

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



TEAM ARMY

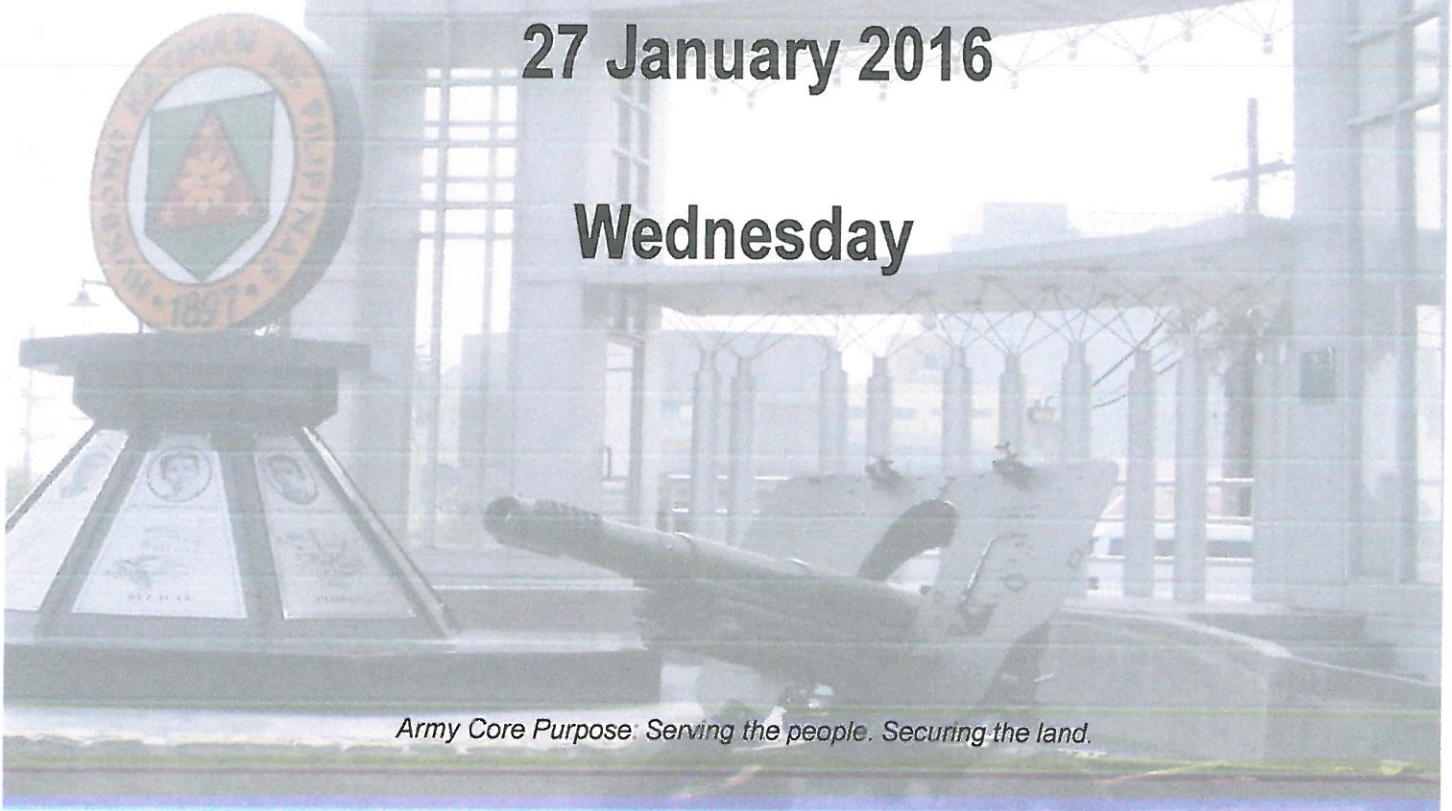
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

27 January 2016

Wednesday



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

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

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

27 January 2016

The Manila Times

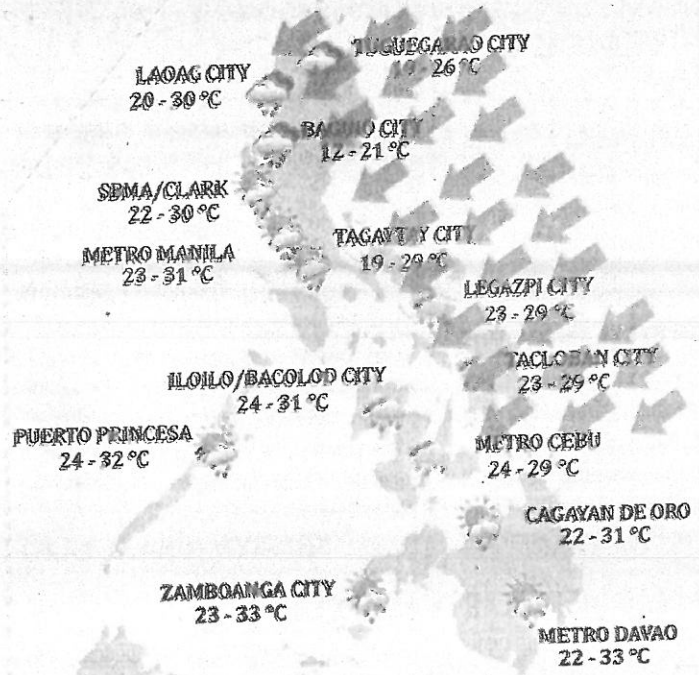
A8



The Manila Times

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JANUARY 27, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON
AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS
(JANUARY 26, 5:00 PM)



SUNRISE **SUNSET**

6:25 AM 5:52 PM

MOONRISE **MOONSET**

8:37 PM 8:26 AM

FULL MOON **LAST QUARTER**

JAN 24 9:45 AM FEB 1 11:27 AM

LOW TIDE **HIGH TIDE**

7:19 AM 1:45 PM

-0.14 Meter 0.29 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Light rains
Monsoon rains/rains

