

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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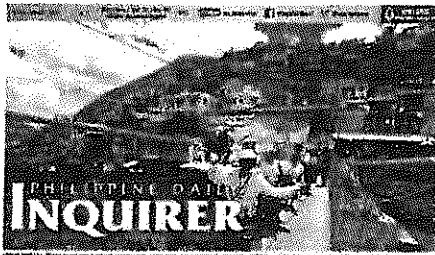
24 June 2016

Friday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

24 June 2016



US warns China: Stop provocations

Washington to rally support for UN ruling on sea dispute



Widodo sails to S. China Sea on warship

Democrats take over Congress with slim

Kody to release jailed Reds even before amnesty

Scene on traffic crash: police, bus targets rule of law

Nichols, Bar Keshu
Tim Hoven in Upper West
Branch at 1 p.m. on 10/10/16



Top businessmen back Duterte's economic agenda

Rody: Some cops alienating cohorts

Traffic emergency powers in August



Mer files SOCE, mom gave P110 M

'Thou shall not kill' is absolute - Pope



Rody: Death is a punishment, not a deterrent

Ex-Globe exec named DICT secretary

IV ordered arrest, paid P6,000 bail

Metro shake drill: Duck, cover, take a selfie

Arbitral court ruling won't ease sea tensions - US

F-Noy Cabinet: Purisima richest, DepEd's Laisro still poorest



'Shape up now'

Duterte asks congress to 'shape up' now

Ex-ambassador could not get P50M - Duterte

Camelot effectively issues resolution allowing late SOCE filing until June 30

DICT demands 'immediate' case against DepEd policy, personnel

DepEd's transport chief bound for China for planned railway project

DepEd's transport chief bound for China for planned railway project



Cayetano still wants Senate Presidency

DepEd's transport chief bound for China for planned railway project

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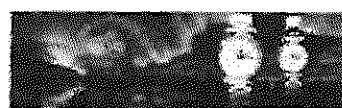
DepEd's transport chief bound for China for planned railway project

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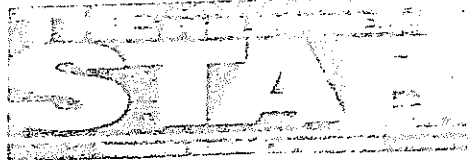
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www.panahon.tv

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SAGOT KO, PAKILAN MO!

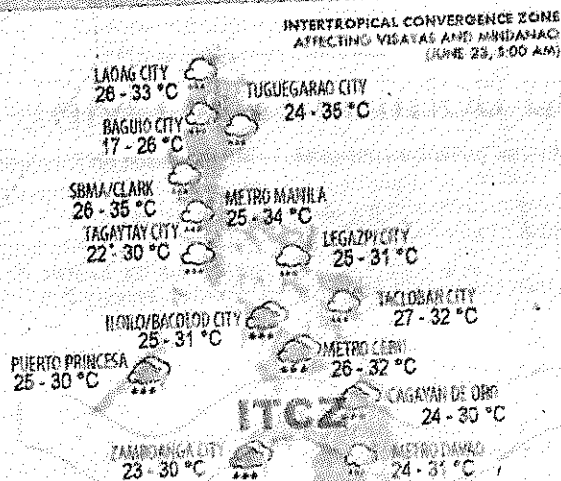
THE PHILIPPINE STAF
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

5:00 AM - 5:30 AM
Mondays to Sundays

QR Code: Panahon.TV

SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
5:29 AM	6:28 PM	9:35 PM	8:40 AM
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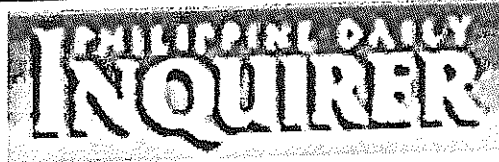
TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST JUNE 24, 2016 | FRIDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUNE 25 SAT	JUNE 26 SUN	JUNE 27 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	JUNE 25 SAT	JUNE 26 SUN	JUNE 27 MON
METRO MANILA	26°C 34°C	25°C 35°C	25°C 35°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26°C 32°C	25°C 31°C	21°C 29°C
TUGUEGARAO	24°C 35°C	24°C 34°C	24°C 34°C	HOLO/BACOLOD	26°C 30°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C
LAOAG	25°C 33°C	26°C 33°C	26°C 33°C	METRO CEBU	27°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C
BAGUIO	16°C 26°C	17°C 26°C	17°C 26°C	TACLOBAN	26°C 32°C	25°C 33°C	25°C 33°C
SBMA/CLARK	27°C 34°C	26°C 34°C	26°C 33°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25°C 31°C	25°C 32°C	24°C 31°C
TAGAYTAY	22°C 29°C	23°C 29°C	22°C 32°C	METRO DAVAO	24°C 30°C	24°C 32°C	24°C 31°C
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US warns China: Stop provocations

Washington to rally support for UN ruling on sea dispute

WASHINGTON — The United States warned China on Wednesday against taking “additional provocative actions” following an impending international court ruling on the South China Sea that is expected to largely reject Beijing’s broad territorial claims.

