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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

23 June 2016

Thursday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

23 JUNE 2016



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

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The Manila Times

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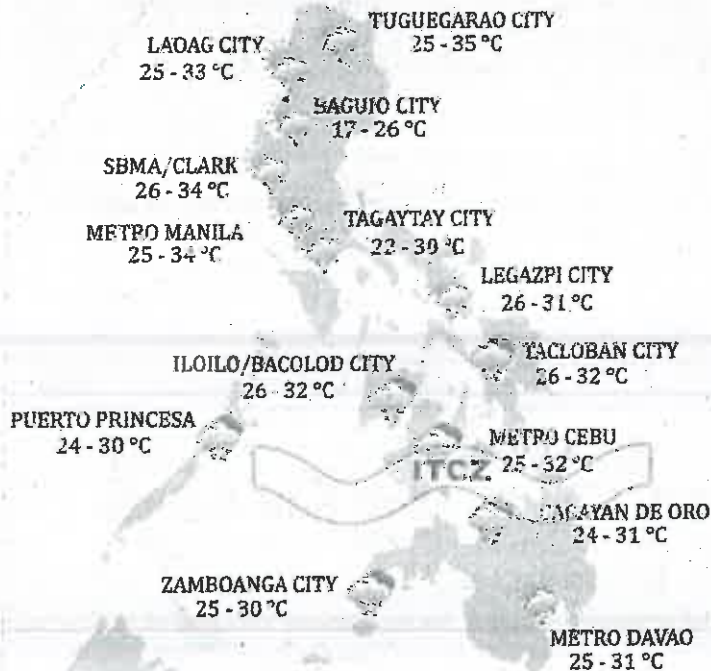


The Manila Times

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST

JUNE 23, 2016 | THURSDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE
AFFECTING VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(JUNE 22, 5:00 PM)



SUNRISE

5:29 AM

SUNSET

6:28 PM

MOONRISE

8:47 PM

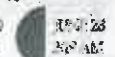
MOONSET

7:45 AM

FULL MOON



LAST QUARTER



LOW TIDE

7:44 PM
-0.06 Meter

HIGH TIDE

11:16 AM
1.25 Meter

Partly cloudy to 4 times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	JUNE 23 MANILA	JUNE 23 SARANGANI	JUNE 23 SIPOT		JUNE 23 SARANGANI	JUNE 23 SIPOT	JUNE 23 SARANGANI
METRO MANILA	25-34°C	26-34°C	25-35°C	BAGUIO	17-26°C	16-26°C	17-26°C
METRO CEBU	26-32°C	27-33°C	25-33°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-30°C	26-32°C	25-31°C
METRO DAVAO	24-31°C	24-30°C	24-32°C	BORACAY	23-30°C	23-30°C	23-30°C



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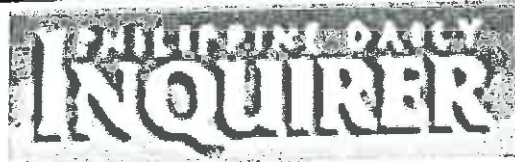


/PanahonTV

5, 5295

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

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US to China, rivals: Be calm after ruling

Court decision seen to help start talks

THE UNITED States on Wednesday called on China and other rival claimants to exercise restraint when an international tribunal issues a landmark ruling on the South China Sea disputes that Beijing has chosen to ignore.

A senior US state department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to Asian journalists through a teleconference, said the upcoming decision by the arbitration panel in The Hague may offer "a great deal of clarity" on the disputes and help the claimants forge an arrangement to avoid potential confrontations.

She said the decision, expected within weeks, could also serve as a jumping-off point to diplomatic talks.

"We would certainly call on all governments to exercise restraint and to use this post-arbitration period as an opportunity to restart those diplomatic discussions," she said.

China has said it would not recognize any arbitration decision despite calls by several

Asian and Western governments for it to respect international law.

Some fear Beijing may take a harder stance and take provocative actions if it comes under pressure from outside, including by the United States, to comply with an adversarial ruling.

In a harsh attack on US policies in Asia, the flagship newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party on Wednesday accused Washington of seeking to turn the South China Sea "into a powder keg" and warned it not to underestimate China's determination to defend its territorial claims.

The People's Daily cited re-

US TO CHINA / A6 15-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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US to China, rivals: Be calm after ruling

From page A i

cent combined exercises by two US Navy aircraft carrier strike groups off the eastern coast of the Philippines as a sign of US hegemony and said Washington had made a mistake in seeking to intimidate China.

In making displays of military power aimed at China, the United States has "picked the wrong counterpart," said the editorial, the contents of which are usually vetted by high ranking party officials.

Competing claims

US military activity, including freedom of navigation cruises near China's man-made islands and exercises with allies, is contributing to the militarization of the region, the editorial said.

China claims almost all of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea, in-

cluding waters close to the shores of its smaller neighbors in the region.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, a crucial waterway where \$5 trillion in global shipborne trade passes every year and where islets, reefs and atolls are believed to be sitting atop vast energy reserves.

Beijing prefers one-on-one negotiations with each of the rival claimants, an arrangement that gives it advantage because of its sheer size and clout and prevents Washington from playing any role to resolve the conflicts.

In the case filed in the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Philippines challenged the validity of China's "nine-dash line" claiming virtually the entire stretch of the South China Sea and demanded respect for its right to explore resources in waters within its 370-km exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The Philippines also asked the tribunal to rule whether several disputed areas are outcrops, reefs or islands and how much stretch of territorial waters they project.

Natuna incidents

The US official also expressed concern over China's Coast Guard ships escorting Chinese fishing vessels in areas including Indonesia's Natuna Islands, where Indonesian vessels fired warning shots on Friday.

Indonesia has rejected China's stance that the two nations have overlapping claims on "maritime rights and interests" in the South China Sea.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Wednesday said his country had "no overlapping claims in any form in Indonesian waters with China."

But Jakarta has objected to Beijing's inclusion of waters around Natuna Islands within its "nine-dash line" claim to almost all of the South China Sea.

A Chinese fishing boat entered those waters on Friday, prompting an Indonesian naval vessel to fire a warning shot, injuring one person.

It was the third reported confrontation between Indonesian naval vessels and Chinese fishing boats near the Natuna Islands this year.

Confrontation at Ayungin

The Philippines also has stood up to China's bullying in the South China Sea, with a small, rickety Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources vessel outsmarting a large Chinese Coast Guard ship to restock a small Marine garrison on the BRP Sierra Madre on Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) in the Spratly Islands on March 29, 2014.

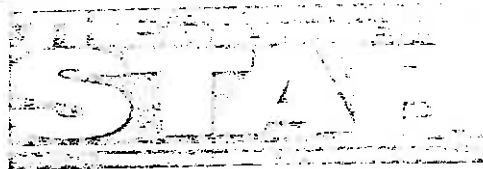
The next day, the Philippines submitted evidence to the arbitration court in The Hague, which proceeded to hear the case despite China's refusal to take part in the proceedings.

In his last week in office, President Aquino is waiting for the ruling, which he hopes will be in favor of the Philippines.

"We have done what we can [to obtain] a resolution that is fair to all parties concerned," Mr. Aquino told reporters in a recent news conference.

Mr. Aquino steps down on June 30.
Reports from AP, Reuters and Nikko Dizon

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Page 1

'Thou shall not kill' is absolute – Pope

Rody: Death is retribution, not deterrent

VATICAN CITY – Pope Francis is amplifying his opposition to capital punishment, saying it's an offense to life, contradicts God's plan and serves no purpose for punishment.

In a video message to an anti-death penalty congress in Norway, Francis declared the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" has absolute value and applies both to the innocent and to the guilty.

