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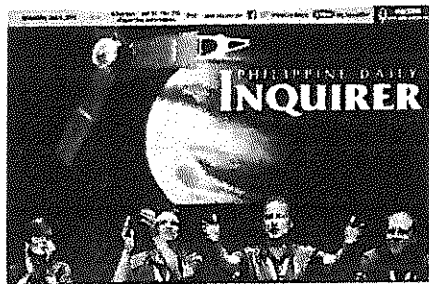
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

06 July 2016

Wednesday

NEWS HEADLINES

06 JULY 2016



Rody: 5 PNP execs in drugs

Police officials deny Duterte accusation Duterte goes soft on China: Let's talk



Nasa's Juno makes good cosmic date with Jupiter

Pink: Hands-on farmer, farmer, partner, partner

Thompson and El Al-Fil: From falling to landing

...and other news

The Manila Times



Duterte links 5 PNP generals to drugs

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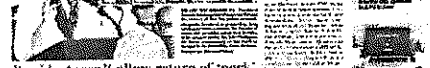
...and other news

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Duterte names 5 'drug generals'

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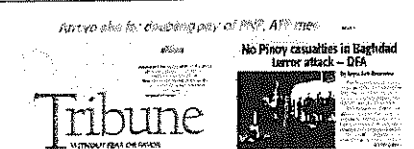


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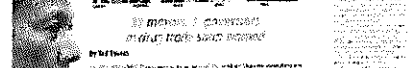
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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

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



24-HOUR PUBLIC WEATHER FORECAST

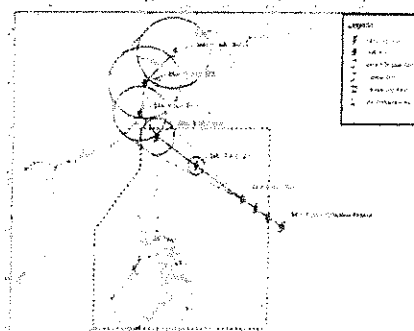
ISSUED AT: 5:00 AM 06 JULY 2016

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 AM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 AM TOMORROW

SYNOPSIS: AT 4:00 AM TODAY, THE EYE OF TYPHOON "BUTCHOY" WAS LOCATED BASED ON ALL AVAILABLE DATA AT 1,010 KM EAST OF APARRI, CAGAYAN (18.2°N, 131.2°E) WITH MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WINDS OF 185 KPH NEAR THE CENTER AND GUSTINESS OF UP TO 220 KPH. IT IS FORECAST TO MOVE NORTHWEST AT 30 KPH. SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING SOUTHERN LUZON AND VISAYAS.

FORECAST: CLOUDY SKIES WITH LIGHT TO MODERATE RAINS AND THUNDERSTORMS WILL BE EXPERIENCED OVER METRO MANILA, CENTRAL LUZON, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, BICOL REGION, VISAYAS, NORTHERN MINDANAO, CARAGA AND DAVAO. PARTLY CLOUDY TO CLOUDY SKIES WITH ISOLATED RAINSHOWERS OR THUNDERSTORMS WILL PREVAIL OVER THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

Track of Typhoon BUTCHOY (NEPARTAK)



23 Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS BLOWING FROM THE SOUTHWEST WILL PREVAIL OVER SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO AND THE EASTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON. THE COASTAL WATERS ALONG THIS AREA WILL BE MODERATE TO ROUGH. ELSEWHERE, WINDS WILL BE LIGHT TO MODERATE COMING FROM THE SOUTHWEST TO SOUTH WITH SLIGHT TO MODERATE SEAS.

PAGTAYA: MAULAP NA KALANGITAN NA MAY MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG MGA PAG-ULAN AT PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG MARARANASAN SA METRO MANILA, GITNANG LUZON, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, KABIKULAN, KABISAYAAN, HILAGANG MINDANAO, CARAGA AT DAVAO. BAHAGYANG MAULAP HANGGANG SA MAULAP NA PAPAIRIN NA MAY PULU-PULONG MGA PAG-ULAN O PAGKIDLAT-PAGKULOG ANG IIRAL SA NALALABING BAHAGI NG BANSA.

KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MALAKAS NA HANGIN MULA TIMOG-KANLURAN ANG IIRAL SA KATIMUGANG LUZON, KABISAYAAN, MINDANAO AT SA SILANGANG BAHAGI NG HILAGA AT GITNANG LUZON. ANG MGA BAYBAYING DAGAT NITO AY MAGIGING KATAMTAMAN HANGGANG SA MAALON, SA IBANG DAKO. ANG HANGIN AY MAGIGING MAHINA HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMAN MULA SA TIMOG-KANLURAN HANGGANG SA TIMOG NA MAY BANAYAD HANGGANG SA KATAMTAMANG PAG-ALON NG KARAGATAN.

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY FOR THE 24-HR PERIOD ENDING AT 8:00 PM YESTERDAY AND RECORDED AT PAGASA WEATHER STATION, SCIENCE GARDEN, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY:

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE: 1:00 PM YESTERDAY — 31.4°C	MAXIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 5:00 AM YESTERDAY — 92 %
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 5:00 AM YESTERDAY — 25.6°C	MINIMUM RELATIVE HUMIDITY: 1:00 PM YESTERDAY — 64 %
TIDAL PREDICTIONS ALONG MANILA BAY (Courtesy of NAMRIA)	OVER METRO MANILA:
HIGH TIDE TODAY: 10:49 AM 1.40 METER	SUNRISE / SUNSET MOONRISE / MOONSET AND ILLUMINATION
LOW TIDE TODAY: 7:06 PM -0.03 METER	SUNRISE TODAY: 5:32 AM MOONRISE TODAY: 7:03 AM
	SUNSET TODAY: 6:29 PM MOONSET TODAY: 8:02 PM
	ILLUMINATION TODAY: 3 %

For more information and queries, please call at telephone numbers 927-1335 and 927-2877 or log on to www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph.

PREPARED BY: SEBU

CHECKED BY: MLM

"Tracking the sky... helping the country"

WFOC, DOST, Diliman, Quezon City

1st Edition: 0024271541



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Weather Division
ISO 9001:2008 Certified
Registry No. 01 100 1534769

WFS-02
Rev. 1/16-04-2016

24-Hour Weather Forecast and Extended Weather Outlook for Selected Cities:

ISSUED AT: 5:00 AM 06 JULY 2016

VALID BEGINNING: 5:00 AM TODAY UNTIL 5:00 AM TOMORROW

CITIES	24-Hr Weather, Winds and Sea Condition Forecast <i>from 5AM today until 5AM tomorrow</i>		Extended Weather Outlook <i>Duration: 5AM until 5AM of the following day</i>				
	06 JUL		07 JUL	08 JUL	09 JUL	10 JUL	
Metro Manila	25°C 31°C	Light to Moderate Southwest - South Manila Bay: Slight to Moderate	24°C 31°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	
Tuguegarao City	25°C 33°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest - South	24°C 33°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	
Laoag City	25°C 34°C	Moderate Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	25°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 32°C	
Baguio City	16°C 23°C	Moderate Southwest - South	15°C 23°C	15°C 22°C	15°C 23°C	15°C 24°C	
SBMA (Olongapo) / Clark Zone (Angeles City)	24°C 32°C	Light to Moderate Southwest - South Subic Bay: Slight to Moderate	24°C 31°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	
Tagaytay City	22°C 29°C	Moderate Southwest	21°C 28°C	21°C 28°C	21°C 29°C	21°C 29°C	
Lipa City	23°C 30°C	Moderate Southwest	24°C 30°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	
Legazpi City	25°C 31°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24°C 31°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	
Puerto Princesa City	25°C 32°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24°C 32°C	24°C 31°C	23°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	
Iloilo City / Bacolod City	25°C 31°C	Light to Moderate Southwest Coastal Waters: Slight to Moderate	24°C 31°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	
Metro Cebu	24°C 31°C	Moderate Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	24°C 31°C	24°C 30°C	24°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	
Tacloban City	25°C 31°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24°C 31°C	24°C 31°C	24°C 32°C	25°C 32°C	
Cagayan de Oro City	24°C 34°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	24°C 33°C	25°C 32°C	25°C 34°C	24°C 34°C	
Valencia City	19°C 30°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest	19°C 29°C	20°C 29°C	20°C 30°C	20°C 30°C	
Metro Davao	25°C 33°C	Moderate to Strong Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate to Rough	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	
Zamboanga City	25°C 30°C	Moderate Southwest Coastal Waters: Moderate	25°C 31°C	25°C 30°C	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C	