A senior US state department official voiced skepticism at China’s claim that dozens of countries backed its position in a case the Philippines has

US WARNS/A14

**EU calls for free passage
through S. China Sea •**

**Zambales fishermen
stage protest / A14**

brought against Beijing and vowed that Washington would uphold US defense commitments.

Colin Willett, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia, said Washington had "a lot of options" to respond to any such Chinese moves in a region he said was vital to US interests.

Rallying allies

She also made clear that with a ruling expected possibly within weeks, the United States was working to rally sometimes wavering allies and partners in the region to ensure a unified front.

How Washington handles the aftermath of the ruling is widely seen as a test of US credibility in a region where it has been the dominant security presence since World War II but is now struggling to contain an increasingly assertive China.

"We, the United States, do have very clear national interests in the area," Willett told Reuters.

"We have an interest in upholding our defense commitments and our security partnerships," she added.

PH challenge

The Philippines is contesting China's claim to an area shown on its maps as a nine-dash line stretching deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia, covering hundreds of disputed islands and reefs, and encompassing a vital global trade route.

The consensus among officials and analysts inside and out the region is that the ruling of the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, expected to come within weeks, will go largely against Beijing.

US warnings

US officials have warned China against declaring an air defense identification zone (Adiz) in the South China Sea, as it did in the East China Sea in 2013, and against stepping up its building and fortification of artificial islands in the Spratly archipelago.

They say that beyond diplomatic pressure, the US response to such moves could include accelerated "freedom of navigation" patrols by US warships and overflights by US aircraft as well as increased defense aid to Southeast Asian countries.

Willett said that while it was still unclear how the arbitration tribunal would rule, "it isn't in [China's] interest to take additional provocative actions" after it does.

Ruling must be binding

Willett reiterated the US view that the ruling must be binding.

She declined to detail how the United States might respond should Beijing stick to its vow to ignore the ruling, but said: "I do think it's an important inflexion point, not just for the United States, but for the whole region."

Willett said Washington hoped China would see the

ruling as "an opportunity to restart serious discussions with their neighbors."

China has accused the United States of "hyping" the issue and warned in May that international complaints about its actions in the South China Sea would snap back on its critics.

But it has largely avoided specific threats of how it might respond to the arbitration ruling.

On Monday, the US Navy chief, Adm. John Richardson, said China's large-scale land reclamation in the South China Sea and militarization of artificial islands had extended its potential ability to deny access to some of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Show of strength

The US aircraft carriers John C. Stennis and Ronald Reagan staged joint operations last weekend in seas east of the Philippines in a show of strength ahead of The Hague ruling, prompting strong Chinese criticism.

The Chinese Communist Party newspaper, People's Daily, on Wednesday accused Washington in an editorial 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.

Hegemony

The editorial cited the joint exercises of the two US aircraft carriers in the Philippine Sea 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.

China's 'allies'

China has listed more than 40 countries it says supports its position on the arbitration case.

Willett said it was not even clear what those countries "have allegedly agreed to."

"There's some skepticism about that grouping," she said.

Only eight countries have publicly supported China's position, including landlocked states such as Niger and Afghanistan, according to Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Willett played down an apparent display of disunity by Southeast Asian countries last week.

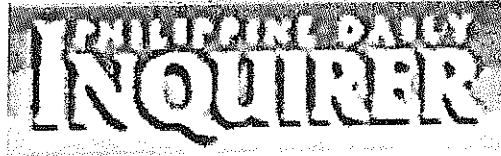
Chinese pressure

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), following a foreign ministers meeting in China, issued and then abruptly withdrew a statement that expressed deep concerns over tensions in the South China Sea, a retraction widely seen as the result of Chinese pressure.

A senior US official said Asean countries were "under an intense amount of pressure" and made clear that behind the scenes, Washington was working to stiffen their resolve.

Reports from Reuters and AP

24 June 2016



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Rody to release jailed Reds even before amnesty

By Karlos Manlupig
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Incoming President Rodrigo Duterte will order the unconditional release of several political prisoners as a “gesture of goodwill” by his administration in the upcoming peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), according to his chief peace negotiator.

The prisoners will be freed once Duterte formally assumes the presidency on June 30 and even before he signs a general amnesty for all political detainees, subject to Congress approval, incoming Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who will head the new government peace panel in the talks,

RODY/A19

From page A1

said on Tuesday.