	JAN 26 TUESDAY	JAN 27 WEDNESDAY	JAN 28 THURSDAY	JAN 29 FRIDAY	JAN 30 SATURDAY
METRO MANILA	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	13 - 21 °C	13 - 22 °C	14 - 22 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO	21 - 32 °C	22 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO		23 - 32 °C			
PUERTO PRINCESA		25 - 32 °C			
BORACAY		23 - 34 °C			

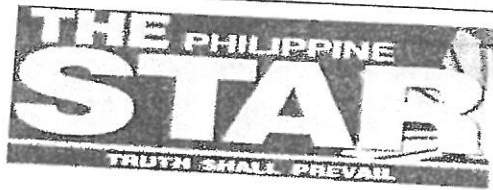


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Philippines, Japan forge stronger ties

By DELON PORCALLA

Under the cloud of China's aggressively staking maritime territorial claims, Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived in Manila yesterday to forge stronger ties between their country and the Philippines.

President Aquino was on hand for planeside honors for the Japanese royals at a special hangar at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

It was the first time for Akihito to visit the Philippines as emperor. He was two weeks short of his eighth birthday when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii with the blessings of his father, the late Emperor Hirohito, setting off the war in the Pacific that would lead to the Japanese invasion of the Philippines.

Since then ties have improved between the two former foes, linked by their common ally the United States. Japan is now the Philippines' single largest source of official development assistance and Japanese businessmen are among the biggest investors.

With China staking claims on islands occupied by Japan and claimed by the Philippines, Manila and Tokyo have also strengthened defense cooperation.

The imperial couple met the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers yesterday afternoon shortly after their arrival.

Today, the imperial couple is scheduled to attend a welcoming ceremony at Malacañang

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Philippines From Page 1

and meet Aquino in the morning, and visit a cemetery for Filipino victims to lay flowers in the afternoon.

After that, they will return to the palace for a state dinner.

The Loboc Children's Choir will serenade the imperial couple during the state dinner. The choir attracted global attention when they sang at the ruins of the Loboc Church following the killer quake that hit the province of Bohol in October 2013.

On Thursday, the imperial couple

is expected to meet some people of Japanese descent living in the Philippines.

On Friday, they will travel to Caliraya by helicopter and lay flowers at a monument installed by the Japanese government to commemorate the war dead, before returning to Japan the following day.

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura will serve as principal attendant.

Around 1.1 million Filipinos and

518,000 Japanese soldiers and civilians perished during the war.

The Imperial Japanese Army launched air strikes on the Philippines, then a US colony, on Dec. 8, 1941 (Dec. 7 Hawaiian time), the same day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, marking the start of the Pacific phase of World War II.

Japan occupied Manila in January 1942, while local residents continued to resist the move through guerrilla fighting. A month of Japan-US fighting in Manila in February 1945 claimed the lives of around 100,000 Filipino civilians.

"In the Philippines, many lives of Filipino, US and Japanese people were lost during the previous war. Especially, an enormous number of innocent Filipino civilians fell victim in the urban combat in Manila," the emperor said prior to departure from Tokyo's Haneda airport.

"We'd like to carry out this visit while always bearing this in mind," he said, adding that he is pleased to travel to the country again following a previous visit by the couple in 1962 when they were crown prince and princess.

Their return after more than half a century comes at the invitation of

President Aquino, extended during his state visit to Japan last June.

The trip was arranged on the occasion of the two countries marking the 60th anniversary of the normalization of bilateral ties in July.

With a strong desire to mourn all the war dead, the emperor has been traveling with the empress to places hit hard by the war at home and abroad, including Saipan, one of the Northern Mariana Islands, in 2005 and Palau last year, in commemoration of the 60th and 70th anniversaries of the war's end in 1945.

— With Mike Frialde, Kyodo

27 January 2016



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SC hearing gives Poe hope

'Impossible' requirement for foundlings cited

By Tarra Quismundo
and Jerome C. Aning

IF THE COURT upholds the "impossible" requirement for a foundling to prove his unknown parentage, generations of Filipino foundlings will suffer the unintended consequences.

Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno had this to say in her 20-minute interpellation of Alexander Poblador, counsel of presidential candidate Grace Poe, a foundling now facing challenges to the status of her citizenship and qualification for public office as the senator fights to remain in the running for the nation's top post.

Sereno yesterday underscored the magnitude of any decision the high court would make on Poe's challenge to her disqualification, saying generations of foundlings would be affected by how the court would rule on the case.

Sereno zeroed in on who should carry the burden of proof that Poe is not a natural-born Filipino and hence not qualified to seek public office—the reason the Commission on Elections (Comelec) had voted to disqualify her from the May presidential election.

For Sereno, compelling a foundling to prove his or her unknown parentage was an "impossible condition," and that upholding such requirement would betray the presumption in Philippine adoption laws that a foundling is a Filipino.

"We have to be careful that we're not

SC HEARING/A12

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led by a rigid reading of what we consider as failure to enumerate foundlings. We are going to create unintended consequences, the difficulties of are not only going to be visited on our client but on so many foundlings in this country," said Sereno, the last justice to ask Poblador questions in three-hour oral arguments yesterday.

Profound implication

"The implication is very profound, not only for your client. I could put a blinder on who our client is and just focus on the implication on foundling rights, who are being required to take the position of petitioners to prove an impossible condition," Sereno said.

She sought to establish how the country's laws on domestic and international adoption carried the presumption that foundlings in the Philippines are in fact Filipinos, hence Philippine courts had jurisdiction over them.

By mere title, she noted that Republic Act No. 8552 is called an act establishing rules and policies on the domestic adoption of Filipino Children, and for other purposes."

