



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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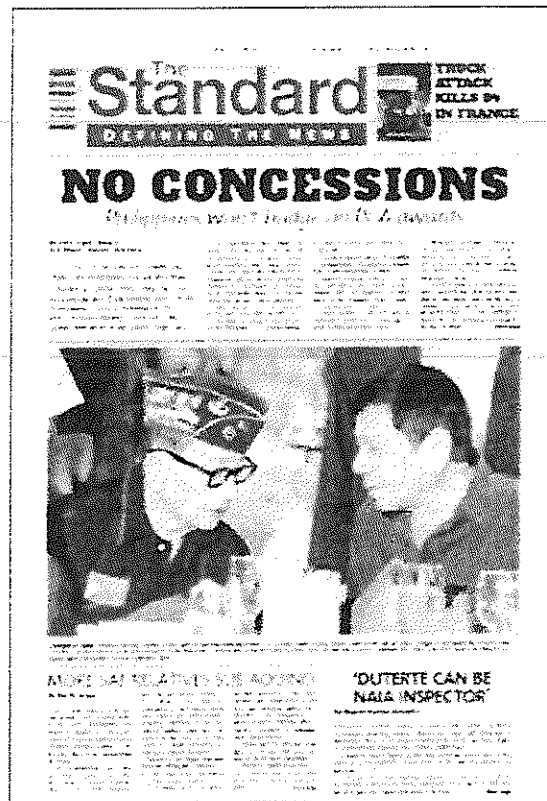
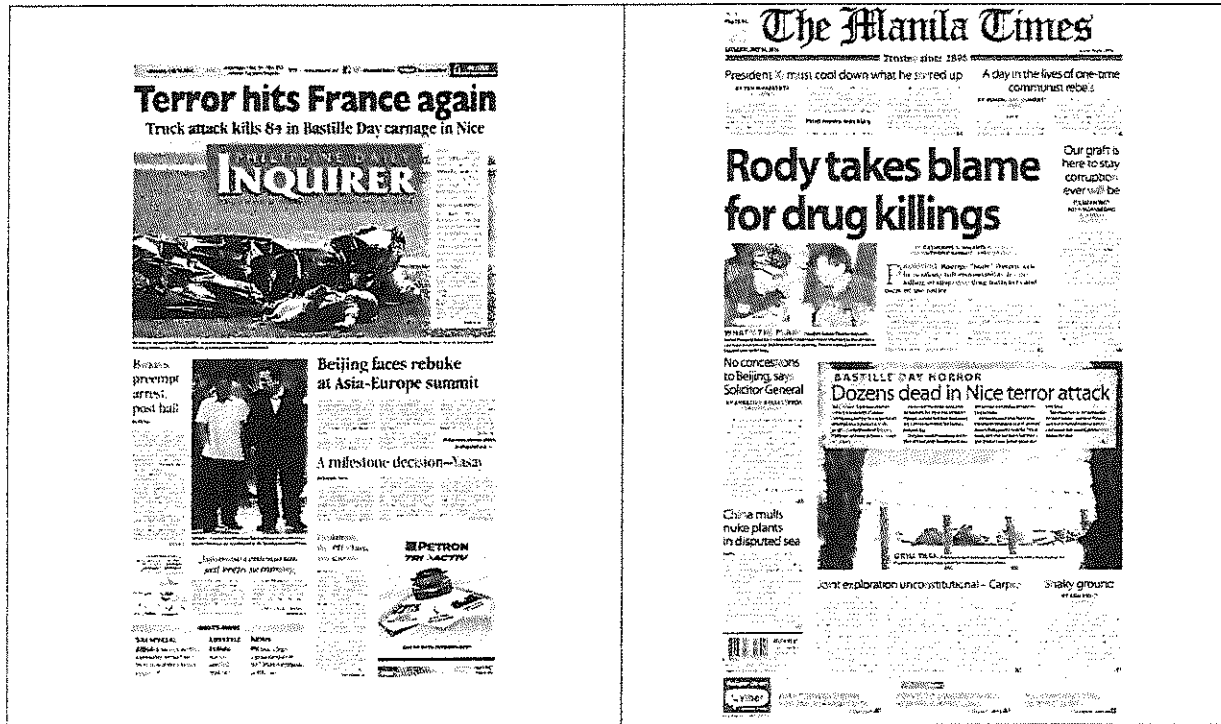
16 July 2016

Saturday

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

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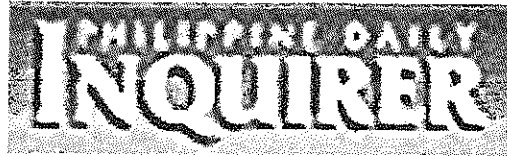
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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JULY 16, 2016 | SATURDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA
EXTENDING OVER THE EASTERN
SECTION OF LUZON
(July 15, 5:00 PM)

SUNRISE 5:35 AM	SUNSET 6:29 PM
MOONRISE 3:18 PM	MOONSET 2:17 AM
FIRST QUARTER JULY 12 6:52 AM	FULL MOON JULY 25 6:57 AM
LOW TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 3:36 PM 0.23 Meter	HIGH TIDE MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 7:17 AM 1.04 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

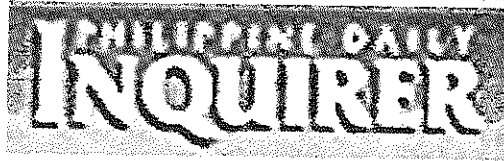
METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN
25 - 34 °C	22 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO
25 - 36 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
LADAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO
25 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA
16 - 24 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	METRO CEBU	
24 - 33 °C	25 - 31 °C	

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AIR 21

SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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Terror hits France again

Truck attack kills 84 in Bastille Day carnage in Nice

PARIS—A Bastille Day fireworks celebration was shattered by death and mayhem on Thursday night in the southern French city of Nice when a large truck barreled for more than 2 kilometers through an enormous crowd of spectators, crushing and maiming dozens in what President François Hollande called a terrorist assault.

It came eight months after the Paris attacks that killed 130 people, traumatizing the nation and all of Europe.

Officials and witnesses in Nice said at least 84 people, including children, were killed by the driver of the rampaging truck, who mowed them

TERROR/All

From page A1

down on the sidewalk.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said 18 people were in critical condition in hospitals.

Many more were also wounded in the attack along the famed seafront Promenade des Anglais as the fireworks ended just after 10:30 p.m.

The driver was shot dead by the police as officers scrambled to respond on what is France's most important annual holiday.

A local official said the driver fired a pistol several times before being shot dead by police.

"At the moment that he was shot dead by police, he had fired several times," the official said.

Authorities said they found identity papers belonging to a 31-year-old French-Tunisian citizen in the 19-ton truck, as well as "guns" and "larger weapons."

Graphic television and video images showed the truck accelerating and tearing through the crowd, dozens of victims sprawled in its path, and the bullet-riddled windshield of the vehicle.