Bello was part of the team sent by the President-elect to Oslo, Norway, last week, which met with NDFP representatives led by Luis Jalandoni and Fidel Agcaoili for preliminary talks to clear the way for the resumption of formal negotiations to end one of the world's longest communist insurgencies.

With Bello were incoming peace adviser Jesus Dureza and former Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, who was among the representatives of the Aquino administration in back-channel talks with the NDFP in 2014.

Also present during the meeting were Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NDFP consultant, and Ambassador Elisabeth Slattum, Norway's special envoy to the peace process.

Oslo statement

In a joint statement signed by both parties after the meeting, the Duterte team agreed to recommend the immediate release of all NDFP consultants and other prisoners covered by the Jasig (Joint Agreement on Security and Immunity Guarantees) so they could participate in the peace negotiations.

Jasig, which guarantees protection of NDFP and government negotiators and consultants from arrest during the peace process, was signed by the government and the NDFP peace panels in 1995 to allow them to freely participate in the peace process.

Alleged violations of the agreement, including the arrests of NDFP consultants, were among the major reasons for the collapse of the talks under the Aquino administration.

After the Oslo meeting, the Duterte administration and the NDFP expect formal peace negotiations to resume on the third week of July.

"We seek the release of political prisoners who are reportedly covered by Jasig. Those who are elderly and sick will also be released for humanitarian considerations," Bello said.

18 NDFP consultants

Bello did not give any names in the initial batch of political prisoners to be released before the issuance of a general amnesty.

But a militant human rights group, Karapatan, had earlier said 18 NDFP consultants were among at least 543 political prisoners held all over the country.

It identified them as Tirso Alcantara, Emeterio Antalan, Ma. Concepcion Araneta-Bocala, Kennedy Bangibang, Leopoldo Caloza, Pedro Codaste, Edgardo Friginal, Renante Gamara, Alan Jazmines, Ernesto Lorenzo, Ma. Loida Magpatoc, Alfredo Mapano, Ruben Saluta, Eduardo Sarmiento, Adelberto Silva, Jaime Soledad, and Benito and Wilma Tiamzon.

Karapatan said of the total number of political prisoners, 88 were ill while 48 others are in their senior years.

Bello said the release of the political prisoners would be done without preconditions.

"We are doing it before the proposed amnesty. This will be a gesture of goodwill," he said.

The peace agenda agreed upon by the Duterte team and the NDFP included the affirmation of previously signed agreements like the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Other main points were the accelerated process for negotiations, including the timeline for the completion of the remaining substantive issues—"socio-economic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, and end of hostilities and disposition of forces."

The mode of the interim ceasefire, as well as mechanisms and coverage of the agreement, will also be tackled.

26 June 2016



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Gazmin to bid farewell to 85,000 members of Army today

By Mario J. Mallari

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin will bid farewell to the 85,000-strong Army today – less than a week before he steps down from the defense portfolio.

Col. Benjamin Hao, spokesman for the Army, said Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano will lead senior Army officers and personnel in hosting Gazmin during simple ceremony at the Army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio.

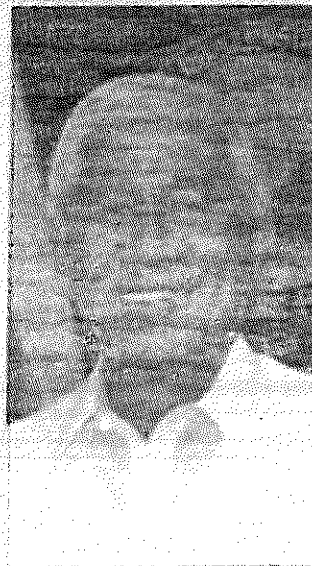
A brigade-size parading troops from the different post units and offices of the Philippine Army will render testimonial review in honor of the SND (secretary of national defense) to be held at ROTC Hunters Guerrilla Field, Hao said.

According to Hao, the activity is a simple expression of gratitude of the Army to Gazmin who is a retired Army three-star general.

"This is our simple way of saying thank you to Secretary Gazmin for his support to the Army," Hao said.

Gazmin was appointed by deposed President and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada as Army chief in July 1999. He held the post up to October 22, 2000.

Gazmin served as defense



GAZMIN

chief from June 2010 up to June 2016.

During his tenure, the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines went on a high gear – acquiring billions of pesos' worth of military hardware.

Among the big-ticket items acquired during Gazmin's incumbency as defense chief were the newly acquired BRP Tanay – now the biggest ship of the Navy; FA50 lead-in fighter jets; C295 medium lift aircraft, and combat utility helicopters.

