



# **ARMY**

**Serving the people. Securing the land.**

**[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)**

## **OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**21 February 2016**

**Sunday**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 21 FEBRUARY 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. A10
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>			
2	'In the beginning, Samar group was just me'	Nikko Dizon	PDI p. A1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
3	2 MNLF men, Abu bandit killed in Sulu encounter	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p. 20
4	NPA attack stop irrigation project	Villamor Visayas Jr	PDI p. A10
5	AFP concerned about increased NPA attacks in Compostela Valley	Alexander Lopez	Mla Bulletin p. 21
6	Army Corporal todas, 7 pa sugatan sa BIFF	Rhoderick Beñez	PM p.2
7	100 IEDs disarmed at BIFF's bomb making center – B/Gen. Padilla	Elena Aben	Mla Bulletin p. 7
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
8	PMA alumni homecoming not free from politics	Artemio Dumlao	Phil Star p. 11
9	PMA 'mistahs' come home to candidate – free event	Desiree Caluza	PDI p. A6
10	Love your country, no to corruption, alums told	Julie Aurelio	PDI p. A6
11	Photo: Homecoming	Jj Landingin	Mla Bulletin p. 18
12	'No change in Phi's defense posture in disputed seas'	Non Alquitran	Phil Star p. 11
13	Pinoy troops ready for 'worst-case' in dispute with China	Julie Aurelio	PDI p. A2
14	Militarisasyon ng China sa West Phi Sea ikinabahala	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p. 2
15	Pension system for military eyed	Nikko Dizon	PDI p. A4
16-17	Navy officers lose P47-B property	Bernie Magkilat	Mla Bulletin p. 1
<b>SPORTS</b>			
18	RC Cola-Army blasts F2 Logistics, wrests solo lead		Phil Star p. 23
19	Daquis turns up 'beast mode' for RC Cola-Army	Marc Anthony Reyes	PDI p. A22
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			


20-22	<b>PMA cadets, alumni told: Be relevant</b>  <b>Cavalier Awardees tampok sa PMA Alumni Homecoming</b>  <b>May dagdag pang benepisyo sa mga gov't employees sa 2016 - DBM</b>	Frances Mangosing   Jerald Ulep	<a href="http://www.inquirer.net">www.inquirer.net</a>  <a href="http://www.bomboradyo.com">www.bomboradyo.com</a>  <a href="http://www.bomboradyo.com">www.bomboradyo.com</a>
23	<b>Army foils bombing attempt in Sultan Kudarat town</b>		<a href="http://www.rappler.com">www.rappler.com</a>
24-25	<b>'NPA' ambushers strip slain cops of belongings</b> <b>BY GILBERT BAYORAN</b>  <b>RAM boys to reunite on Edsa people power 30th anniversary</b>	Frances Mangosing	<a href="http://www.visayandailystar.com">www.visayandailystar.com</a>  <a href="http://www.inquirer.net">www.inquirer.net</a>
26	<b>LOOK: New FA-50 jets escort President's plane</b>		<a href="http://www.news.abs-cbn.com">www.news.abs-cbn.com</a>

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


21 February 2016

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


Page: A10



www.panahon.tv

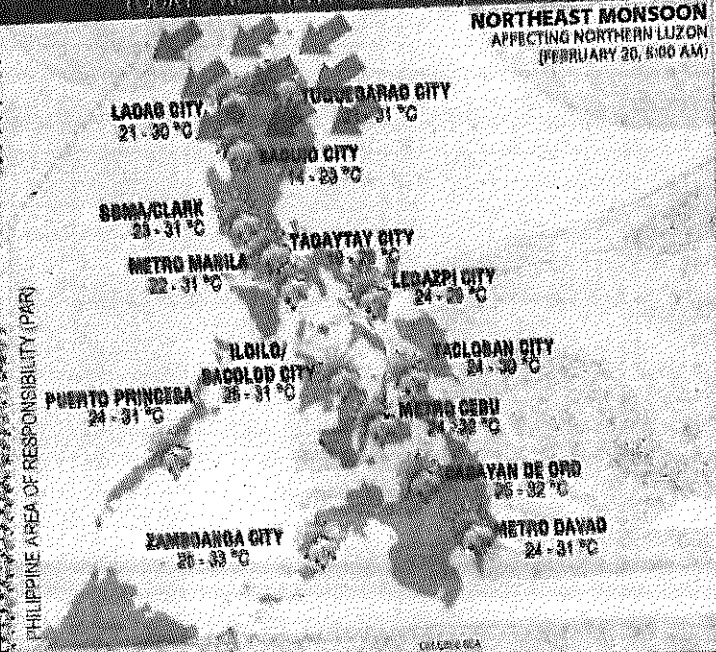


Panamon TV



TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 21, 2016 | SUNDAY

**NORTHEAST MONSOON**  
AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON  
(FEBRUARY 20, 6:00 AM)






PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE		SUNSET	
6:18 AM		6:02 PM	
MOONRISE		MOONSET	
4:31 PM		4:56 AM	
FIRST QUARTER		FULL MOON	
FEB 15 3:40 PM		FEB 20 3:18 AM	
LOW TIDE		HIGH TIDE	
4:45 AM		8:16 PM	
-0.17 Meters		0.50 Meters	

- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers
- Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
- Cloudy skies with rain showers and/or thunderstorms
- Light rain

METRO MANILA		TAGAYTAY		TACLOBAN	
23-32 °C	22-32 °C	19-28 °C	20-30 °C	24-30 °C	24-31 °C
TUGUEGARAO		LEGAZPI		CAGAYAN DE ORO	
22-30 °C	22-31 °C	24-30 °C	24-31 °C	25-32 °C	25-32 °C
LAOAG		PUERTO PRINCESA		METRO DAVAO	
22-31 °C	21-30 °C	24-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-33 °C	25-33 °C
BAGUO		ILOILO/ BACOLOD		ZAMBOANGA	
14-24 °C	14-23 °C	24-32 °C	25-33 °C	24-31 °C	24-33 °C
BMA/ CLARK		METRO CEBU			
24-31 °C	23-32 °C	25-32 °C	25-31 °C		

Watch PANAHON TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).

**AIR 21**

**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

21 February 2016

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 41

# 'In the beginning, Samar group was just me'

By Nikko Dizon

THE RIVALRY between the so-called Balay and Samar factions within President Aquino's inner circle is said to be intensifying with the start of the campaign for Malacañang, but vice presidential candidate Francis "Chiz" Escudero says the perception of Samar as a clique is the result of a "misunderstanding."

"That has always been a misunderstanding. The Samar group at that time was just me because I couldn't work at Balay because I wasn't endorsing Mar (Roxas). The Samar group was not for Noy-Bi," Escudero told INQUIRER editors and reporters on Wednesday night.

"Noy-Bi" was a reference to 2010 presidential candidate Benigno "Noy" Aquino III

IN THE BEGINNING / A8

From page A1

and vice presidential candidate Jejomar Binay, both of whom Escudero supported in the campaign.

Both candidates won, with Binay trouncing Mr. Aquino's running mate, Mar Roxas, in the polls.

Roxas is now the presidential candidate of the ruling Liberal Party (LP).

"Balay" refers to the Liberal Party-dominated team of Roxas, named after the *balay na puti* (white house) of the Roxas family in Cubao, Quezon City.

Escudero said Mr. Aquino had his campaign headquarters in an old building on Samar Street, near his home on Times

Street, Quezon City.

There was not a single poster of Binay there and no meetings or plannings for Binay's candidacy were held in that house, Escudero said.

"[Samar] gained prominence because it was close to Times (Street) and P-Noy (President Aquino) at that time found it convenient to meet people there instead of in Balay or somewhere else. That was how Samar became slowly but surely the hub," he said.