Municipal officials and police officers described the truck as full of weapons and grenades.

"The horror, the horror has, once again, hit France," Hollande said in a nationally televised address early Friday.

He said the "terrorist character" of the assault was undeniable, and he described the use of a large truck to deliberately kill people as "a monstrosity."

"France has been struck on the day of her national holiday," he said. "Human rights are denied by fanatics, and France is clearly their target."

He said several children were among the dead after the attack, which he said was of an "undeniable terrorist nature."

Hollande, who only hours earlier had proclaimed the impending end of a state of national emergency on July 26, said that the measure would be extended by three months and that additional soldiers would be deployed for security.

While no group has claimed responsibility for the attack in the resort city, Hollande vowed to strengthen his country's role in the fight against the Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq and Syria.

"Nothing will make us yield in our will to fight terrorism. We will further strengthen our actions in Iraq and Syria. We will continue striking those who attack us on our own soil," he said, in reference to IS.

French officials quickly concluded that terrorism was the likely motive, as the scope of the slaughter grew clear.

The use of a large commercial truck as the principal weapon of death raised new questions about how to prevent such attacks.

The officials warned residents to stay indoors and canceled all further scheduled festivities in Nice, a seaside city of 340,000, including a five-day jazz festival and a concert on Friday night by Rihanna.

"There are numerous victims," said Pierre-Henry Brandet, a spokesperson for the interior ministry, on BFM Television. "It's a tragic, exceptional situation."

World condemns attack

Politicians from around the world reacted with horror after the attack.

US President Barack Obama condemned what he said appeared to be a "horrific terrorist attack."

"We stand in solidarity and partnership with France, our oldest ally, as they respond to and recover from this attack," he said in a statement. "On this Bastille Day, we are reminded of the extraordinary resilience and democratic values that have made France an inspiration to the entire world."

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who had been in Paris earlier in the day for a Bastille Day parade, said: "The United States will continue to stand firmly with the French people during this time of tragedy. We will provide whatever support is needed."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau wrote on Twitter: "Canadians are shocked by tonight's attack in Nice. Our sympathy is with

the victims and our solidarity with the French people."

A spokesperson for new British Prime Minister Theresa May called the attack "a terrible incident," adding, "We are shocked and concerned."

Boris Johnson, whose first engagement as Britain's new foreign secretary was at the French ambassador's Bastille Day party in London, said on Twitter: "Shocked and saddened by the appalling events in Nice, and the terrible loss of life."

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted that he was "sickened by news of another senseless attack."

European Council President Donald Tusk called it "a sad day for France, for Europe."

He said it was "tragic" that "the subjects of the attack were people celebrating liberty, equality and fraternity."

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang offered his "condolences" to the victims and said China opposed all forms of terrorism.

The United Nations Security Council called the attack "barbaric and cowardly."

The council reaffirmed that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to world peace and security.

"Any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable," said the statement from the 15 council members.

Latin American leaders also condemned the carnage, with Brazilian Interim President Michel Temer declaring: "Today, more than ever, we are all French."

Ecuador's President Rafael

Correa said he was sending France "a hug" after "a tragedy caused by insanity."

Leaders and representatives of governments from Ireland to Indonesia attending the Asia-Europe Meeting held a minute's silence for the victims at the opening of the summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Friday.

Scenes of pandemonium

The Mediterranean city of Nice, with its pebble beaches and clear blue water, has been a magnet for sunseekers and the jet set since the 19th century.

Witnesses described scenes of pandemonium, with conflicting accounts on social media, including a false report of hostage-taking in Nice.

"We were enjoying the celebrations when we suddenly saw people running everywhere and tables being pushed down by the movement of panic," said Daphne Burandé, 15, who was at a bar near the beach to watch the fireworks.

"No one explained to us what was happening, and I heard some gunshots not very far away," she said. "I waited at the bar for more information because I thought it was a false alert. But then, people were still running."

The main strip through Nice was littered with bodies, one after the other.

A witness named Nader told BFM television he had seen the whole attack from start to finish, and had initially thought the driver had "lost control."

"I was in the street. He stopped just in front of me after

he [crushed] a lot of people. I saw a guy in the street, we were trying to speak to the driver to get him to stop," Nader said in broken English.

"He looked nervous. There was a girl under the car, he smashed her. The guy next to me pulled her out," he said.

Nader said he saw the driver pull out a gun and start shooting at police.

"They killed him and his head was out the window," he said.

"Whatever the nature of what happened in Nice, the threat of terrorism is particularly high," Brandet said on the iTele television station. He added that security forces were on high alert in the area and in cities around France.

Dozens of people were seriously injured and many more were psychologically shocked, Brandet said.

The region has activated a so-called White Plan, put in place during the Nov. 13 Paris terrorist attacks that killed 130 people, to open all emergency rooms to receive victims, he added.

Was it IS?

IS, which asserted responsibility for the attacks in Paris, did not make any immediate claim for the Nice assault.

It typically takes IS several hours, and sometimes up to one and even two days, to assert responsibility for attacks on Western countries. It typically does so through its Amaq channel on the encrypted telephone app Telegram, which serves as the group's news wire.

But, as in the hours immediately after the Paris, Brussels and Orlando attacks, there was a now familiar celebration on channels run by groups that support IS, as well as on at least one channel affiliated with the group, also known as Isis and Isil. They cheered the carnage.

On a channel created on Thursday, called the United Cyber Caliphate, run by a group that has previously tried to carry out cyberattacks in IS's name, a message included a single word—France—followed by a smiley face.

The channel of an IS member, Aswari Media, which has repeatedly been shut down and claims 1,987 members, was posting the phrase "Allahu akbar."

Yet another suspected pro-IS channel showed an image of the Eiffel Tower going up in flames.

Security measures

The Nice attack took place just as the Euro 2016 soccer tournament had concluded.

France had hosted the tournament, and the entire country had been on high alert.

There had been reports that suspects linked to the attacks in Paris and the Brussels assault in March had planned an attack during the tournament.

With tens of thousands of people gathered at stadiums and in designated "fan zones" during the games, the police and private security took extraordinary measures to try to secure the sites.

It was difficult to know if the measures were successful or if in fact there were no plans to attack the soccer tournament.

One question people will be asking is whether the security forces, as well as civilians, let their guard down once the tournament was over thinking that the danger had passed.

Several witnesses spoke on iTele. A man who gave his name as Michel, working at Voilier Plage restaurant in front of Promenade des Anglais, said that around 10:30 p.m., a large white truck drove into a crowd that had gathered near the beach.