LEGEND:

	Clear skies		Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Occasional Rains		Rain with Gusty Winds
	Partly Cloudy Skies		Cloudy skies with Rainshowers and/or Thunderstorms		Monsoon Rains / Rains		Stormy
	Partly Cloudy to at times Cloudy with Rainshowers		Light Rains				

END OF FORECAST

PREPARED BY: SEBJ

CHECKED BY: MLM

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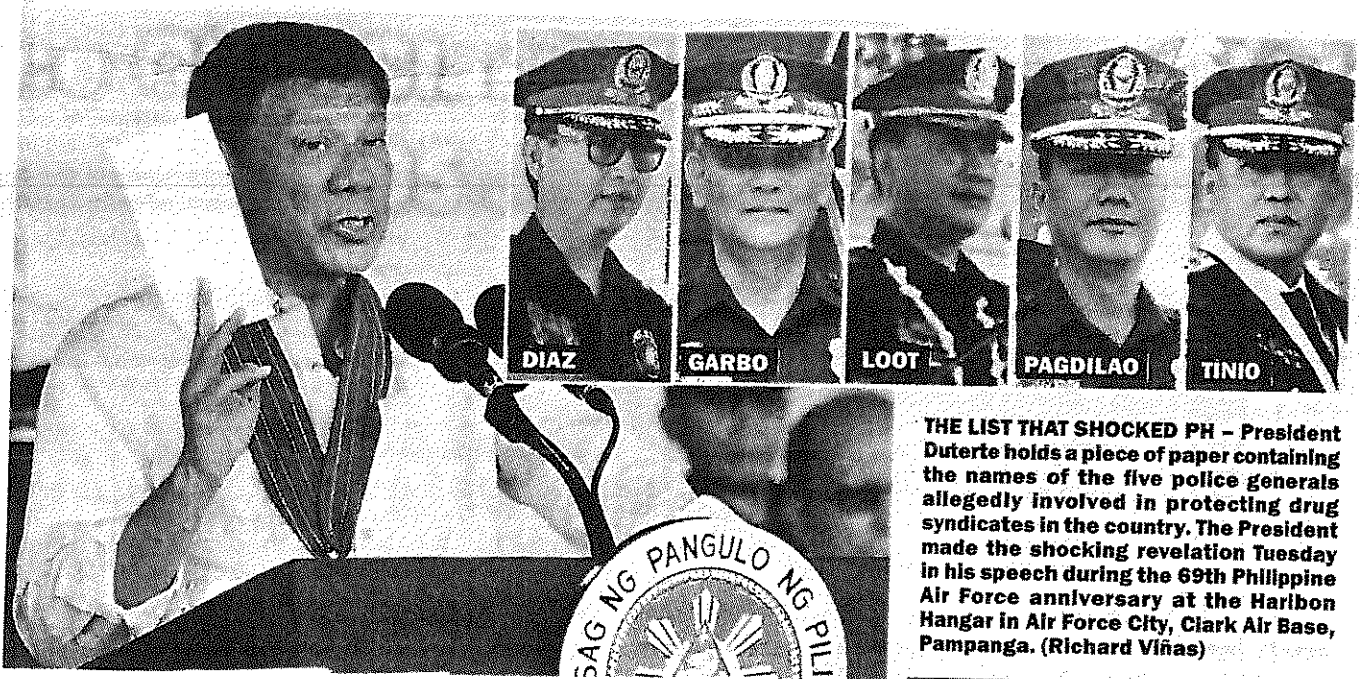
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04 July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

Duterte names 5 'drug generals'



THE LIST THAT SHOCKED PH - President Duterte holds a piece of paper containing the names of the five police generals allegedly involved in protecting drug syndicates in the country. The President made the shocking revelation Tuesday in his speech during the 69th Philippine Air Force anniversary at the Haribon Hangar in Air Force City, Clark Air Base, Pampanga. (Richard Viñas)

By **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**
and **MARS W. MOSQUEDA JR.**

President Duterte yesterday publicly named five Philippine National Police (PNP) generals, two of them retired, as suspected "protectors of illegal drugs."

In a speech at the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force in Clark, Pampanga, Duterte identified them as retired Deputy Director General Marcelino Garbo Jr., former PNP deputy chief for administration; retired Chief Superintendent Vicente Loot, now Daanbantayan (Cebu) mayor; Chief Superintendent Joel Pagdilao, former National Capital Region Police Office director; Chief Superintendent Edgardo Tinio, former Quezon City Police District director; and Chief Superintendent Bernardo Diaz, former Western Visayas (Region 6) police director and Cagayan Valley (Region 2) officer-in-charge.

"I'd like to name publicly Gen. Marcelo Garbo. He was a protector of drug syndicates in this country. Gen. Vicente Loot who is now mayor in one of the municipalities of Cebu," ►6

Duterte names 5 'drug... 41

Duterte announced.

He went on to name the three other police officials, who are still in active service.

"I ordered them relieved from their assignments and report to the Director General (Ronald dela Rosa). I would like to talk to them but certainly, I would expect the (National) Police Commission to do their thing. Investigate this. I do not want you to give me a farce report" Duterte said.

Sense of duty

Duterte said he was compelled by his sense of duty to make the public announcement as he has a "sacred obligation to tell the truth to the Filipino people."

"After so many validations, even when I was still the mayor of Davao City, their names have already floated," the tough-talking President added.

"With the intensification of criminal syndicates and drug distribution, marami na ang namamatay at marami pang mamamatay. 'Wag kayong sumali dyan. Kahit pa politiko kayo, maski opisyal kayo because you will only place yourself in the line of fire'," Duterte warned policemen.

In the same speech, Duterte called on the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help in the war on drugs, even thanking former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for raising the level of drug problem as a national security threat.

"It's going to be a dirty fight. It's

going to be bloody fight. I am not apologizing for it. And may I tell all and sundry, lahat even the international community, lahat ng madidisgrasya, magkakaso, anumang kaso under the Revised Penal Code, in the fulfillment of your duties as public authority, akin iyan. Mine and mine alone. I assume full legal responsibility for it. Huwag kayong matakot, basta nasa tama tayo. Just observe the law..." Duterte said.

Unfair

Tinio branded as unfair his being implicated in illegal drugs, expressing surprise at the President's announcement.

"Foul iyun (announcement). Sana pinatawag muna niya kami as an officer and a gentleman. Sinira na niya (President Duterte) kami, sinira na niya ang pamilya namin. Anong klase naman iyun?" Tinio said. "I'm willing to be interviewed, to undergo any investigation to clear my name."

Tinio said he is also willing to face President Duterte and Director General Ronald dela Rosa to help clear his name. "I'm willing to face the President and the chief PNP. Sinira nila ang pangalan ko."

"Ang dami kong ginawa sa serbisyo ganito pa ang mangyayari. I need to save my face," he said as he expressed willingness to undergo lie detector test.

Diaz also denied links to illegal drugs.

"The report that I'm a drug pro-

tector is not true. Kilala nyo ako. Di ko alam ang reason nila. Truth will come out. God bless us. I will report to Camp Crame tomorrow morning,” Diaz said.

Black propaganda

Loot denied any involvement in the illegal drugs trade, saying he has been a victim of black propaganda ever since.