Escudero said that from January to March 2010, only he and his team that carried him to victory in the 2007 senatorial election occupied the house, which was owned by real estate developer Gerry Acuzar.

He said he invited the then Quezon City Hall administrator, now Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, to join the team. Acuzar and Ochoa are brothers-in-law.

House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr.'s team also set up shop on the second floor of the house for his own reelection campaign as Quezon City congressman, Escudero said.

At the time, the Samar house was set to be demolished, Escudero said, adding that it was his team that installed fluorescent lights and brought in monobloc chairs to make it usable.

Soon enough, the house became a meeting place between Escudero and Mr. Aquino. The two are close friends.

On Thursday, the INQUIRER reported that former Interior Undersecretary Rico Puno, who was identified with the Samar group, was recruiting fellow Masons in LP bailiwicks to work for support to the presidential candidacy of Sen. Grace Poe.

The report revived speculations that Poe is President Aquino's secret candidate, a day after the Chief Executive said in a news conference in the United States that Roxas is his only candidate for President.

Mr. Aquino and Roxas intensely wooed Poe to become LP's vice presidential candidate.

But Poe refused to go with LP and instead launched her own presidential candidacy.



21 February 2016



Page: 20

# 2 MNLF men, Abu bandit killed in Sulu encounter

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Two members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and a son of an Abu Sayyaf sub-leader were killed while another was wounded in an encounter in Indanan, Sulu on Friday.

Reports said the firefight broke out at around 5:40 p.m. after Abu Sayyaf bandits, led by Sibih Pisik, shot and wounded former Army integree and MNLF member Sakur Madjang in Sitio Santos, Barangay Buanza.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, commander of the Joint Task Group Sulu, said Madjang's brother, Gabir, and his followers retaliated.

Arrojado said the fighting lasted 15 minutes and resulted in the death of Gabir and Mursid Amdanan, and Pisik's son, whose name was not immediately available.

He said the bandits torched the house of the Madjangs before fleeing toward the forest.

The Madjangs are relatives of Khaid Adjibon, an MNLF zone commander based in Sulu.

Reports said the bandits suspected the Madjangs to be responsible for the death of Abu Quodama during an encounter on Feb. 6.

Quodaman was a follower of Pisik.

"The incident was reportedly triggered by previous violent encounters between the MNLF and the Abu Sayyaf," Arrojado said.

21 February 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: A10

# NPA attack stops irrigation project

By Villamor Visaya Jr.  
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

**CITY OF CAUAYAN**—The government suspended a P247-million irrigation project in Baggao town in Cagayan province after communist rebels attacked teams from the police and Army that killed six policemen and wounded 14 others on Feb. 16.

The suspension would affect farmers of nine villages in Baggao town, according to the

National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

The New People's Army's

Henry Abraham Command claimed responsibility for the attack and burning of heavy equipment owned by Brostan Corp., which was contracted by the NIA to build an irrigation diversion dam and transbasin tunnels in Baggao.

According to the rebels' statement, they were certain that the contractor was undertaking a mining operation, which, they said, would threaten the community's water resources.

The police team had gone to

Barangay Sta. Margarita in Baggao to check reports about the burning of government equipment by NPA rebels at the NIA project site.

The team fought the rebels for five hours, with the support of soldiers from the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion.

"[Due to the attacks], the project has been delayed [although] there is a possibility that we would extend their contract to complete [the tunnels]," said Billy Tuazon, man-

ager of the engineering and operations division of NIA-Cagayan Valley.

## Deadline extensions

Brostan Corp., a construction firm led by the family of Santiago City Mayor Joseph Tan, had been granted two deadline extensions because of delays in the project at Sitio Ngarutngot in Barangay Sta. Margarita that had been attributed to the area's "unworkable condition and unpassable road net-

works," Tuazon said.

The project should have been finished on March 26 last year. The latest completion schedule would have been on May 6, but that may change after the rebels torched the firm's two backhoes, two bulldozers, a dump truck and a pay loader.

Brostan Corp. won in 2013 the P247-million project contract, which called for the building of a 22-meter diversion dam as well as a 1.97-kilometer irrigation channel.

21 February 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 21

## AFP concerned about increased NPA attacks in Compostela Valley

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

DAVAO CITY – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has expressed alarm over the increasing number of attacks launched by the New People's Army (NPA) in Compostela Valley province in the month of January alone, with government security personnel and militia men as the main targets of such assaults, a senior military official recently told reporters here.

"The recent attacks by the NPAs in the provinces have become very alarming, particularly in Compostela Valley," said Brig. General Ronnie Evangelista, deputy commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) of the AFP.

Evangelista took note of the increased attacks launched by the NPAs liquidation squad that have already victimized members of the AFP, particularly the Army, police and Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

The general added that, in Pantukan, Compostela Valley alone, the command was able to record around 20 killings that victimized government forces, police, and CAFGU since January.

The latest victim of the series of liquidations was a former officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Davao region (CIDG-11) identified as PO3 Mariano Tambis who was gunned down by unidentified assailants, believed to be members of the NPA in Mabini, Compostela Valley early this week.

As such, Evangelista has called on government and police forces to be more vigilant and establish good relations with the people in communities and areas of assignment.

"Be extra careful and at the same time seek the support of the people through good relationships. This is not only the problem of the army, police and members of CAFGU but also of the country," he added.

Tenth Infantry (Agila) Division (10 ID) chief information officer Capt. Rhyar Batchar said the NPA offensives were part of "Oplan Jupiter" that was launched by the NPAs since January of this year.

Batchar added that Oplan Jupiter involved sowing threat and actual execution of army personnel and other security forces in the area, including the members of law enforcement groups.



21 February 2016



Pahina. 2

### ***Army Corporal todas, 7 pa sugatan sa BIFF***

Isang Army Corporal ang nasawi habang 7 kasama nito ang malubhang nasugatan matapos makasagupa ang grupo ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) sa Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao kahapon ng umaga.

Ayon kay Capt. Joan Petinglay, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson na hindi muna isasapubliko ang pangalan ng napatay na sundalo na miyembro ng 7th Infantry Battalion. Habang patuloy namang ginagamot ang 7 nasugatang sundalo sa Camp Siongco Hospital.

Nabatid na nagsagawa ng ika-14 na clearing operation ang tropa ng pamahalaan nang makasagupa ang mga bandidong Muslim.

Dakong alas-9:30 ng umaga kahapon ng mapadako sa isang marshland area ang mga tropa ng sundalo papunta sa kalaban ng masabugan ng itinanim na improvised explosive device ang mga sundalo.

Hindi pa naman matiyak kung ilan sa mga miyembro ng BIFF ang nalagas habang nagpapatuloy ang sagupaan sa Maguindanao. **-Rhoderick Beñez-**

21 February 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 7

# 100 IEDs disarmed at BIFF's bomb making center — B/Gen. Padilla

By ELENA L. ABEN

**F**ORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City — Some 100 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other booby traps laid by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) have so far been disarmed by soldiers in Barangay Tee, Datu Salibo town, Maguindanao which has been turned into a bomb making center by the brigand group.

Brigadier General Restituto Padilla, spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), disclosed this yesterday at the sidelines of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni homecoming, here.

Padilla said government troops are currently conducting clearing operations in the area after series of clashes with BIFF gunmen over the past two weeks.

"Per latest report that we got from Maguindanao, as of the last few days our troops have entered Barangay Tee and started clearing operations," he told reporters, adding: "Umaabot na po sa halos 100 na IED ang kanilang na-disarm."

He also said that three soldiers have been wounded while conducting clearing operations during the last two to three days.

The AFP spokesman also said that this latest development in Datu Salibo town also confirms information they previously received, indicating that Barangay Tee was being

used by the BIFF to conduct trainings in bomb making.