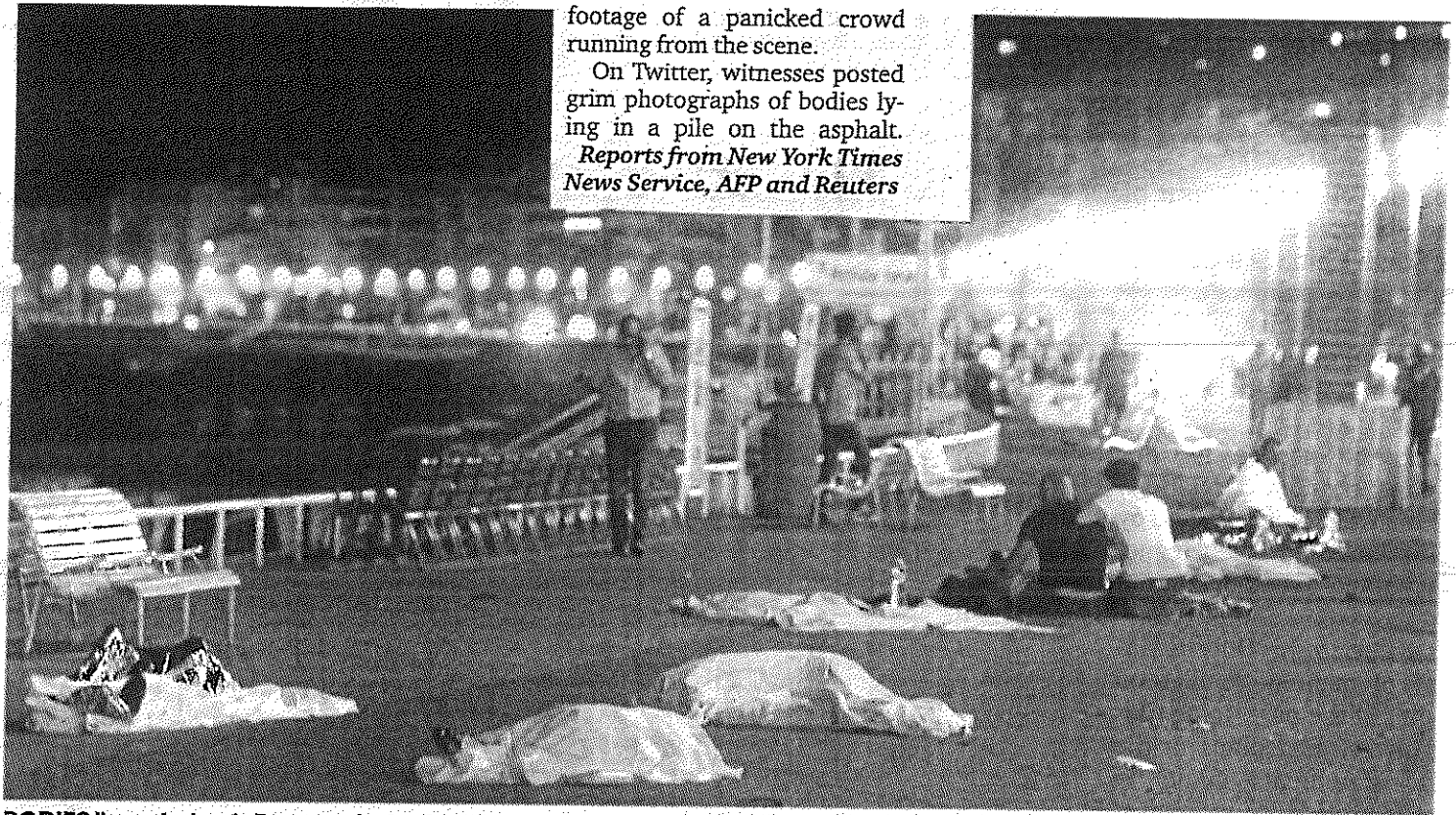
"A huge number of people started running, then there was a lot of gunfire," he said.

Another witness who owns a restaurant nearby, whom iTele did not identify, said that when the truck plowed into the crowd, it "crushed everyone in its path."

French television showed footage of a panicked crowd running from the scene.

On Twitter, witnesses posted grim photographs of bodies lying in a pile on the asphalt.

Reports from New York Times News Service, AFP and Reuters



BODIES litter the iconic Promenade des Anglais in Nice, the popular Mediterranean resort town in southern France, after a terror truck attack on a crowd celebrating one of France's biggest national holidays, Bastille Day, on Thursday.

REUTERS

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China eyes win-win outcome in talks

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

China is eyeing a "win-win" outcome of possible post-arbitration talks with the Philippines, with both countries to discuss "temporary arrangements" pending final settlement of their maritime dispute.

China's ministry of foreign affairs announced Beijing's readiness to talk even as it called on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) not to take sides on the issue related to arbitration.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The Hague, in a ruling last July 12, invalidated China's massive claim in the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea and upheld the Philippines' sovereign rights over areas seized or claimed by the Chinese.

The Chinese foreign ministry also said Beijing's position of not accepting or recognizing the ruling will not change.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi said the South China Sea issue is not an issue between China and ASEAN since the regional bloc has long made clear its neutrality on the issue.

His statement came amid ASEAN's silence on the rejection of Chinese territorial claims by the arbitral tribunal. "Therefore, it should not take sides on issues related to the arbitration," Yang said.

China and ASEAN member-states, he said, have maintained candid and friendly communication regarding the South China Sea issue.

Yang said China is ready

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China eyes From Page 1

to settle the disputes through peaceful negotiation with countries directly concerned – on the basis of respecting “historical facts,” which the arbitral tribunal rejected in its ruling.

The tribunal’s ruling was based on international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Beijing is a signatory to UNCLOS.

“China is ready to discuss with countries concerned about temporary arrangements pending final settlement of the dispute, which include joint development in relevant waters in the South China Sea for mutual benefits and win-win outcomes, so that together we can main-

tain peace and stability in the South China Sea,” Yang said.

“China’s position of not accepting or recognizing the award will not change,” he pointed out.

The official blamed the administration of former president Benigno Aquino III for the “serious difficulty” the Philippines-China bilateral relations were going through. He said the Aquino administration had a hostile policy toward China on the sea dispute.

“We call on the new Philippine government to bear in mind the common interests of our two countries and the broader picture of bilateral ties and properly handle relevant issues,” he said.

China, Yang said, will stay committed to following the peaceful path of negotiation and consultation, and to developing friendly relations and win-win cooperation with its neighbors.

Beijing refused to participate in the arbitral proceedings and rejected the ruling, calling the award by the Arbitral Tribunal “illegal” and “invalid.”

Yang said “this position of the central government has the strong support and endorsement from people of various social sectors in China.”

“They have expressed their unequivocal attitude of opposing the illegal arbitration and safeguarding sovereign rights and interests by contributing articles and articulating views through the press, TV and SMS as well as online platforms like We-

Chat and Weibo,” Yang said, referring to what he called declaration of support for the Chinese position.

He called the South China Sea arbitration a political farce all along, staged under the cover of law and driven by a hidden agenda.

Certain countries outside the region, he said, have attempted to deny China’s sovereign rights and interests in the South China Sea through the arbitration.