“To the Cebuanos, I would like to seek for your understanding. I know you are aware that I have been a victim of black propaganda ever since and that propaganda has always been about drugs,” Loot said.

He said political opponents have been trying to pull his family down because his wife, Maria Luisa, has served as mayor of Daanbantayan town for several terms.

He also said that he will do his best to reach out to President Duterte to present all the documents that will clear him of any involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

“I want to present the documents to the President even he instantly shoots me,” Loot said.

Why me?

Pagdilao said he does not understand why his name was included in the list read by Duterte.

“I am puzzled and I am sad that my name is being dragged into illegal drugs. I am not a protector of illegal drugs,” said Pagdilao.

He said he is ready to clear not only his name, but also his the Pagdilao surname.

Garbo was the police director of Central Visayas when the suspen-

sion order was issued against then governor Gwendolyn Garcia in late 2012.

He was also accused of siding with the Liberal Party in the provincial race last May, after he visited Cebu to campaign for the administration bets.

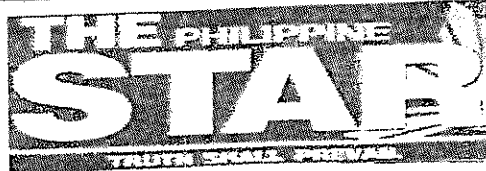
32 Metro cops to Mindanao

Meanwhile, Dela Rosa deployed 32 police officers from Metro Manila were

deployed to Zamboanga Peninsula region, Caraga region, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to fight it out with insurgents and other extremist groups due to their alleged links to illegal drugs.

Based on security assessments, the three regions are the most problematic areas in terms of internal security. (With reports from Aaron B. Recuenco and Tara Yap)

06 July 2016



Page: 1

'Amnesty if Reds lay down arms'

Amnesty would only be given to communist rebels if they abandon the armed struggle, President Duterte said yesterday as he expressed hope that a "firm agreement" would be forged within the year.

Duterte also reiterated he would release

the rebels from prison only if the talks succeed.

"It's good that we're talking to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). (It's) doing well and we hope to have a firm agreement by the end of the year," Duterte said during the 69th anniversary of the

Turn to Page 9

Amnesty From Page 1

Air Force in Clark, Pampanga.

"I'm not ready to release everybody only after the success of the talks if there is one coming our way... and we can grant amnesty but they have to lay down their arms," he added.

Duterte said he is ready to grant safe conduct pass to CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison and New People's Army (NPA) leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon to allow them to participate in the peace talks.

Sison, who was imprisoned during the Marcos dictatorship but freed after the 1986 People Power Revolution, has been on self-exile in the Netherlands since 1987.

The Tiamzons, meanwhile, were charged with murder and arrested in Cebu in 2014.

Negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), the political arm of the communists, col-

lapsed in 2013 after the two sides failed to reach a deal on jailed rebels.

The NDF claimed their jailed comrades are covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), a 1995 deal that prohibits the arrest and detention of peace consultants.

The government panel, however, rejected the demand, saying the identities of the alleged peace consultants cannot be validated.

Last month, the Duterte administration and the NDF agreed to resume formal talks in the third week of July and to discuss a possible amnesty for political prisoners and an interim truce.

Other topics to be discussed are the affirmation of previously signed agreements and accelerated process for negotiations, including the timelines for the completion of socioeconomic, political and economic

reforms and the end of hostilities.

Duterte also assembled a team that will talk to Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founder Nur Misuari, who is facing charges over the 2013 Zamboanga siege.

Duterte said he would go to Sulu to meet with the fugitive MNLF leader before they can "talk officially."

"I'm communicating with Nur. Maybe I will go to Jolo and talk to him before we formally agree to talk," the President said.

"I have my team already. I would not mention them now but they are ready," he added.

One step forward

Meanwhile, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza called on peace stakeholders to push on the strides of peace "one step forward from where these are today."

Dureza vowed to continue and make the peace process inclusive.

"We would like to invite you to continue being with us. There are a few changes but, definitely, we will continue what the previous presidential adviser on the peace process has done because secretary Ging Deles also built on the work of previous peace advisers," he said.

To continue previous commitments, Dureza emphasized the implementation of signed agreements from past administrations in pursuing peace and development in the country.

"There will be a change of command but let me assure everyone that there will be no transition as they use to call it. We would like to use the word 'continuity,'" Dureza said.

Dureza formally assumed his post on Monday where the turnover of OPAPP was made.

"We build on every brick on the ground. There is so much that has been done already," he said. - Alexis Romero, Jose Rodol Clapano

66 July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 13

AFP investigates mutilation of slain NPA leader in Cotabato

DAVAO CITY — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) vowed to investigate reports that some of their personnel mutilated the body of a fallen New People's Army (NPA) commander in a recent skirmish in Magpet, North Cotabato.

Captain Rhyann Batchar, spokesperson of the 10th Infantry Division, condemned the incident and vowed to investigate and determine if Army personnel were involved in the gruesome act.

Batchar said there was a "serious concern" over the mutilation of the body of Noel Gulmatico, alias Jepoy. He is believed to have been the commanding officer of the Sandatahang Yunit Propaganda under Guerilla Front 53, under the Southern Mindanao Committee.

According to Batchar, Gulmatico was killed in a series of skirmishes between the front and elements of the 39th IB at Brgy. Balite, Magpet, Cotabato

Province, last July 1.

However, after the encounter, a photo of Gulmatico's mangled remains was circulated that showed his eyes gouged out, tongue cut and throat slit.

"If true, these actions are unacceptable and deserve the highest condemnation," Batchar said.

"We express our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family of Jepoy and assure them of our resolved to seek the truth about this incident and give the commensurate punishment to any member of our command who will be proven to have committed this despicable act."

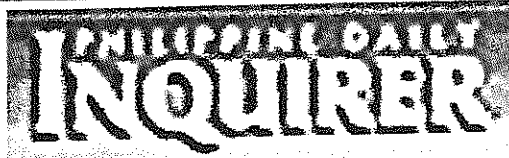
The 10th ID has already set up a Board of Inquiry to investigate the culpability of the members of the unit.

"The BOI will not prejudice any investigation that other authorities may conduct," Batchar added.

"The Command will likewise fully support and cooperate with any investigation that duly constituted authorities may conduct." (Yas D. Ocampo)

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06 July 2016



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NPA rebs still the enemy—AFP chief

By **Tonette Orejas**
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—The Armed Forces of the Philippines still classifies the communist New People's Army (NPA) as an enemy of the state pending its return to the negotiation table, the new AFP chief said here on Tuesday.

"Until there is no formal resumption of peace talks, we shall continue pursuing [communist rebels in the provinces]," said Gen. Ricardo Visaya on the sidelines of a program for the 69th founding anniversary of the Philippine Air Force at the Haribon complex here.

Before he assumed office, Presi-

dent Duterte had set in motion the continuation of talks which broke down when Benigno Aquino III was president. Mr. Duterte also appointed Cabinet members who are identified with the Left.

Visaya said the priority of the AFP under his watch remains the internal security. "In three to six months, there shall be change (in terms of dealing) with the Abu Sayyaf and our support to the (Philippine National Police)."

"For now, we are monitoring (the NPA's) activities," he added.

Founded in 1968 as the armed wing of the new Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the NPA has been waging the longest guerrilla war in Southeast Asia.

06 July 2016



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Air, ground strikes launched vs Abus in Basilan

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Air and ground strikes have been launched against Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said members of Joint Task Force Basilan and the 104th Infantry Brigade were involved in the opera-

tions in Barangay Baguindan in Tipo-Tipo town since Sunday.

"A series of air and artillery strikes were fired at more or less 150 Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Furuji Indama and Isnilon Hapilon," Tan said.

"The bandits advanced toward a barangay which they

planned to attack and occupy, but the residents blocked them, triggering a firefight that resulted in the discovery of bunkers," he added.

He said Army troopers are maintaining their position as they prepare for another assault.

