposing the flood control project at Barangay Tee in Datu Salibo as it cuts through Barangay Tee, an area where the BIFF operates.

10 February 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A7

9 BIFF killed in Maguindanao clashes

MAGUINDANA0: Nine jihadist members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), including its sub-leader, were monitored killed in sporadic firefight in Datu Salibo town here as the military continues with the clearing operations on a dredging project that was attacked by the group.

Colonel Felicisimo Budiongan, Army commander of the 1st Mechanized Brigade, said among the dead was a BIFF sub-leader identified only as Abu Supian. He was killed during Tuesday's military pursuit operation, while eight others were recorded in previous clashes since the operation started on Friday.

He said the reported casualties was based on military intelligence and was corroborated by eyewitnesses.

Budiongan said the BIFF also suffered an undetermined number of injured, including another sub-leader of the group identified only as Commander Bitol.

Except for an army officer and two civilians, who sustained minor injuries, no other casualties were reported.

Budiongan said an "indirect support fire" was being staged to drive away remaining BIFF groups, who were occupying Barangay Tee in the town.

Local residents and stranded commuters reported to have heard loud explosions on Tuesday along the highway in Datu Piang. They expressed fear of renewed war in Mindanao.

The Army commander allayed fear of war, adding that the current operation was harmonized

with the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) through the Ad-Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG) of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Military officials said the encounter started when the breakaway group of the separatist MILF started harassing the ongoing flood control project in Datu Salibo.

The report said the BIFF burned heavy equipment and attacked military forces who were defusing a bomb planted under a bridge.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Warlito Limet, commander of the Army's 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade, said government troops diffused several landmines or improvised explosive devices that were planted around the river-widening project in Barangay Butalo and Barangay Tee of Datu Salibo on Friday. The explosives were allegedly planted by a group of BIFF who was reported extorting from the project constructor.

The current hostilities came amid non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) in Congress, which was also reportedly lauded by Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chairman Nur Misuari and his forces in Sulu.

The BIFF, with more than 400 members, has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) and is opposing the current peace process in Mindanao.

**MOH SAADUDDIN AND
FERNAN MARASIGAN**

10 February 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 66

Troops, BIFF clash anew in Maguindanao

BY VICTOR REYES

FIGHTING between government troops and members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Front erupted anew yesterday in Datu Salibo town in Maguindanao.

The military claimed to have killed about 20 BIFF men in the initial firefight Friday to Saturday in Barangay Tee.

No enemy body has been recovered and the deaths were 'based on accounts of civilians,' said Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, public affairs officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in the province.

Sporadic fighting was ongoing as of yesterday afternoon, she also said.

Col. Noel Detoyato, chief of the AFP public affairs office, said the BIFF has sent reinforcements to the area.

"The BIFF is resisting. The num-

ber of the enemy is increasing because BIFF men from other areas arrived. They have reinforcements," he said but added the troops are still superior in strength as they have armored assets.

The BIFF has about 300 fighters in Central Mindanao.

Detoyato said the troops are firing grenades with the use of automatic grenade launchers, "causing huge explosions," he said.

The military previously reported that two soldiers, including an Army captain, were wounded in the initial fighting. The soldiers, assigned with the 2nd Mechanized Battalion, were securing a contractor involved in a flood control project.

Petinglay said the fighting with the BIFF men, who were said to be trying to extort money from the contractor, broke out at around 4:30 p.m. Friday in barangay Tee and lasted until Saturday dawn.

Detoyato said the BIFF men planted improvised explosive devices in the area. The bombs were bombs were defused by soldiers earlier Friday.

The BIFF men fired at the soldiers, triggering a clash.

The following day, the BIFF burned a backhoe of the contractor.

At dawn Sunday dawn, around 30 BIFF men attacked an Army detachment in the nearby barangay Sambulawan. No one was reported killed or injured on both sides in the fighting, Petinglay said.

At around 7 a.m. yesterday, Army soldiers securing the construction area again clashed with an undetermined number of BIFF men in barangay Tee.

The BIFF is composed of former leaders and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which signed a peace accord with government in March 2014.