“But such attempts are futile, to say the least, and in so doing, they are only lifting a stone to drop it on their own feet,” he added.

He said the arbitration ran counter to the spirit of international rule of law, as it put regional peace and stability in jeopardy, and undermined the interests of the international

community.

“Most countries in the world see this clearly,” he claimed.

Yang flaunted that over 70 countries and international and regional organizations have made statements showing their support for China’s position.

On the other hand, the Washington-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said 40 countries had voiced support for the arbitral proceedings.

The Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) of the CSIS said countries that considered the outcome of arbitral proceeding binding were Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Den-

mark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam.

Countries supporting China’s position included Afghanistan, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Niger, Sudan, Togo and Vanuatu.

Yang noted the South China Sea has been part of China’s domain since ancient times.

“No country should expect us to trade our core interests away or swallow the bitter consequences of our sovereignty, security and development interests being undermined,” he said.

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ARMY BULLETIN

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• Reservists' convention

BUTUAN CITY - The 15th Regional Community Defense Group (RCDG) will hold its 37th National Reservist Week Convention on July 23 and 24 at the Advance Command Post (ACP) of the Fourth Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) at Camp Bancasi, this city. The two-day convention will be anchored on the theme, "Laang kawal na naghahanda at nagsasanay tungo sa mapayapa, masagana at maunlad na bayan." The activity will highlight the significant roles and contributions of the trained and equipped reserve force as protector of the country and its people through maintaining internal security and stability, participation in disaster/emergency response, community development activities and humanitarian assistance. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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MANILA: BULLETIN

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11 BIFFs killed in Datu Unsay encounter; lass slain in crossfire

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) confirmed yesterday that at least 11 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were killed in fighting with government troopers last Wednesday in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao.

Colonel Cirilito Sobejana, Philippine Army's 601st Brigade commander, said 15-year-old Fatima Elian, a resident of Barangay Meta, Datu Unsay, was also killed in the crossfire while 19 others were wounded in the clashes.

Sobejana said that soldiers from the 601st Infantry Brigade under the 6th Infantry Division, and 34th, 57th, 33rd and 40th Infantry Battalions, were conducting security patrol and clearing operations in Shariff Aguak and Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, when they chanced upon a group of BIFF fighters in the area.

He said the fighting broke out in Barangay Kuloy, Datu Unsay, and involved as many as 80 BIFF members, led by Commanders "Rocky" and "King Itim."

"Their (BIFF gunmen's) number varies because they constantly maneuver, they are on the move... while fighting rages, reinforcement coming from Sukarno Sapal and other commanders came to help," said Sobejana.

He confirmed that two soldiers were among those wounded in the encounter, but they are already being treated in the hospital. "They are both in stable condition and recuperating in a hospital," he said.

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11 BIFF patay sa engkwentro

Hindi bababa sa 11 na miyembro ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang patay at 19 iba pa ang sugatan nang makipagpalitan ng putok ang mga ito sa mga sundalo ng gobyerno sa Datu Unsay, Maguindanao, Miyerkules. Ayon kay 601st Brigade Commander ng Army na si Col. Cirilito Sobejana, nagsasagawa ng security patrol at clearing operation sa Shariff Aguak at Datu Unsay ang mga sundalo ng 601st Infantry Brigade sa ilalim ng 6th Infantry Division, at 34th, 57th, 33rd at 40th Infantry Battalions nang masilayan nila ang isang grupo ng BIFF fighters sa lugar. Aabot sa 30 hanggang 35 na BIFF fighters na pinamumunuan nina Kumander "Rocky" at "King Itim" at 70 hanggang 80 iba pang fighters ang nakipagpalitan ng putok. Isang labing limang anyos na babaeng tinedyer naman na kinilala bilang Fatima Elian, residente ng Brgy. Meta, Datu Unsay ang napatay din matapos matamaan ng bala. Dalawang miyembro naman ng mga sundalo ang naiwang sugatan na ngayon ay binibigyang lunas pa rin sa hospital. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

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Army declares Antique 'insurgency-free'

By: Philippine News Agency

July 15, 2016 10:24 AM

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

SAN JOSE De BUENAVISTA, Antique -- Antique in Panay is now insurgency-free, the Army told the Provincial Peace and Order Council.

"So far, we have not monitored any movement of insurgents in the province of Antique, but there are at least three barangays that we consider as threatened barangays. These are Barangays Aningalan and Cabungahan in San Remigio town and Barangay Tordesillas in Sibalom town," Major Uddie Villan, spokesman of the 802nd Battalion of the Philippine Army, told the PPOC Thursday.

Villan said they have monitored rebel movements in the mountain barangays of Igbaras, Tubungan, Miag-ao and San Joaquin in the first district of Iloilo, and of Leon and Alimodian in the second district, along the boundary with Antique, but called these "not something to be really worried about."

The 802 Battalion's area of operations covers Antique and the two Iloilo districts.

To keep the province free of rebels, Villan recommended outreach programs in hinterland barangays to complement the continuous patrols conducted by the Army.

Governor Rhodora Cadiiao ordered provincial health officer Ric Noel Naciongayo to conduct medical missions every three months in rebel-threatened barangays in San Remigio and Sibalom towns.

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PA conducts fellowship activity with telecom companies

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 15): PA conducts fellowship activity with telecom companies

In line with its efforts to modernize its communications system, the Philippine Army (PA) conducted a fellowship activity with prominent private and commercial telecommunication companies at its Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City headquarters Friday.

Col. Benjamin Hao, PA spokesperson, said representatives of 31 telecom companies, which included PLDT, Globe Telecom, Nightline, Inc, and Philippine Institute of Cyber security Professionals, have attended the event.

Other participating companies are Barhead Solutions Inc., IOT Technology, HBCom, Synetcom, SMS Global Solutions, Macrologic, Intrade, Theon Sensors, Comclark Network and Technology Corp., Rollbase, EBDI Philippines Inc., Prism Blue Limited, Orange and Bronze Software Lab Inc., Fire Eye Philippines, MSI-ECS Philippines Inc., Fortinet, Trend Micro Inc., Nimble Storage, HP Networking, APC Complete Solutions, Global Knowledge, Cisco Philippines, Microsoft, First Data Corp., Global Sign, Neo Tech Asia Distributor, and Eset.

Armed Forces Communication, Electronics and Information System head Brig. Gen. Diosdado G. Respecio served as guest-of-honor and speaker.

Hao said the PA's Command and Control Communication and Cyber System (C4S) initiated the activity in line with its efforts to initiate sense of shared responsibility with stakeholders in implementing various development initiatives.

Partnership and collaboration with the telecommunication companies will contribute to the Army's planning and development initiatives in terms of communication and cyber security system.

"It also provides us (Army Signal Corps) the necessary knowledge and skills to facilitate the installation, operation and maintenance of Information and Communications Technology equipment and facilities," Hao said.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=904262>

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AFP: No threats at SONA

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has not monitored any terror threats for President Duterte's upcoming State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 25, an official said yesterday.