On the Abu Sayyaf's threat

to behead the remaining foreigner taken from Samal Island if a ransom demand is not met, Tan said they have not received such report.

He said the military is sustaining its operations against the bandits to rescue Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad.

The intensified military of-

fensive followed the release of a video purportedly by the Islamic State (IS) urging Filipino militants to unite under Isnilon Hapilon.

The IS reportedly designated Hapilon the "amir" or prince of jihadists in the Philippines.

– Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

06 July 2016

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 4

Faster boats needed to contain ASG – Hataman

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

COTABATO CITY – The government's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf bandits should be backed by faster boats to beat the speed with which marauders move in Basilan, Sulu

and Tawi-Tawi (BaSulTa) with ease, according to Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Governor Mujiv S. Hataman.

Aside from acquiring speed boats, Hataman said government should also impose strict measures in the issu-

ance of permits to boat owners in the BaSulTa corridor.

Hataman said profiling conducted by ARMM authorities on the ASG showed that the group is using speed boats with three to four engines of 300 horsepower each – giving them ▶6

Faster boats needed... ◀1

such speed that “even a helicopter cannot match” when cruising along BaSulTa and other coasts in the country even Malaysia.

Hataman who hails from Basilan said he is willing to sit down with policy-makers in the crafting of a “comprehensive” action against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), admitting that the group's atrocities have been eroding development gains in the ARMM. The region covers the BaSulTa corridor and the mainland provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur.

“Gusto kong marinig yong presentation nila (I want to hear their presentation). If the intended solution is Martial Law, it should be comprehensive so as to ensure that civilians are spared from collateral damage. Basically, because of sad experiences during Marcos time, ayaw ng mga tao natin ng (our people do not approve of) Martial Law,” Hataman told Manila Bulletin.

The idea of imposing Martial Law in Basilan and Sulu was floated to crush the ASG after they beheaded

recently two Canadian nationals after ransom was not paid.

Most of the residents in the ARMM and Muslim Filipinos are against the ASG, Hataman shared but the method in decimating the group needs to be handled carefully for the welfare of innocent residents in the area.

In lieu of Martial Law, a “well-coordinated, intensified and participatory” campaign against the ASG can be done simultaneously in Sulu and Basilan, Hataman said.

“Why not we try it first, at least three to six months? I am willing to issue an order to bring out the civilians from their homes and put in one evacuation area then let the government attend to their needs while military operation against ASG is going on,” Hataman suggested.

He said government should make a “clear classification” of local leaders in ASG's area of operation.

“The government should know whether we are on the side of authorities or the Abu Sayyaf,” he pointed out.

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'Shock and awe' strategy vs ASG

Gagamit ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) ng istratohiyang "shock and awe" para burahin ang panganib ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sa Basilan at Sulu.

Ito ang Iginii ng bagong talagang si AFP Chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya noong Lunes. "There will be 'shock and awe' (sa kampanya laban sa ASG) but I won't go into specifics because this will (disclose our) strategy and tactics," aniya.

Ang "shock and awe" ay isang doktrina ng militar na nakabatay sa paggamit ng napakalaking kapangyarihan at nakamamanghang pagpapakita ng puwersa para paralisahin ang perception ng kalaban sa larangan ng digmaan at sirain ang determinasyon nitong lumaban.

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Arroyo also for doubling salaries of PNP, AFP men

By Charlie V. Manalo

Former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has thrown in her support to President Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte's promise to raise the salaries of the personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as she filed House Bill No. 304 aimed at doubling the gross pay of the uniformed personnel.

In her bill's explanatory note, Mrs. Arroyo stated her proposed measure entitled "An Act Promoting the Welfare of the PNP and the AFP by Doubling the Gross Pay of Their Personnel and for Other Purposes, was in support of



ARROYO

Duterte's call to double the salaries of the uniformed personnel.

"Together with the call to help the administration to lessen if not end the war in the country, as well as the eradication of corruption, drugs and criminality, on the occasion of the PNP's change of command held last July 1, 2016, His Excellency Rodrigo Duterte reiterated his promise during the campaign to double the salaries of the men and women of the PNP and the AFP," Mrs. Arroyo said.

While the detailed schedule of the pay adjustment will be under the responsibility of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Mrs. Arroyo clarified the qualification standards

as set by the Civil Service Commission shall be applied to the PNP and the AFP.

Like her, Mrs. Arroyo is proposing a five-year staggered implementation of the pay hike for both the AFP and PNP personnel given the government's financial position.

However, any partial implementation of the proposed pay increase shall be uniform and appropriate for all ranks, Mrs. Arroyo stressed.

Mrs. Arroyo's bill also put to task the DBM, the PNP, the AFP and the National Police Commission to issue the necessary implementing guidelines to carry out the provisions of the proposed measure.

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The National Newspaper

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AFP cool to idea of using soldiers as traffic enforcers

ARMED Forces chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya is cool to proposals to deploy soldiers to help ease the traffic problem in Metro Manila.

Visaya said other agencies are capable of solving the traffic woes, specifically naming the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Philippine National Police.

“(The) PNP and MMDA can do that,” said Visaya.

Visaya said soldiers should be focused on the conduct of operations against internal security threats and in providing support to the PNP in its campaign against the proliferation of illegal drugs.

“We have to do first our primary mission on ISO (internal security operations) and our support to the PNP’s anti-drug campaign as secondary,” said Visaya.

Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chairman Martin Delgra III earlier suggested the deputization of soldiers to help ease the traffic situation in the metropolis.

Delgra said the LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office were looking to deploy soldiers to man the major thoroughfares in Metro Manila and enforce traffic regulations.

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The National Newspaper

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Air Force moving up, says PAF chief

BY VICTOR REYES

AIR Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina yesterday said the Air Force has grown stronger through the years but he was silent on its latest aircraft acquisition, including the maligned FA-50 fighter jets.

"Despite our given limitations, we are definitely headed to the future. We do not move in circles, we move upwards. Every step we take, we become stronger, we become better," said Fallorina during the celebration of the PAF's 69th foundation anniversary at Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Fallorina said the entire country has destroyed enemy strongholds, saved lives during disasters and calamities, and stimulated rain during El Niño.

He said the Air Force also established "roaming presence over the Kalayaan Group of Islands" in the disputed waters of the South China Sea.

He also cited the Air Force's role in counter-terrorism.

During the celebration, Air Force personnel and assets showcased their prowess in the fight against terrorist elements.

Fallorina did not mention the recent aircraft acquisitions of the Air Force, including the FA-50s which Duterte earlier described as a "waste of money."

The Air Force currently has two FA-50s, part of the 12 jets being acquired from the Korea Aerospace Industries for P18.9 billion. The 10 others are due for delivery this year and next year.

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Rody fashion: Barong with denims

CLARK FIELD, Pampanga – His mentor Fidel Ramos made a fashion statement with rolled-up *barong* Tagalog sleeves.

President Duterte, who once joked that the *barong* Tagalog is for funerals, is making his own fashion statement.

At the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force at Clark Air Base here yesterday, Duterte arrived clad in a *barong* with sleeves rolled up, paired with denim jeans and his sig-

nature brown boots.

Duterte sported similar attire at the presidential debates during the campaign.

Upon arrival in a helicopter at Haribon Hangar, the President was presented a medallion by Capt. Apple Medroso.

Addressing the PAF, Duterte discarded his prepared speech, saying it was full of "motherhood statements."

Instead, Duterte directed Philippine National Police chief

Turn to Page 7

President Duterte reviews honor guards at Air Force City in Clark Field, Pampanga during the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force yesterday.

Rody

From Page 1

Director General Ronald de la Rosa to focus efforts against kidnap-for-ransom gangs and carjacking groups aside from the crackdown on drugs.

Duterte cited the case of now anti-crime crusader Boy Evangelista, whose son Benson was killed and the body burned by carjackers during the Aquino administration.

The President also said that members of the Chinese-

Filipino community are often victimized by kidnap-for-ransom groups.