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Military still verifying another case of kidnapping in South

By Mario J. Mallari

Still struggling to safely rescue seven hostages, including foreigners, being held by the terrorist Abu Sayyaf group, another kidnapping incident, reportedly involving Indonesian victims, is now being verified by the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom).

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for Wesmincom, said that initial report of kidnapping involving Indonesian victims came in Wednesday at around 10 p.m. but turned out to be negative after verification from field units.

However, Tan said that yesterday morning there were again reports of kidnapping incident.

"(The) reported kidnapping of Indonesians yesterday, June 22, 2016, Western Mindanao Command received reports that there was no such incident," said Tan.

"This morning, June 23, 2016, there were again reports of a kidnapping incident that came in,

in this regard, efforts are being made to verify the veracity of this latest report," he added.

Tan did not mention other details regarding the reported kidnapping incident now being validated by the military.

Last April, 10 Indonesian crew members of a tug boat and cargo vessel were abducted off Tawi Tawi. They were later released through the efforts of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) founding chairman Nur Misuari.

MNLF Misuari faction spokesman Rev. Absalom Cerveza cited the good relations between the MNLF and Indonesia which served as the third party facilitator in the 1996 Final Peace Agreement between the MNLF and the Philippine government.

The latest report of kidnapping incident happened while the military continued to struggle to rescue at least seven Abu Sayyaf hostages through focused and intensified combat operations in

Basilan and Sulu.

The intensified military operations against the Abu Sayyaf were ordered last November by President Aquino after the beheading of Malaysian captive Bernard Then.

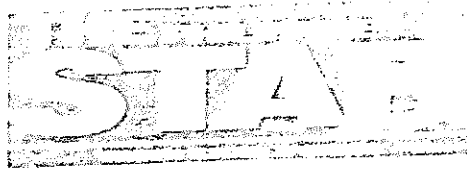
However, the Abu Sayyaf group of Hatib Sawadjaan went on to behead two more foreign hostages – Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, who were among the four hostages snatched from the posh Oceanview Resort on Samal Island September last year.

Ridsdel was beheaded last April 25 while Hall was killed on June 13 – both hostages were murdered after failing to pay P900-million ransom demand.

Among the seven remaining Abu Sayyaf hostages are Filipino Marites Flor and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, who were with Ridsdel and Hall.

Tan said that relentless operations are continuing to rescue the remaining hostages and defeat the Abu Sayyaf group.

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

3 hurt in N. Cotabato bombing

NORTH COTABATO – Two soldiers and a high school student were wounded in a roadside bombing in Midsayap town on Wednesday.

Pvt. 1st Class Jestoni Bauzon, Sgt. Edwin Soria and Miriam Akis sustained shrapnel wounds in various parts of the body.

Investigators said Bauzon and Soria were in a military vehicle when suspected members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters set off an improvised explosive device near the Dabpil Sampulna High School in Barangay Olandang.

Superintendent Tom Tuzon, Midsayap police chief, said the victims were brought to a hospital for treatment.

– John Unson

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24 June 2016

The Manila Times

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1 dead, 4 wounded in BIFF attacks

KIDAPAWAN CITY: The jihadists' Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) resumed attacks in North Cotabato and Maguindanao, killing one soldier and wounded four others, including a bystander.

The recent attack was a roadside bombing on Wednesday in Midsayap town, North Cotabato injuring two soldiers and a student bystander.

Midsayap Police chief, Supt. Tom Tuzon, identified the wounded as Private First Class (PFC) Jestoni Bauzon and Sergeant Edwin Soria, all belonging to Army's 62nd Reconnaissance Company, 6th Infantry Division; and high school student Miriam Akis who was hit by shrapnel.

Tuzon said the blast occurred near the Dabpil Sampulna High

School in Barangay Ulandang when troopers, aboard an Army vehicle, were traversing the area at around 5 p.m.

The bomb was made of 105mm howitzer shell and rigged with nails, metal sheets and mobile phone, as its triggering device.

The BIFF group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

It happened the same day when

the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) released its propaganda video online signaling their fighters in the country to wage war against "crusaders."

Another attack was recorded in Sitio Matilac, Barangay Butilen in Datu Salibo town, Maguindanao that killed Sgt. Alexander Salgado and wounded PFC Brian Callaga.

MOH SAADUDDIN

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PA in the market for 294,522 rounds of 7.62mm linked match cartridges

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 23): **PA in the market for 294,522 rounds of 7.62mm linked match cartridges**

The Philippine Army (PA) is looking for manufacturers capable of supplying it with 294,522 rounds of 7.62mm linked match cartridges for its light machine guns and sniper rifles.

Budget for the project is placed at PHP29,893,983. The 7.62mm round is used both by infantry and on mounted and crew-served weapons mounted to vehicles, aircraft and ships.