Francis has gone beyond his predecessors and traditional Catholic teaching in saying there is simply no justification for the death penalty today. He said Tuesday that rather than rendering justice, it fosters vengeance.

Church teaching allows for recourse to capital punishment when it is the only way to defend lives "effectively" against an aggressor.

"It must not be forgotten that the inviolable and God-given right to life also belongs to the criminal," he said.

Francis sent the video message to the delegates of the sixth World Congress against capital punishment, currently being held in Oslo, Norway.

The pontiff did not mention any particular country in his message.

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Thou shall From Page 1

He stressed the practice of capital punishment brings no justice to victims.

"Indeed, nowadays, the death penalty is unacceptable, however grave the crime of the convicted person," Francis said in the message.

The World Congress in Oslo discussed the need to sustain the move in abolishing the death penalty in some countries.

As of today, 140 nations have abolished the death penalty, as compared to only 16 countries in 1977.

The Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Madagascar, Mongolia and Suriname become the latest countries to formally abolish capital punishment.

The death penalty is prevalent in Asia and the Middle East, with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran responsible for 89 percent of recorded executions in 2015. This does not include China, where official statistics on its use are considered a state secret.

China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the US are the five biggest executioners in the world.

Other countries have passed counterterrorism laws that expanded the list of crimes punishable by death.

In the Philippines, president-elect Rodrigo Duterte has announced his intent to bring back the death penalty, 29 years after its abolition was formally adopted.

Duterte stressed the need to revive the death pen-

alty which, he said, would serve as "retribution" for those who committed crimes.

He said those who insist that the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime do not understand his position on the issue.

"The death penalty might be a deterrence to commit a crime but that is one school of thought," Duterte said. "Death penalty to me is the retribution. It makes you pay for what you did."

Even without capital punishment, Philippine police have killed more than 60 drug suspects all over the country in the six weeks since Duterte was elected on May 9.

The death penalty was abolished in 1987 during the time of President Corazon Aquino but was revived in 1993 under President Fidel Ramos. Around a handful of convicts were executed during the abbreviated term of then president Joseph Estrada.

Crimes punishable by death include murder, rape, kidnapping and drug trafficking.

Former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a devout Catholic, signed a law abolishing capital punishment in 2006.

Duterte reiterated that he would not hesitate to kill those who seek to destroy the youth, which he said is the future of the country.

"Do not destroy my country because I will kill you. Do not destroy my children because I will kill you," he said.

Duterte, who has pummeled critics of his strong

anti-crime drive, said he would just ignore Commission on Human Rights Chairman Chito Gascon, who has been critical of his plans.

"If you know Gascon or if he is your friend, tell him I won't follow him," he said.

Duterte also made an unusual threat against incoming senator Leila de Lima,

who vowed to scrutinize the law enforcement operations of the next administration.

"If De Lima does not shut her mouth, I will kill her - with love. If she agrees, I don't know," he remarked. - AP, Alexis Romero

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29 troops, ASG terrorists killed or wounded

By Mario J. Mallari

Twenty-nine soldiers and Abu Sayyaf terrorists were either killed or wounded after intense clash erupted between government troops and the bandit group in the outskirts of Sulu Tuesday afternoon.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said that three Abu Sayyaf terrorists were killed while 10 others were wounded during the clash in Sitio Bud Duwa Bayho, Barangay Pansul, Patikul town, at around 2:20 p.m.

On the other hand, Tan said that 16 soldiers were wounded.

The government casualties were immediately brought to Camp General Teodoro Bautista in Busbus, Jolo for medical treatment.

According to Tan, elements of the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion (IB) encountered more or less 200 Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

"The encounter lasted for about 1 hour and 30 minutes, after which the ASG members scampered toward separate directions," said Tan.

"Hot pursuit operations are still ongoing," he added.

The encounter was the first

contact between pursuing government troops and the Abu Sayyaf group, following the beheading of Canadian Robert Hall last June 13.

Hall was beheaded after the deadline for the payment of P600 million ransom expired. His head was found near the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Jolo while his body is yet to be recovered.

Last April 25, another Canadian - John Ridsdel, was also beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf. His head was found in front of the Jolo town hall while his body was recovered in the jungles of Sulu days later.

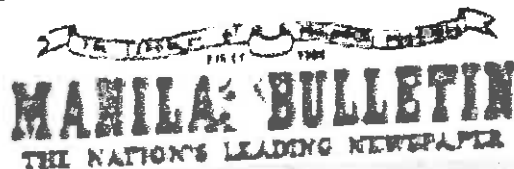
The two Canadians were among the four hostages snatched from the posh Oceanview Resort on Samal Island last September. The other two - Norwegian Ejertar Sekkingstad and Filipino Marites Flor, remained under Abu Sayyaf captivity.

The terrorists threatened to harm Sekkingstad next if their P600 million ransom demand is not met.

Aside from Flor and Sekkingstad, the military said that the Abu Sayyaf also holds five other captives.

Tan did not mention if there was sighting of the remaining hostages during the clash in Patikul.

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3 Abu Sayyaf killed; troops take 2 Sulu camps

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Three Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed and 26 other combatants - 10 Abu Sayyaf and 16 soldiers - were wounded in a 90-

minutes firefight at a remote sitio in Patikul town in Sulu province Tuesday afternoon.

Major Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-

WestMinCom), reported that troops of the 32nd Infantry Battalion led by Lt. Col. Ramon Flores encountered about 200 Abu Sayyaf men at about 2:20 p.m. at Sitio Bud Duwa Bayho, Barangay Pansul, in Patikul, Sulu.

The firefight between the military and the Abu Sayyaf lasted about 90 minutes leaving three ASG gunmen dead and 10 wounded. The 16 wounded soldiers were immediately brought to the Kuta Heneral Teodoro Bau- ▶4

tista Trauma Hospital in Busbus, Jolo, Sulu, for treatment.

As the military continued its operations in Sulu, the 45th Infantry Battalion overrun two major Abu Sayyaf camps in Barangay Sinumaan, Talipao, Sulu.

According to Tan, the two camps can accommodate approximately 150 persons. They had running trenches

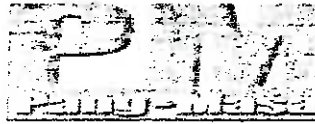
and potable water within the perimeter of the two camps.

During a search in the camps, the military found hammocks, water containers, and other personal belongings of the Abu Sayyaf.

The AFP continues its operations in Sulu to rescue the remaining hostages that are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

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Pahina. 2

3 berdugo ng 2 pinugutan na Canadian napatay

Napatay sa military operation ang tatlong bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group na sangkot sa pangngidnap at pamumugot ng ulo sa dalawang bihag nilang Canadian national sa naganap na engkuwentro kamakalawa sa lalawigan ng Sulu.

Ayon kay Major Felimon Ian, Spokesman ng AFP-Western Mindanao Command bandang alas-2:20 ng hapon nang makasagupa ng operating troops ng Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion ang nasa 200 Abu Sayyaf sa Sitio Bud Duwa Bayho, Brgy.

Pansul, Patikul

Tumagal ng mahigit isang oras at kalahati ang bakbakan bago nagsiatrias ang mga bandido nang mapatay ang tatlo at tinangay ang mga nasugatan nilang kasamahan.

Sa panig ng pamahalaan ay 16 ang nartalang sugatan na dinala na sa Trauma Hospital sa Zamboanga City.

Wala namang nakitang presensya ng mga hostages sa encounter site na pinaniniwalaang nailipat ng lugar ng mga kidnaper matapos na mamataan ang pagdating

ng mga sundalo.

Ang Focused Military Operations (FMO) ay inilunsad upang iligtas ang pito pang nalalabing mga bihag ng mga bandido sa lalawigan ng Sulu.