"Meaning foundlings are covered by rules on the adoption of Filipino children," Sereno said. Republic Act No. 8043 is titled "An act establishing the rules to govern intercountry adoption of Filipino children and for other purposes," and also spells out rules on the intercountry adoption of foundlings in the Philippines.

"The legislature itself accords foundlings the presumption of citizenship," Poblador said.

Under the country's adoption laws and the civil code, Poblador said, "no court can assume jurisdiction of the foundling if foundling is not presumed Filipino."

Sereno said that while the law may at times be "silent, obscure or ambiguous," courts were tasked to issue rulings based on legislative interpretation so that justice would be upheld.

"The law intends for justice and right to prevail. So the point of us making sure that justice prevails is not a vox populi requirement. I disagree with that. It is a duty which justices are required to observe because it is even statutorily required of us in keeping with our mandate under the civil code and inherent functions we are exercising as a court," Sereno said.

"I'm very interested because there are parents now who want to adopt. What this court is going to say will speak to them... Whether we find it strictly by saying that the language is silent—so the right of foundlings is completely silent—or will resort to interpretation, not only statutory construction, but judicial interpretation, and administrative practices in order that a just and right ruling will result," Sereno said.

After three hours, the court adjourned until the next hearing, set on Tuesday.

Enough evidence

Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, picking off where he left during the first hearing on Tuesday last week questioning Poblador, reiterated that those seeking the senator's disqualification never presented any evidence that she was a foreigner, and thus she was presumed a natural-born Filipino eligible to seek the presidency.

Leonen questioned whether evidence was presented in the Comelec were enough to prove that Poe was a natural-born Filipino citizen, considering that the proceedings at the poll body was summary in nature, meaning there were no hearings.

Poblador admitted that Poe's foundling certificate and decree of adoption were not enough to

prove that one of the senator's parents were Filipinos.

The lawyer, however, reiterated Poe's position that she is natural-born based on presumptions under both domestic and international laws, to which Leonen replied, "Maybe to some of us it is too iffy, too ambiguous, to tenuous a link."

The justice also asked Poblador to discuss in the memorandum to be submitted to the court on whether a foundling can given a natural-born Filipino citizenship just because the foundling was found on Philippine territory.

On the residency issue, Poblador said the senator lived in the Philippines since birth, except for some 14 years when she was in the United States.

He also agreed with Leonen that the constitutional provision requiring a 10-year residency "immediately preceding the election" for presidential candidates did not say that the 10 years must be continuous.

Question of loyalty

The justice said that if the purpose of the 10-year residency rule was for the candidate to be familiar with the conditions in the country, then there may not be a reason for Poe not to be so since she lived most of her life in the Philippines and that because of the technology such as the Internet, she could have been familiar with what is happening in the country.

Leonen also challenged the premise that the reason for imposing a natural-born citizenship requirement on candidates for President was to assure their loyalty to the country, asking if there ever was a scientific finding proving that non-natural-borns are not or less loyal.

He pointed out that a child born in Hawaii of parents who are Philippine citizens could theoretically run for president of the United States, although it would be up to American voters to decide to vote for the child when he runs for the office in the future.

Justices Antonio Carpio and Teresita Leonardo-De Castro focused on the Poblador's citation of international law in declaring that foundlings like Poe had the right to be citizen of the country where they are found.

Carpio pointed out that the 1930 Hague Convention cited by Poblador could not have been construed as international law applicable in the Philippines at the time the 1935 Constitution was enacted, saying that the convention only took effect in 1937 when the required 10 states ratified it.

Incremental acts

Carpio asked if Poblador could submit the income tax returns submitted by Poe in 2005 and 2006 while De Castro asked the lawyer to submit to the court the basis used by the Bureau of Immigration in declaring Poe as natural-born citizen.

Justice Presbitero Velasco asked Poblador on the lawyer's assertion that Poe's decision to reestablish her residency in the Philippines was a "series of incremental acts."

"Relocation is difficult. There are steps which must taken in totality," adding that the elements of reacquisition of domicile—physical presence, intent to stay and no intention to return to previous residence were all present in Poe's case.

Justice Mariano del Castillo, on the other hand, asked Poblador about his position that it should be up to the people to decide Poe's qualification in the election.

"You say vox populi vox dei [but] isn't the Constitution also the voice of the people?" he asked, to which Poblador said the Constitution provided for elections in which the people could continue to make their decisions.

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27 January 2016

The Atlanta Times

A3

Marcelino one of our spies – Army

BY JOEL M. SY EGCO SENIOR REPORTER
AND FERNAN MARASIGAN REPORTER

THE Philippine Army has issued a certification stating that Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino has been feeding information to the Army's Intelligence Service Group (ISG) in relation to an ongoing anti-drug project of the military, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano, Army commander confirmed on Tuesday.

"The certification stated that he was giving information, sharing information [with] our Army intelligence regarding the effort in identifying if there is any soldier taking drugs or any soldiers who might be involved in trafficking," Ano said.

He explained that the ongoing anti-drug project of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was contained under Oplan Moses of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) and the AFP-wide Oplan Midas.

"So because of Marcelino's extensive network and his experiences, he was sharing infor-

mation from time to time [with] different intelligence agencies that include the Army intelligence and security group, that was part of the certification," Ano pointed out.

The certification, according to him, was issued by the ISG upon request of Marcelino's lawyer.

The Army commander said the certification might help Marcelino to establish that he has official efforts against the anti-drug campaign.

"But even if he has no official effort, he has personal effort to continue his crusade against drug syndicates. So it would [also] help that he took it [crusade] as his

conviction and personal [undertaking] to fight the drug syndicates," he added.

When pressed if this would help the embattled Marine officer to justify his presence in a large clandestine shabu laboratory at a townhouse along Felix Huertas and Batangas streets in Manila, Ano said this is already a legal matter.