He called these acts as "anti-people" and "anti-development" as these atrocities effectively stalled ongoing development projects in the area.

## PMA alumni

As the PMA marked its alumni homecoming, none of its adopted members who are seeking national or local posts in the coming elections were allowed to participate in the parade.

Only regular members were seen on Borromeo Field where the annual homecoming parade is held.

Among the honorary members of the PMA Classes are the five "presidentiables" in the May 9 elections: Vice President Jejomar Binay, an adopted member of Class of 1988; former Interior and Local Government Secretary Mar Roxas, adopted Class 1984; Sen. Grace Poe-Llamanzares, Class of 1991; Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, of Class 1969; and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, of Class 1967.

Among the vice presidentiables, PMA alumni adopted members are Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, adopted by Class 1992, and Francis Escudero, Class 1987.

It has been a tradition of PMA classes to adopt politicians as honorary members. This year, however, they were not allowed to join the parade because of the coming synchronized elections.

21 February 2016



Page: 11

## PMA alumni homecoming not free from politics

By ARTEMIO DURLAO

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City - Politics cannot be avoided.

The homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy alumni still showed vestiges of politics yesterday.

Even without the usual streamers and posters that accompany candidates on their campaign, two famous graduates of PMA Class 1971 - Sen. Gregorio Honasan and former senator Panfilo Lacson - showed up to march with their "mistahs" in the annual homecoming ceremonies here.

Honasan is the vice presidential candidate of the opposition United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay while Lacson is running for the Senate.

Former presidential daughter Luli Arroyo also showed

up with the graduates of PMA Class 1991, this year's Silver Jubilarians.

Dressed in the dark gray suit that is the uniform of the class, Luli was all smiles as she joined her "mistahs" to receive their medallions from the PMA Alumni Association.

Luli's class donated P500,000 for the PMA endowment fund and professorial chair fund.

"It is an exemption," PMA spokesman Lt. Col. Reynaldo Balido Jr. said. "It's because they are silver jubilarians."

Balido said the PMA had been successful in preventing politics from entering the military institution.

He said that it has been a long-held guideline that the homecoming should be free from any political activity like overt campaigning.

21 February 2016

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 26

# PMA 'mistahs' come home to candidate-free event

By Desiree Caluza  
Inquirer Northern Luzon  
and Julie M. Aurelio

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—No presidential candidate who was an adopted member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) classes attended the alumni homecoming on Saturday, despite assurances from organizers that they were not barred from participating in the annual event.

Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was invited but begged off to avoid tainting the affair with political color, said retired Commodore Julito Casillan II, a member of Class of 1967.

"We adopted the mayor long before he became a popular leader," Casillan said on Friday.

The four other contenders in the presidential race are adopted PMA members: Mar Roxas of Class 1984; Jejomar Binay, Class 1988; Grace Poe, Class 1991, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Class 1969.

At last year's homecoming, Roxas, Binay and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano joined the alumni parade with their adoptive PMA classes.

Because 2016 is an election year, adopted members, who are running for national and local posts, were asked by the PMA Alumni Association Inc. (PMAAAI) to sit out the alumni parade and to watch it instead from the grandstand at Borromeo Field, he said.

In a statement, PMAAAI chair Manuel Espejo said the ceremonies at the homecoming were tributes "bestowed upon the alumni."

Graduates like vice presidential candidate Sen. Gregorio Honasan and senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson were allowed to march with their "mistah" (classmates) from Class 1971.

Honasan arrived here on Friday and admitted in a news conference that the homecoming was a venue for candidates to explain their goals for the country.

"I am here for the homecoming...[but] of course [the homecoming] is free exposure. Maybe I can talk to the alumni about the platforms and programs of UNA (the United Nationalist Alliance of his presidential candidate, Vice President Jejomar Binay)," he said.

"But I am here to reminisce, to join my classmates as an alumnus of the PMA, and then remember the fountain from where we all drank," he said.

Other PMA graduates spotted at the homecoming were Samuel Pagdilao of Class '79, Gerulio Napeñas, Class '82, and Dionisio Santiago, Class '70, who are all running for senator.

Also in attendance was Leopoldo Bataoil of Class '76, who is seeking reelection as Pangasinan representative.

The homecoming was "an oppor-

tunity for the cadets to meet a big assembly of their forebears and draw inspiration from them," said Espejo.

Baguio-born Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr., who served as director general of the National Organizing Committee of the 2015 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit, was this year's guest of honor. He is also a member of Class of '71.

An estimated 9,140 people, including the alumni's guests, attended the homecoming which was primarily hosted by the "Sinagtala" Class of 1986. PMAAAI also honored the jubilarian classes of 1956, 1966 and 1991.

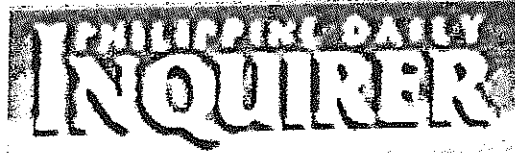
PMA spokesperson Lt. Col. Reynaldo Balido said 1,913 cavaliers returned to their alma mater, while 484 cadets took part in the parade on Borromeo Field.

Class members assembled, wearing matching outfits, but most preferred subdued colors like gray, blue, black and khaki.

The oldest alumnus in attendance was Delfin Castro, 90, of Class '51 while the youngest was 2nd Lt. Joel Viray Jr., 22, of Class '15.

Dapper in their khaki suits, Honasan and Lacson led the march of Class '71, side by side with former Philippine National Police Director Gen. Edgardo Aglipay. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon.*

21 February 2016



Page: 14

## *Love your country, no to corruption, alums told*

By Julie Aurelio

BAGUIO CITY—There is a direct link between lack of patriotism and corruption so love your country, a distinguished alumnus told the close to 2,000 cavaliers and cadets gathered here for the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) homecoming yesterday.

"Love your country... In your heart of hearts, this is the one and only country that you know. Love your country, because there is a direct correlation between corruption and lack of patriotism, the lack of love of country," said Undersecretary Marciano Paynor Jr., a member of PMA Matatag Class of 1971, this year's keynote speaker.

Limiting his speech to under 15 minutes, Paynor challenged the 484 cadets and 1,913 alumni to be "relevant."

"[It] is the most important word that we all ought to be concentrating on in this particular day and age... How can you cadets, alumni, be relevant?" said Paynor, who spent 47 years in the government service, and now heads the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) national organizing council.

"Improve yourself, forget yourself and leave yourself," he said.

In improving oneself, Paynor stressed the importance of reading and being multifunctional individuals, of being articulate and developing strategic thinking.

### **Be a solution**

"Be a solution looking for problems to solve, the best you can be, without seeking recognition," he said.

"In other words when you are asked to do something, you do it to the best of your ability, that's part of improving yourself, you do it with an objective mind and not your vested interest," he said.

He also reminded the audience to decide what legacy they would want to leave after they are gone.

"Decide what you want to be known for after you shall have gone. Leave yourself, improve yourself, forget yourself, leave something of yourself behind," Paynor said.