Kabilang pa sa mga hostages na hawak ng mga kidnappers ay ang Norwegian na si Kjartan Sekkingstad at ang Pinay na si Maritess Flor na kasamang binihag ng dalawang Canadian na pinugutan ng ulo na sina John Ridsdel at Robert Hall noong Abril 25 at Hunyo 13 ng taong ito, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

- Joy Cantos-

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

PA Mobile C3 Center deployed during nationwide quake drill

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 22)

The Philippine Army's (PA) mobile command, control and communication center was tested during the second Metro Manila Shake Drill and National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) Wednesday.

It is also known as the PA Mobile C3 Center, said Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao.

It is the latest land based mobile communication platform developed by the Army.

Col. Vener Odilon D. Mariano, PA Assistant Chief-of-Staff for Command and Control Communication and Cyber System, said the PA Mobile C3 Center is the latest land based mobile communication platform developed by the Army.

"This Mobile C3 Center will serve as the alternate Army Operations Center for continuous command, control and communications for humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations of the Army," he added.

The PA Mobile C3 Center is equipped with major means of communications ranging from high frequency (HF), very high frequency (VHF), ultra high frequency (UHF), air and marine bands including satellite voice capability.

It can communicate in different Armed Forces of the Philippines and Army major units through voice and data using the telephone extenders and its radio communications.

Hao said the PA's participation in the earthquake drill aims to prepare the military personnel and its dependents before, during and after the earthquake to save lives and properties.

The Army's HADR units were also alerted to respond during the occurrence of disasters and calamities.

The PA is one of the government agencies that is immediately deployed as first responders during disasters.

<http://www.rappler.com/>

Project Shoebox: It's Basilan soldiers' turn to get gifts

Richard Falcatan

The PH Army has 'Project Shoebox: Shoebox ko, Para sa Pag-aaral Mo' for school children. A UPLB sorority decides that soldiers should receive the gifts this time.



GIVING BACK. The Sigma Alpha Sorority of UP Los Baños delivers 1,500 gift boxes to soldiers in Basilan to thank them for their sacrifices for the country. Photo courtesy of the Philippine Army

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines – Remember that longtime campaign of donating school supplies in shoeboxes to children? The Philippine Army has adopted that with its "Project Shoebox: Shoebox ko, Para sa Pag-aaral Mo."

The Sigma Alpha Sorority of the University of the Philippines Los Baños had a better idea, though: It launched the shoebox project to bring gifts to soldiers in Basilan.

"Project Shoebox: Bayanihan para sa mga Bayani ng Bayan" seeks to give military personnel personal items as a way of thanking them for their sacrifices for the country.

On Friday, June 17, the Sigma Alpha Sorority turned over 1,500 giftboxes to the military personnel of the 104th Brigade, 18th Infantry Battalion, 64th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion, 4th Special Forces Battalion, and 8th Field Artillery Battalion of the Philippine Army.

The turnover ceremony was held at the headquarters of the 104th Brigade.

The boxes contained hygienic kits, clothes, reading materials, and other tokens from donors.

The Army started its Project Shoebox for school children through its Southern Luzon Command in 2012.

The initiative, which was led by then Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Sedano Jr, then Commander of the 4th Light Armor Battalion, has since been replicated by other Army units.

The military's gift-giving project targets mostly students in villages that are under the influence of communist rebels or have been devastated by natural calamities. Other government agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations, have participated as well.

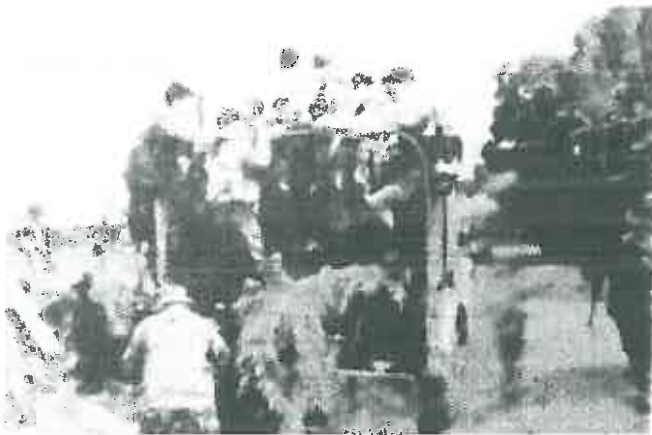
Project Shoebox is supported by the Office of the Civil Affairs Division, led by Captain Michael Angelo Ramirez. – Rappler.com

www.interaksyon.com/national

P4.5M marijuana seized in Agusan del Sur

By: Erwin M. Mascariñas, InterAksyon.com

June 22, 2016 5:50 PM



File photograph of marijuana plants confiscated by police in Lanao del Sur, from PNP-ARMM.

Cagayan de Oro City - Barely a week after the Caraga Police Regional Office 13 (PRO13) pounced on some PhP6.6 million worth of marijuana in Loreto, Agusan del Sur, a composite police and army raid confiscated around P4.5 million pesos worth of marijuana at a mountain barangay in the town of La Paz, Agusan del Sur, Monday afternoon.

"Our team, comprised of men from La Paz Municipal Police Station, the Regional Intelligence Division and soldiers from the Army's 26th Infantry Battalion, went to Km 32, Barangay Valentina, and seized marijuana stalks weighing around 36.5 kilograms and an estimated Dangerous Drug Board valuation of PhP4,562,500," said Police Superintendent Michael Lozada, spokesperson of PRO13.

Lozada pointed out that the operation was conducted "based on information from the barangay chairman of Barangay Valentina in the town of La Paz in Agusan del Sur by our provincial intelligence personnel. Aside from the already harvested marijuana stalks, our raiding team also discovered 30 more marijuana plants that the Dangerous Drug Board estimated to be worth Php6,000.00 planted in the area."

Lozada added that PRO13 is looking at the possibility there are more plantations in the area.

"We are intensifying our information collection activity in Agusan del Sur to pinpoint where the plantations are and who might be involved. We are also coordinating with the Bukidnon provincial police since the area is more accessible through Bukidnon, and most of the marijuana is shipped through their side rather than Agusan del Sur," he said.

Police Senior Inspector Ignacio Serano Jr, station commander of the La Paz Municipal Police station, revealed how the operation was conducted:

"After we received the information, the members of the provincial police intelligence unit, together with 16 soldiers and eight of my personnel, drove toward Barangay Valentina. We walked another six hours just to reach the location of the plantation, which is hidden by the forest. By my estimate, the area is about 60 kilometers away from the town proper of La Paz and it is almost at the border of Bukidnon," said Serano. Serano told InterAksyon that it was not easy to gain access to the area because of its remote geographical location and the possible risk of encountering insurgents.

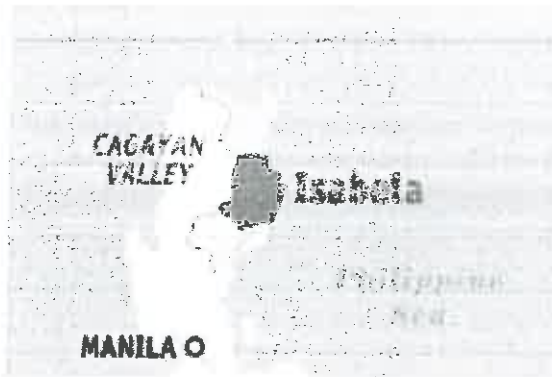
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www.interaksyon.com/national

NDFP peace consultant on alert for missing tribesmen allegedly abducted by Army troops

By: Aldwin Quitasol, InterAksyon.com

June 22, 2016 3:14 PM



BAGUIO CITY - Randy Malayao, a National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant on the peace process, on Wednesday expressed concerns regarding the possible abduction of Aggay tribesmen of San Mariano, Isabela by elements of the Philippine Army 5th Infantry Division.