"[By this time, they should have established if Marcelino is really involved in drug trafficking. By this time they should have already gotten indicators and collaborating information that will support their accusation because it would be very easy to check the bank account, the lifestyle, check his cellphone and other information coming from other sources and the database of the drug syndicates under watch]," he added.

During his stint at the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Marcelino, according to Ano, has been giving the AFP information on drug operation.

Even when he left the agency and was assigned to ISAFP, he said, the Marine officer continued to provide information to the military.

A former chief of the PDEA also on Tuesday heaped praises on Marcelino, describing the intelligence officer as a "high risk taker" who took spy jobs where he was considered "expandable" or "dispensable."

Retired AFP chief Gen. Dionisio Santiago, in an interview, said drug lords even wanted Marcelino dead for his successful anti-drug operations in the past.

"He busted many big time drug syndicates and caused a very huge dent on the illegal drugs business here. He was hated by drug traffickers and even some anti-drug agency officials whose toes he had stepped on along the way," Santiago told *The Manila Times*.

Reports indicated that a daughter of Marcelino had been targeted for kidnapping in the past in a bid to keep him away.

Santiago said he still finds it hard to believe that Marcelino, who worked under him when he was PDEA director general, was himself involved in the illegal drugs trade, citing the Marine officer's simple lifestyle.

He added that he believes that Marcelino drew the ire of other

anti-drug officials for passing on big-time drug operations to other agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"He [Marcelino] is a hands-on spook. He only gives A1 information, no less. He verifies information himself and does not leave anything to simple guesswork," Santiago said.

He added that he believes that "professional jealousy" may have led some government officials to take offense for being "repeatedly bypassed" by Marcelino.

For one, he surmised that a top PDEA official held a grudge against Marcelino because the latter was instrumental in the NBI raid on a "mega-laboratory" of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in Camiling, Tarlac, in November 2014.

The raid yielded P2 billion worth of illegal drugs, plus equipment, and led to the arrest of seven Chinese drug suspects.

"Imagine that. Tarlac is the home province of the President [Benigno Aquino 3rd] and do you know where the sitting PDEA chief is from? Marcelino may have drawn their ire for busting a syndicate operating under their

noses," Santiago said.

The former military general stopped short of naming PDEA Director General Arturo Caccad Jr. as among those who may have an ax to grind against the Marine officer.

Santiago likened the incident to a blockbuster spy movie wherein the "antagonist turns out to be the protagonist in the end" and vice versa.

"This is among the risks that those in the intelligence community usually face. Like Marcelino, many operatives take on jobs that are not put in black and white, rendering them expendable or dispensable. It's like when you're caught, you're on your own. That's how dangerously they perform their tasks," he said.

With Marcelino's arrest, according to Santiago, the illegal drug racket is rejoicing.

The same is true, he said, with anti-drug officials who considered him a rival.

"They succeeded in vilifying and discrediting him. On that aspect, they have succeeded. But the public must reserve judgment and weigh all the facts with circumspection," Santiago added.

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PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPER

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Army vouches for Marcelino

By Florante S. Solmerin

A CERTIFICATION issued by the Intelligence and Security Group of the Philippine Army for Marine Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Marcelino is good from "November to December 2015."

But Army chief Lieutenant General Eduardo Ano said that Marcelino, being an intelligence officer, has the task and duty to share timely intelligence information even as his certification of authority does not cover any particular time or period.

It has no time frame as it is a continuing effort,

said Ano. "Actually *hindi naman si Col. Marcelino lange, pati 'yung mga ibang officers ng Armed Forces 'pag makakatulong sila, nagsi-share sila ng information...that's a normal a practice,"* he explained.

Ano and Marcelino worked together way back in 2014 when the general was chief of the Intelligence

Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Army spokesman Colonel Benjamin Hao, who sent a copy of the certification through email, declined to comment on the certification as the case of Marcelino was already under the determination of the Department of Justice.

This developed after Marcelino asked for a preliminary investigation in connection with the case filed against him by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency under Director Arturo Caccac Jr. for alleged drug trafficking.

Marcelino, a former PDEA agent, was arrest-

ed together with former PDEA interpreter Yan Yin Shou during a drug raid last week on a shabu laboratory inside an exclusive subdivision in Sta. Cruz, Manila that resulted in the confiscation of more than 60 kilos of shabu valued at P400 million.

Marcelino insisted he was on a "legitimate intelligence operation" contrary to allegation by PDEA Director Arturo Caccac Jr. that he was into drug-trafficking. PDEA agents pounced on him and Shou right after they entered the townhouse.

But the certification dated Jan. 22, 2016 and

issued by Army ISG commander Col. Marlo Guloy, showed that Marcelino was tasked to share information with the unit with regard to Army personnel involved in drug trafficking activities under Task Force Moses of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Task Group Midas of the Army.

The Army chief attested to Marcelino's integrity as an officer and anti-illegal drugs crusader and urged the PDEA to come up with solid evidence linking the latter to drug syndicates.

Even the Philippine National Police was saying

that Marcelino has "links" with a drug syndicate identified with a certain Atong Lee, which it has yet to prove with evidence, he said.

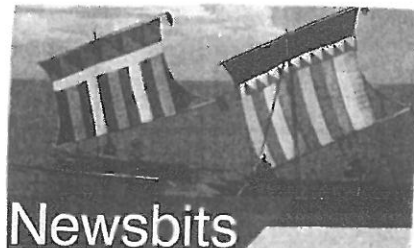
Marcelino's exploits against drug syndicates and drug traffickers in the country led to destruction of the biggest shabu lab and confiscation of shabu worth P3 billion in 2015 in Camiling, Tarlac. This operation was said to be developed by Marcelino and he was not anymore connected with the PDEA but he shared this information to the National Bureau of Investigation which led the Tarlac raid.