Duterte noted that the number of kidnapping cases in Davao City is extremely low, if not zero, because those who dared were killed.

"Wala na talaga sa Davao (There is really none in Davao)...Go check the records. All who kidnapped in Davao are dead. Why are you scared? I'm not address-

ing myself to human rights. I'm ready to stake my honor and my life to stop crimes," he added.

He did not say if the suspects were killed in police operations or were victims of summary execution.

Duterte also thanked the PAF personnel for their support for the government, and joined in the awarding of distinguished Air Force personnel and units. He reiterated his promise to give full support to the military and police.

– Christina Mendez

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3 fishermen allegedly tortured by Malaysian navy seek DOJ help

By EDU PUNAY

The three fishermen allegedly tortured by the Malaysian navy after encroaching in the waters of the disputed Spratly islands last May have sought help from the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Nelson Plamiano, Teody Baisa and Arlon Sandro submitted to the DOJ on Monday afternoon a joint affidavit seeking prosecution of at least 20 members of the Malaysian

navy, who allegedly maltreated them during the incident last May 9 at southwest of Rizal Reef.

"We would like to hold liable the 20 Malaysian navy for harming and threatening us," they said in Filipino.

The fishermen also lamented the failure of the administration of former president Benigno Aquino III to deliver on its promise to serve justice

to them.

"Almost two months have passed since the incident and up to now we are still waiting for concrete action from our government and from Malaysian authorities," they pointed out.

The fishermen said the Philippine Navy has promised to call them for assistance and that former foreign secretary

Jose Rene Almendras assured them that the Malaysian government was already informed of the incident.

In their affidavit, they recalled that the Malaysian crew of Lakshamana Tun Abdul Jamil handcuffed, punched, kicked and forced them to kneel on the hot floor of the ship's deck.

The fishermen said after

they were tortured, their fishing equipment were confiscated by the Malaysian authorities, who also gave them a paper with the message that read "Last warning! Aggressive action will be taken if we meet you again."

They said they were then ordered to jump from the ship 10 nautical miles from the Rizal Reef. They swam back to their boat and sailed to Navotas

port.

The fishermen filed their affidavit as a complaint, but Prosecutor General Claro Arelano explained that the DOJ would not be able to conduct preliminary investigation due to lack of identities of the respondents from the Malaysian navy. DOJ does not also have jurisdiction since the incident supposedly took place in Malaysian territory.

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INQUIRER

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Chance for change under Duterte

CONDITIONS FOR forging peace with the armed Left exist today. President Duterte appears firm to strike a peace agreement with the National Democratic Front, which represents the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, toward an inclusive government.

First articulated in the election campaign, the socialist-leaning President's call for inclusivity has led to his appointment of members of the Left to posts in his Cabinet. This act shows his willingness to adopt progressive programs, such as genuine agrarian reform, jobs and housing instead of doles for the poor, and an end to labor exploitation. The Left is reciprocating by supporting his propeople agenda.

Government peace adviser Jesus Dureza and longtime negotiator Silvestre Bello met the NDF led by its chief political consultant Jose Maria Sison in Oslo for exploratory talks last June 14-15. The two panels agreed on the affirmation of previous agreements, acceleration of the peace talks centering on key issues, immediate release of NDF consultants, reconstitution of the 1995 Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig), and grant of general amnesty to 500 political prisoners. They also agreed that an interim ceasefire will jump-start formal talks late this month, and that within a year deals on socioeconomic as well as political and constitutional reforms will be followed by an end to hostilities and disposition of forces. Mulling such a scenario, Bello said last week a good life for Filipinos would be ensured: "*Ang sarap ng buhay ng Pilipino pag nangyari yun.*"

The NDF is "optimistic" but "guarded" on the peace prospects, according to Fidel Agcaoili. For 30 years, peace talks between the government and the Left have been incremental and inconclusive, with the two sides trading accusations. The government charged the NDF as double-dealing by using the peace talks as a tactic to gain armed strength. Peace advocates said spoilers were sabotaging the talks. Government hardliners sought to lock the peace talks in a capitulationist policy for the NDF and an indefinite ceasefire regardless of the negoti-

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Bobby M. Tuazon

ations' outcome. Sison, the CPP and NPA were included in the US "terrorist list" in 2002 and later in the EU list upon then President Gloria Arroyo's request. Her request was suspected as a means to force the NDF to cave in or enter into an indefinite ceasefire without agreeing on the substantive agenda.

The refusal to respect 10 peace agreements signed during the Ramos administration was unmistakable when then President Benigno Aquino III rejected the 1992 Hague Joint Declaration as "a document of perpetual division." Also put on the back burner were the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law and the Jasig, which protects peace negotiators on both sides from surveillance, arrest and other punitive actions.

But for the first time, there are bright prospects for the 47-year civil war with countless lives lost to be resolved in a negotiated political settlement. The new trust and confidence in the resumption of peace talks stems from Mr. Duterte's choice of peace over war, so that, in his words, the money spent for bullets will go to food, with an inclusive administration embracing all rebel groups. A belief in socialism that guarantees equal treatment of all, particularly the poor, and decades of political association with the Left seem to define this new President's political will to end the internal war.

But none has a higher stake in the peace process than the people themselves. The Marxist revolutionary struggle of peasants, workers and other social forces is borne out of structural social and economic roots and the class divide that legitimizes power for a few and perpetual marginalization for many. This institutional disorder lies behind Philippine underdevelopment: The state is weakened by elitism

while mass poverty, unemployment, and social injustice bedevil the many, thus the loss of public trust in authority. These are the breeding grounds of corruption, trade in illegal drugs, gambling, and other crimes. Drug lords may be eliminated, but the conditions that spawn narco-politics will stay.

Whether one agrees with its ideology or not, the NDF provides the platform for just and lasting peace that can be enabled by a peace agreement. In reviving formal talks this month, both panels face the most disputatious agenda: economic and social reforms. The NDF's 12-point program includes genuine agrarian reform to put an end to landlordism, national industrialization toward a self-reliant economy, and a progressive social policy. Another thorny issue is an independent foreign policy that demands the termination of all unequal treaties with the United States.

The peace talks have seen rough times, but all presidents since 1986 have been compelled to negotiate with the Left not only due to the futility of ending the rebellion by force but also because its cause has withstood the test of times from a dictatorship to elite regimes. The people's war, based on NDF figures, rages in 71 provinces with one company operating in each of 110 guerilla fronts, or a total armed strength of at least 10,000. The government's failure to address the roots of rebellion continues to fuel armed revolution.

There is no alternative to the attainment of peace now except through a political negotiation that will correct historical injustice and bring about structural reforms. The political will that exists should translate to ensuring that the government—including its security forces—stands behind the new President. If this also means a purely elitist rule metamorphosing into a real inclusive and progressive administration, then there's a chance for change, as activists say. Just peace opens limitless possibilities of inclusive growth.

Bobby M. Tuazon is a former chair of UP Manila's political science program and is CenPEG's director for policy studies.

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Patriotism, Philippine-style

NOW THAT we've elected a president who talks straight, and seems to be inspiring Filipinos to straighten out our society, is he sounding the drums for "patriotism"? Ordinarily, it's defined as "love of country."

If so, the patriotism of the United States is different from our brand of patriotism. And, obviously, from the patriotism of China, or of Japan, and, of course, of North Korea!

It brings to mind our "firebrand" of the Commonwealth, Manuel L. Quezon: "I prefer a government run like hell by Filipinos instead of a government run like heaven by the Americans!" Or words to that effect.

Our current firebrand, Rodrigo R. Duterte, seems to interpret patriotism as doing away with criminals—quickly by shooting them—drug lords, drug pushers, and drug addicts (who can please surrender and stop their bad habit). He also would like to kill other criminals like rapists, thieves, holdup men, kidnappers, and the like by hanging.

The President is calling on the patriotism of Filipinos to help him clean up our society, which, since 15 presidents ago, has built up filth and scum that make the government machinery not only work slowly but also, and most of the time, miss its target: the uplift of the "hopeless, helpless and defenseless"—the poor.