"So far, from where I sit, we don't monitor any threat but just the same we must

always ensure that the President is safe. The military is always ready to defend from all threats he is facing while in the performance or in the course of his duties," said Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief.

He said the AFP Joint Task Force-National Capital

Region will help ensure order in the entire metropolis.

Meanwhile, at least 11,000 police officers will be deployed to secure the Batasan Pambansa complex, where the SONA will be held.

Police officers were ordered to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with

protesters, said Chief Superintendent Oscar Albayalde, director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

He is scheduled to meet with leaders of militant groups next week to set guidelines for the conduct of peaceful rallies.

To prepare for the protests, the NCRPO set a two-day civil disturbance management competition among the five police districts and the Regional Public Safety Battalion at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park starting today. – Jaime Laude, Non Alquitran

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The Manila Times

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AFP HONORS FILIPINO PEACEKEEPERS TO HAITI

TOP officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) honored on Friday the 19th Philippine Contingent to Haiti (PCH) after a year of deployment as peacekeepers in the Caribbean country.

The 135-strong contingent led by Col. Vincent Incognito was conferred the United Nations Service Medals during a ceremony at the GHQ Canopy Area at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Gen. Ricardo Visaya, AFP chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, Air Force commander, Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations and Col. Eugenio Hernandez, AFP peacekeeping operations center com-

mander led top military officials in welcoming the peacekeepers.

"As peacekeepers deployed to one of the most politically unstable environments in the world, critical responsibilities were bestowed upon you. And alongside those duties are the challenges of working in a foreign land, thousand miles away from home and your loved ones," Visaya told them during the welcome and medal parade ceremony.

The 19th PCH was organized and selected based on the manning requirements specified in the agreement between the Philippine government and the United Nations.

Composed of 135 personnel (11 officers and 124 enlisted personnel), the contingent provided administrative and security operations through clerical services, transport services, VIP security and perimeter defense.

The all-Air Force contingent arrived in the country last July 11 and immediately underwent a medical check-up at the AFP Medical Center.

It was replaced by the all-Army 20th PCH, which left the country on July 8.

"As your eyes have been opened with the problems occurring outside the territory we are primarily tasked to protect, I am certain that

you have gained the motivation to serve more because you now have more to offer to our country and to the Filipino people," Visaya said.

The AFP deployed its first contingents to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah) in 2004 after its establishment through the Security Council Resolution 1542.

Minustah was established to maintain a secure and stable environment, assist in strengthening Haiti's government institutions and promote and protect human rights after the series of armed conflicts that shook the country under the Aristide administration.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

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DND to resupply Marines on Ayungin Shoal

By JAIME LAUDE

Resupply operations for the small military outpost on the grounded BRP *Sierra Madre* at Ayungin Shoal will resume following an international court's ruling declaring the shoal and nearby waters part of the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

"There was a scheduled resupply sometime last week but we postponed it because of the impending ruling because it might be misconstrued by the other party that we are provoking. But definitely we are going there to resupply them (the troops) by any means," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said, referring to the Permanent Court of Arbitration's ruling in favor of the Philippines' position on the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea issue.

He said re-provisioning and rotation of troops would also be carried out in the Kalayaan Island Group in the disputed Spratlys archipelago.

But Lorenzana stressed the resupply operation is routine and not meant to stir tension in the West Philippine Sea.

He added no unusual activities have been monitored in the area since the announcement of the PCA decision.

Western commander Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado, for his part, said the postponement of the resupply mission did not affect troops in Ayungin as they had enough supply.

"All our troops in all our island detachments have sufficient provisions. We don't have any problems with that. We will resupply when provisions are depleted. Of course, we will not put our troops in a situation where they will agonize over provisions," Mercado said.

Spratlys claimant states, except Brunei, have troops deployed in the disputed archipelago which Beijing entirely claims as its own, citing what it called historical facts.

Lorenzana is set to meet with his Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts next week to hammer out an arrangement for addressing terrorism in the high seas.

"Sometime next week, I'll be traveling to Malaysia. We will

again discuss the worsening problem out there," Lorenzana said, referring to the rampant Abu Sayyaf kidnapping of Indonesian and Malaysian nationals in the waters of Sulu.

Readying next move

Meanwhile, Press Secretary Ernesto Abella said the Duterte administration is still threshing out a post-arbitration strategy.

"We are really thinking through the right response, but the initial statement should be sometime after DFA Secretary (Perfecto) Yasay comes back from Mongolia," Abella said in a briefing yesterday. Yasay is attending the Asia-Europe Summit Meeting Forum in Mongolia.

On the supposed appointment of former president Fidel Ramos as special envoy to China to conduct negotiations, Abella noted Ramos has not formally accepted Duterte's proposal.

"Former president FVR did not decline but he did make a comment, saying that he may be too old," Abella added.

Asked why Ramos was chosen for the post, Abella noted

that Ramos was "obviously a wise spokesman."

During his term as president, Ramos established good relations with China, which he pursued beyond his presidency.

Ramos has been active in pushing for cooperation with China, especially when he became chairman of the Board of Directors of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in 2009.

Ramos initially proposed the Boao Forum in 1998 along with Bob Hawke, former prime minister of Australia, and Morihiro Hosokawa, former prime minister of Japan.

The BFA was formally inaugurated on Feb. 27 2001, with Boao, Hainan province, China serving as the permanent site of its headquarters. Since 2002, BFA has been holding its annual conference at Boao.

The annual conference is a version of The World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Ramos is a frequent visitor, often playing golf, in Hainan – China's southernmost province, whose geopolitical im-

16 July 2016



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Chinese stay put in Panatag

China's coast guard has prevented Filipino boats from fishing around the hotly contested Panatag or Scarborough Shoal, Philippine officials said yesterday, after Beijing kept a promise to ignore a court ruling voiding its vast South China Sea claims.

A dispute over the shoal, 124 nautical miles northwest of the Philippines mainland, was one of Manila's main reasons for bringing international legal action against China in 2013.

Military officials and fishermen in northwest province of Pangasinan said Chinese coastguard vessels remained in place at Scar-

borough and were still preventing fishermen from entering the shoal's lagoon.

Many boats had stayed away until the situation was clearer, officials said.

"The fishermen here have a wait-and-see attitude and are feeling their pulse whether it is safe to go to Scarborough," Luis Madarang, an official responsible for fishing in Infanta town, said by phone.

"We are not stopping them but cautioned them to stay away from any trouble in the area. It will not help the situation if they will challenge the Chinese who are still

there."

A local television crew joined a fishing boat to try to reach the Panatag Shoal in what a news anchor said was fishermen testing China's compliance of the ruling on Thursday.