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Newsbits

• Medical mission

BUTUAN CITY - The Fourth Infantry "Diamond" Division (4TH ID) recently delivered free medical and dental services to the indigenous people (IPs) in Barangay Tignapoloan, Cagayan de Oro City, regional Army spokesman Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez yesterday said. The Medical and Dental Civic Action Program was another showcase event of the 4th ID's 46th Founding Anniversary that aims to protect, promote and maintain the health and well-being of the indigenous people in the far-flung areas. The activity benefited 138 children and 348 adults, who came in for consultation and physical examination. There were also 13 children and 42 adults who underwent dental check-up and tooth extraction, the 4th ID spokesman added. (Mike U. Crismundo)

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

Suspected rebels shoot dead ex-militia man

From Bicol Today

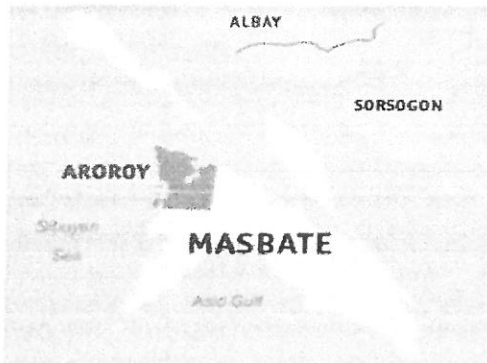


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

A former member of the Citizens Armed Forces and Geographical Unit (CAFGU) was gunned down by two men riding in tandem on a motorcycle while he was waiting for a ride home in front of a videoke bar in Barangay Puro, Aroroy, Masbate at about 1:15 a.m. Saturday.

A police report said victim Jessie Mina, 24 and a resident of Barangay Cabangcalan, Aroroy, Masbate, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Aroroy Municipal Hospital.

The report said Mina was waiting for a ride outside the Acacia Videoke Bar when a motorcycle stopped in front of him and the back rider shot him with a .45-caliber pistol on his head and body.

The suspects immediately sped away from the crime scene while residents in the area rushed Mina to the hospital but to no avail.

Police suspect that although Mina was no longer a CAFGU member, New People's Army rebels believed he was still a military-police asset supplying information about their activities.

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Standard
PHILIPPINE NEWS

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Five-day visit. President Benigno Aquino III welcomes Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during their arrival for a five-day visit. et shows the emperor and empress acknowledging the well-wishers as they prepare to disembark from their plane.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO BUREAU AND AFP

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MANILA BULLETIN
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Marcelino sharing info on illegal drugs with AFP

Philippine Army (PA) commander Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año on Tuesday confirmed that beleaguered Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino has been sharing information on illegal drug activities with the PA Intelligence and Security Group.

He added that this sharing of information was part of Marcelino's crusade against illegal drugs and was also in line with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s efforts to identify military personnel taking narcotics or involved in drug-trafficking.

The project is known as "Oplan Moses" in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and "Oplan Midas" in the AFP.

"Lt. Col. Marcelino, because of his extensive experience (in the campaign against illegal drugs) shares information with us and other intelligence agencies from time to time," Año said in Filipino.

The PA chief made the statement when asked about the certification the Army Intelligence and Security Group issued regarding Marcelino's sharing of information against illegal drugs.

This was submitted by the beleaguered Marine's legal counsel, Atty. Dennis Manalo, to the Department of Justice on January 22.

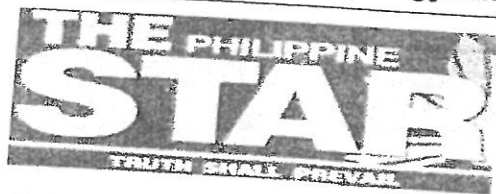
Año was hopeful that this certification will show Marcelino's personal crusade and convictions against the illegal narcotics trade.

However, the PA chief said he did not know whether his revelation will justify the latter's presence in Felix Huertas corner Batangas Streets, Sta. Cruz, Manila on Jan. 21 where 64 kilograms or P320 million worth of shabu were seized.

Also arrested in the operation conducted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was 33-year-old Chinese national Yan Yi Shou.

"Those are legal matters, and investigations are being conducted by PDEA and other agencies, by this time they should have collaborating information that support the accusations against Marcelino," he added. (PNA)

21 January 2016



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Still no proof Marcelino was on anti-drug mission

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

The Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) disclosed yesterday that arrested Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino has yet to show proof of authority to conduct anti-illegal drug operations to justify his presence in the condominium unit in Manila last week that turned out to be a shabu laboratory.

Marcelino was given 48 hours to produce his mission order or any document that would prove his being part of an anti-illegal drug operation.

Chief Insp. Roque Merdegia Jr., spokesman of the AIDG, said, "If he only showed the documents this would be finished."

Merdegia said after Mar-

celino was arrested the marine officer told AIDG operatives that he was on a mission. Marcelino was given consideration to present a written authority, about five hours during the raid, then 36 hours before the filing of charges then another five hours by the prosecutors.

Marcelino and his Chinese companion Yan Yi Shou were arrested Thursday during a raid on a suspected shabu laboratory in Sta. Cruz, Manila where lawmen seized 76 kilos of shabu worth P383 million.

Merdegia also clarified that the initial estimate of 60 kilos of shabu actually weighed 76 kilos when the AIDG agents conducted verification on the

weight, thus the seized shabu actually cost about P383 million.

Marcelino and Yan are now detained in the AIDG detention cell inside Camp Crame, Quezon City.

All the items seized from the suspects were subjected to proper inventory.

Marcelino had P60,000 cash in his possession during his arrest.

Merdegia said AIDG officials are working for the transfer of Marcelino and Yan to the Custodial Center also in Camp Crame since their detention cell could no longer accommodate them.

He also denied reports that

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) director general Arturo Cacdac was the one who decided to place Marcelino under arrest.