10 February 2016



Page: 14

Soldiers, BIFF men clash in Maguindanao

MAGUINDANAO – Portions of the highway connecting Datu Saudi, Salibo and Datu Piang towns here were closed to traffic for at least four hours during an encounter between Army troopers and members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) last week.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, spokesperson for the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the clash occurred when BIFF fighters showed up along the route after failing to take over a government project in Salibo town.

Police blocked stretches of the highway to prevent civilians from getting hurt.

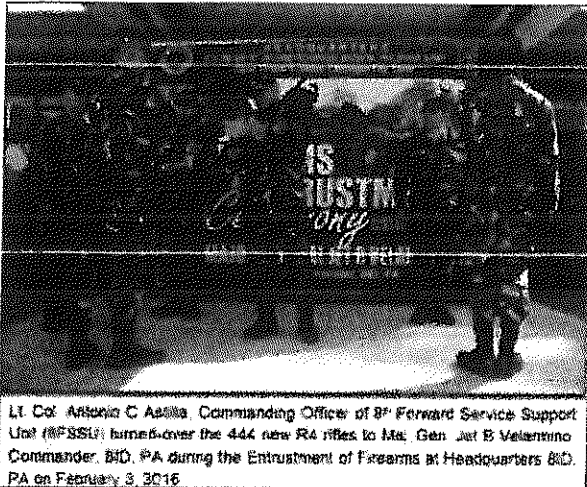
Villagers said four BIFF bandits were killed and seven others, including four minors, were wounded in the encounter. They said they saw the bandits carrying their slain and wounded companions as they escaped after running out of ammunition.

Dozens of families fled their homes for fear of being caught in the crossfire.

– John Unson

ENTRUSTMENT OF FAs II Stormtroopers has new assault rifles

Lui February 9, 2016 0 Comment



www.dwdd.com

CAMP VICENTE LUKBAN, Maulong Catbalogan City – In line with the Philippine Army's goal of becoming well-equipped and acquiring a respectable image in Southeast Asia by 2016, the 8th Infantry (Stormtroopers) Division entrusts a total of 444 newly procured Remington USA R4 A3 Assault Rifles to the troops of 20th Infantry (We Lead) Battalion at 8ID Openiano Field here, 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Maj. Gen. Jet B Velarmino, Commander, 8ID spearheaded the ceremonial entrustment of firearms together with Lt. Col. Antonio C Astilla, Commanding Officer of 8th Forward Service Support Unit and Lt. Col. Hilarion G Palma, Commanding Officer of 20IB.

Col. Cesar M Idio, Assistant Division Commander; Col. Divino Rey C Pabayo Jr., Division Chief of Staff; and Col. Clifford Cyril Y Rivala, Division Inspector General were among others who witnessed and took part in the distribution of R4 rifles to the troops.

The R4 rifle is a selective-fire (semi-automatic and automatic), gas-operated weapon that fires from a closed bolt. It is hammer-fired and uses a trigger mechanism with a 3-position fire selector and safety switch.

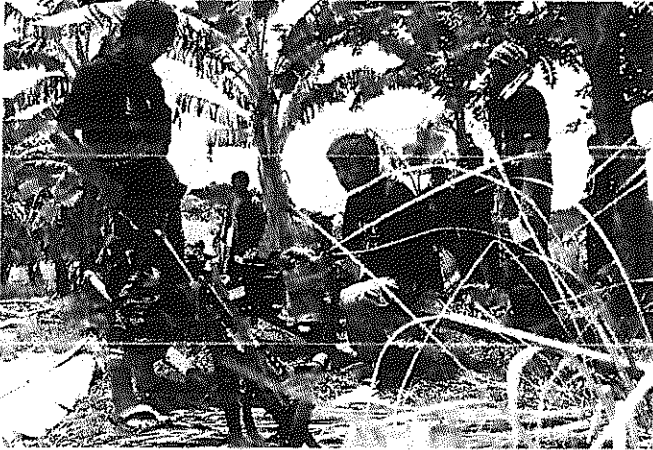
With the procurement of the 5.56mm R4 rifles, the early models of M-16 and M-16A1 rifles will be replaced, since majority of which are already in poor condition and in need of replacement.