According to Malayao, the human rights group Karapatan-Cagayan Valley (Karapatan CV) has reported that some indigenous people in San Mariano have been taken away by Army troops operating under the 86th Infantry Battalion of the 5th Infantry Division.

"If there is some truth to this, or that some Aggays are being forced to serve as guide by patrolling troops, we condemn this as violation of protocols of war or of rules of engagement," Malayao said.

Karapatan, in an alert message, stated that 16 Aggays, including women and children, were seized by the government soldiers on June 17, 2016. The human rights group also reported that the soldiers illegally searched the huts of the Agtas.

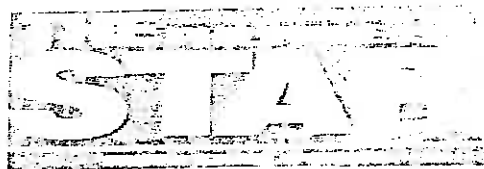
Malayao said that KARAPATAN CV, with the Social Action Center of the Archdiocese of Ilagan City, Isabela and representatives of the Provincial Government of Isabela conducted a search for the missing Aggays.

According to the group, the 5TH Infantry Division denied that the Aggay tribesmen were in their custody.

Malayao added that Aggays interviewed by Karapatan-CV said some of their village mates were forced into a helicopter.

He said, while this still has to be verified, "ang malinaw, may ongoing military operations sa Tappa-Cadsalan-Buyasan area ng San Mariano (What's clear is that there is an ongoing military operation)."

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3 Sayyaf killed, 2 camps captured in Sulu

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Three suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed and 26 others wounded in a running gun battle in Patikul, Sulu, the military reported yesterday.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said government troops encountered a large group of Abu Sayyaf gunmen, triggering a firefight in a remote area in Barangay Pan-sul, Patikul town on Tuesday.

Among those wounded during the encounter were 16 soldiers, Tan said.

Tan said troops of the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion figured in clashes with some 200 Abu Sayyaf in the area.

He said the gun battle lasted

for over an hour as troops tried to go after the bandits carrying their wounded.

Initial reports said 10 bandits were wounded.

The fighting erupted as government forces were on the offensive to rescue the remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf.

On Monday, troops overran two camps of the Abu Sayyaf in a remote village in Talipao.

Tan said the troops took the camps without any resistance from the escaping bandits. "There was no engagement when the troops captured the camp. But the indication was clear that the Abu Sayyaf hastily abandoned the camp and escaped," Tan said.

Tan said the troops recovered

several personal items from the camp, which he said could accommodate 150 people.

Tan said the troops continued to scour the area to prevent the Abu Sayyaf from moving away with their hostages.

The kidnappers still hold two of four hostages taken from Samal Island resort last September.

The Abu Sayyaf threatened to execute Norwegian Kjar-tan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor if their ransom demand is not met.

The bandits have beheaded two other hostages, Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall.

Ridsdel, a former mining executive, was beheaded in

April while Hall was executed last Monday.

President Aquino has vowed to devote all his energy to eliminating the Abu Sayyaf before he steps down from office on June 30.

Aquino had admitted planning to impose martial law in Sulu in the effort to contain the Abu Sayyaf.

However, he backed down from the plan, saying it might backfire and gain more sympathy for the enemy.

The Abu Sayyaf network is deeply entrenched and efforts to flush out its fighters have proved to be a big challenge for thousands of troops tracking them down.

The military had said some residents and relatives living in the islands of Sulu and Basilan are helping the bandits.

The hostage crisis forced the incoming team of president-elect Rodrigo Duterte to help the government overcome the threat of the Abu Sayyaf.

Duterte on Tuesday warned the Abu Sayyaf to surrender and release all hostages or face the consequences.

But the Abu Sayyaf laughed off Duterte's threat.

In a video circulating on social media, a Filipino-speaking jihadist, along with other three Asian-looking terrorists, taunted Duterte, saying he will be cursed.

"Wage a war with no mercy

against non-Muslims wherever they may be. Stab them, burn their houses and don't be swayed by the tactics of the newly elected Duterte. God will curse him," one of them said.

In the video, they said the ISIS has designated Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapiron as their "emir."

Armed Forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the video was another propaganda by the Abu Sayyaf.

"They have nothing to say except to spread evil and to propagate the values of radicalism and extremism. They are not very human in nature. These are animalistic and evil in their entirety," Padilla said.

– With Jaime Laude

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<http://bomboradyo.com/>

2 Abu Sayyaf camps, nakubkob ng militar

By Bombo Marilyn delos ,Wednesday, 22 June 2016 03:07

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Dalawang kampo ng Abu Sayyaf group (ASG) ang nakubkob ng militar sa nagpapatuloy na intensified law enforcement operation ng tropa ng pamahalaan partikular sa may Barangay Sinumaan, sa munisipyo ng Talipao lalawigan ng Sulu.

Ayon kay Major Filemon Tan, tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), nagsasagawa nang clearing operasyon sa lugar ang tropa ng 45th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army nang madiskubre ang dalawang inabandonang kampo.

Inihayag ni Tan na ang nakuhang mga kampo ay makakapag-accommodate ng nasa 150 katao na may running trenches at potable water pa sa loob nito.

Narekober din sa loob ng kampo ang mga personal na gamit ng mga tumakas na mga bandido.

Sa ngayon ay patuloy na tinutugis ng militar ang mga tumakas na bandido na pinaniniwalaang nasa bulubunduking bahagi pa rin ng Talipao.

"AFP continues to intensify the conduct of focused military operations in Sulu to pin down the Abu Sayyaf Group and rescue the remaining hostages," pahayag pa ni Tan.

Samantala, kinumpirma rin ng opisyal na hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay hindi pa nila narekober ang nawawalang bangkay ng Canadian national na si Robert Hall na pinugutan ng ulo noong nakaraang Lunes.

Umaaa pa rin ang militar na marerekober pa rin nila ang nawawalang bangkay ni Hall.

Una na ring nagpalabas nang mensahe ang Abu Sayyaf na ilalabas nila kahapon ang bangkay ni Hall pero hindi naman ito nangyari.

Habang lumabas din ang isa pang impormasyon noong nakaraang linggo na itinapon na nila sa karagatan ng bangkay ng dayuhang biktima.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/>

3 Abu Sayyaf killed, 16 troops injured in clash, says AFP

Rj Rosalado, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 22 2016 03:35 PM

MANILA – At least three fighters of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf were killed in a clash that also wounded 10 others in Patikul, Sulu on Tuesday.

Western Mindanao Command spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said at least 16 soldiers were also wounded in the firefight that lasted for more than an hour in Sitio Bud Duwa Bayho in the village of Pansul. Some of the soldiers were taken to the trauma hospital in Busbus, Jolo, Sulu for medical treatment while the others were airlifted to Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City.

Tan said operating troops from the 32nd Infantry Battalion were scouring the village of Pansul as part of its rescue mission for the remaining hostages of the Samal Island resort kidnapping when they chanced upon more than 200 bandits.

On Monday, the government troops overran two temporary camps of the Abu Sayyaf Group in the village of Sinumaan, Talipao, Sulu.

The temporary encampment could accommodate more than 150 persons with workable trenches and water supply.

There were also hammocks recovered and some personal belongings of the bandits.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin flew to Basilan on Wednesday morning to personally oversee the ongoing military operation against the bandits.

Tan said high-ranking military officers gave Gazmin a security briefing and development of the ongoing offensives that the military has been undertaking to neutralize some of the high-value targets in Basilan, including top commanders of the Abu Sayyaf and some foreign terrorists helping the bandits in the province.

Tan added that there has been no let-up in their operation to rescue the remaining hostages being held by the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu. These include Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor.

They were among the four kidnap victims snatched in a resort in Samal Island in Davao del Norte September of last year.