Footage from ABS-CBN News showed a handful of black-clad Chinese coastguard on a dinghy approaching the Filipino boat and using a megaphone to tell them to leave.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled on Tuesday that because it has rocks above high tide, Panatag was entitled to 12 miles of territorial sea. – Reuters

16 July 2016

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ASG and captive Indon sailors spotted in Sulu

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Fifty-five members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and seven Indonesian sailors they abducted in the Sulu Sea last June 24 have been spotted in a remote sitio in Luuk, Sulu where the bandit group is believed to be getting aid from some local politicians.

This was disclosed by a military source, who said that the ASG, led by Alhabsi Misaya and with the seven hostages, were seen holding camp in Luuk town around 5 p.m. Thursday.

The source, who asked anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media, added that the Misaya's group was being supported by local residents, as well as some politicians who have been providing them with logistical and intelligence requirements.

According to the source, the group and their captives were now encamped at Sitio Bulagsih in Luuk town.

The military is currently on high-level campaign against the ASG in the

province that puts more pressure on the bandit group to free the hostages.

This developed as three personnel of the Field Artillery Battalion attached to the Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 (MBLT-10) were shot to death, Thursday morning by suspected members of the ASG in Indanan, Sulu.

Maj Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WesMinCom) said the three soldiers were procuring provisions in Barangay Manilop, Indanan when they were waylaid and shot by the suspects.

Tan said members of the MBLT-10 rushed to the area but failed to catch the suspects who immediately fled after the incident.

According to Tan, the bodies of the victims were immediately transported by soldiers to Kuta General Teodulfo Bautista in Jolo, Sulu. Their names were not released pending notification of their next of kin.

Meanwhile, in Basilan province, about 40 rogue members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and

lawless elements from the municipalities of Olutanga, Talusan and Mabusay, all in Sibugay province, have reportedly traveled to Al-Barka, Basilan using a commercial vessel to reinforce the groups of relatives belonging to the ASG led Isnilon Hapilon and Furuji Indama.

The group Hapilon and Indama has sporadically engaged in armed confrontation with government forces in the municipalities of Tipo-Tipo, Al-Barka and Unkaya Pukan, all in Basilan province since July 3.

To reinforce the ASG leaders' forces, a group under Mansul Urang and Ogis Jakaria was reportedly able to leave this city and was headed to Lamitan City in Basilan onboard different ferries from July 11 to 13.

Some were able to get to Basilan onboard a fishing boat, bringing with them ammunition, medical kits, and other logistical supplies.

Tan said the all-out Focus Military Operations in the two province will continue until they can neutralize the ASG in the two provinces.

6 July 2016

Standard

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Defense chiefs to discuss Abu

By Florante S. Solmerin

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will be meeting with the defense ministers of Malaysia and Indonesia next week to discuss mutual concerns, particularly the Abu Sayyaf problem in Mindanao.

"Sometime next week I'll be travelling to Malaysia to meet with my counterparts, the Minister of Defense of Indonesia and the Minister of Defense of Malaysia. We will again talk about [the Abu Sayyaf] because we should address that worsening problem," Lorenzana said.

Lorenzana said the meeting is set next week in Malaysia where they will fine-tune plans and agree on coordination processes and joint border patrol operations.

He said the meeting will be focusing on what framework to follow, concrete steps to make, and most importantly, to implement such plans, which in principle has been agreed upon in meetings with the previous administration.

Lorenzana said it is already the 1975 Philippine-Indonesian Border Patrol Agreement which would be the basis for the joint border patrol talk between the two countries, and the recent one with Malaysia.

Because of the upsurge of incidents of kidnappings by the terrorist Abu Sayyaf, the military has poured in more troops in Basilan and Sulu to neutralize the terrorist group.

Recently, the world was stunned when the Abu Sayyaf beheaded two Canadian captives—John Ridsdel and Robert Hall—after their families failed to deliver the P300-million ransom the bandits had been demanding.

Hall's Filipina fiancé, Marites Flor, was released unharmed though amid allegations of ransom payment but the Abu Sayyaf has still in their hands Kjartan Sekkingstad, a Norwegian.

The four were abducted by armed men in September 2015 at a resort in the Island Garden City of Samal and brought them to Sulu.

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55 sa ASG, 7 bihag, kinukupkop ng Sulu politicians?

NI NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Nasa 55 armadong miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), kasama ang pitong Indonesian na bihag nito ang nagkakampo ngayon sa isang liblib na sitio sa Luuk, Sulu, at sinasabing inaayudahan ng ilang pulitiko sa nabanggit na bayan.

Sinabi kahapon ng isang military source na tumangging pangalanan na dumating sa Luuk ang grupo ng Abu Sayyaf leader na si Alhabsi Misaya, at 55 nitong armadong tauhan, dakong 5:00 ng hapon nitong Huwebes.

Ayon pa sa source, inaayudahan ang grupo ng mga residente at ng ilang pulitiko na nagkakaloob sa kanila ng logistical at intelligence requirements.

Sinabi ng source na nakatuloy ngayon ang grupo ni Misaya sa Sitio Bulagsih sa Luuk, kasama ang pitong Indonesian na bihag ng mga ito.

Matatandaang pinaigting ng militar ang kampanya nito laban sa

Abu Sayyaf sa Sulu, sa layuning mapalaya o mailigtas ang mga bihag ng grupo.

Kasabay nito, tatlong tauhan ng Field Artillery Battalion, na iniuugnay

sa Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT)-10 ang pinagbabaril at napatay nitong Huwebes ng umaga ng mga hinihinalang tauhan ng ASG sa Indanan, Sulu.

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p. 2

Dobleng sahod ng PNP at AFP malabo pa

MALABO pang maisakatuparan ngayon ang pangako ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na do-doblehin niya ang sahod ng mga pulis at sundalo sa unang taon ng kaniyang panunungkulan.

Ayon kay Budget Sec. Benjamin Diokno, walang nailaan na pondo para sa ganitong alokasyon sa P3.35 trillion na budget

para sa susunod na taon.

Isa sa mga tumatak na pangako ni Pangulong Duterte sa kaniyang kampanya noon ay ang pagpataas ng basic salary ng mga tauhan ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Naniniwala kasi siya na kung tataasan ang sweldo ng mga pulis at sundalo, hindi na kakapit ang mga ito sa patalim at isasangkot ang kanilang sarili sa mga ilegal na aktibidad.

Minsan pa ngang nag-alok ang pangulo ng P5 milyong pabuya sa pulis

na makakapatay sa mga big-time drug lords.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Diokno na pansamantala munang maisasantabi ang pangakong ito ng pangulo dahil may iba pang mga problemang pinansyal sa PNP at AFP ang kailangang maunang harapin ng pamahalaan.

Tiniyak naman ni Diokno na pinag-aaralan nila ito, at ipinaalala na makakatanggap naman ng dagdag sweldo ang mga ito sa susunod na taon alinsunod sa Salary Standardization Law na isinabatas ni dating Pangulong Noyonoy Aquino.

p. 3

3 Marines todas sa Abu Sayyaf sa Sulu

PATAY ang tatlong Marines matapos pagbabarilin ng mga hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf group sa Indanan, Sulu.