Patriotism varies in definition as the years go by. During Quezon's time in 1935, it was independence from the Americans. That patriotism was a continuation of the first Asian revolution against colonialism by Andres Bonifacio and his Katipunan in 1896. It was inspired by the "reformers," notable among

COMMENTARY

Emmanuel Ikan Astillero

them Jose P. Rizal who wrote two novels making fun of the Spanish friars and the Catholic Church.

The revolution, with the same agenda of independence, was put on more formal war footing by Emilio Aguinaldo. The national flag was sewn by the ladies Agoncillo and a national anthem was composed by Julian Felipe. The Filipino declaration of independence, the flying of the national tricolor, and the first public singing of the national anthem took place on June 12, 1898, in Kawit, Cavite.

Our patriotism is awakened every time the flag is unfurled and the anthem sung.

It is far easier to imagine and feel patriotism whenever we have a struggle, a fight with an enemy, where hundreds of thousands of Filipinos die—such as against the Spaniards in 1896, against the Americans from 1898 to 1902, and against the Japanese from 1941 to 1945.

It is a bit harder to feel patriotism when we go about the traffic-choked streets of Metro Manila or Metro Cebu to our workplaces and then go home exhausted at the end of the day. Or when the only break is taking the family to the air-conditioned mall, not to buy, perhaps, nor to eat, but just to savor the cool air, and be rid of the humidity of the tropics. It makes one wish to

leave these islands for temperate climes abroad.

Now, for the next six years, a new leader is calling us to fight, not invaders, but our fellow Filipinos—a social cleansing. The initial response to the President's call to arms is warm: Lots of people presumed to be involved in the trade in illegal drugs, and other criminals, have fallen in this war since the elections in May. And many more will fall; the toll is averaging five a day despite murmurings from the Commission on Human Rights.

At the same time, our patriotism will be tested as Mr. Duterte calls for peace. At the installation of the new Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Ricardo Visaya, he said his main role is to talk to the communists, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Moro National Liberation Front, etc., so peace can come. The soldiers can then fight with the drug lords and others who have not sued for peace.

And with peace—and less traffic, if I may add—there will be prosperity and happiness (i.e., freedom to move about, unmolested by bombing, kidnapping, robbery, rape, cell phone snatching, air pollution, illegal street parking and sidewalk congestion).

This, then, is how I see Filipino-style patriotism, circa 2016: peace and freedom to move about, work, and play. It takes one's breath away, leading one to wish one could stay put in good old "Pinas."

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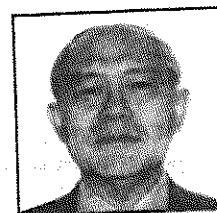
MANILA BULLETIN

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SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

Getting PN offices ISO-certified



By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO

FOLLOWING the Flag Officer In Command (FOIC's) instructions on bringing as many internal Navy processes up to global standards, the Center for Naval Leadership and Excellence (CNLE) started working on those PN offices "relevant to addressing the capability requirements, administrative and personnel management as well as the moral and welfare needs" of the Navy to go for ISA certification. It must be noted that when the Navy started on its governance and transformation journey, no PN offices were ISO-certified. Since the Navy was interested in linking its budget and finance function with the requirements and demands of the Navy Sail Plan, it focused first on the Philippine Navy Finance Center to obtain ISO certification (ISO 9001 Quality Management System). This was one PN strategic initiative that the Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) gave the strongest endorsement for: several BOA members felt that this would be a feather on the Navy's cap.

With such an encouragement from the BOA, and with the FOIC's continued support, this particular performance measure would elicit the most attention at different BOA meetings. Soon, the Navy started reporting not just one but two PN offices having obtained ISO certification. This gave the Navy a lot of confidence that indeed several of its offices can

be ISO-certified, and for the FOIC to eventually make a formal commitment that by 2015, at least 10 Navy offices would be ISO-certified.

Among the Navy offices that worked hard to be included in the first list of ten for ISO certification were: The Naval Shipyard; Naval Information & Communications Technology Center; Navy Personnel Management Center; Office of the Naval Adjutant; Naval Logistics Center; Naval Sea Systems Command - Naval Combat Systems Center; Naval Research and Technology Development Center; and the Cavite Naval Hospital. It is quite a spread of offices. Eventually, by the middle of 2015 when a team of external auditors visited Navy offices to check on their ISO certification, they found not ten—but 14 such offices—having obtained ISO certification. This may look like a small step; but the external auditors were sufficiently impressed as to give the Navy a score of "10" out of 10.

Furthermore, when the external auditors tried to assess the impact of these offices having obtained ISO certification, they were pleasantly surprised to hear overwhelmingly positive comments from the stakeholders they interviewed. Typical of stakeholder comments were as follows:

...From a Navy employee on the Philippine Navy Finance Center: PNFC is prompt in providing its finance services. PNFC checks the personnel's capability to pay the loan, and it's easy too transact business

with the unit".

...From one of several Navy personnel interviewed regarding the Navy Personnel Management Center (ISO-certified): "There have been improvements (in) the services provided by NPMC. Now they initiate schooling for personnel, unlike before, personnel (would) need to submit a request for schooling, and it (took) time for the processing of the request".

...Regarding the ISO-certified Cavite Naval Hospital, a PN person had this to say: Among the impact(s) of ISO certification are the following: a) daily inspections/or rounds of doctors, giving information to patients; b) availability of medicines; c) improvement of facilities of the hospital; d) serving dietary food and also giving health information; e) qualified and approachable personnel who are ready to assist patients in case of emergency, and f) strict implementation of hospital rules and regulations".

Comments such as the above are heart-warming. Obtaining ISO-certification may represent a small step forward. But the impact from such a strategic initiative as getting several Navy offices to be ISO-certified has been very positive, such that the external auditors in assessing its impact on Navy personnel gave the Navy again a score of "10" out of ten.

Thus, even while Book II was being prepared, the Navy kept making progress with regard to several of its strategic priorities in its Sail Plan.

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www.philstar.com

Army opens Maguindanao camp for Eid'l Fitr prayer

By John Unson: (philstar.com) | Updated July 5, 2016 - 3:53pm



Christian personnel of the Army's 6th Infantry Division spruce up the venue for Wednesday's Islamic Eid'l Fitr outdoor prayer in Camp Siongco. Philstar.com/JohnUnson

MAGUINDANAO, Philippines - The Army's predominantly Christian 6th Infantry Division (ID) will open Camp Siongco on Wednesday for an Eid'l Fitr congregational prayer, something so peculiarly new for local Muslims.

Public officials and ranking clerics in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) were elated with 6th ID's gesture, planned by its commander, Major Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, a military peace-activist.

Captain Joann Petinglay, spokesperson of 6th ID, on Tuesday said it is first time for the division to host an outdoor Eid congregational prayer for Muslims from around the camp and nearby towns.

The 6th ID, operating for more than two decades now and has had hundreds of bloody encounters with secessionist rebels, covers the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and parts of Lanao del Sur.

Camp Siongco, the largest military installation in Central Mindanao, is located in northwest of Datu Odin Sinsuat town in the first district of Maguindanao.

"We have 800 Muslim soldiers in the division and our commander wants to show to them that religions should not set boundaries among us. We are all siblings, believing in one God," Petinglay said.

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

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

Pangilinan, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1983, was deputy commander for the southern peace process of the Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City prior to his assumption as 6th ID's commanding general about two years ago.

The 6th ID has actively been supporting Malacañang's peace overtures with Moro secessionist groups.

There has not been a single encounter since 2010 between units of 6th ID and guerillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in all areas in Central Mindanao that are covered by the ceasefire accord between the MILF and the government.

ARMM Gov. Mujiv Hataman said the Eid'l Fitr initiative of 6th ID, whose officers are mostly Christians, will convince the Moro communities of its dedication and sincerity in helping push the Mindanao peace process forward.