The ceremonial entrustment of firearms symbolizes great responsibility and a reminder of every soldier's duty to protect every Filipino, Maj. Gen. Velarmino said. "The issuance of the new 5.56mm R4 rifles will greatly boost the morale of troops and enhance their warfighting capability", Velarmino added.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Families displaced as clash breaks out between troops, BIFF

By John Unson (philstar.com) | Updated February 9, 2016 - 4:57pm



The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters rabidly oppose bridge and road projects in underdeveloped areas for fear that their lairs will be accessible to the Army. Philstar.com/File photo

MAGUINDANAO, Philippines - Authorities closed to traffic for four hours secluded stretches of a highway connecting Maguindanao's Datu Saudi, Salibo and Datu Piang towns after bandits showed force along the route, provoking firefights with responding soldiers.

The series of gunfights between marauding members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and combatants of Army mechanized units in the three towns forced dozens of families to relocate to neutral grounds for fear of getting trapped in the crossfire.

Policemen immediately blocked stretches of the highways where BIFF gunmen and soldiers traded shots to prevent civilian casualties.

The BIFF is feared for using captured civilians as human shields to prevent soldiers from closing in when they retreat from a guerilla-style attack.

BIFF bandits beheaded captives in previous harassments of predominantly Christian peasant enclaves in other parts of Maguindanao and in North Cotabato province.

Captain Joann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the BIFF went on a rampage after it failed to take over a government project site in Salibo town over the weekend.

Barangay folks said four BIFF bandits were killed while seven others, four of them minors, were wounded in encounters sparked by their attempt to sabotage a bridge project in west of Salibo.

The BIFF is rabidly opposed to bridge and road projects in underdeveloped barangays, apprehensive it will make their lairs accessible to Army tanks and combat vehicles.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

Tuesday's firefights at the tri-boundary of Maguindanao's adjoining Datu Saudi, Salibo and Datu Piang towns waned at about 3:00 p.m. the same day when BIFF bandits ran out of ammunition and scampered away, carrying at least four dead companions.

Evacuees confirmed seeing the bandits carry their slain companions away from the scene as they fled.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

6 February 2016

The Standard

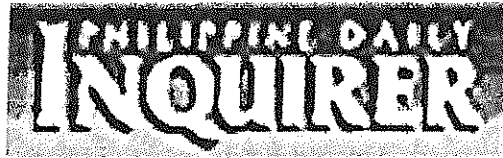
DEFINING THE NEWS

Page: A7



Changing of the guard. New Eastern Mindanao Deputy Commander Brig. Gen. Ronnie Evangelista (left) bids goodbye to outgoing deputy commander and now 3rd Infantry Division commander Brig. Gen. Harold Cabreoros in Davao City.

10 February 2016



Page: A5

AFP to vets: Not in our camps

By Julie M. Aurelio

CANDIDATES wanting to woo the votes of the country's uniformed personnel will have to do it outside military camps. Soldiers will also not be allowed to wear a candidate's campaign cap or ballot ID inside the camp.

As the campaign period began yesterday, the Armed Forces of the Philippines reiterated its policy to keep the military apolitical this season—even in individual soldiers' accessories and social media accounts.

"No one will be allowed to campaign inside military camps because of our apolitical stance. They can only campaign outside," said Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesperson.

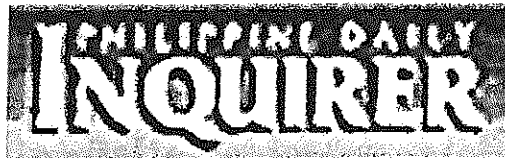
While the country's 120,000 soldiers can of course vote for their candidate, this matter

must remain the private choice of each soldier.

"Soldiers cannot announce who their candidate is, it's a personal choice come election time," he said.

Padilla said this means a soldier cannot don campaign items such as caps, ballot IDs, shirts and jackets, or display car stickers that endorse a particular candidate.

10 February 2016



Page: A10

Reds admit killing of security chief in N. Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Communist rebels on Tuesday said they were behind the killing of the provincial security chief of North Cotabato province, accusing him of involvement in killings, including that of Italian missionary priest Fausto Tentorio, and other atrocities.