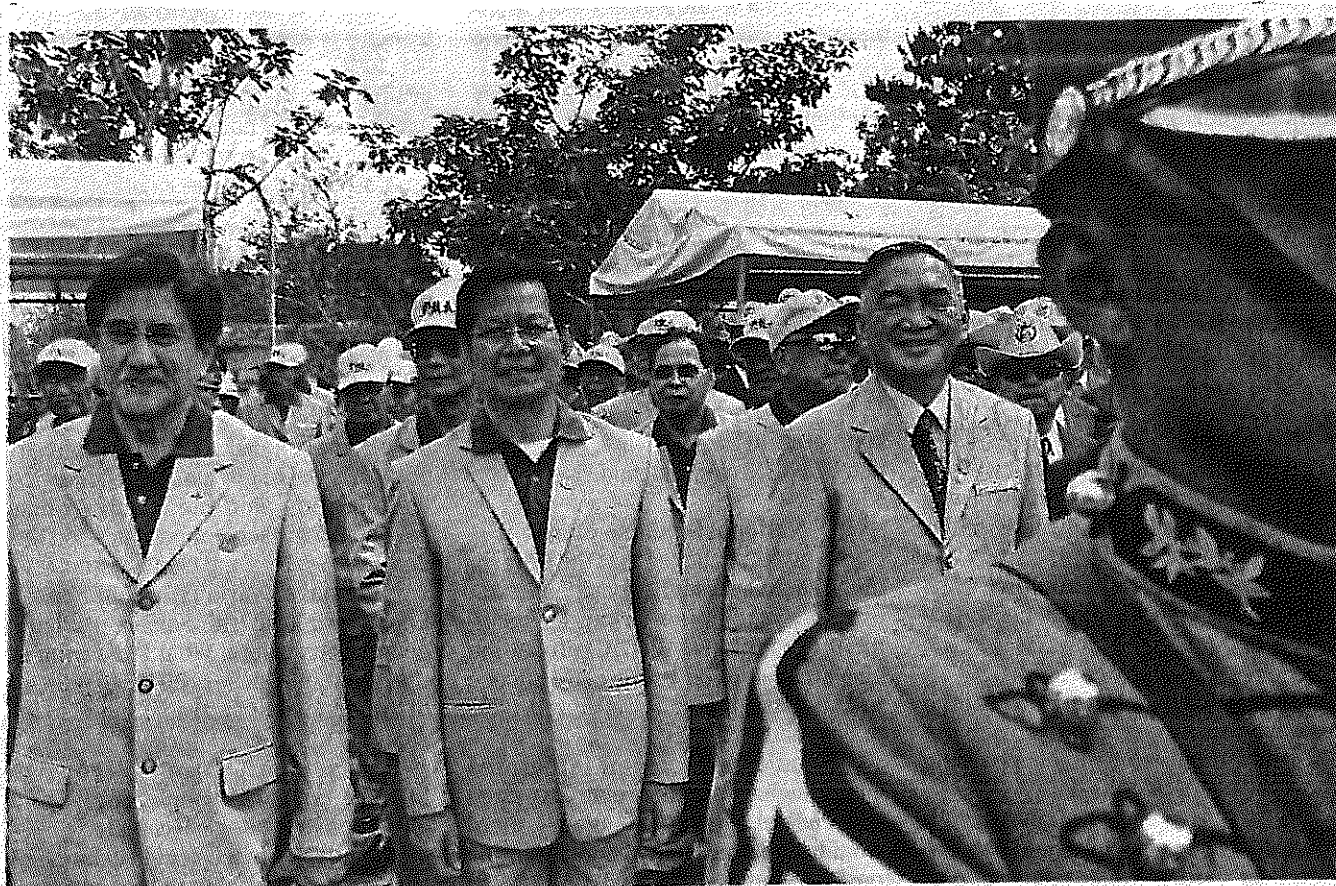
The PMA gave recognition to 12 of its alumni for significant contributions in the government service and in the private sector.



21 February 2016

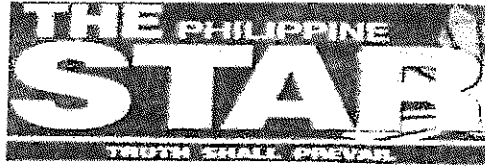
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 18



**HOMEcoming** – Some 1,500 Cavaliers or alumni of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) attended their homecoming in Baguio City yesterday. No politicians were invited to the annual event but Senator Gregorio Honasan (left) who is running for vice president and former senator Panfilo Lacson (center) who is making a Senate comeback were among peers. Honasan, Lacson and former PNP Chief Edgar Aglipay (right) are members of PMA Class '71. (JJ Landingin)

21 February 2016



Page: 3

## 'No change in Phl's defense posture in disputed seas'

By NON ALQUITRAN

There is no adjustment in the country's defense posture despite China's deployment of surface-to-air missiles on a disputed island in the South China Sea, a ranking military official said yesterday.

But Vice Admiral Alexander Lopez, commander of the Western Command based in Palawan, stressed the military has not let down its guard and is in fact preparing for a worst-case scenario.

"That's how we plan, we plan for the worst. That's how the military plans, so we take into consideration the worst-case scenario, so the planning is based on that," Lopez said in an interview on the sidelines of the alumni homecoming of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) at Fort Gregorio del Pilar in Baguio City.

He said there is no change in the defense posture "because everything has been laid down already – how we are going to be vigilant, how we are going to be updated, that's all actual."

He said the troops are conditioned for a worst-case scenario.

Satellite images showed China's missile deployment on Woody Island in the Paracels, which are also being claimed by Vietnam.

The Philippine military confirmed the deployment through actual video and photos.

The United States, the European Union and Australia have condemned Beijing's action. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has also called on China to stop militarizing the South China Sea.

For vice presidential candidate Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a joint exploration with China of the potentially oil and mineral rich West Philippine Sea should be considered by the Philippines to ease tension in the region.

He said the Philippine government should ask China to explore and find out what resources are there in the disputed areas and craft a sharing agreement with the Asian giant.

"I do not think China wants to go to war," he said, as he cited ASEAN's taking a stand against China's bullying in the region.

"We should do a performance audit on all our bilateral international agreements and see if our economic and security partners come to our rescue with such

agreements with them," Honasan said. "Once we find out that they cannot help at all, why go on with such agreements?"

He said "our audience should be the world, not China," adding an "unclear foreign policy" may have contributed to the problem.

But such an unclear foreign policy, he explained, is not the fault of a single administration, but all previous administrations that have not crafted a clear economic and security policy.

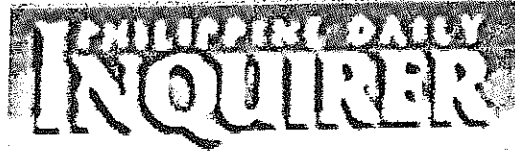
In the meantime, Honasan

said "we should relish the benefits" from existing agreements like the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

"Let's bear with EDCA at the moment, and let's build up our strength," he said.

– With Artemio Dumlao

21 February 2016



Page: A2

# Pinoy troops ready for 'worst-case' in dispute with China

By Julie M. Aurelio and Tarra Quismundo

**FORT GREGORIO DEL PILAR**—The chief of the Western Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said Palawan-based Filipino troops had planned for "the worst-case scenario" and were monitoring China's reported deployment of surface-to-air missiles in the disputed Paracel Islands in the South China Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday denounced China's recent move, saying it would aggravate the already tense situation in the region.

Vice Admiral Alexander Lopez said the troop alert level had not been raised but the military was "continuously monitoring developments."

The military "plans for the worst-case scenario in specific situations and the troops under WesCom are conditioned for such instances," he said on the sidelines of the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming here.

WesCom is based in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan and has the responsibility of keeping an eye on the Philippines' territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea.

Lopez reiterated the government's concern over China's de-

ployment of surface-to-air missile and radar systems on Woody Island in the Paracels, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

"This is a serious threat to regional security," Lopez said, adding that China was "militarizing the region."

"We get actual footage from the area, like video, camera shots... to establish what is actually there," he said.

In a statement, the DFA said the Philippines was "gravely concerned over reports that China has deployed surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island. Such actions negate China's earlier commitment not to militarize the South China Sea."

It said the latest Chinese action was "a clear violation" of the Declaration on the Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the South China Sea and

earlier declarations between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Under the DOC, the parties had agreed to promote peace and harmony in the waters, had committed to freedom of navigation, and had agreed to exercise self-restraint and to veer away from the use of threat or force amid unresolved disputes in the waters.