The Abu Sayyaf group beheaded the two Canadian nationals, John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, on separate dates, after ransom was not paid.

<http://bomboradyo.com/>

Sundalo pinatay sa Maguindanao

By Bombo Garry Fuerzas, Wednesday, 22 June 2016 08:10

COTABATO CITY - Kagagawan umano ng liquidation squad ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang nangyaring pananambang sa dalawang sundalo sa lalawigan ng Maguindanao.

Una nang makilala ang nasawi na si Sgt. Alexander Salgado habang nakaligtas ang kanyang kasama na si Pfc. Brian Callaga.

Ayon kay Maguindanao police provincial director S/Supt. Nickson Muksan, habang lulan ang mga biktima sa isang motorsiklo sa Sitio Matilac, Barangay Butilen, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao ay bigla silang tinambangan ng mga armadong kalalakihan gamit ang M16 armalite rifles at kalibre .45 na pistola.

Agad na binawian ng buhay si Salgado nang magtamo ito ng maraming tama ng bala sa iba't ibang bahagi ng kanyang katawan.

Nakaligtas naman si Callaga nang ito ay makatakbo patungo sa detachment ng Cafgu at mga sundalo.

Tumakas ang mga suspek patungo sa liblib na lugar sa bayan ng Datu Salibo dala ang motorsiklo at mga personal na kagamitan ni Salgado.

Marami ang naniniwala na posibleng kagagawan nang tinaguriang liquidation squad ng BIFF ang nanambang sa mga biktima.

Sa ngayon hinigpitan pa ng militar at pulisya ang pagpapatupad ng seguridad sa probinsya ng Maguindanao.

Up

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

<http://bomboradyo.com/>

2 sundalo at sibilyan sugatan sa pagsabog sa Cotabato

By Bombo Garry Fuerzas, Wednesday, 22 June 2016 18:17

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato - Kagagawan umano ng Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) ang panibagong pagsabog sa probinsya ng Cotabato dakong alas-7:40 ng umaga kanina.

Nakilala ang mga nasugatan na sina Sgt. Edwin Soria at Pfc. Jestoni Bauzon, nakatalaga sa 62nd Division Reconnaissance Company (DRC) Philippine Army.

Sugatan naman ang isang estudyante na si Meriam Sangki Akis, 16, Grade 10 ng Dabpil Sampulna Olandang High School sa Brgy. Olandang, Midsayap, North Cotabato.

Ayon kay Midsayap chief of police Supt. Tom Tuzon, sumabog ang isang improvised explosive device (IED) na gawa sa bala ng 105mm howitzers cannon kasabay nang pagdaan ng sasakyan ng mga sundalo sa harap ng Olandang High School.

Sinundan pa ito ng putok mula sa matataas na uri ng armas mula sa mga rebelde kaya agad gumanti ang mga sundalo dahilan para umatras ang mga pinaniniwalaang mga miyembro ng BIFF.

Mabilis na dinala ang mga sugatang sundalo ng kanilang mga kasamahan at ang estudyante sa Amado Diaz Provincial Hospital sa bayan ng Midsayap.

Sa ngayon patuloy na nag-iimbestiga ang pulisya at militar sa nangyaring pagsabog.

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

EMC to act as Command Center in times of massive tremor

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 22)

The Davao City-based Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC) will serve as a CommandCenter should a massive tremor strike tremor strike Eastern Mindanao.

This was determined during Wednesday's National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill, said EMC public affairs Major Ezra Balagtey.

"This was the focus of the simulation exercise conducted by EMC during the simultaneous national earthquake drill on June 22," he added.

The exercise which started at around 9:00 a.m. had two phases; Phase I involved the immediate action after a disaster which includes local evacuation and rescue within NSFA, while the second phase focused on the role of EMC in the four regions of eastern Mindanao namely Regions X, XI, XII & XIII; being the lead agency in Search Rescue and Retrieval.

The exercise included the simulation of battle staff action as part of the command and control mechanism and integration to the Incident Command System, and restoration of communication lines particularly with operating units in eastern Mindanao.

Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment was also simulated being the initial reference in the prioritization of assets within the inventory and deployment of troops, Balagtey added.

23 June 2016

Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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Sayyaf propaganda taunts Rody

BY VICTOR REYES

A DAY after President-elect Rodrigo “Rody” Duterte vowed to crush the Abu Sayyaf, a video purportedly coming from the international terrorist group Islamic State surfaced, calling on Filipinos to support the Abu Sayyaf which is notorious for its kidnapping for ransom activities.

A man in the video said Muslims should wage jihad by attacking government leaders, politicians, and Muslims who have rejected Islam in exchange for money. He said their houses and localities should be bombed.

“Do not pity them. Stab them with the use of bolo, pour gasoline on their residences. Be careful and

be strong and don’t be misled by the tactics of the newly-elected President of the Philippines in the person of (Rodrigo) Duterte,” he said.

The Armed Forces, through spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, dismissed the video as “propaganda.”

He also said there is nothing new in the video which spread through social media.

In the video, a man brandishing a rifle urged Muslims to unite under Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who he said is the “amir” or prince of mujahiden in the Philippines. Hapilon, in a video released in 2014, was shown showing allegiance to the IS, a radical Islamic group.

Several other groups in Mindanao, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Front, a break-away group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, have been linking themselves to the IS which has been suffering defeats in Iraq and Syria from US-backed military troops.

Padilla said, “People should not be bothered by this because its part of their propaganda they are propagating.”

Padilla said asked members of the social media community not to spread the video.

“If you are a member of the social media community, let us not dignify this. Let us not give impor-

See SAYYAF ► Page B3

SAYYAF

tance to this (video). Let’s do what is right which is to delete it and don’t pass it to others,” Padilla said.

Duterte has vowed to crush Abu Sayyaf during his term. The Abu Sayyaf has about 300 to 400 members, mostly operating in the provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

Duterte has the image of being tough against crimes. He is also waging war against illegal drugs.

Meanwhile, three Abu Sayyaf men were killed while 10 others were wounded in a firefight with troops in Patikul town in Sulu on Tuesday afternoon.

Sixteen soldiers were also wounded.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military’s Western Mindanao Command, said troops from the 32nd Infantry Battalion were on a security operation when they encountered

about 200 Abu Sayyaf men in Sitio Bud Duwa in barangay Pansul around 2:20 p.m. Tuesday.

Tan said the Army troopers clashed with the Abu Sayyaf men for one-and-a-half hours, until the bandits “scampered towards several directions.”

The fighting occurred eight days after the group beheaded Canadian Robert Hall in the nearby town of Talipao town for failure of authorities to pay ransom for him and his fellow Samal kidnap victims.

Hall was among the four people abducted from a resort on Samal island in Davao del Norte last September. He was beheaded on June 13.

The three others are Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor, who are still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, and Canadian John Ridsdel who was beheaded last April 25 also in Talipao.

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Marcelino elated over DoJ decision junking raps against him

Marine Lt. Col. Ferdinand Marcelino yesterday welcomed the Department of Justice (DoJ) decision junking the charges slapped against him by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police-Anti-Illegal Drug Group (PNP-AIDG).

Former Army Maj. Vonne Villanueva, Marcelino's spokesman, said the Marine lieutenant colonel was elated to hear the DoJ decision issued last Tuesday.

Villanueva, however, stressed they were not surprised by the DoJ

decision, citing Marcelino was always on the side of truth.

"He is happy but we were expecting that decision because from the start Colonel Marcelino's conscience was clear," Villanueva said.

He added Marcelino is currently working on a position paper or a proposal which he plans to submit to the incoming administration of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte on how to better fight illegal drug menace.

"His passion for anti-drugs and anti-criminality is really burning. He

By Mario J. Mallari

really wants to contribute to the government's campaign in combatting illegal drugs," Villanueva said.