Pre-bid conference is on June 29, 9:00 a.m. at the Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, PA BAC Secretariat head Cmdr. Demetrio A. Calderon said.


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Army Artillery Regiment, kinilala ang mga natatanging kapartner

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 24): **Army Artillery Regiment, kinilala ang mga natatanging kapartner** (Army Artillery Regiment, recognized as a unique partner)

Kinilala ng Army Artillery Regiment o AAR, sa okasyon ng ika-siyam nitong anibersaryo, ang mga natatanging itong kapartner sa pagbibigay serbisyo sa mga mamamayan.

Kabilang na ryan sina DWNE Broadcast Program Producer-Announcer Melicia Ciriaco, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology Extension Services Director Rachel Moralde, Department of Trade and Industry Senior Trade and Industry Officer Richard Simangan, at Central Luzon State University Public Affairs Office Head Ainee Joy Edquiban.

Kinilala rin ang mga natatanging kanyonero at kanyonera na sina Staff Sergeant Sonny Susvilla, Sergeant Jayson Dagang, Captain Joel Mejia, 1st Lieutenant Aubrey Gale Maddul, Corporal Rogelio Obra, at Corporal Felipe Santillas.

Ayon kay **AAR Commander Colonel Erwin De Asis**, malaking bahagi sa naging tagumpay ng yunit ang mga sakripisyo at gampanin ng bawat kawani na nasasakupan gayundin ang pundasyong itinaguyod ng mga naunang pinuno.

May tema ang kanilang pagdiriwang ngayong taon na "AAR: Committed to Genuine Transformation."

Itinampok rin sa naging selebrasyon ang ceremonial tree planting at ang eksibit tampok ang walong banyagang kumpanya na nagpakita ng kani-kaniyang imbensyon at mga produktong pandigma.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1961466662415/army-artillery-regiment-kinilala-ang-mga-natatanging-kapartner>



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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Walong banyagang kumpanya, lumahok sa eksibit sa AAR

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 24): **Walong banyagang kumpanya, lumahok sa eksibit sa AAR** (Eight foreign companies participated in the AAR exhibition)

Naging tampok sa isang eksibit sa Army Artillery Regiment o AAR ang mga produktong pandigma ng walong banyagang kumpanya.

Kabilang na ryan ang Diehl Defense, Lockheed Martin, Thales UK, Elbit Systems, Rafael ADS, LIGNex1, Kompanija Sloboda A.D., at Hybrid Info Corporations.

Ayon kay AAR Field Artillery Capability Development Office-Force Structure Branch Chief Captain Edbert Abringe, layunin ng naturang eksibit na makapagbigay kaalaman sa lakaran ng mundo patungkol sa pagtatanggol ng bayan.

Hangad din aniya nito na maipakilala sa bansa ang mga makabagong artillery weapon system na maaaring makatulong sa Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas.

Ilan sa kanilang mga ipinakita ay ang mga bagong kagamitan gaya ng mga kanyon, sasakyan, at iba pang mga fire support sa maritime at air defense.

Dagdag pa ni Abringe na ilan sa mga kanyong ginagamit ng AAR ay mula sa mga kumpanyang nabanggit gaya ang 155 Howitzer na inaasahang madaragdagan pa sa susunod na taon.

Ang eksibit ay bahagi ng selebrasyon ng ika-siyam na anibersaryo ng AAR na may temang AAR: Committed to Genuine Transformation."

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1961466670140/walong-banyagang-kumpanya-lumahok-sa-eksibit-sa-aar>

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90 Candidate Soldier, nagsasanay maging artillero

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 24): **90 Candidate Soldier, nagsasanay maging artillero** (90 Candidate Soldiers, training to be artilleryment)

Nasa 90 Candidate Soldier ang sinasanay ngayon ng Army Artillery Regiment o AAR na daragdag pwersa sa combat operation ng yunit.

Ayon kay Artillery Training School Commander Major Erwin Albesa, Hunyo uno nang pumasok at magsimula sa pagsasanay ang mga bagong recruit na sundalo na gugugol ng nasa apat na buwang pag-aaral.

Kabilang aniya sa mga panuntunan upang maging sundalo ay ang naging antas sa pag-aaral na dapat ay college o vocational course graduate, dapat ay nasa taas na 5 feet pareho sa kababaihan at kalalakihan gayundin ay physically fit at may mabuting pag-uugali.

Paliwanag pa ni Albesa ay mayroong dalawang module ang Candidate Soldier Course na dapat ay makabisa ng bawat sundalo gaya ang Basic Military Training Module at Specialization Module.

Ang Basic Military Training ay binubuo ng tatlong bahagi na magsisimula sa orientation na magsasanay sa kanila upang mapalakas ang kanilang mga pangangatawan na susundan ng doctrination na magtuturo ng tuwid na disiplina, at professionalism ng bawat kasundaluhan.