"It's something so laudable. Worthy of emulation by other major military units in the autonomous region," Hataman said.

The ARMM regional government has political and administrative jurisdiction over Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, which are both in mainland Mindanao, and the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, common bastions of the MILF and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Pangilinan said the 6th ID recognizes the importance of interfaith camaraderie among its Muslim and non-Muslim personnel.

"It will help ensure the efficiency of our peace and development programs for all sectors, the Christians, the Muslims and the Lumad people inside our area of responsibility," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan said they also let Muslim soldiers join, along with their families, in banquets in Camp Siongco during Christmas Day as part of an effort to foster co-existence between them and their non-Muslim companions.

The Eid'l Fitr, marking the culmination of the Ramadan fasting season, which lasts for one lunar cycle, about 28 to 29 days, is an important religious holiday for Muslims.

Muslims fast from dawn to dusk during the Ramadan both as a religious obligation and reparation for wrongdoings.

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

www.bomboradyo.com

2 sundalo, huli sa drug ops sa Mis Or

By Bombo Radyo CdeOPosted in [Latest News](#) | [View Comments](#) | [Print](#) | [Share](#)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Inaresto ng mga operatiba ng Regional Anti Illegal Drug Task Force (RIDTF)-10 ang dalawang sundalo ng 4th Infantry Division Philippine Army dahil sa pagtutulak ng iligal na droga sa Opol, Misamis Oriental.

Sa inilunsad na drug buy bust operation, huli sa aktong nagbebenta ng shabu sina Staff Sergeant Roilan Nob ng Civil Military Operation at si PFC Randy Mark Cambronero mula 4th ID, Philippine Army.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Cagayan de Oro kay C/Insp. Ritchie Yandug, hepe ng RAIDTF-10, nasamsam nila sa posisyon ng mga suspek ang isang rectangular sachet na naglalaman ng shabu, isang P500 na marked money at mga drug paraphernalia.

Narekober din sa mga suspek ang isang Honda Jazz color blue na plate number AASC-5600.

Una rito, nagpakilala ang dalawang nadakip na miyembro ng Philippine National Police.

www.pna.gov.ph

WESMINCOM yet to verify execution of Norwegian captive by ASG

MANILA, July 5 (PNA) -- The Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM) is yet to confirm reports that Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, the last Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) captive from their Samal Island last Sept. 21, has been beheaded.

Major Filemon Tan, WESMINCOM spokesperson, said operations are still ongoing to rescue the Norwegian victim and they are still to confirm this report.

Earlier, an ASG spokesperson identified as Abu Rami, threatened to behead Sekkingstad if their PHP300 million ransom demand was not paid.

The Norwegian is the last Samal Island captive captured during the ASG's Sept. 21 raid Ocean View Resort in Barangay Camudmud, Samal City, Davao Del Norte.

Of the four victims, Canadian John Ridsel was beheaded last April 25 while his compatriot Robert Hall was executed last June 13. The two were killed by the terrorists as the Philippine and Canadian governments snubbed ASG's ransom demand worth Php600 million for the pair.

Marites Flor, Hall's girlfriend, was freed last June 22. (PNA)

BNB/PFN

www.interaksyon.com

Oppositors to Yasay: Junk onerous EDCA

By: Diego Mora, InterAksyon.com

July 5, 2016 4:07 PM



Joint military exercises by US and Filipino troops. Reuters file photograph.

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA - "The onerous Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the US does not need any review and must be junked," Kabataan Rep. Sarah Elago said Tuesday, in the face of strong clamors to scrap the deal since it runs afoul of the 1987 Constitution, which bars the stationing of foreign troops anywhere in the Philippines.

"Secretary Yasay says that the Philippines is committed to the EDCA and that there is no move to review the agreement. Yet, we simply cannot accept the logic that, if there's no move to review EDCA, then we just have to let it be.

"The Duterte administration is in a perfect position to instigate a review, and that's what exactly the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) should do," the youth lawmaker stressed.

For its part, the League of Filipino Students (LFS) criticized the pronouncement Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay "for seeing the tree but not the forest" because there are several compelling reasons to review and abrogate the EDCA. "It does not only humiliatingly allow the wanton violation of our national sovereignty and territorial integrity; it also places the lives of the Filipino people at risk."

Rep. Elago maintained, that from all appearances, Yasay will not lift a finger to assess the accord, which the Senate maintains is a treaty while the US considers it a mere executive agreement.

Under the law, the Senate must concur with EDCA before it can be sealed and made operational.

Rep. Elago pointed out: "It would be easy for the administration to not only review but also abrogate EDCA, since the Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that it is an executive agreement ... Having EDCA as an executive agreement empowers the President to immediately scrap the deal."

"Yasay is wrong if he believes that there is no need to review EDCA. For one, there's the issue of 'agreed locations.' We believe the President will very much welcome a re-examination of the need for the Philippines to offer Philippine military bases for American use, which is a brazen act of US subservience," Elago stressed.

LFS Spokesman JP Rosos noted that EDCA onerously allows the construction of US bases on Philippine land, right on Philippine military reservations, and provides US officers extra-territorial rights to the land where they

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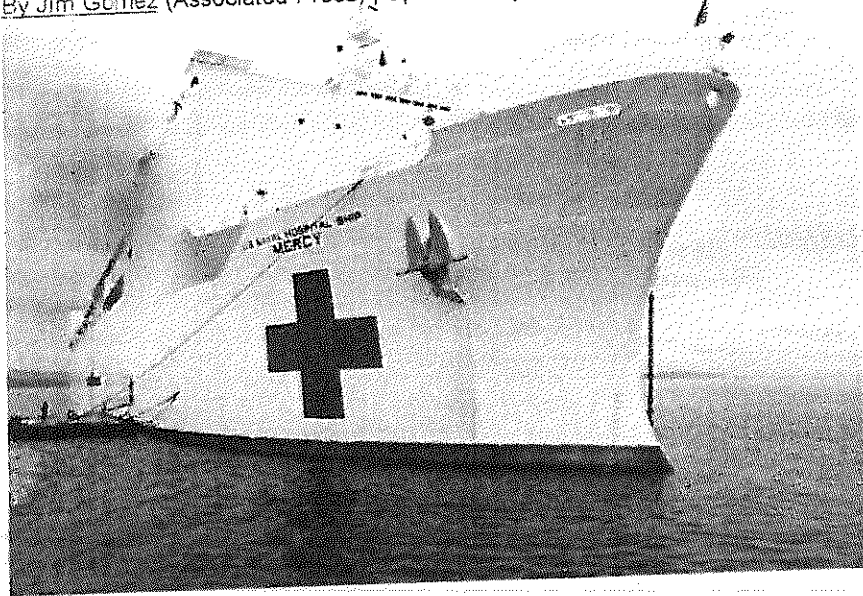
squat, with Article III, IV, and XI guaranteeing unimpeded access, full control, and unencumbered rights to the so-called Agreed Locations.

Rosos appealed to President Duterte not to uphold EDCA since it is lopsided and places Filipinos at a disadvantage. "We believe that it is within the powers of the new President to revoke the agreement. We urge Duterte to listen to the plea of the youth and the people in upholding our sovereignty. We insist on the need to immediately junk EDCA and other lopsided agreements with US."

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US ready to help Southeast Asia fight extremist sea attacks

By Jim Gomez (Associated Press) | Updated July 5, 2016 - 9:34am



The US Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy is docked off the waters of Legazpi city in central Philippines for a medical mission Monday, July 4, 2016. Rear Admiral Brian Hurley, the commander of the US 7th Fleet Task force 73, in an interview with a select group of reporters on board the US Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy said the U.S. military is concerned about a series of attacks and abductions of tugboat crewmen by Abu Sayyaf extremists in Southeast Asian waters and is willing to lend a hand if needed as part of America's aim to ensure the freedom and safety of navigation in the region. API/Jim Gomez

LEGAZPI, Philippines — The U.S. military is concerned about a series of attacks and abductions of tugboat crewmen by Abu Sayyaf extremists in Southeast Asian waters and is willing to lend a hand if needed as part of America's aim to ensure the freedom and safety of navigation in the region, a U.S. Navy official said Monday.