Bernabe "Bantito" Abanilla, along with his bodyguard, identified as Jerson Semillano, was on his way to church in Arakan town on Sunday when three gunmen attacked them. Churchgoers and villagers rushed them to nearby Antipas Medical Specialist Center but they died from multiple bullet wounds in the head and body.

The Diocese of Kidapawan denounced the killings, calling it a spectacular display of inhuman violence. "The Church also condemns this as a violation of the right to worship, right to life of unarmed men, and right to pray undisturbed," said Msgr. Carlito Garcia, the diocesan administrator.

Italian priest's murder

In a statement, the spokesperson of the New People's Army (NPA) Mount Apo Sub-Regional Command, said Abanilla had ties to the military-backed Bagani group, headed by Datu Mansandong and Commander Iring, which is active in "lumad" (indigenous) communities.

He was also involved in the murders of Tentorio in 2011 and an Ateneo student, identified as Benjaline Hernandez, in 2002.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLI

- Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

The Italian priest was killed while working among the indigenous people of Arakan. On the other hand, Hernandez died in what the military reported as an encounter between government troops and members of the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The NPA plotted to kill Abanilla in 2001 for his alleged involvement in lumad killings, but it failed in carrying out the mission, said its spokesperson, who was identified in the rebel statement as Isabel Santiago.

"After the killings, Abanilla swore before the revolutionary movement that he would cut his connection with Commander Iring and would not do any action against the revolutionary forces and the residents in Arakan," Santiago said.

But she said the security officer failed to keep his promise and "had been attacking revolutionary mass organizations from 2005 until he was killed." He had connived with Commander Iring to murder Tentorio, she added.

Lawmaker's denial

The rebel leader accused Abanilla of working with North Cotabato Rep. Nancy Catamco (second district), and arming the indigenous people of Arakan against the NPA. Catamco, in a statement, denied the charge, saying she and Abanilla had differing views and aspirations for the lumad.

Catamco said she wanted to empower the lumad to assert their rights to ancestral domain and self-determination but not to arm them to fight the insurgents. She said Abanilla might have supported her in the 2010 elections, but they parted ways in 2013 when he backed another candidate.

Monsignor Garcia said Abanilla's killers belonged to a well-organized and well-trained group. "If they claim that they were implementing revolutionary justice, they should realize that most decent people cannot condone this, maybe only the fanatics among hardened criminals can do."

He rallied the people of North Cotabato to work together to put a stop to "the vicious cycle of violence and to unite in order to uproot the root causes of conflict." He prayed for the victims and their respective families "and for all who were traumatized by this crime or other similar crimes."

Williamor A. Magbanua, Inquirer Mindanao

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUI

om - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

10 February 2016



Page: 3

MILF to pursue peace talks despite BBL's 'demise'

By Mario J. Mallari

The peace process in Mindanao did not die with the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) maintains its commitment to pursue negotiations with the next administration.

"The peace process in Mindanao did not die with the non-passage of the BBL. The Exit Agreement is not yet signed by them. Thus, this would require them to start where they have stopped: 'as is, where is,'" the MILF said in a latest editorial over its Web site.

The MILF explained that the next government or the new administration can either refile the BBL or craft jointly through the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), most likely composed of new members from both parties, a new basic law but still pursuant to the letter and spirit of the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB).

"There is no other way forward, except the government would resort to approaches outside of the parameters agreed by the parties. That would entirely be another story!" the MILF said.

The BBL was agreed upon by the MILF and GRP peace panels following the signing of the FAB and then later CAB.

The MILF enumerated four reasons behind the "death" of BBL in the 16th Congress.

It cited the hatred, biases and prejudices against the Moros, the materialistic system that promotes monopoly in the Philippines; the support for BBL was weak, and, lastly, those going for status quo were stronger.

Among the clear bias and hatred against Moros was the Mamasapano incident where 44 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos were killed during the launching of Operation Plan (Oplan) "Exodus" targeting Malaysian terrorists Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, and Amin Baco, alias Jihad, and Filipino bomb expert Basit Usman.

"The Mamasapano incident merely triggered the upsurge or had brought into surface the long-held biases, hatred, prejudices and fear of the majority populations against the Moros," the MILF said.