"He is looking forward to having responsibility in the government's anti-illegal drug campaign," he added.

Marcelino was charged with possession of illegal drugs and violation of the Comelec gun ban by PDEA and AIDG.

In a 15-page resolution, the DoJ, through Senior Deputy State

Prosecutor Theodore Villanueva, junked the charges.

"After an assiduous evaluation of the evidence presented by both parties, the DoJ finds the evidence so far presented by the PNP and PDEA insufficient of the required evidence to sustain a conviction during the trial on the merits of the case," the DoJ decision stated.

Marcelino, former intelligence officer of the PDEA, and Chinese interpreter Yan Yi Shou were arrested in a drug raid last January 21 at a house in Sampaloc, Manila. The operation yielded over P380

million worth of drugs.

The DoJ noted the search warrant for the house in Sampaloc was for a certain Lo Chongka "Tanda," Atong Lee aka "Atong" and a certain Chu. Marcelino and Yan were not seen during the casing and surveillance of the premises.

Known as a no-nonsense anti-drug operative, Marcelino denied any involvement in the illegal drugs trade and claimed he was on a surveillance mission at the clandestine shabu laboratory when the PDEA and PNP-AIDG conducted the raid.

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ASG member with 7 warrants arrested

ZAMBOANGA CITY - A notorious member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), who is facing seven counts of kidnapping with illegal detention, was arrested Tuesday in this city by police authorities.

Culianan Police Station chief Sr. Insp. Elmer P Solon identified the arrested ASG member as Usman Atalad, 46 a fruit vendor and a native of Jolo, Sulu.

Solon said Atalad, who is also known as Suhud Limaya or Hud, was residing at Don Basilio Na-

varo Street, Barangay San Jose Cawa-Cawa in this city.

Solon, who personally led the operations, said they arrested Atalad about 12:45 p.m., Tuesday at JS Alano Street, Barangay Zone 1.

According to Solon the arrest of Atalad was covered by warrants of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention issued by Isabela City, Basilan Judge Leo Jay T. Principe last January 28, 2008. (Nonoy E. Lacson)

29 June 2016



Pahina. 1

SA ILOCOS ILIBING!

"Ang mga Marcos dapat tuparin nila ang pangako nila na ang labi ni Marcos ay ililibing nila sa Ilocos Norte."

Ito ang isinatinig kahapon ni Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. 'Joma' Sison sa isang video call session sa Davao City. (Sundan sa pahina 2)



Joma Sison

Ni Dindo Matining

(Mula sa pahina 1)

Matatandaang pumayag si noo'y Pangulong Fidel V. Ramos, pinsan ni yumaong strongman Ferdinand Marcos, na maiuwi sa Pilipinas ang mga labi ng dating pangulo sa ilalim ng mga kondisyong 1) wala itong stopover sa Maynila at idederetso sa Ilocos Norte (na nasunod); 2) na hindi ito bibigyan ng 21-gun salute bagkus ay "he (would) be given the honors befitting a major of the armed forces" (hanggang ngayon ay wala namang 21-gun salute na ibinibigay kay Marcos); at 3) agad itong ililibing

sa Ilocos Norte habang hindi pa nakakapagpasya ang pamilya kung saan nila ito nais ihimlay (hindi natupad dahil hindi pa rin ito inilibing hanggang ngayon).

Sa kanyang opinyon, sinabi kahapon ni Sison na hindi dapat igit ng mga Marcoses na ilibing ang labi ng dating diktador sa Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Ang mga Marcos, dapat tuparin nila ang pangako nila na ang labi ni Marcos ay ililibing nila sa Ilocos Norte. Sa palagay ko nakalibing na iyon, wax na lang ang nakalitaw," ani Sison.

Gayunpaman, sinabi rin ni Sison na hindi na-

man siya talagang kontra sa paglibing kay Marcos sa Libingan ng mga Bayani dahil hindi naman niya kinukonsidera na lahat ng nakalibing dito ay bayani.

"At their own risk, pwede na nilang ilagay sa libingan ng maraming traydor. Hindi naman mga bayani ang lahat ng nandoon eh," ayon kay Sison.

Nauna nang sinabi ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte na agad niyang ipalilibing si Marcos sa Libingan ng mga Bayani sa sandaling mauupo siya sa Malacañang.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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MEDIUM RARE

Arming the Army



By JULIE YAP DAZA

THE economy grew at 6.2 percent but not everyone was blessed, or impressed. Now take a look at how the Armed Forces have modernized, to the tune of ₱60.14 billion, to make the soldiers who guard our air, land, and sea stand straighter, taller.

A sampling of where that money went: 8 attack helicopters. 114 armored personnel carriers (they look like tanks). 120 ambulances. 2 FA-50 airplanes. 5 naval helicopters. 2 navy ships. 3 medium life aircraft. Radios and trucks. Close to 100,000 assault rifles.

Those weapons and machines my eyes can see, even when what they see are mere photographic likenesses. Unlike the GDP, which may be a big deal to economists but means little more than three letters of the alphabet to ordinary folks, the modernization of the Armed Forces is a dream come true for the men and women in uniform, their families, and fellow citizens who have been embarrassed for too long by an army without arms, an air force without airplanes, a navy without boats - a fighting force rich in fighting spirit and little else, such as bullets in short supply and shoes

in the wrong sizes.

Well into his second can of Coke (regular) for the night - "no ice, ice dilutes the taste" - during a farewell dinner with us girls, the President did not dismiss my question, "How much is 60 B?" Ever ready with notes and numbers, the obsessive-compulsive President who reads military and history books produced a slip of paper showing how previous Presidents regarded the AFP: Arroyo (2001-2010, 9 years) spent ₱26.2 B; Estrada (1998-2000), ₱5.5 B; Ramos (1992-98), zero.

And as good weather is preferred to fly a plane, sail a boat, win a battle anywhere, it is not mere happenstance that military people as well as civilians can relate to PAGASA leveling up from "hoping only" to a 97.4 km forecast track error, better than the 120 km error threshold of the World Meteorological Organization! Project NOAH and its scientists save lives in fair and foul weather, and the sun shines on PAGASA's budget growing from ₱766 million to ₱3.4 billion.

Say what you will about the branding success or failure of "daang matuwid," but by arming the Armed Forces and providing sunny weather for PAGASA, this President has made his mark.

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<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/>

Force drops Navy, tows Sta. Elena to Spikers Turf semis

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 22 2016 06:34 PM

MANILA, Philippines – Philippine Air Force downed Philippine Navy in four sets, 25-18, 22-25, 25-17, 25-19, to virtually complete the Final Four cast in the Spikers' Turf Season 2 Open Conference Wednesday at the Arena in San Juan.

Four players scored in double-digits for Air Force, led by Ismail Fauzi with 16 points, as they overpowered the Sailors in an hour and 18 minutes.

Jeffrey Malabanan and Howard Mojica each scored 12 points for Airmen, who had 50 attack points, 10 more than the Sailors. Air Force's net defense was also on point, as they registered 13 kill blocks while taking advantage of Navy's spotty receiving to score eight aces.

Dave Pletado and Nur Ami Madsairi each had 11 points to lead Navy.

With their victory, Air Force improved to 3-1, tying Instituto Estetico Manila in the league standings.

The loss dropped Navy to 0-3 and allowed idle Sta. Elena (2-2) to earn a free ride to the semifinals.

Already in the semifinals is unbeaten Signal (4-0).

(READ: [Signal survives iEM, nears eliminations sweep](#))

Also eliminated from semis contention is winless Bounty Fresh (0-4).