Rear Adm. Brian Hurley said the U.S. Navy has worked with Southeast Asian governments to ensure freedom of navigation and the safety of people in the economically bustling region and would continue to do so.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have agreed to take possible coordinated actions, including sea and air patrols, and establish a "transit corridor" as designated sea lanes for boats and ships in the seas along their borders to stop an alarming wave of attacks by the Abu Sayyaf and allied militants.

More than two dozen Indonesian and Malaysian crewmen have been kidnapped by ransom-seeking Abu Sayyaf militants and allied gunmen who have used powerful speedboats to stage four attacks on slow-moving tugboats in the Sulu Sea and outlying waters since April.

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All the hostages from the first three attacks have been freed, reportedly in exchange for ransoms, but a fourth tugboat came under attack last month and seven Indonesian crewmen were kidnapped, officials said.

A Philippine military officer who has monitored the offshore attacks said the Abu Sayyaf may have been working with militants and contacts in Indonesia and Malaysia to carry out attacks on passing tugboats and commercial ships similar to the piracy assaults in Somalia a few years ago.

The shift to piracy may have been prompted by stronger military actions that have made it more difficult for the militants to carry out kidnappings for ransom, a key source of funds for the Abu Sayyaf, the officer said.

"We are always concerned about safety at sea and the freedom of navigation through the waters," Hurley said in an interview.

In the disputed South China Sea, the U.S. Navy deploys about 700 ships each year for patrols — an average of two ships per day — to ensure freedom of navigation, "and we'll continue to do that all over the world," Hurley said.

Hurley and other naval officials from Australia and New Zealand spoke on board the Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy off Legazpi city in the northeastern Philippine province of Albay while participating in an annual humanitarian mission called the Pacific Partnership, which also aims to improve disaster preparedness.

More than 600 military and civilian personnel from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea are involved in the civic mission that was conceived following a massive earthquake off Indonesia in December 2004 that triggered a tsunami which killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Capt. Mike Spruce of the Royal Australian Navy Reserve said the annual disaster preparedness drills foster a feeling among governments "that when bad times come, that the rest of the family will come and help."

While the U.S.-led event currently centers on humanitarian work, including minor surgeries, dental and other medical help, it may evolve later into a larger effort to also brace for aviation and ship disasters by harnessing naval and coast guard forces of different countries together, U.S. Commodore Tom Williams said.

"We want to do this in a calm environment," Hurley said, "so when a crisis really does occur, that interoperability to respond in a crisis becomes second nature."

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AFP to uphold rule of law in helping in law enforcement operations

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, July 5 (PNA) -- With the military about to play a more active role in law enforcement operations especially in the neutralization of the illegal drugs trade, newly-appointed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya assured the public they will be guided by the rule of law while performing these operations.

"In all these the AFP will always be guided by the principles of transparency, accountability and adherence to human rights, international humanitarian law and the rule of law. These values will never be lost despite massive change in the way we think and operate," he added.

Earlier, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte said he is mobilizing the AFP to help the Philippine National Police in its campaign to eradicate criminality in the country.

Visaya is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983, took command of the 125,000-strong AFP last July 1.

He replaced classmate Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda who served as acting AFP chief since April.

"Therefore the AFP will continue to seek the support and cooperation of the entire Filipino nation as we aggressively pursue the path towards transformation, as change is coming we will first embrace it from within and then, help others so we can all create a societal order that is anchored on a platform of discipline and unity," Visaya added.

"Over and above our role to run after the terrorists, we will also intensify our support to law enforcement agencies, particularly the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in their mission to eliminate widespread criminality and the wanton destruction of lives brought about by the spread and use of illegal drugs," he added.

Visaya earlier vowed to weed AFP personnel using illegal drug-users and those with links with illegal groups and activities.

"We will start the same advocacy with our ranks by continuously weeding out those scalawags who use drugs, who have links with illegal groups and activities. Then we will proceed to build alliances with our counterparts to bring down syndicates and other organized crime groups," he added.

"Over and above our role to run after the terrorists, we will also intensify our support to law enforcement agencies, particularly the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in their mission to eliminate widespread criminality and the wanton destruction of lives brought about by the spread and use of illegal drugs," Visaya added. (PNA)

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AFP to acquire 145 units of reflex sights

MANILA, July 5 (PNA) -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is allocating the sum of PHP4,177,450 for the acquisition of 145 units of reflex sights.

The latter is optical device that allows the user to look through a partially reflecting glass element and see an illuminated projection of an aiming point or some other image superimposed on the field of view.

The items will be attached to some of the assault rifles in its inventory.

Bid opening is on July 21, 9:00 a.m. at the General Headquarters-Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, 3/F Bulwagang Syquiao, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, BAC GHQ analyst Dona May DC Tauro said in a bid bulletin posted at the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System.

Winning bidders must be able to deliver the items within 140 calendar days. (PNA)

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PAF open to reorganization for fight vs terrorism, other threats

MANILA, July 5 (PNA) -- As the Philippine Air Force (PAF) celebrated its 69th founding anniversary Tuesday, it has expressed willingness to reorganize in order to curb terrorism and other threats.

This was disclosed by PAF head Lt. Gen. Edgar R. Fallorina in his speech at Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga.

"Time and again, the entire country bore witness to what the Air Force is all about. As we destroy enemy strongholds... as we rush to save countless of lives at the heights of disasters and calamities... as we stimulate rain in areas threatened by El Niño... as we establish roaming presence over the Kalayaan Group of Islands... and as we reorganize and regroup to fight and counter terrorism and other threats," he added.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte earlier called the military to help the Philippine National Police in the ongoing anti-drug and criminality campaign.

In the same vein, focus will also be given to the terrorism threat.

"Time and again, the people saw how we prized our service honor by keeping ourselves above controversies and anomalies and by instead going about our business of transforming our bases into centerpieces of professionalism, discipline and order; and our Airmen and Airwomen into champions in crises, in peace, and even in sports. Because our goal - is to secure the nation and serve the people," Fallorina said.

"Time and again, people saw how we respond as we extricate victims of terrorism and recover bodies albeit harsh weather... treacherous terrain... or hostile ground fire. And time and again, through continuous training and exercises, we continue to enlarge our character in combat... in peacekeeping efforts... and in human assistance and disaster response," he added. (PNA)

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Duterte to PH Air Force: You'll have all things you need

By: [Frances Mangosing](#)

[@FMangosingINQ](#)

INQUIRER.net

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CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines—President Rodrigo Duterte promised more choppers with night-vision capabilities to the Philippine Air Force, an apparent emphasis on internal security operations.

"I will have all the things you need. Lahat ng kailangan (Everything you need), we will acquire more helicopters and night-vision capability... If we have that we can improve our performance," he said in his speech at the 69th Air Force anniversary held here.

The President made no mention of the FA-50 fighter jets acquired by the Air Force, its biggest capability upgrade worth P18.9 billion for 12 units. He earlier criticized the purchase of the jets as a "waste of money."

Duterte earlier mentioned that he would want to deal with internal security problems first when he assumes office.

In his speech, the President also congratulated the Philippine Air Force on their 69th anniversary.

"I've seen you in action. I've been mayor for 23 years. We did a lot of things together," he said.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina expressed readiness to work with Duterte.

"Mister President sir, the Air Force is ready to take on this commitment to a higher level with you as our commander in chief... Your Air Force is fully engaged to support our president's battle cry of genuine and meaningful change," he said.

In a capability parade, the Air Force displayed their ground mobility assets, which include communication vans, combat vehicles, ground base defense weapons and first responder vehicles.

A flyby of various air assets such as trainer aircraft, Bell helicopters, C-130 cargo planes and C-295 transport planes was also showcased towards the end of the event. **RAM**