Dagdag pa ni Albesa, hinahasa ang bawat kasundaluhan sa paggamit at pagmando ng weapon system na mayroon ang yunit tulad ng M15 rifles, grenade launchers at iba pa.

Matapos ang mga pagtuturo ay ipakikita naman ng mga Candidate Soldier ang lahat ng mga natutunan sa field training exercises.

Ang mga makapapasa aniya ay silang magtutuloy sa Specialization Module na sasanayin sa larangan ng Field Artillery, Fire Direction Center, at Field Artillery Battery.

Kanyang nilinaw na matapos ang mga pagsasanay ay inaasahang madedestino na ang mga bagong artillero sa mga yunit sa Luzon, Vizayas at Mindanao.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1961466672252/90-candidate-soldier-nagsasanay-maging-artillero->

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

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

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Army, nagsagawa ng earthquake drill kaisa sa NSED 2016

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 22). Army, nagsagawa ng earthquake drill kaisa sa NSED 2016

Nakiisa ang mga opisyal, kawal at mga kawani ng sibilyan mula sa 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army sa isinagawang National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill para sa Ikalawang National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) ngayong taon na ginanap kaninang umaga sa loob ng Camp Elia Angeles dito.

Ipinakita sa nasabing drill ang kasanayan at kahandaan ng mga opisyal, kawal at mga kawani ng 9ID ng Army sa mga ginawang scenario na posibleng mangyari kung sakali mang tamaan ng malakas na lindol ang lugar.

Ang nasabing aktibidad ay isinagawa rin ng mga iba pang military units na nasasakupan ng 9ID ng Army sa rehiyon ng Bicol.

Isa ang 9ID ng Army sa mga pangunahing magrerespone kung sakaling magkakaroon ng mga di inaasahang sakuna sa rehiyon kung kaya maliban sa paglulunsad ng mga earthquake drills puspusan din ang pagsasagawa ng 9ID ng mga Disaster Response Training para sa mga sundalo.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/3211466581629/army-nagsagawa-ng-earthquake-drill-kaisa-sa-nsed-2016>

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SurSur army chief: Insurgency still lingers in some areas of province

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 22): SurSur army chief: Insurgency still lingers in some areas of province

Col. Isidro Purisima, commander of the 402nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army (PA), this province, admitted that insurgency problems had continued to thrive but only in some areas here.

The government's campaign to purge the province of rebels had already gained broad support from the public, he stressed.

On June 10, the army brigade here held an Area Clearing Validation (ACV) with Gov. Johnny Pimentel and Brig. Gen. Paul Atal, respective chairs of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), this province, and Area Clearing Validation Board (ACVB) of the army's 4th Infantry Division (4ID) aimed at assessing the insurgency situation.

During the occasion, all four battalion commanders of the 402nd Infantry Brigade under Col. Purisima were in attendance together with the mayors or their alter egos.

In a recent interview, Purisima said that the lawless armed groups (LAG), referring to the New People's Army (NPA), had still managed to have their presence felt.

This occurred on June 15 when a container van loaded with banana products owned by the DOLE Philippines was set on fire at the national highway of Barangay Amaga in Barobo town, 105 kilometers south, this city.

It was learned however that, together with the police, the counteraction made by government troopers was pinned on the company's vicinity instead.

Col. Purisima had issued a statement condemning the violent act, urging the public to do the same. Such incident was already carried out twice in a row in the same town this year.

The brigade commander said that schoolchildren who happened to witness the burning incident made by some 15 lawless elements, according to P/CInsp. Dominador Plaza, the town's chief of police (COP), were even threatened that something bad was going to be done.

Companies here which do not yield to the rebels' way of extorting money, had incurred heavy losses, reports indicated.

Col. Purisima had expressed hope that the incoming Duterte administration would put an end to the lingering problem on insurgency in the country.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1741466592159/sursur-army-chief-insurgency-still-lingers-in-some-areas-of-province>

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1CAV spearheads distribution of school supplies to children in remote village

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 20): **1CAV spearheads distribution of school supplies to children in remote village**

Looking around Man-ilan Elementary School in the rural community of Tukuran, one might think it is for privileged children.

Arnold Tagalog, the school head said it has large classrooms, a computer laboratory, a small garden, and large playground. "Children not only get traditional education here but they learn about art, technology and the English language," he said.

"But the children who attend this school, which is more than 20-kilometers from the town proper don't come from rich families. Instead, most are poor, and their parents struggle to provide for basic needs, so buying school supplies like pad papers, notebooks, pencils, crayons, erasers, and rulers is a luxury," Tagalog explained.