Four Asean nations—the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei—are claimants in maritime disputes in the region. China claims almost the entire South China Sea.

"These developments further erode trust and confidence and aggravate the already tense situation in the region," the DFA said.

The Philippines' statement echoed the United States' worries over the Chinese missile deployment, which came just as US President Barack Obama held a summit with the leaders of Asean.

In the US-Asean meeting, Obama reiterated his support for peaceful means to resolve the maritime disputes, including the Philippines' pending legal action in a UN arbitral tribunal.

21 February 2016



Pahina. 2

### **Militarisasyon ng China sa West Phl Sea ikinabahala**

Ikinabahala ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ang patuloy na militarisasyon ng China sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo sa South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

Una nang pinalagan ng Pilipinas at kinondena ng mga bansang kaalyado nito kabilang ang Estados Unidos ang deployment ng China ng surface-to-air-missile sa West Philippine Sea.

Nangangamba ang mga kinauukulan na targetin ng surface-to-

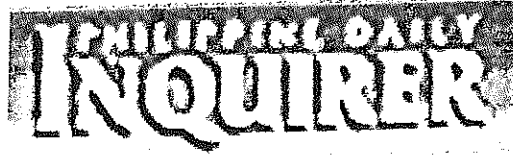
air-missile ng China ang mga dayuhang aircraft na lilipad sa himpapawid alinsunod sa Air Defense Zone, na nais ipatupad ng nasabing bansa sa naturang teritoryo na balakid sa 'freedom of international navigation'.

Sa kasalukuyan, ayon kay AFP-Western Command Vice Admiral Alexander Lopez, patuloy na magiging vigilante at alerto ang tropa ng Pilipinas na nagbabantay sa mga islang inaangkin ng Pilipinas sa WPS.

Bukod sa Pilipinas kabilang pa sa mga bansang nag-aagawan sa Spratly Islands ay ang Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan at China na pinakamapangahas.

"It's not actually expecting itong nangyayari, but more of, that's how we plan eh, we plan for the worst. That's how the military plans, so we take into consideration the worst case scenario, so the planning namin is based on that," sabi ni Lopez. (Joy Cantos)

21 February 2016



Page: 44

# Pension system for military eyed

By Nikko Dizon

THE AQUINO administration might just propose a legislative measure creating a pension system for the military, such that their pensions would not be taken from the national budget, according to Budget Secretary Butch Abad.

Abad said military personnel do not contribute to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the pension fund of civilian employees of the government which pays their pensions on their retirement.

"The decision of the President and the Cabinet is, let us propose a law so that they (soldiers) can have a pension system," Abad said in a phone interview.

The idea to propose a law came about after the issue of the "indexation" of the pensions of retired military personnel resulted in Congress failing to pass the Salary Standardization Law (SSL) to increase the wages of 1.5 million government employees.

The House had removed from the SSL the provision on "indexation," or the pegging of pensions of retired uniformed personnel to current salaries, resulting in

Congress failing to approve the bill.

As a result, President Aquino signed Executive Order No. 201 that allowed an increase in civilian government employees' compensation in four tranches.

EO NO. 201 does not provide for indexation, and states that the uniformed personnel like the military and police will not receive an increase in their basic salaries but will receive an increase in hazard pay, provisional allowance and officers' allowance.

Abad said increasing the pension of military retirees, based on the base pay of their counterparts in the active service, would entail a huge amount. "We cannot afford it," he said.

Abad added that, in fact, a soldier may receive three pensions upon retirement: Their regular pension; a pension received once they reach 65 years and are considered veterans; and a temporary administrative staff disability pension when they reach 80 years.

According to Abad, Muntinlupa Rep. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, is one retired soldier who receives three pensions, having turned 80 last year.

"Representative Biazon concedes this—he is retired, he gets P80,000 monthly with the past indexation applied. If the indexation is applied now (with EO 201), after four tranches he would be receiving P195,000 a month," he said.

Abad said that 67 percent of the total pension being paid out by the government to military retirees were now actually given to their survivors, "no longer the original pensioner."

The position of the Department of Budget and Management is that the indexation provision would require ballooning and unsustainable fund allotments from the government.

Over the past 13 years, the government has accumulated P18 billion in unpaid pension adjustments to military officers based on a decree issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos mandating a pension hike for retired military personnel at par with the pay hike of active soldiers.

The government did not allocate funds for the pension increase starting in 2002. The Commission on Audit issued a ruling in May last year ordering the payment of pension arrears.



21 February 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

# Navy officers lose ₱47-B property

## SC awards 47-hectare Fort Bonifacio property to BCDA

By **BERNIE CAHILES MAGKILAT**

**A**fter more than a decade, the government's legal battle to get back the ₱47-billion 47-hectare prime property in Fort Bonifacio claimed by some retired military officials is finally over.

In a recent decision, the Supreme Court denied with finality a motion for reconsideration by the Navy Officers' Village Association, Inc. (NOVAI) of the High Court's previous decision al- ▶9

## Navy officers lose... ◀1

lowing the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to take possession of the 47-hectare NOVAI property.

"Acting on petitioner's motion for reconsideration of the Decision dated 3 August 2015 which denied the petition for review on certiorari, the Court further resolves to deny the motion with finality, the basic issues raise therein having been duly considered and passed upon the court in the aforesaid decision and no substantial argument having been adduced to warrant the reconsideration sought," the SC's two-page Notice read.

In a statement, BCDA president and chief executive officer Arnel Paciano D. Casanova lauded the SC for the favorable ruling that will benefit the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the national government.

"With the Supreme Court ruling, the BCDA can now proceed in disposing the 47-hectare property and generate billions of pesos to fund the AFP Modernization Program and bankroll government programs and projects," Casanova said.

According to Casanova, the 475,009 square-meter NOVAI property is now estimated to be worth more than ₱47 billion based on the current selling price of approximately ₱100,000 per

square meter.

Casanova had personally pursued the NOVAI case “with the help of honorable and professional officers of the Armed Forces and the Office of the Solicitor General.”

The NOVAI is a group of retired military officers which claimed ownership of the disputed property situated inside the former Fort Andres Bonifacio Military Reservation (FBMR).

Casanova was general counsel for the BCDA when the latter filed a complaint in the court against military generals involved in illegal settlements inside military reservation areas.

“As early as 2004 and as general counsel then, I made a commitment to the Feliciano Commission that I will do my best to pursue the cases against Southside Homeowners Association (SHAD) and NOVAI in spite of some generals who kept on dissuading us from doing so,” Casanova said, referring to the commission’s report that recommended legal action for the recovery of the JUSMAG and NOVAI properties.

“My mission for the Feliciano Commission is now accomplished,” he added.

The Feliciano Commission was a fact-finding commission created to address the

concerns of soldiers involved in the July, 2003, Oakwood mutiny.

The BCDA eventually won in September, 2006, in its petition-in-intervention with the SC over a case against military officers occupying quarters at the SHAI area inside JUSMAG in Fort Bonifacio.

The former JUSMAG area has since been developed and is now known as McKinley West.

Casanova said winning both the NOVAI and SHAI cases puts closure to more than a decade of legal battles to protect the rights and interest of the Filipino soldier against a few retired generals and their spouses who tried

to get government land worth billions of pesos and claim it as their own.

BCDA remittances help fund the national government’s development projects, including the modernization of the AFP to improve the country’s internal security and external defense.

From 1993 to end-December, 2015, the BCDA has generated a total of ₱28.5 billion for the AFP from the disposition of former Metro Manila military camps through sale, lease, and joint-venture development. The biggest former Metro Manila military camps are Fort Bonifacio and a large portion of Villamor Air Base now called Bonifacio Global City and Newport City, respectively.