"In fairness to Gen. Cacdac, he gave him (Marcelino) more than five hours to produce proof of his mission but he failed to present any proof."

Merdegia clarified that not all policemen can conduct anti-illegal drug operations.

"Even if he (Marcelino) insists that he is on a mission, we cannot just take it. *Hindi basta-basta ma-authorize* (you can't just be authorized) to go on anti-illegal drug operations, *malinaw sa batas na PDEA ang*

lead agency *ang pulis ay* (the law is clear that PDEA is the lead agency and the police has) support character. But not all police

officers are allowed to conduct anti-drug, only the AIDG," said Merdegia. – With Robertzon Ramirez, Jaime Laude

21 January 2016

POLICE FILES

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Marcelino ipinagtanggol ng Phil. Army at Navy

IPINAGTANGGOI ng Philippine Army at Philippine Navy ang pagmamaman ni Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino nang maaresto ito sa loob ng isang town house sa Sta. Cruz, Maynila.

Ayon kay Col. Ed Arevalo, Public Information Officer ng Philippine Navy, walang mission order si Marcelino dahil hindi pa naman ito kailangan sa information gathering. Ang pagmamaman ni Marcelino sa townhouse sa Celadon Towers ay bahagi pa lang ng information gathering at hindi pa kailangan ng mission order.

Gayunman, naniniwala si Arevalo na walang nilabag na proseso si Marcelino, at hanga pa ito sa magandang track record ng opisyal.

"We need more people like him," dagdag pa ni Arevalo.

Dagdag pa ni Arevalo, na kay Marcelino ang burden of proof upang patunayan na isa itong lehitimong operasyon at ibunyag kung kaninong opisyal siya nagre-report.

Dapat din umanong bigyan ng benefit of the doubt si Marcelino at hindi dapat husgahan.

Samantala, ayon naman

kay Col. Benjamin Hao, PIO ng Philippine Army, nag-isyu sila ng certification dahil malaki talaga ang naitulong ni Marcelino noong Nobyembre hanggang Disyembre ng nakaraang taon pagdating sa anti-drug campaign ng militar.

Sa ngayon ay wala pang administrative case na isinampa kay Marcelino dahil patuloy pa ang imbestigasyon.

Magugunitang si Marcelino ay naaresto kasama ang isang Chinese national sa Celadon Towers sa Sta. Cruz, Maynila kamakailan. (Jonah Mallari)

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PDEA, PNP renew calls for public to help detect clan labs

MAMANG PULIS By ALFRED P. DALIZON

THE Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group yesterday asked the public anew to help them detect clandestine shabu laboratories and storage facilities in the country by providing information thru the PDEA Operation: Private Eye.

In particular, PDEA chair, Undersecretary Arturo G. Cacdac Jr., and PNP-AIDG director, Senior Superintendent Antonio N. Gardiola Jr. called on the citizenry to watch for 18 tell-tale signs of a secret drug facility and immediately report it to them.

Cacdac said information could be sent to PDEA's 24/7 SMS/Text Center: For SMART subscribers, 09998887332; Globe, 09279150616; and Sun Cellular, 09255737332. Under the PDEA Operation: Private Eye, the identities of the tipsters will be kept in utmost secrecy to protect them from reprisals from drug syndicates.

For his part, Gardiola said information could be forwarded to the PNP-AIDG

hotlines 09084249551, 09771271437, the DILG Patrol 117 and the PNP hotline 0917-8475757 and the PNP Facebook and Twitter accounts.

The two officials said the citizenry can help them in their fight against illegal drugs by knowing their hotlines where they can relay information on narcotics activities in their neighborhood.

Cacdac and Gardiola issued the appeal anew in the wake of the series of major drug accomplishments scored by the PDEA, the PNP-AIDG and the National Capital Region Police Office headed by Director Joel D. Pagdilao so far this year leading to the arrest of a number of Chinese drug manufacturers and their Filipino contacts and the seizure of around P720 million worth of shabu.

On Valentine's Day 2014, PDEA and members of the now defunct PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force also smashed secret drug facilities in Masbate City which could have produced at least 50 kilograms of shabu worth P250 million a week. The drug facilities turned out to be operated by several local politicians.

In the aftermath of the series of drug raids, the PDEA and the PNP-AIDG-SOTF called on the public to watch out for these 18 tell-tale signs showing the existence of a hidden illegal drug facility in our neighborhood. You might be living near or next to one but unaware of it," Cacdac said.

The signs are the following: a. Presence of large water tanks; b. Thick electrical wires for houses or facilities which should have normal-sized wires; c. Laboratory materials surrounding the properties like empty chemical bottles, drums and other types of chemical containers; d. Specially-constructed chimney or ventilation fan to get rid of strong odors; e. Strong chemical odors coming from the facility, including the smell of solvents like nail polish remover; f. Persons in the premises seldom come out but they do come out to smoke, to avoid igniting highly explosive chemicals inside; g. Dead or dying trees, plants and grass in the immediate vicinity; h. Excessive or irregular water waste coming out of the premises; i. Presence of waste chemicals; j. Discarded materials used to

store chemicals; k. Residents never discard their trash, they burn them; l. Use of security cameras; m. Odd locks and bars on windows; n. Presence of watch dogs, high fences and barb wires; o. Every opening of the facility is covered; p. Persons going about their business at odd hours; q. No traffic during daytime, but traffic at wee hours; and r. Visitors with expensive cars.

Many drug tipsters have become instant millionaires after helping the PDEA and the PNP-AIDSOTF smash secret shabu laboratories and capture big-time drug traffickers in the country, Cacdac said.

The PDEA chief said a laboratory examination on the pieces of drug evidence seized inside a secret shabu laboratory in Sta. Cruz, Manila where Marine Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Marcelino and a Chinese national were arrested last Thursday showed they were high-grade shabu weighing a total of 76.698 kilograms valued at P383 million.