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

GRACEFUL EXIT | Defense chief bids farewell to Army troopers

Marycel Necio Batara

FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig City – Honorable Voltaire T. Gazmin will visit the Headquarters Philippine Army (HPA) on Friday, June 24, to bid farewell to the Army troopers before he steps down as Secretary of the Department of National Defense on June 30.

A brigade-size parading troops from the different post units and offices of the Philippine Army will render testimonial review in honor of the SND to be held at ROTC Hunters Guerilla Field/HPA Parade Ground.

Army Chief, Lt. Gen. Eduardo M. Año together with his staff, other HPA-based officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees will attend the said event to welcome the outgoing defense chief.

Gazmin was the 40th Commanding General of the Philippine Army. He held the position from July 13, 1999, to October 22, 2000.

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

We have to build credible force to deter foreign aggression – Incoming AFP chief

From Update.Ph (Jun 22)

Incoming Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya vowed to prioritize the acquisition of modern equipment and weapons to make the Filipino military a more credible defense force.

"We have to build a credible force. We have to have a defense capability that can deter foreign aggression," he said in reply to question on whether he will continue to push for the AFP's modernization.

As of this posting, fruits of the AFP's ongoing modernization program include the two Hamilton-class cutters, six multi-purpose assault craft, 113 armored personnel carriers, three brand-new C-295 medium lift aircraft, two C-130 heavy transports, two FA-50PH light-interim fighter aircraft and eight attack versions of the AgustaWestland AW-109 "Power" helicopters, five landing craft heavies and two strategic sealift vessels to name a few.

Visaya said modernizing the AFP will allow the Philippines to stand up on its own against aggressors without dependence from other countries.

"Just like any Armed Forces, the AFP is bound to defend our country and secure our sovereignty," he added.

Visaya is slated to take command of the 125,000-strong AFP by July 1.

He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983 and outgoing commander of the Lucena, Quezon-based Southern Luzon Command.

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

Ample military assets deployed during nat'l quake drill

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 22)

Adequate military assets were deployed during the 2nd Metro Manila Shake Drill and National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill.

This was disclosed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla during a press briefing.

This includes three AgustaWestland AW-109 "Power" helicopters which has the capability to detect and transmit on real time videos of devastated areas in Metro Manila and six UH-1H air ambulances which could transport critical injured individuals to treatment centers in the aftermath of 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

These UH-1Hs will be coming from the Northern and Southern Luzon Command and Joint Task Group-National Capital Region, Padilla said.

Also deployed are the Army's Libis, Quezon City-525th Engineering Combat Battalion which is the military's premier humanitarian assistance and disaster response unit.

An engineering battalion consists of around 500 - 1,000 officers and enlisted personnel.

It is equipped with a variety of bulldozers, backhoes and other heavy construction equipment.

Padilla said the 525th Engineering Combat Battalion is specialized in urban search-and-rescue and collapsed structure retrieval operations.

The 525th Engineering Combat Battalion was one of the first military units deployed to Leyte during the aftermath of Super typhoon "Yolanda" in Nov. 8, 2013.

Together with units of the Catbalogan-based 8th Infantry Division, the 525th Engineering Combat Battalion helped clear debris from roads leading to Tacloban City and other parts of Leyte.

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

AFP warns public not to dignify hate video calling for attacks

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 22)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) refused to comment on a viral video reportedly released by an "radicalist, extremism group" calling for massive attacks against people standing against their beliefs as it urged the public not to be swayed by such gesture.

"Do not glorify and dignify (statements and videos made by) these groups," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said.

In the same vein, Padilla urged the public to refrain from spreading the video and delete it, so as not to spread the group's message of hate, radicalism and extremism.

"The message of the video is animalistic and evil in all its entirety," he added.

In the video, an unidentified terrorist group is calling for violent attacks against Christians and Muslim backsliders who are standing against them.

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

SC orders PNP to probe abduction of CPA founding member

The Supreme Court (SC) has ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to investigate the abduction of James Balao, the founding member of the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA).

The CPA is a coalition of non-government organizations (NGOs) which is advocating the interest of the indigenous people in the Cordillera Region.

Balao was abducted by five armed men on Sept. 17, 2008.

In the latest resolution of the SC on the case of Balao issued on Tuesday, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) were relieved of the duty to investigate the case.

Instead, the SC ordered the PNP to investigate the angle presented by the witness Bryan Gonzales. In the PNP Formal Report, it said that according to Gonzales, Balao may have been abducted by the members of the CPA themselves.

It was learned that Balao was living in a house together with the alleged members of the CPA who were only identified as "Uncle John" and Rene.

However, when the PNP attempted to investigate the two individuals, it was surprising that the leadership of the CPA did not cooperate.

The SC gave the PNP a period of six months to complete the investigation.

The case stemmed from the petition for the issuance of writ of amparo filed by the siblings of Balao and the leadership of the CPA before the La Trinidad, Benguet Regional Trial Court (RTC) against former President and now Pampanga (2nd District) Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The RTC granted the petition for the writ of amparo.

However, on Dec. 13, 2011, the SC reversed the privilege of the writ since the petitioner did not present sufficient evidence.

The writ of amparo is granted to any individual whose right to life, freedom and security is being violated or threatened.

www.interaksyon.com/national

Abu Sayyaf in Basilan recruiting new members using IS tag - source

By: Thom Andrade, InterAksyon.com

June 22, 2016 1:23 PM



Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Isnlon Hapilon is seen swearing allegiance to the Islamic State in this image grabbed from video posted on the internet

MANILA, Philippines -- A Basilan-based faction of the Abu Sayyaf has reportedly begun recruiting new members using the name of the Islamic State, a police intelligence source said.

"The recruitment of new members under the name of (IS) is centered in the hinterland villages in the towns of Tipo-Tipo and Al-Barka, both in Basilan," and is undertaken by the group of Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Isnlon Hapilon, said the source, an officer based in Camp Crame who insists on being identified only as Pokemon and has provided accurate information on the extremists in the past.

In 2014, a video was posted on the internet of Isnlon leading his men in swearing allegiance to IS.

Pokemon said Isnlon's band appears to be awash in cash, indicating they may have their own source of funds aside from the ransoms for victims of the Abu Sayyaf's frequent kidnappings.

"They have already recruited at least 20 new members, mostly belonging to the Yakan" tribe, Pokemon said.

"They are promising their new recruits the amount of P5,000 and an M-16 rifle per meeting ... and so far they have (held) three meetings," he added, citing information he said was relayed by inside informants.

The Abu Sayyaf used to be linked to Al-Qaeda, the terror network founded by Osama bin Laden, but lately has been said to identify more with IS.

Other armed groups reported to have pledged allegiance to IS are the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, which broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the Rajah Solaiman Movement, which also used to be associated with Al-Qaeda.

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

ASG member nabbed in Zambo City

By Teofilo P. Garcia, Jr.

ZAMBOANGA CITY, June 22 (PNA) – Combined police and military operatives have arrested a suspected notorious Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) member disguised as fruit vendor in this city, a top official disclosed Wednesday.

Chief Supt. Billy Beltran, Police Regional Office-9 (PRO-9) director, identified the arrested notorious ASG member as Usman Atalad, 46, who carries the aliases of Atalad, Suhud Limaya and Hud.

Beltran said Atalad was arrested during a law enforcement operation around 12:45 p.m. Tuesday along J.S. Alano Street, Barangay Zone, this city.

He said the lawmen sighted the suspect selling fruits in the vicinity of the Zamboanga City Police Office (ZCPO) and the old public market.

He said Atalad has standing warrant of arrest for seven counts kidnapping and serious illegal detention issued by a court in Basilan province.

Atalad was the second suspected ASG member who was arrested in the vicinity of ZCPO and old public market. The market is located at the back of ZCPO headquarters.

The first was Adam Mahamdom alias Junior Hali, who arrested on June 15 by joint police and military operatives.