Over the weekend, the 1st Cavalry (Tagapanguna) Squadron, Mechanized Infantry Division, 1st Field Artillery Battalion (1FAB), Army Artillery Regiment and the Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative (PAFCIFIC) provided school supplies to 120 schoolchildren.

Students, parents, teachers, and barangay officials of Man-ilan were surprised by the generous gift. "All the students were happy and parents were happy too. It's really nice to receive these gifts from generous people," Tagalog said.

Mayor Francisvic S. Villamero said the basic school supplies bring hope for children whose education is hindered by poverty. "I encourage you to strive hard in your studies. And I hope that you will grow as intelligent and industrious students," the good mayor quoted.

Capt. Gabriel Lastimosa, civil-military operations officer of the 1st Cavalry Squadron said the distribution of school supplies project will motivate children to attend school and to take continued interest in their schooling.

"I believe that you will be motivated to go to school. We wish you success in your studies and become professionals in the future," Lastimosa urged.

PAFCIFIC Manager Romelie Lawagon said they partnered with the project of 1CAV and 1FAB because this would help ease the financial burden of parents and give kids a good start of the school year.

She encouraged the children to study seriously, and not allow poverty to hinder their education, as she believes that education is a proven way to break the vicious cycle of poverty.

Lawagon said like them, she came from a poor family but along with her brothers and sisters, they strived hard in their studies and fulfilled their dreams of becoming professionals.

<http://news.pia.gov.ph/article/view/1371466390799/1cav-spearheads-distribution-of-school-supplies-to-children-in-remote-village>

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Tabak sends off new soldiers

From the Philippine Information Agency (Jun 22): **Tabak sends off new soldiers**

"When you are already in the field, learn from your seniors, recognize the differences in people, and relate to cultural diversity."

This was the advice of Brigadier General (BGen.) Demy Tejares, assistant commander of the 1st Infantry (Tabak) Division, Philippine Army, to the new soldiers during the entrustment of firearms and sendoff ceremony held on Monday at the Tabak headquarters in Kuta Major Cesar L. Sang-an, Barangay Pulacan in this municipality.

Tejares also emphasized to the soldiers that the firearms entrusted to them would serve as their "friend, wife and companion in the field" while protecting the rights of the Filipino people.

In the same occasion, Mayor Leonardo Babasa of Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur also told the young soldiers "the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is a co-manager in providing the basic services to the people."

Babasa traced the roots of insurgency in the country to poverty, social injustice, ignorance or lack of education, corruption, absence of economic opportunities, and fulfillment of personal goals.

To solve this problem, he said, there should be coordination, cooperation and collaboration between and among the AFP, civilian government, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs), and other stakeholders.

Babasa also cited discipline as the best formula to drawing support from the masses saying, "The best Civil-Military Operation (CMO) is a well-disciplined soldier."

Representatives from the government line agencies, NGOS, POs, religious groups, youth groups, indigenous peoples (IP), business organizations and farmers' association personally handed the firearms to 200 privates who are due for deployment within Tabak's area of jurisdiction which cover

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www.dwdd.com

TREACHEROUS ATTACK | Unarmed militiaman killed in ambush

Marycel Imbac Batara June 11, 2016 1 Comment



Quezon City – The 10th Infantry Division, Philippine Army are now conducting pursuit operations against New People's Army (NPA) members who ambushed two unarmed militiamen in Davao City, killing one and wounding the other on Tuesday.

Capt. Rhyen Batchar, 10th Infantry Division public affairs office chief, in a statement Thursday said the attacks took place 6 p.m. at Purok 7 Cristory, Paradise Embac, Paquibato District.

Batchar identified the fatality as Mansarok Imbac while the wounded as Ruel Salangoy.

The two were aboard a motorcycle and headed towards Paradise Embac to buy some food when fired upon by the NPAs.

Mansarok died on the spot while wounded Salangoy was brought to a nearby hospital.

10th Infantry Division commander Major Gen. Rafael Valencia condemned the rebels for their treacherous and unprovoked attacks against the unarmed militiamen.