Ayon kay Western Mindanao Command spokesperson Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., kumukuha lamang ng mga supplies ang mga sundalo ng Field Artillery Battalion ng Marine Battalion Landing Team 10 (MBLT10) sa Brgy. Manilop, Indanan nang bigla silang pagbabarilin ng mga suspek.

Bigo namang mahabol ng mga rumespondeng sundalo ang mga suspek na agad na nag-pulasan at tumakas.

Dinala na sa Camp Gen. Teodulfo Bautista sa bayan ng Jojo ang mga labi ng mga sundalong hindi pa muna pinangalanan.

16 July 2016

Pahina 3

ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE TUTULDUKAN 1 Batalyon ng SAF, Marines idedeploy sa Bilibid

NI JOY CANTOS

Isang batalyon ng PNP-Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) ang idedeploy ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) sa Muntinlupa City upang mahigpit na bantayan ang pasilidad at linisin ito sa talamak na illegal drug trade.

Ayon kay PNP Chief

P/Director General Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, ang pagdedeploy ng SAF commandos sa NBP ay bilang pagtalima sa kahilingan ng Department of Justice (DOJ) sa PNP upang matuldukan ang problema ng droga sa nasabing piitan na kinasasangkutan ng mga nakapiit ditong drug lord.

Sinabi ni dela Rosa na 100 mula SAF troopers mula sa planong isang batalyon (500 SAF personnel) ang kanilang inisyal na idedeploy sa nasabing piitan at saka na ito dadagdagan.

"Yun na lang munang initial na 100 SAF personnel ang idedeploy natin, one battalion (500) ang ating ipadadala dun to secure the facility", ani dela Rosa na nagla-

layon umanong malinis sa illegal-na transaksyon ng droga ang piitan.

"Ito yung pinaka pressing problem na kinakaharap natin sabi nga nasa national emergency na tayo pagdating sa drugs so kailangan ng special units na mag-address dito", pahayag ng PNP Chief.

Inihayag pa ni dela Rosa na makikipagtu-lungan rin ang PNP sa

Philippine Marines na magdedeploy rin ng mga tauhan sa nasabing piitan bilang suporta sa pinalakas na anti-drug campaign ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Nabatid na epektibo Agosto 1 ng taong ito ay uupo na sa puwesto si incoming Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR) Chief Marine Major Gen. Alexander Balutan.

Alinsunod sa plano ay babantayan ng mag-katuwang na puwersa ng Philippine Marines

at SAF commandos ang nasabing prison facility na pinagkukulungan sa mga notoryus na big time drug lord.

Samantalang hindi naman permanente ang deployment ng SAF troopers sa NBP at alisin rin ang mga ito sa pagbabantay dito sa sandaling matuldukan na ang illegal drug trade dito.

Magugunita na nalarma ang administrasyon sa talamak na operasyon ng droga sa NBP kung saan mga

high profile na drug lord ang nasa likod ng illegal na transaksyon sa kabila ng nakapiit ang mga ito sa kulungan.

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The Manila Times

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DRUNKEN AIR FORCE MAN SHOT DEAD BY SEA MARSHAL

A drunken officer of the Philippine Air Force was shot dead by an assigned Sea Marshal on board a passenger ship from Iloilo City, a report said on Friday. It was learned that a passenger of M/M Saint Therese of the Child Jesus owned by 2GO complained that Staff Sergeant Ricardo Mones, of Biñan, Laguna was drunk and was creating trouble while other passengers were singing on a karaoke. Mones was invited by Sea Marshal SP01 Redentor Quiñones, of the Maritime Group to the ship's medical clinic where he was interrogated by the ship's doctor Edward Sare in a bid to pacify him. But instead of cooling down, Mones even bragged that he was a decorated Scout Ranger, whereby he tried to grab the service firearm of the Sea Marshal. But as they grappled for the gun, Mones sustained a gunshot wound, according to Special Action Force agent P03 Reynante Palomino who was also assigned to secure the ship. Quiñones voluntarily surrendered himself, including his .9mm service firearm to authorities upon docking of the ship in Manila North Harbor in Tondo. The incident was still under investigation.

JAIME R. PILAPIL

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Standard
MAGNETIC SECURITY SYSTEM

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Welcome back. Armed Forces Chief Ricardo Visaya welcomes 135 members of the United Nations' peacekeeping force from Haiti in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. **MANNY PALMERO**

July 2016

The Manila Times

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED A member of the 19th Philippine peacekeeping contingent to Haiti is congratulated by Armed Forces chief Gen. Ricardo Bisaya during conferment of UN Service Medals on Friday at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. The contingent was led by Col. Vincent Incognito. PHOTO BY MIKE DE JUAN

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MANILA: BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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VOLLEYBALL PSL: RC Cola eyes solo lead

By KRISTEL SATUMBAGA

Games Today
(The Arena, San Juan City)
2 p.m. - Amy's vs Petron
4 p.m. - Foton vs RC Cola-Army
6 p.m. - Cignal vs Generika

Streaking RC Cola-Army goes for the solo lead when it clashes with Foton today in the Philippine Superliga All-Filipino Conference at The Arena in San Juan City.

The Lady Troopers are aiming for their fifth straight win in as many matches in their 4 p.m. confrontation with the Tornadoes.

RC Cola-Army is currently tied for the lead with idle F2 Logistics.

Meantime, Petron tries to rebound from a 25-22, 25-23, 25-11 defeat to RC Cola-Army when it collides with Amy's - a team aching to barge into the win-column after dropping its first four games.

Their game is set at 4 p.m.

Also hoping to nail its first win is Cignal which is pitted against Generika at 6 p.m.

Like Amy's, Cignal had also lost its first four matches.

RC Cola-Army Coach Kungfu Reyes said their easy win the last time was nothing to crow about, saying Petron was not in full force that time.

"All teams are strong and talented. But good thing, we are slowly reaching our peak," said Reyes.

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Pahina. 11

PLAYER'S PROFILE

Christine Agno palaban sa spike

Dating open spiker si Christine Agno pero nakilala siyang matikas na libero sa kanyang collegiate career.

Walang interest sa volleyball ang 5-foot-3 na si Agno hanggang isang araw noong siyam na taong gulang siya ay sinubukan niyang maglaro nito.

"Walang experience nag-try lang talaga akong mag volleyball, walang background sa family, hanggang unti-unti nag training, tapos nag eenjoy na ako, kasi iba 'yung sayang nararamdaman ko," wika ni 22-year old 'Tin' (palayaw niya).

Naglaro si Agno sa De La Salle Lipa bilang open spiker, naging libero nang maglaro sa Far Eastern University at minsang tinanghal na Best Digger sa UAAP Season 74.

"Naglaro ako sa Palarong Pambansa tapos na scout ako ng FEU kaya nakapaglaro ako sa Lady Tamaraws," pahayag ni Agno.