"Those forces for change or those supporting the BBL, including the push exerted by President Aquino, are still weak as compared to the forces of status quo...which is very strong," the MILF added.

The MILF also branded the lack of quorum in the House of Representatives as reason behind the non-passage of BBL is just an "alibi."

While he consistently pushed for BBL, the President did not certify the bill as urgent measure. At the Senate, BBL was still under interpellation while at the House of Representatives the BBL was already in its final stages of the hearing.

16 February 2016



Page. 4

ANG NANGUNGUNANG PAHAYAGANG TAGALOG SA BANSÀ P8.00

Pemberton, ililipat sa ISAFP jail

Plano ng Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) na ilipat si US Marine Lance Corporal Joseph Scott Pemberton sa Intelligence Service ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) sa Camp Aguinaldo.

Ayon kay BuCor Chief Ricardo Rainier Cruz, ang container van na ginagamit na detention cell ni Pemberton ay ililipat sa ISAFP compound.

"Kinuhintay na lamang namin ang pagdating ng mga taga-US bago ilipat ang container sa loob ng ISAFP. They (Americans) said they're going

to shoulder the cost but we're waiting for their arrival," ani Cruz.

Aniya, ang paglipat ay isasagawa kapag dumating na ang engineering unit mula sa Amerika habang nakikipag-ugnayan na ang mga kinatawan ng Amerika sa ISAFP kaugnay ng paglilipat sa convicted soldier.

"Nakiusap pa sila sa ISAFP para buksan 'yung bakod, 'yung pader para makapasok 'yung van. Bubutasin 'yung pader nila (ISAFP)," dagdag pa ni Cruz.

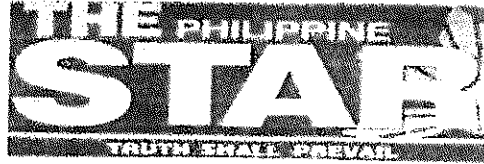
Ang nasabing container van, na

mahigpit na binabantayan ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Philippine at US forces, ay kasalukuyang nasa compound ng Philippine-US Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement Board, na nasa loob din ng Camp Aguinaldo.

Unang iniutos ng Olongapo City court noong Disyembre na ikulong si Pemberton sa New Bilibid Prison (NBP) sa Muntinlupa City matapos mapatunayang guilty sa pagpatay sa transgender na si Jeffrey "Jennifer" Laude noong Oktubre 2014.

Beth Camia

10 February 2016



Page: 13

Owner of car used by Marcelino surfaces

The registered owner of a car used by Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino and his companion when they were arrested during a drug raid surfaced yesterday.

Haydee Uy sent her husband, lawyer Jonathan Herbert Uy, to the Anti-Illegal Drug Group office at Camp Crame in Quezon City why Uy is still the registered owner of the Toyota Camry (XEV-665) Marcelino used in going to a condominium unit where 76 kilos of shabu, which have a street value of P383 million, were seized.

Uy showed AIDG officials a deed of sale for the Camry, indicating the vehicle was sold to its present owner for P195,000 on Jan. 18, three days before Marcelino and Yan Yi Shou were arrested at a condo unit in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

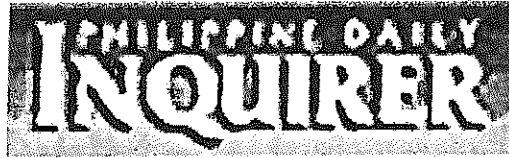
AIDG spokesman Chief Inspector Roque Merdegia Jr. refused to name the buyer, whom they summoned for questioning.

He said the owner of the condominium unit where the shabu was found has yet to explain the matter.

Marcelino said he was on a mission to go after illegal drug lords and operators but failed to show documents to support his claim.

– Cecille Suerte Felipe

10 February 2016



Page: A14

The casualty: BBL

DEPENDING ON how you count the number of the dead in the cornfields and marshlands of Mamasapano, Maguindanao, it is possible to argue that the Bangsamoro Basic Law was either the 45th casualty, or the 65th, in the tragic encounter a year ago. When Deputy Speaker Pangalisan Balindong of the House of Representatives spoke two weeks ago of regretfully closing "the book

EDITORIAL

of hope for the passage" of the BBL, he recognized that the death of 44 Special Action Force troopers plus those of 17 Moro Islamic Liberation Front regulars and three civilians was a blow against the proposed law.