21 February 2016



Page: 23

## RC Cola-Army blasts F2 Logistics, wrests solo lead

Powerhouse RC Cola-Army cruised to the solo top spot after an easy win over newcomer F2 Logistics, 25-22, 25-12, 25-19, in the Philippine Super Liga Invitational Conference at the Malolos Sports and Convention Center yesterday.

Rachel Anne Daquis finished with 17 points for the Lady Troopers, who now hold a 2-0 win-loss card in this prestigious inter-club tournament bankrolled by Asics, Mikasa, Senoh, Mueller, and Grand Sports with TV5 as official broadcast partner.

Former three-time champion Army got an extra boost from Honey Royse Tubino and skipper Jovelyn Gonzaga, who each added 13 and 11 markers, respectively.

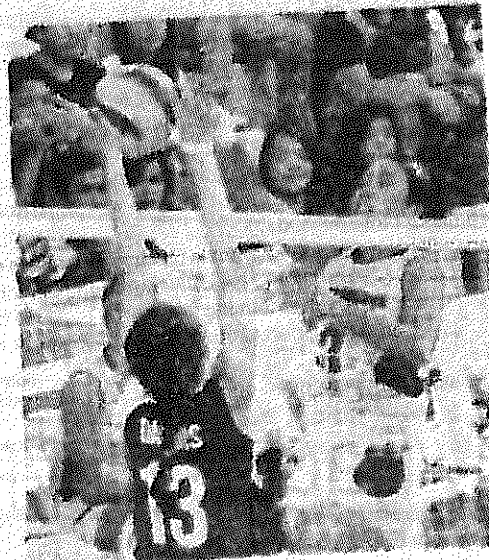
Lady Troopers assistant coach Rico de Guzman was pleased to see his veteran-laden squad step up and apply their game plan smoothly despite the absence of head coach Kungfu Reyes, who was with the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses for their match in the UAAP.

"So far nagawa namin (ang game plan), na-apply namin ang pina-practice namin kahapon, 'yung scrimmage kung paano kami maghahanda sa F2, kasi alam namin na malakas sila sa open sa defense," said De Guzman.

Although the Lady Troopers showed their weakness at the net with only four blocks against 10 of the Cargo Movers, Daquis and Gonzaga led the attack (51-27).

"So far wala ako masabi, masaya ako kasi maganda itatalko ng team," said De Guzman. "Sila (younger players) 'yung pumapalit doon sa mga heterano namin. Nadadala na nila ang pagiging sundalo nila, kung anong trabaho ang kailangan ginagawa nila araw-araw," said De Guzman.

Adamson alumna Pau Soriano and former Petron star Abby Marano each had nine points for F2 Logistics, while Cebuana spiker Danika



RC Cola-Army's Rachel Anne Daquis blocks a spike by F2 Logistics' Abby Marano in the Superliga Invitational at the Malolos Sports and Convention Center.

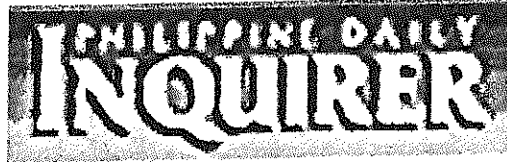
Gendrauli and Therese Veronas added seven markers apiece.

The Cargo Movers evened their card (1-1) after an easy win over New San Jose Builders, 25-23, 25-10, 25-4, on Thursday.

In the other game, Foton recovered from its opening day loss as the Toplander outlasted New San Jose Builders, 25-16, 23-25, 25-20, 25-17.

Former Arellano standout Danna Henson came through with 12 points for the Toplander while Samantha Dawson and Patty Orendain chipped in 12 and 11 markers, respectively, to make up for their loss to returning powerhouse RC Cola-Army, 17-25, 9-25, 22-25, on Thursday.

21 February 2016



Page: 422

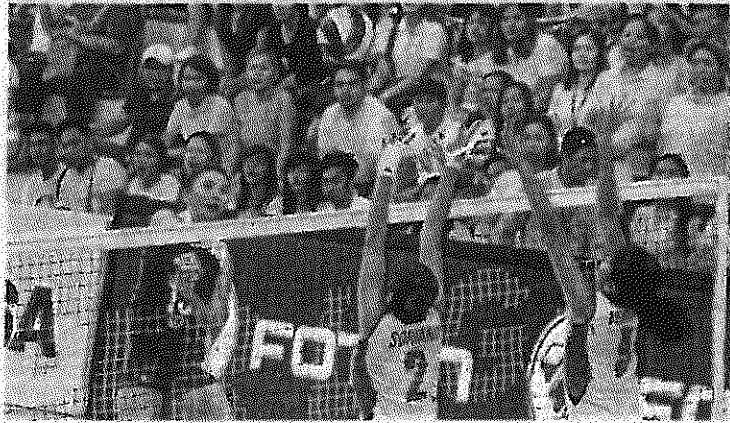
# Daquis turns up 'beast mode' for RC Cola-Army

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MALOLOS CITY—Easily one of the celebrated volleyball beauties in the country, Rachel Anne Daquis yesterday brought out the beast.

Daquis unloaded 17 attacks and steered RC Cola-Army to a 25-22, 25-12, 25-19 domination of F2 Logistics in the Philippine Superliga Invitational Cup out-of-town sortie here.

Daquis didn't merely tow the Lady Troopers to the solo lead with two straight wins. She also did it against former teammate Aby Maraño who popularized the "beast mode" hashtag in social media with her fiery brand of play.



**RACHEL Anne Daquis (left) of RC Cola-Army unleashes a kill against the wall of F2 Logistics.**

In the second game, reed-thin Danna Henson came up with a big performance to lift Foton to a 25-16, 23-25, 25-20, 25-17 win

over New San Jose Builders for its first victory in two matches.

The Arellano standout scored 12 points including an ace to

power the Toplander, who tied opening-day tormentor F2 to a 1-1 record.

Honey Royse Tubino and Jove-lyn Gonzaga provided ample backup for Daquis, contributing 13 and 11 points, respectively, for RC Cola. Tina Salak also cleared the way for those attacks by making 20 excellent sets.

"We executed our game plan very well," said Army assistant coach Rico de Guzman who filled in for head coach Emilio "Kungfu" Reyes who had a game with the University of Santo Tomas in the UAAP.

"We knew how strong their offense was; we knew their players, so we doubled up on defense," de Guzman added.

## ONLINE NEWS

21 FEBRUARY 2016

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

### **PMA cadets, alumni told: Be relevant**

By: [Frances Mangosing](#)

[@FMangosingINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](http://INQUIRER.net)

07:30 PM February 20th, 2016

FORT DEL PILAR, Philippines—Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr. has dedicated 47 years of his life to public service—17 in the military and 30 in foreign service. How did he last that long in his chosen path? Now that he is at the “sunset” of his career, Paynor gives this advice: Be relevant.

“In order to be relevant, in my particular case, 47 years of gov’t service—17 in the military, 30 years in the foreign service, and now two as a retired foreign service officer—49 years, how can you be relevant in 49 years? How can you cadets be relevant from the day you graduate, up to the time you retire when you are 56 years old? How can you alumni be relevant even now as you stand there?” he told the 1,913 alumni and 484 cadets at Borromeo Field during the annual Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming.

The guest of honor and speaker at the homecoming, Paynor is a member of PMA Class of 1971, an undersecretary of the Office of the President, and a director general of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation National Organizing Council in 2015.

He left the military service as a lieutenant colonel in 1983 and has since served in various positions in the government.

To become relevant, Paynor said alumni and cadets should “improve, forget, and leave” themselves. “When I say choose to improve yourself, you continue to read and read and be current in this day and age when the digital age imposes on us to be multi-functioning individuals. Second, you have to choose to be able to articulate yourself in every way. By this, I mean that, at some point, we should forget cadet lingo,” he said.