Mahamdon, a member of the ASG's Urban Terror Group (UTG), is facing eight counts kidnapping and serious illegal detention cases. (PNA)

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/>

Joma wants Marcos burial in Ilocos Norte

Dhareel Placido, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jun 22 2016 10:27 AM



Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison. File Photo

DAVAO CITY - Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison is urging the Marcos family to keep its earlier promise to just bury the remains of the late President Ferdinand Marcos in Ilocos Norte.

Sison said the Marcoses should not insist on burying the remains of the late dictator at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

He said the family should just honor its earlier agreement with former President Fidel V. Ramos, who allowed the repatriation of Marcos's remains from Hawaii on the condition that the latter will be buried in his home province.

"Ang mga Marcos dapat tuparin nila ang pangako nila na ang labi ni Marcos ay ililibing nila sa Ilocos Norte. Sa palagay ko nakalibing na iyon, wax na lang ang nakalitaw," Sison said at a video call session here.

Sison, nonetheless, said he is not fully opposed to a Libingan ng mga Bayani burial for Marcos, as he does not consider the cemetery as something meant for heroes.

"At their own risk, pwede na nilang ilagay sa libingan ng maraming traydor. Hindi naman mga bayani ang lahat ng nandoon eh," he said.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has agreed to have Marcos' remains buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, saying the late dictator should be buried there for serving the country as a soldier.

Duterte: Marcos burial in Libingan to 'erase hatred'

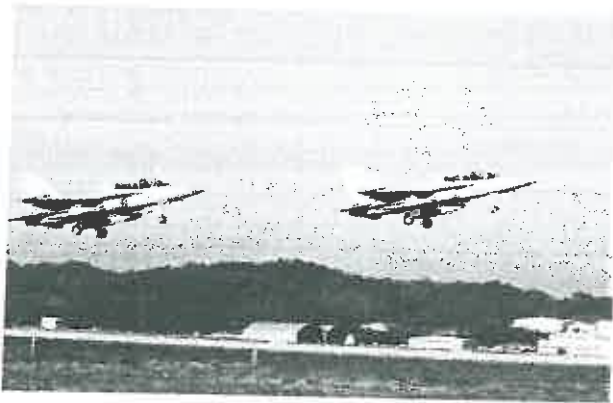
He recently met with the late dictator's only son and namesake, who said the burial can happen as early as September.

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Duterte says purchase of FA-50 jets just a waste of money

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated June 22, 2016 - 4:58pm



The Philippine Air Force's first two units of the FA-50PH fighters jets arrived in the country in November 2015. KAI/Released

DAVAO CITY, Philippines - The Aquino administration's purchase of 12 FA-50 lead in fighter trainer jets is just a waste of money as the air assets are only being used now for ceremonies, President-elect Rodrigo Duterte said.

Duterte said the jets – the biggest items in the military's modernization shopping list – cannot be used to fight insurgency.

He added that the two FA-50s that were delivered to the Air Force are not enough to challenge China, which has occupied Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, a fishing area off Zambales that is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

"We only have what two FA-50s? Why did you buy that?" Duterte said in a business forum in Davao City last Tuesday.

"To the Air Force, do not misconstrue me. I'm a Filipino. I'm a citizen of this country and I have every right to say what I want to say. Sayang ang pera dun (Money was wasted there). You cannot use them for anti-insurgency, which is the problem at the moment. You can only use these for ceremonial fly-by," he added.

The Aquino administration has bought 12 FA-50 jets from South Korea's Korea Aerospace Industries for P18.9 billion to enhance the country's territorial defense capabilities. Two of the jets were delivered in November while the ten others will be arrive in the country next year.

The jets conducted fly-bys during the 80th anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Pampanga and national hero Jose Rizal's 119th death anniversary in Manila last December.

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Duterte said the money spent for the jets could have been used to buy helicopters or boats that would have prevented the kidnapping of three foreigners and a Filipina in Davao del Norte last year.

"If we had night vision goggles, we could have caught up with these guys and if we had fast boat, we could have pursued them," he added, noting that the assets would have allowed security forces to reach Davao del Norte in two to three minutes.

Duterte said the internal security problems should be solved first so the country can promote tourism and lure more investments. Military officials previously claimed that they are achieving gains in their anti-insurgency campaign and are ready to shift their focus from internal security to territorial defense.

Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Maritess Flor at the Ocean View Resort in Samal Island off Davao Oriental last September.

The local terrorists beheaded Ridsdel last April and executed Hall last week because their ransom demands were not met. They have threatened to behead Sekkingstad next if his family fails to pay ransom.

The designated security officials of the incoming Duterte administration has asked the help of local executives to secure the release of the remaining captives.

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ISIS releases first propaganda video for Philippines

By Camille Diola (philstar.com) | Updated June 22, 2016 - 6:55pm



In this image taken by an Iraqi Counterterrorism Service photographer on Sunday, June 19, 2016, soldiers pose with an Islamic State militant flag in Fallujah, Iraq after forces re-took the city center after two years of IS control. Thousands of civilians are fleeing Fallujah after the city was declared liberated from the Islamic State group, the United Nations said, while an Iraqi commander reported fierce clashes as elite counterterrorism forces pushed to clear out the remaining militants. Iraq Counterterrorism Service via AP

MANILA, Philippines — The so-called Islamic State, or ISIS, released a video early on Wednesday in an attempt to recruit radical fighters in the Philippines and neighboring countries.

Rita Katz, director of SITE Intelligence Group tracking the activities of ISIS, said the video targeting the Philippines was in five languages: Arabic, English, Filipino, Indonesian and Malay.

Screenshots of the video taken by the agency show Filipino, Indonesian and Malaysian fighters urging their countrymen to join their ranks in Syria. But for those who could not reach the Middle East, the group also gave them an alternative.

"If you can't get to Syria, 'join the muhajideen in the Philippines'," the terror network said, as quoted by Katz on her Twitter account.

Describing the content of the video, deep web monitor Vocativ said the ISIS has appointed a leader in the Philippines by the name of Abdallah al-Filipini, a representative of the self-dubbed caliphate.

The release of the video did not surprise Katz, who noted that the Islamic State has also released an infographic claiming the presence of its network in the Philippines.

In the graphic released earlier this month, ISIS claimed to have 10 fighting battalions in five different locations in the country. It also claimed that ISIS followers mostly in Basilan have killed 289 people since April 2015.

Security officials in the Philippines denied the presence of ISIS fighters in the Philippines, but noted that several radical groups such as the Abu Sayyaf have pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the Islamic State's self-appointed caliph.

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ALSO READ: Armed Forces doubts ISIS hand in Basilan attack

Last week, the Abu Sayyaf beheaded its second Canadian hostage, Robert Hall, after its demands for ransom were not met by the Philippines and Canadian governments. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, American President Barack Obama and President Benigno Aquino III condemned the execution of Hall, but insisted that ransom will not be settled with extremist groups.

Security forces have intensified operations against the Abu Sayyaf following the beheading. On Tuesday afternoon, three Abu Sayyaf fighters were killed while 16 soldiers were hurt in a clash in Sulu.

US Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Tuesday that countering jihadist propaganda continues to be a challenge for the government.

"How do we break that chain? How do we counter this extremist ideology that's online, knowing that the internet has to remain free and open? What can we get out there that's a counter-message to that?" she said in an interview with the Associated Press. Her statement came amid investigations of a recent massacre on a nightclub in Orlando by a gunman allegedly inspired by the ISIS.

Meanwhile, air strikes in Syria targeted the Islamic State's de facto capital of Raqqa on Wednesday, killing at least 18 civilians, including two children, according to activists. The barrage, blamed on the Russian and Syrian air force, came as government forces sought to recover from losses suffered in a stalled offensive on the extremist-held city. — **with reports from Associated Press**