"Because of the Mamasapano [incident], many of those who supported the BBL wittingly or unwittingly punished the Moro people by denying us the required votes and even the quorum to deliberate on the BBL," Balindong said in a privilege speech.

We have argued before that the Aquino administration undermined its own historic legacy—a painstakingly crafted comprehensive peace treaty with the MILF—through its mishandling of the special operation to arrest or kill the Malaysian bombmaker Marwan. The terrorist was killed, but 44 elite police troopers died in the process, the worst single loss of life in the history of the Philippine National Police. The responsibility lies squarely on the administration.

But we also hold that while the BBL was grievously wounded by the operation that ignored both the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the MILF, the government's counterpart in the peace process, it did not sustain a fatal blow in Mamasapano.

The chambers of Congress could still have saved it. After the hysteria of the widely followed hearings in both the Senate and the House, the leaders of Congress could still have mustered the political will, the strategic foresight, above all the sense of historical responsibility, to engineer its passage.

Instead, Congress became the center of political posturing: Lawmakers who had previously basked in the stage-by-stage achievement of the peace treaty were among the first to paint themselves with the colors of the blood-stained flag. The discussion in both the corridors and the sessions halls turned, absurdly, into the alleged lack of participation or consultation in the making of the proposed law. This was a brazen lie, but repeated, asserted authoritatively, often enough, it took on the shape of truth.

One set of statistics, shared by the government peace panel in an emphatic position paper a few months after the Mamasapano tragedy, should serve to clarify matters. Between 2010 and May 2015, the panel had “conducted and participated in a total of five hundred fifty three consultation activities ... in order to shed light on the developments in the peace process with the MILF as well as to share and gather information, positions, and insights from the various stakeholders.” More to the point, the panel noted that of the 553 consultations, it had met with “representatives and supporters” of the Moro National Liberation Front 10 times, with the sultanates in Mindanao six times, with indigenous peoples 32 times, and with “leaders and officials” of local governments some 100 times.

The idea, then, that the Bangsamoro Basic Law was produced through an unconsultative process was a canard, but it was readily accepted and circulated in the corridors and session halls of Congress. It formed part of the rationalization that allowed legislators, even those closely allied with the administration, even those whose names were listed as sponsors of the landmark measure, to let the BBL die.

Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, the chief government negotiator, did not mince words when the 16th Congress adjourned for the election break without passing the bill. “The sheer indifference and chronic absenteeism of majority of the legislators manifested in the lack of quorum almost on a daily basis in the House of Representatives, and the prolonged and repetitive interpellation of opposites ate up the remaining sessions.”

She added: “In the Senate, the intermittent absence of the bill sponsor and the remaining interpellator stalled the deliberation.”

Severely wounded in Mamasapano, the BBL died on the floor of the legislature—its blood spreading on the marble, as absent lawmakers fanned themselves in their partitioned offices.

10 February 2016



Pahina. 5



Dahil sa kagustuhang mapuksa ang mga rebelde sa Timog, ibang parte ng 'Pinas na dapat bantayan, 'napababayaan' na!

MADALAS nating marinig: wala tayong aasahang pag-asenso kung magulo ang Mindanao at walang kapayapaan. Pero hindi nga ba kaya may karahasan sa Mindanao ay dahil sa walang maramdamang kasaganahan doon? Kung mayroon sanang magandang hanapbuhay, hindi magtitiyaga ang mga rebelde na manirahan sa gubat, nakawalay sa minamahal, nagtitiis ng pagod at gutom at nakatuntong sa impiyerno ang kaliwang paa. Dahil sagad na at wala nang mawawala pa kundi ang walang kuwentang buhay, handa siyang ipagsapalaran ang lahat sa pakikibakang magsisilang ng kasaganahan, kung sakali. Dahil sa gulo, nalilihis pati ang agenda ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Nakabase sa lupa ang 80 porsiyento ng sandatahang lakas kahit pa napakalawak ng karagatan ng Filipinas na dapat bantayan, lalo ngayong may banta sa West Philippine Sea. Imbes na Navy ang palakasin, hinihigop ng Army ang rekursong ng AFP para lang masawata ang rebelde. Samantala, kumusta ang buhay ng sibilyang nakagitna sa labanan? Ayon sa letter-writer sa isang pahayagan, nakita niya at naranasan ang nag-uumpaw na karahasan sa loob lamang ng 15 taong paninirahan sa Mindanao. Nang lumipat siya