“Third, develop strategic thinking. We cannot develop strategic thinking when all we do when we come to reunions like this is to discuss and to relieve plebe year. I don’t say that it’s wrong, it’s in fact one of the best things that we could do. Or perhaps part of the time we can discuss what West Philippine Sea is all about. Let us discuss forward deployment of troops, let us discuss current events and happenings and let us express our opinions and respect the opinions of others.”

He urged the audience to think of the big picture. “Think of the big picture always. Think out of the box. Always find solutions to problems that you find daunting. Be a solution looking for problems to solve to the best you can, 100 percent every single time, without waiting to be recognized. Because being recognized is part of what we call PR. Public relations is actually 90 percent doing good, and 10 percent talking about it. So whoever talks 90 percent and does only 10 percent, then the guy is not doing what he’s supposed to do,” he said.

Don’t be afraid to lose your job, Paynor said. “Isn’t this an oxymoron? Improve yourself then forget yourself? Forgetting yourself, by this, I mean do not be afraid to lose your job. Because you will do a good

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



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

job of it. In other words, when you are asked to do something, you do it to the best of your ability, that's part of improving yourself, when you are there doing it, you do it with an objective mind and not your vested interest.

"By that, you will develop an attitude, where you do not just give lip service. Love your country, love your country not because it's the only one you've got ... In your heart of hearts, this is the one and only country that you know of. Love your country, because there is a direct correlation between corruption and lack of patriotism, the lack of love of country. You want to do anything for your sole vested interest. You forget yourself, think of your country, think of the others.

Lastly, decide what legacy you want to leave. "Decide on what legacy in life, what footprint you want to leave behind. Decide what you want to be known after you shall have gone. Leave yourself. And this is something that everyone of you can decide on," he said.

"Improve yourself, forget yourself, leave something of yourself behind.

"I am now at the sunset of my professional career, I think I have done all three. You cadets, you have everything in front of you. You just stand up to the challenge. Will you remember that on this day, I said, improve yourself, forget yourself, leave yourself? To the alumni who are here, will you accept the challenge of being relevant? I guess the answer is up to you," Paynor said as he concluded his speech. **RC**

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **Cavalier Awardees tampok sa PMA Alumni Homecoming**

By Bombo BaguioPosted in Latest NewsSaturday, 20 February 2016 04:39

BAGUIO CITY - Mag-uumpisa na ngayong umaga ang Alumni Homecoming ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) sa Fort del Pilar, Baguio City.

Mauuna rito ang awarding ceremonies sa mga Cavalier Awardees, Diamond Jubilarians mula Class 1956, Golden Jubilarian ng Class 1966, at Silver Jubilarian ng Class 1991.

Susunod ang arrival honors kay Cavalier Marciano Paynor Jr. na magsisilbing pangunahing bisita at speaker sa aktibidad.

Susundan ito ng Alumni Parade and Review Proper bago ang Entry and Formation of Troops and Colors, Posting of Class Colors, Mannual of Arms, Accounting of Troops, Publication of Orders, Officers Center March at welcome remarks ni PMA Supt. Maj. Gen. Donato San Juan.

Inaasahan namang dadalo sa aktibidad bilang VIP sina Cavalier Manuel Espejo ng PMA Class 1971; Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Class 1966; AFP chief Gen. Hernando Iriberry, Class 1983; PNP chief Dir. Gen. Ricardo Marquez mula sa Manipud Class 1982; Rear Admiral William Melad ng Class 1983; Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano, Class 1983; Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Delgado, Class 1982; at Vice Admiral Ceasar Taccad, Class 1982.

Samantala, ang mga Cavalier Awardee ay sina Cav. Edgar Aglipay ng Private Enterprise; Cav. Amado Espino ng Public Administration; Cav. Cecil Che ng Command and Administration; Cav. Oriel Pangcog ng Army Operations; Cav. Jose Malayo mula Police Operations; Cav. Lued Lincuna ng Naval Operation; Cav. Eduardo Fabricante ng Coast Guard Operations; Cav. Ricardo Marquez ng Special Operations; Cav.

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

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

Jesus Nelson Morales ng Air force Operations; Cav. Reynaldo Velasco ng Alumni Affairs; Cav. Vicente Cejoco mula Special Field; at Cav. Edgar Fallorina ng Staff Functions.

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

## **May dagdag pang benepisyo sa mga gov't employees sa 2016 -**

### **DBM**

By Bombo Jerald UlepPosted in Latest NewsSaturday, 20 February 2016 07:23

Posibleng makatanggap nang mas marami pang benepisyo ang mga empleyado ng gobyerno sa susunod na taon.

Ayon kay Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Sec. Butch Abad kasali na ring ibibigay ang performance based bonus sa susunod na taon, maliban lamang sa 14th month pay na ibibigay na sa buwan ng Mayo at productivity enhancement incentive na nagkakahalaga ng P5,000.

Bagamat hindi kasali ang mga pulis at sundalo, asahan naman daw na tataasan din ang kanilang hazard pay, ang provisional allowance at officers' allowance.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang provisional allowance ng mga sundalo ay P240 at itataas ito ng P390 ngayong taon magiging P540 sa susunod na taon, P690 sa 2018 at P840 sa taong 2019.

Habang ang allowance ng mga officers na may ranggo na captain hanggang four-star general ay makakatanggap ng allowance na P1,000 hanggang P9,000 sa unang bugso, P3,000 hanggang 18,000 sa second tranche, P4,500 hanggang P25,000 sa ikatlong bugso at P7,000 hanggang P35,000 sa fourth tranche.

Dagdag ni Abad, puwede ring ipatupad ng mga local government units (LGUs) ang compensation adjustment depende sa Personnel Services limitation na nasa ilalim ng batas.

Aabot sa 1.5 million state employees ang makatatanggap ng mas mataas na sahod matapos pirmahan kahapon ni Pangulong Noynoy Aquino ang executive order na layong dagdagan ang sahod ng mga empleyado ng gobyerno.

Pero paglililaw ni Abad hindi pa kasama sa salary increase ang kasalukuyang pangulo ng bansa, bise presidente, mga senador, kongresista at cabinet members.

Naglaan ang pamahalaan ng pondong P225.82 billion para sa salary increase ngayong 2016 hanggang 2019.

Ang pondo ngayong taon ay P57.906 billion, P54.393 billion sa 2017, P65.976 billion sa 2018 at P47.544 billion sa 2019.