Cacdac said the chemistry report from the PDEA Laboratory Service showed that the illegal drug, contained inside plastic bins

and strainers tested positive for presence of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu also known the 'po', man's cocaine.'

The illegal drug, together with numerous laboratory equipment, were discovered during the implementation of a search warrant conducted by combined elements of the PDEA Special Enforcement Service headed by Director Ismael G. Fajardo, Jr. and the PNP-AIDG in Mahogany Street, Celadon Residences, Felix Huertas Road, Barangay 350, Zone 35, District 3, Sta. Cruz, Manila last Thursday.

Apart from former PDEA-SES director Marcelino, also arrested inside the raided shabu facility was Yan Yi Shuo, alias Randy, a 33-year old Chinese national who claimed to have previously worked as an interpreter for the PDEA during the time of Marcelino.

Last Friday, Shuo and Marcelino were charged before the Department of Justice for violation of Section 8 (Manufacture of Dangerous Drugs) and Section 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs), Article II of Republic Act 9165, or The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Also charged were Lo Chi alias 'Tanda,' Atong Lee alias 'Atong,' and one alias 'Chu.'

Chi, Lee and Chu, all said to be residents of the raided shabu laboratory were still being hunted as of press time by members of the PNP-AIDG and the PDEA.

According to Gardiola, they filed the charges against the 43-year old Marcelino after he failed to present any documents that will prove his claim that he was on an undercover mission inside the raided shabu facility. PDEA and PNP-AIDG agents who raided the shabu facility in Sta. Cruz, Manila found Marcelino seated in a sofa at the living room of the raided facility.

When questioned, he identified himself as a Marine officer formerly detailed with the PDEA Special Enforcement Service and insisted that 'his presence at the said house was part of his intelligence and surveillance operation against drug syndicates.' As of yesterday, Marcelino still has to present official documents that will support his claims however, Gardiola said:

Gardiola said Thurs-

day's operation was a follow-up to their operation the other week which netted two Filipino-Chinese and 36 kilograms of shabu worth P180 million.

The same joint PNP-AIDG and PDEA-SES teams also launched a follow-up operation in Binondo, Manila on Friday last week which led in the confiscation of another 15 kilos of shabu worth P75 million following a brief gunbattle which resulted in minor injuries to some of the officers.

Cacdac said they smashed an Asian region drug network using the Philippines as a base of their operations following the raid in Valenzuela City which led in the arrest of two suspects and the seizure of the P180 million worth of shabu smuggled from Hong Kong last January 3.

Gardiola said the operation along East Service Road in Barangay Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City led in the arrest of Filipino-Chinese national Sonny Perrine Ang, 67; and Benito Sia Tiuseco, 47. Both are now facing non-bailable charges for importation and trafficking of dangerous drugs.

The follow-up operation in Binondo last Friday led in the recovery of the P75 million worth of shabu.

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The Manila Times A7

Airman killed in Batangas encounter

A MEMBER of the Philippine Air Force was killed during an encounter with suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Tuy, Batangas Monday night.

Airman 1st Class Cliff Arvin Alama of the 730th Combat Group (CG), 710th Special Operations Wing (SPOW) under Joint Task Group "Finisher Warrior," was declared dead on arrival at Western Batangas Medical Center in Balayan.

A report said 12 soldiers of the 730th CG were on patrol in Barangay Toong, Luy when the

encounter occurred.

The guerrillas later withdrew when reinforcements sent by Col. Peale John Bondoc, task group commander, arrived.

Pursuit operations have been launched even as the Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) vowed to continue its focused operations to eliminate rebels to "preserve its gains in peace and development in the provinces of Batangas, Cavite and Laguna."

**FERNAN MARASIGAN
AND BELLY OTORDOZ**

ONLINE NEWS

27 JANUARY 2016

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

Marcelino sharing illegal drugs information -- PA chief

From the Philippine News Agency

Philippine Army commander Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año on Tuesday confirmed beleaguered Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino was sharing information on illegal drug activities with the PA Intelligence and Security Group.

He added that this sharing of information is part of Marcelino's crusade against illegal drugs which is also in line with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)'s efforts to identify military personnel taking narcotics or involved in drug-trafficking.

The project is known as "Oplan Moses" in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and "Oplan Midas" in the AFP.

"Lt. Col. Marcelino, because of his extensive experience (in the campaign against illegal drugs) shares information with us and other intelligence agencies from time to time," Año said in Filipino.

The PA chief made the statement when asked about the certification the Army Intelligence and Security Group issued regarding Marcelino's sharing of information against illegal drugs.

This was submitted by Marcelino's legal counsel, Atty. Dennis Manalo, to the Department of Justice on Jan. 22.

Año is hopeful that this certification will show Marcelino's personal crusade and convictions against the illegal narcotics trade.

However, the PA chief said he does not know on whether this will justify the latter's presence in Felix Huertas corner Batangas Streets, Sta. Cruz, Manila on Jan. 21 where 64 kilograms or PHP320 million worth of shabu were seized.

Also arrested in the operation conducted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was 33-year-old Chinese national Yan Yi Shou.

"Those are legal matters, and investigations are being conducted by PDEA and other agencies, by this time they should have collaborating information that support the accusations against Marcelino," he added.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/>

Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach to visit wounded troopers at AFP Medical Center

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Jan. 26 (PNA) --- Forty wounded troopers undergoing recuperation at the AFP Medical Center in V. Luna, Quezon City will get a pleasant surprise as they will be visited by reigning Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach Wednesday afternoon

Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP public affairs office chief, said Pia's visit at Heroes Ward 3A would start at around 1: 30 p.m.

It will last for 30 minutes.

AFP Medical Center head Col. Joseph Acosta said Pia's visit was arranged by the Makati Medical Center Foundation after learning of her earlier intentions to visit wounded soldiers there.

Aside from battle casualties, Pia will also get to meet and talk with some HIV patients brought from outside, Acosta said.