sa Mindanao noong 2000, sinalubong siya ng "all-out-war" ng dating Pangulong Erap Estrada.

Sinundan ito ng "Buliok War" noong 2003 sa Pagalungan, Maguindanao. Binomba at nilanos ng militar ang Bgy Buliok, isang komunidad ng mga Muslim, habang may fiesta ng Eid'l Adha. Matapos ang "Buliok War," sumunod ang "Al-Barka Incident" laban sa Abu Sayyaf noong 2006 at 2011 sa Basilan, mga bakbakang lingguhan ang itinatagat bago matapos. Dose-dosena ang napatay (kasama ang mga sundalo ng pamahalaan). At libu-libong pamilya ang nagbakwit para makaiwas sa patayan. Muling sumiklab ang giyera sa Mindanao noong 2008 dahil sa "MOA-AD Debacle." Pipimahan na sana ng Pamahalaang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ang Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) para ibigay ang malawak na teritoryo ng Mindanao na kung tawagin ay "Bangsamoro Judicial Entity" (BJE), sa Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Kaya lang, idineklara ng Supreme Court na unconstitutional ang MOA-AD. Hindi nagtagal, sinindiha ng Moro National Liberation Front (MNL) noong 2013 ang "Zamboanga Siege." Naglagablab ang Zamboanga, mahigit 100 ang namatay at 100,000 ang nagbakwit. Hanggang ngayon, tatlong taon na ang nakararaan, may mga inaalaan pang mga bakwit ng "Zamboanga

Siege" ang pamahalaan. Ang pinakahuli sa malalaking gulo ay ang "Mamasapano massacre" sa Maguindanao. Maraming armado sa magkabilang panig ang namatay. At libu-libo ang nagbakwit dahilang pagkasira ng hanapbuhay, pag-aaral at pagkakadustay ng maraming buhay. Ayon sa letter-writer, sa loob ng maikling panahon, napakasama ng kanyang karanasan sa Mindanao. Paano pa kaya ang mga taong sa Mindanao na isinilang?

Dahil sa wala namang matinong kapitalista ang maglalagak ng seryosong puhunan sa magulong lugar, dapat manguna ang pamahalaan sa pag-develop ng Mindanao. Sa ngayon, 18 porsiyento pa lang ang kontribusyon ng Mindanao sa kasaganahan ng bansa. Pero hamak na higit pa ang aasahan kung matutustusan ang negosyo sa Mindanao at kusang titigil ang putukan dahil may ibang pagkakakitaan ang mga rebelde. Ang kailangan lang ay political will ng gobyerno para pangunahan ang pagpapaunlad ng Mindanao sa gitna ng gulo at pighati.