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

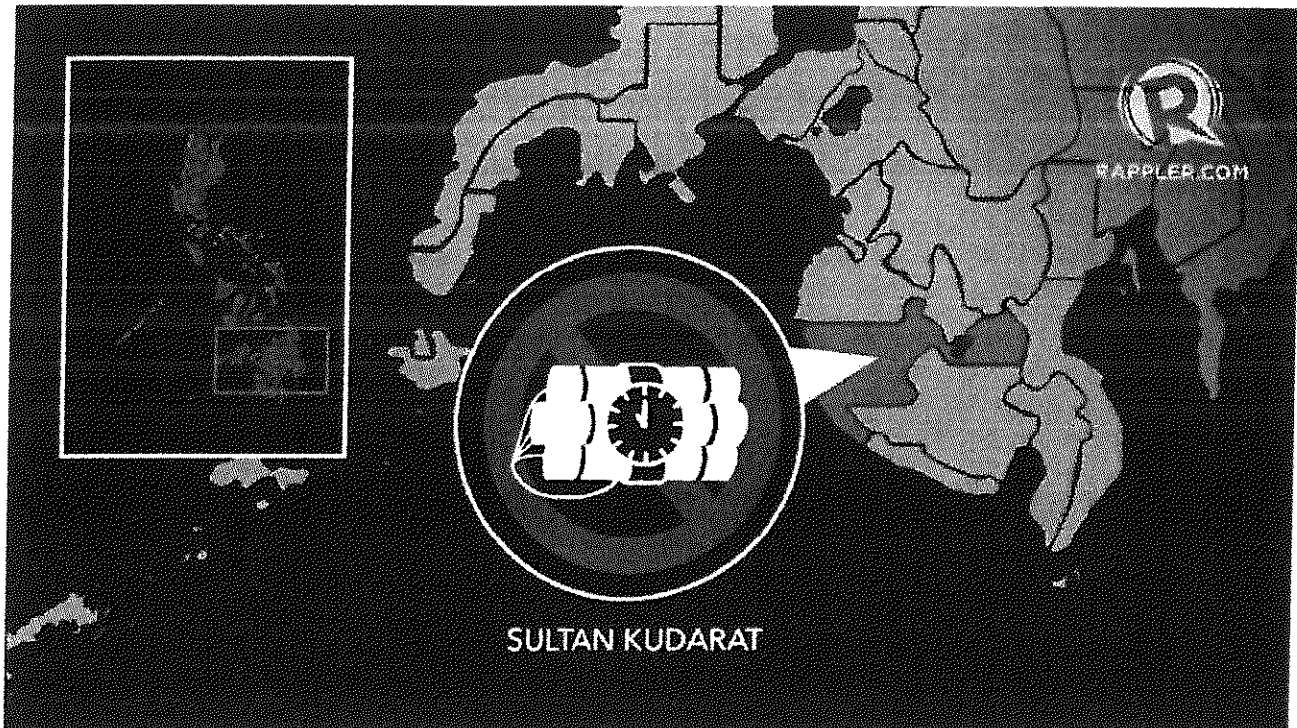
22

[www.rappler.com](http://www.rappler.com)

## Army foils bombing attempt in Sultan Kudarat town

Authorities say no one was hurt in the incident, considered the first of its kind in the town's recent history  
*Rappler.com*

Published 1:11 PM, February 20, 2016



MANILA, Philippines – An army explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team foiled on Friday evening, February 19, a bombing attempt at a public market in the town of President Quirino in Sultan Kudarat.

According to Police Inspector Badrudin Esmael, chief of police of the municipal police station, his office received a report from concerned citizens about an unattended baggage outside Edmund Hair Salon located at the public market in Barangay Poblacion.

Police immediately responded and confirmed the presence of a suspected improvised explosive device (IED). After clearing and cordoning off the area, the police sought the help of the EOD team of Tacurong City's Task Force Talakudong.

The EOD team confirmed that the baggage contained an IED and immediately detonated it around 7:35 pm Friday. The Tacurong City police station took custody of the recovered IED for safekeeping.

No one was hurt in the incident, considered the first of its kind in the town's recent history. – **Rappler.com**

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

[www.visayandailystar.com](http://www.visayandailystar.com)

## **'NPA' ambushers strip slain cops of belongings**

**BY GILBERT BAYORAN**

The ambush that claimed the lives of two policemen, and caused injuries to four others, including two civilians, in Candoni, Negros Occidental, Thursday night appeared to be similar to the Mamasapano massacre where the slain police officers were stripped of their uniforms, personal belongings and firearms.

But this time, the suspects are members of the New People's Army, the Army's 3rd Infantry Division said.

Worse, the armed suspects administered the "coup de grace" on the injured policeman – Police Officer 1 Henry Vell Pacheco – by shooting him in the head, Senior Inspector Varie Villanobos, Candoni police chief, yesterday said.

Also killed in the ambush was PO2 Joe Harry Peralta.

Senior Supt. William Señorón, Negros Occidental OIC police director, said yesterday that the two slain policemen were stripped of their uniforms, personal belongings and weapons.

Three M-16 assault rifles and two 9mm pistols of the Candoni policemen were declared missing, and believed to have been taken by the suspects, Señorón said.

The brand new Mahindra patrol vehicle of the Candoni police also sustained 70 bullet holes, a report of the Scene of the Crime Operatives showed.

The members of the Alert Team of the Candoni Police Station headed by SPO2 Boyd Mate were on their way back to their headquarters, after responding to a hacking incident, when they were ambushed by about 20 armed men, police investigation showed.

Lt. Col. Rey Tiongson, 3rd Infantry Division spokesman, yesterday said the NPA ambush is a blatant violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), of which the rebel group is a signatory.

Local officials of Candoni headed by Mayor Cicero Borromeo and the Philippine National Police also condemned the ambush that did not spare even civilians.

Villanobos said the injured policemen - Police Officers 2 Jay Arroyo and PO1 Modesto Vina – are now in stable condition. The injured civilians were identified as Rey Duales and Julius Miravalles.

Recovered from the ambush site were empty shells of M-16, M-14 and AK 47 assault rifles, and a K-3 light machine gun.

Villanobos said the Candoni Police Station have been on alert status since December last year, following reports that the NPA may stage an attack.

Troopers of the Regional Public Safety Battalion 18 had beefed up the town police station since then, he added.

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

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

Col. Francisco Delfin, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, yesterday said they have been conducting security operations, even battalion-sized ones, in the hinterlands of Candoni and neighboring areas since late last year, that resulted in two encounters with the NPA.

Delfin said he believes that, following their dislocation in the hinterlands, the NPA rebels may have moved to the lowlands.

The ambush site in Brgy. Caningay, Candoni, is more than a kilometer away from the town poblacion.

Delfin said the NPA showed its true color of being a "terrorist organization" by staging an ambush even in a populated area, without thinking of the consequences that civilians may be hurt.

Their action will not go unpunished. Those who had a hand in this senseless killings through inhumane tactics will be held liable Tiongson, said.

Señoron said the peace and order situation is back to normal in Candoni, although residents at the ambush site were traumatized by the incident.\*GPB

[www.inquirer.net](http://www.inquirer.net)

## **RAM boys to reunite on Edsa people power 30th anniversary**

By: Frances Mangosing

@FMangosingINQ

INQUIRER.net

05:41 PM February 20th, 2016

FORT DEL PILAR, Philippines—The prominent men behind the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), the group of military officers that played a crucial role which triggered the first Edsa people power revolt, will reunite for the 30th anniversary of the historic uprising.

"We're going to commemorate it on the 23rd with the old reform movement stalwarts," vice presidential candidate and Sen. Gringo Honasan said on Saturday.

Honasan, one of the founders of RAM, was then the chief security aide of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, who backed the plans of toppling the leadership of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Some of the prominent RAM personalities in the gathering will include former Commodore Rex Robles, Capt. Boy Turingan, Gen. Vic Batac and Col. Red Kapunan.

The RAM was originally against Marcos but also conducted coup attempts during the administration of President Corazon Aquino. All the succeeding coups had failed.

Honasan, a member of PMA Class of 1971, said they would "deliver a message collectively and individually that 30 years ago when the Filipino people get together with their soldiers under moral leadership real change is possible."

The senator couldn't immediately say if his former boss Enrile is attending the event. "I'm not sure. There's an organizing committee that's inviting," he said.

Feb. 25 was earlier declared a holiday by the Philippine government in observance of the commemoration of the Edsa people power revolution. **RC**

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

25



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

[www.news.abs-cbn.com](http://www.news.abs-cbn.com)

## **LOOK: New FA-50 jets escort President's plane**

ABS-CBN News

Posted at 02/19/16 2:26 PM

MANILA - For the first time, the traditional role of escorting the President and other visiting Heads of State while in Philippine airspace was done by the Philippine Air Force's Air Defense Wing fighter pilots using two FA-50 Golden Eagle fighter jets during President Aquino's return from an official trip today.

The jets are among the twelve air assets of its kind acquired by the government to augment the Philippine Air Force.

The task of escorting the President's plane used to be done by PAF's F-5 fighter aircraft which were decommissioned in 2005.

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