This interaction with non-military HIV victims is part of Pia's advocacy, he said.

He also said the visit of the reigning Ms. Universe was expected to boost the morale of the patients undergoing treatment there. (PNA)

RMA/PFN

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

Left stages protest rally to mark Mamasapano tragedy

From the Mindanao Times

MEMBERS of the leftist group Bagong Alyansang Makbayan (Bayan) in Southern Mindanao conducted a protest rally at Freedom Park yesterday afternoon to mark the first anniversary of the Jan. 25 Mamasapano tragedy.

"One year after the Mamasapano incident, we condemn the Aquino government for betraying the SAF 44 and sacrificing sovereignty and our Filipino people with their deception through Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA)," said Sheena Duazo, secretary general of Bayan.

The encounter in Barangay Tukanalipao, Mamasapano, Maguindanao left 66 persons dead: 44 from the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force (SAF), 17 from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and five civilians.

Duazo claimed that the Mamasapano operation was planned and trained by US counter-terrorism personnel stationed in Central Mindanao that led to admission from a retired US special ops commander, Col. David Maxwell, that the operation was bungled.

According to Duazo, after the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the EDCA between the Philippines and the United States it will lead to nationwide Mamasapano-like incidents.

"We are angered that Aquino and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have not only surrendered the sovereignty of our country with EDCA and the similarly unconstitutional Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) which was used as the basis of the new accord."

She added, "They have also surrendered the protection of our citizens, farmers, children, young people, and women from the attacks of the state security and the US military war machines."

Duazo also recalled the abuses experienced by Filipinos in the former US military bases in Subic and Clark, murder of Gregan Cardeño, the rape of Nicole and the murder of Jennifer Laude as the disadvantage of the EDCA

Duazo stressed that the Filipino people should continue to fight for the national sovereignty and protection of our land and people from foreign exploitation and oppression.

"We demand the rejection of EDCA, VFA, and US military intervention," said Duazo adding that "one year after the Mamasapano incident it seems the Aquino government hasn't learned the folly of serving the US military and imperial interests at the expense of Philippine sovereignty."

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com/>

ISIS recruiting in Central Mindanao, says MILF

From Rappler

The MILF says some students and young professionals are encouraged to join ISIS out of frustration



BLACK FLAG. Filipinos carry the black flag in the southern Philippines. Sourced by Rappler

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said Tuesday, January 26, the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq (also known as ISIS, IS, ISIL or Da'esch) is indeed recruiting members in at least 3 provinces in Central Mindanao.

MILF chief peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said this is a concern for the MILF, which has signed a peace agreement with the Aquino administration and has vowed to shun terrorism.

The MILF central committee formed a task force to look into reports that personalities claiming to have links with ISIS are recruiting young professionals in Cotabato, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces, according to Iqbal.

"The recruitment as well the video of their training that came out are authentic," Iqbal said.

He's referring to the video that began circulating early January and which showed Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon marching with other extremist leaders from Sulu and Basilan, pledging allegiance to ISIS.

"Whether or not there is already a formal organization of the ISIS in Mindanao, that is still a subject for validation," Iqbal said.

But while the Philippine government and military remain steadfast in their statements that there are no operational links between ISIS and Filipino groups, a traditional "order of battle" analysis may be moot in today's threat landscape given ISIS' ability to spark homegrown attacks like in Paris, wrote Rappler Executive Editor Maria Ressa. (WATCH: Rappler Talk: ISIS in Southeast Asia)

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

On October 26, 2015, 8 armed men carrying the flag of ISIS, including a suspected Indonesian national, were killed in an encounter with government forces in Sultan Kudarat. The government troops recovered from the scene 5 ISIS flags and documents including radios, firearms and explosive materials.

Iqbal said that as part of the MILF's efforts to promote peace in the region they formed a task force that will study and correct the wrong teachings of Islam used by ISIS recruiters.

"Our task force is composed of members of influential Islamic preachers in Mindanao. Islamic teachings were used in the recruitment but it's distorted. They are going to study it and correct the teachings," he said.

Iqbal cited two primary reasons why students and young professionals in the region are being encouraged to join ISIS.

"They are frustrated. They think their Muslim leaders in the MILF and Moro National Liberation Front have abandoned their struggle. The failure passage of Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) is also a source of frustration," he explained. The BBL suffered delays in the aftermath of the Mamasapano clash in January 2015.

Maguindanao Governor Ismael Mangudadatu maintained his province is ISIS-free.

"There might be in other areas of Mindanao but I can assure you that our province is still free," the governor said.

The military has also dismissed reports that ISIS may soon declare a province in Mindanao, saying these statements are more aspirational than real.

<http://www.inquirer.net/>

PAF trooper slain in Batangas encounter

By: Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

LUCENA CITY — A Philippine Air Force (PAF) trooper was killed in an encounter with suspected New People's Army rebels in Tuy town in Batangas province on Monday evening, the military said Tuesday. Major Angelo Guzman, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), said 12 soldiers from the PAF 730th Combat Group under the Joint Task Group "Finisher Warrior" were on patrol in Barangay (village) Toong when the group encountered an estimated 15 armed communist guerillas at around 7:45 p.m.

Quoting a report, Guzman said Airman First Class Cliff Arvin Alama was hit in his left shoulder during the exchange of gunfire.

The wounded soldier was pulled out of the encounter site and evacuated to the Medical Center Western Batangas in Balayan town.

However, Alama was declared dead on arrival at the hospital at around 8:05 p.m., Guzman said.

Colonel Peale John Bondoc, commander of JTG "Finisher Warrior," deployed additional troops to run after the escaping rebels, said Guzman.

Guzman said Solcom condoled with the family of the slain soldier.

On Dec. 19 last year, a PAF sergeant was also killed in another encounter with NPA rebels in Nasugbo town.