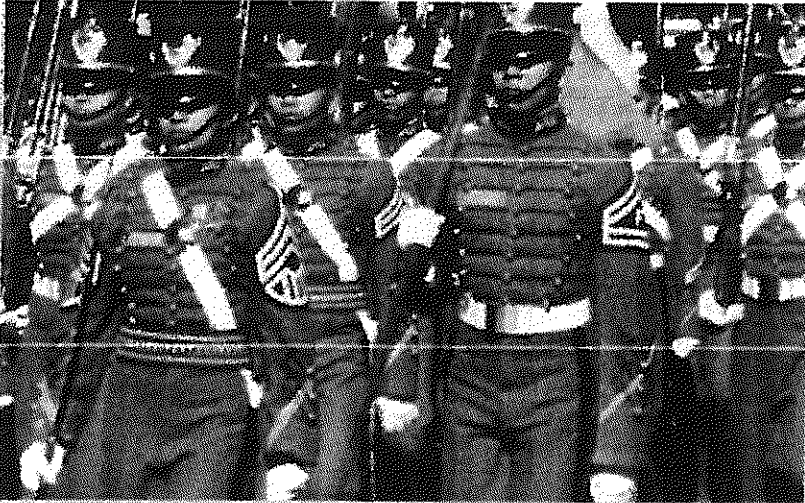
ONLINE NEWS

10 FEBRUARY 2016

AFP deliberates on shortlist for new PMA superintendent

By: Jaime Sinapit, InterAksyon.com

February 9, 2016 3:14 PM



PMA cadets in formation, file photo.

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA - The Board of Generals (BOG) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is deliberating on the list of candidates to replace the outgoing Philippine Military Academy superintendent who retires on February 17.

The outgoing PMA Superintendent, Lieutenant General Oscar Lopez, will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56. He is a member of PMA "Dimalupig" Class 1981.

The PMA chief holds a 3-star position and senior officers call it a "retirement position".

The shortlist is reportedly topped by Major General Donato San Juan, a member of PMA "Maharlika" Class 1984. He is current commander of the Army's Special Operations Command (SOCOM), a position he got in December 2013.

SOCOM is the mother unit of the Scout Ranger Regiment and Special Forces Regiment, the elite forces of the Army.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Cops, soldiers prevent violence in demolition of Digos City homes

By: Eldie Aguirre

@inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao

05:57 PM February 9th, 2016

DIGOS CITY, Davao del Sur – A melee nearly erupted when a court-backed demolition took place in Sitio Power in Barangay Tres de Mayo here Tuesday.

However, the protesting homeowners affected by the demolition order eventually gave up when the police-backed demolition team led by provincial sheriff Edgar Deparine refused to be deterred by the residents who threw things and even hot water at them.

Deparine said he knew how painful it was for the homeowners – numbering 36 – to lose their homes but he had to implement the demolition order.

“The area they settled in was owned by somebody else,” he said.

Supt. April Mark Young, the city police chief, said the presence of the police and some military personnel had prevented a full-blown violence between the homeowners and the demolition team.

Oscar Bucol, Tres de Mayo village chair, said the problem was aggravated by a political camp that politicized the issue. He did not identify the political party that meddled in the issue.

“The problem escalated when some politicians fed false hope to the homeowners,” Bucol said.

He said other homeowners had voluntarily left and availed of the P50,000-assistance and relocation site provided for them by the provincial government.

“It was a very good offer but politics played into the equation and some of those who stayed behind banked on the promises of their patrons that the land will be eventually awarded to them even if they knew that the court has already decided in favor of the real owner,” Bucol said. **SFM**

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Jolo test mission bomb plot bared

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated February 9, 2016 - 2:24pm



The bomb plot was reportedly part of the test mission of the new recruits of the Abu Sayyaf group. Philstar.com/File photo

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines - Police and military forces intensified security after intercepting plot of the Abu Sayyaf group to conduct bombing in the downtown of Jolo, capital of Sulu.

The Joint Task Group Sulu (JTGS) disclosed the Abu Sayyaf group under sub-leader Majan Sahidjuan, who is an expert in demolition, has reportedly deployed six recruits to conduct the bombing.

The mission, based on military intelligence report, was part of the test mission of the new recruits.

The military revealed that targets include passenger vessels, different business establishments, coast guard station, cathedral, public market and road leading to the airport.

Aside from the test mission, the bombing plot was reportedly part of the Abu Sayyaf group's diversionary tactics to ease the offensive pressure launched by the government forces against its comrades in the hinterlands of Sulu.

Factions of the Abu Sayyaf group staged bomb attacks weeks ago in Jolo, hitting a combat police patrol car and a videoke bar near the military headquarters.

At least seven Marines were injured after their convoy hit a roadside bombing at Barangay Lagtoh, Talipao town last week.

The injured Marines who were brought to the military hospital here for further treatment were awarded each with a Wounded Personnel Medal by Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz, chief of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom).

Dela Cruz said relentless focused military operation against Abu Sayyaf continued even during the political campaign period in Sulu to secure both the civilians and the candidates.

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.