Minsan rin nahilig si Tin, pangalawa sa apat na magkakapatid, sa football pero nanatili ang kanyang puso sa volleyball at nagtuloy-tuloy ang kanyang pag-asenso sa laro.

Sa ngayon, isang Soldier-Athlete ang batang Lipa City Batangas at kasalukuyang naglalaro sa RC-Cola Army Troopers bilang libero sa Philippine Superliga (PSL).

"Dream position ko talaga ang open spiker, pero dahil maliit ako kaya naging libero," ani Agno na ang paboritong artista ay si John Lloyd Cruz.



Matapang at walang takot sumalag ng bola sa mga palo ng kalaban kaya naman tama lang sa kanya ang pagiging Soldier-Athlete.

Pero ang hindi alam ng kanyang mga fans, si Tin ay iyakin kapag nanonood ng mga paborito niyang Romantic movies.

Kasama si Agno ng magkampeon ang Army Troopers sa PSL Invitation, 2016. (Elech Dawa)

ONLINE NEWS

16 JULY 2016

AFP honors newly-returned 19th PHL Contingent to Haiti

From the Philippine News Agency (Jul 15): AFP honors newly-returned 19th PHL Contingent to Haiti

For its year-long sterling peacekeeping service for the United Nations, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) honored the newly-returned 19th Philippine Contingent to Haiti (PCH) on Friday.

The 135-strong unit, which was commanded by Col. Vincent B. Incognito, was given their United Nations Service Medals at the GHQ Canopy Area, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The PCH officers and enlisted personnel were formally welcomed by AFP chief Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya, Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Edgar R. Fallorina, Armed Forces deputy chief-of-staff for operations Major Gen. Carlito G. Galvez and AFP Peacekeeping Operations Center chief Col. Eugenio V. Hernandez.

"As peacekeepers deployed to one of the most politically unstable environments in the world, critical responsibilities were bestowed upon you. And alongside those duties are the challenges of working in a foreign land, thousand miles away from home and your loved ones," Visaya said.

The AFP deployed its first contingents to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in 2004 following its establishment through the Security Council Resolution No. 1542.

MINUSTAH was established to maintain a secure and stable environment, assist in strengthening Haiti's government institutions, and promote and protect human rights after the series of armed conflicts that shook the country under the Aristide administration.

The 19th PCH was organized and selected based on the manning requirements specified in the agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations.

Composed of 135 members -- 11 officers and 124 enlisted personnel -- the contingent provided administrative and security operations through clerical services, transport services, VIP security, and perimeter defense.

The all Air Force contingent arrived in the country last July 11 and immediately underwent a medical checkup at the AFP Medical Center.

They were replaced by the all-Army 20th PCH which left the country last July 8.

"As your eyes have been opened with the problems occurring outside the territory we are primarily tasked to protect, I am certain that you have gained the motivation to serve more because you now have more to offer to our country and to the Filipino people," the AFP chief added.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=904364>

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

AFP wants to improve service through social media

From the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Jul 15): **AFP wants to improve service through social media**

There's no stopping the rise of social media in the Philippines and soldiers are also all over Facebook.

But this powerful tool has its advantages and disadvantages, and this is why the Armed Forces of the Philippines is holding its 3rd Social Media Summit on Friday at Camp Aguinaldo to discuss prevailing social media issues and tools to enhance its engagement with the public.

"[Social media] is a powerful platform... it can affect change, so why not learn the things that can make us master the power of social media so that we can improve public service," said Lt. Michael Aquino, commander of Media and Civil Affairs Group of the Civil Relations Service.

He said social media has been useful to them, especially in disseminating information during disasters and calamities.

"It also helps out to clarify misinformation being spread around," he added.

In 2014, the Philippine Army came out with its own social media handbook, which sets the ground rules for the troops in using social media, whether with their office or unit account or their own private accounts.

But this has been exclusive to the Army and Aquino said they are also formulating an AFP-wide social media handbook.

"There have been efforts to come out with a protocol," he said without giving more details.

This year's theme, "Change. Move. Achieve: Moving Forward Through Social Media," Aquino said that they will focus on matters that will enhance their efforts in public service.

INQUIRER.net editor in chief John Nery will discuss "Going Viral: Lessons for Creating Stories with Impact."

Social media and countering violent extremism will be tackled by Captain Chistopher Hayes of the Military Information Support Team.

Other speakers are Jose Gabriel Lavina, social media director for the campaign of President Rodrigo Duterte, will discuss "Thunderbolt: Winning the Social Media Wars of the 2016 Presidential Election;" Ramon Isberto of PLDT-Smart Communications public affairs will discuss social media and public relations; Noel Jeffrey Gonzales, BPI brand manager will talk about the importance of big data and social media benchmarks and Carlo Ople of the Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines will discuss bridging generation gaps through social media.

<http://technology.inquirer.net/49464/afp-wants-to-improve-service-through-social-media>

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

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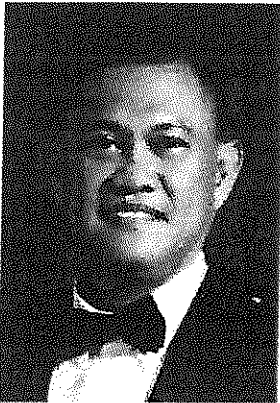
Marines general tapped to head BuCor to take over post by Aug. 1

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Philippine Marines General Alexander Balutan. (Photo from Mr. Balutan's Facebook page.)

MANILA — The Philippine Marines general appointed as the new Bureau of Corrections director will retire early from the military on July 30 and will bring several Marines to help guard the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs chief, has announced that Marine Major Gen. Alexander Balutan will be given retirement honors by the Philippine Navy on July 30 before he assumes his post as BuCor director on Aug. 1.

"He (Balutan) said that this is a job that nobody wants to take, it's only a Marine who's willing to take this job, that's why he took it," Arevalo said in a press briefing.

Arevalo has also confirmed that Balutan will bring along Marine soldiers to the New Bilibid Prison to work in tandem with the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force personnel to guard the state penitentiary and its high-profile inmates.

In 2015, the Department of Justice repeatedly raided the Bilibid and found that inmates had set up apartments within the cells too luxurious for prisoners, had smuggled contraband or prohibited items such as drugs. Intelligence reports have revealed that robbery and drug trafficking convicts have been able to continue with their illicit trade from prison.

The Marines to be deployed in New Bilibid have been undergoing special training, Arevalo said.

He added the SAF and Marine troops would take monthly rotating assignments, he said.

Balutan is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983. He is a veteran of the Mindanao conflict and earned the nickname "Mandirigma" (warrior).

The general gained prominence in 2005 when he testified before the Senate on the alleged election cheating in Mindanao, defying an order from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for all executive branch officials to seek clearance and permission first from Malacañang before testifying in legislative inquiries.

Balutan was court-martialed but his case was later dismissed due to prescription. **SFM/rga**

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