24 June 2016



Page. 4

Cafgu man patay sa ambush

BUTUAN CITY – Patay ang isang miyembro ng Cafgu Active Auxiliary (CAA) habang sugatan naman ang kanyang kasamahan nang tambangan sila ng armadong grupo habang bumibiyahe para kumuha ng food supplies nitong Martes ng gabi sa Purok 7 Cristory, Paradise Embac, Paquibato District, Davao City. Kinilala ni Capt. Rhyan B. Batchar, pinuno ng Public Affairs Office (PAO) ng Southern Mindanao 10th Infantry (Agila) Division ng Philippine Army, na si CAA member Mansarok Imbac, nakatalaga sa Guinubatan CAA Detachment sa Paquibato District. Malubhang nasugatan naman si CAA Ruel Salangoy sa pananambang ng mga hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) na naganap bandang 6 p.m., Martes. Ayon kay Batchar, nakasakay ang dalawang biktima sa isang motorsiklo patungong Paradise Embac para kumuha ng kanilang pagkain nang harangin at pagbabarilin ng mga di kilalang kalalakhian. Dead on arrival si Mansarok sa ospital dahil sa tama ng mga bala sa katawan, pahayag ni Batchar. Mariing kinondena ni Major General Rafael Valencia, commanding general ng 10th ID, ang walang kalaban-labang pagpatay sa dalawang biktima na walang dalang armas nang atakihin ng armadong grupo. **(Mike U. Crismundo)**

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29 June 2016



Pahina. 2

PULIS TODAS SA SUNDALO

ISANG pulis at sundalo ang sinasabing nagpatayan dahil sa away sa trapiko sa isang public market sa Davao City.

Batay sa imbestigasyon, minalas ang pulis makaraang maubusan ng bala hanggang sa mapatay ng sundalo.

Kinilala ni C/Insp/ Anjanette Tirador, ang biktima na si PO3 Gene Danio, na nakatalaga sa New Corella Police Station, habang ang suspek ay si Cpl. Candor Alonto, kasapi ng 10th ID Philippine Army.

Sakay umano ang dalawa ng single motorcycle at

nakasibilyan ngunit, kapwa sila armado.

Hanggang sa narinig na lamang ang mga putok ng baril malapit sa isang kainan.

Unang natamaan ang sundalo subalit, naubusan umano ng bala ang pulis kaya malapitan itong binaril sa ulo ng sundalo.

Batay sa footage sa CCTV, napag-alaman na girian sa trapiko ang dahilan ng barilan ng dalawa.

Dahil kapwa nakasibilyan, posibleng hindi nagkaalaman ang dalawa na sila ay mga awtoridad ng pamahalaan. **(BRT)**

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24 June 2016



Pahina. 3

7 ASG napatay sa Sulu

PITONG hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang napatay sa pakikipagsagupa sa mga sundalo sa Sulu kamakalawa.

Batay sa impormasyon mula sa militar kahapon, tinatayang labingwalong sundalo ang nasugatan sa labanan na naganap sa Barangay Panglayahan sa bayan ng Patikul.

Isa sa mga sugatang sundalo ay kritikal ang kondisyon.

Noong Martes, sinasabing tatlong miyembro ng ASG ang napatay habang sampung iba pa ang sugatan sa engkwentro sa Patikul. Nasa labing-anim na sundalo naman ang sugatan sa naturang bakbakan.

JEFF GALLOS

[Signature]

24 June 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Duterte expected to grace PAF rites at Clark

By ELENA L. ABEN

Incoming President Rodrigo R. Duterte is expected to attend the Philippine Air Force (PAF) 69th anniversary celebration on July 5 at Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

The event will highlight the capabilities of the PAF's newly acquired assets.

"The Air Force is expecting the President to come... We already invited him and we are expecting him to attend as the guest of honor," said Col. Robert Araus Musico, PAF spokesperson.

The PAF anniversary would be the second military event which Duterte will attend after his inauguration on June 30.

On July 1, he is scheduled to preside over the AFP change of command ceremony, wherein Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya will assume as top military post.

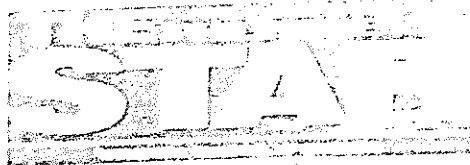
Musico said that during the PAF anniversary rites, the country's two FA/50 PH aircraft will be conducting a high-speed opener pass.

The first two South Korean-made FA/50PHs, out of 12 units acquired from Korea Aerospace Industries, arrived in the country last November 28.

Aside from the high-speed flybys by the Mach 1.5 capable FA-50PHs, 22 assorted aircraft will be also flying in formation in the shape of a giant "69."

Q

24 JUNE 2016



Page 2

Next AFP chief defends Rody's military aircraft priorities

Incoming Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya defended yesterday president-elect Rodrigo Duterte's stand on prioritizing acquisition of modern helicopters instead of fighter jets to address the country's internal security problems.

Visaya said Duterte wanted to first bolster the military's internal defense capabilities

By JAIME LAUDE

before gradually shifting to external defense.

"The president-elect only wanted the military to have modern helicopters with night-flying capability as well as naval fast craft for internal security operations," Visaya said.

He added that the AFP modernization program will still push through, but the priority would be internal security operations first.

Critical of the procurement of the supersonic FA50 fighter jets, Duterte said that the jets are no match to China's aircraft and the government had just wasted money in acquiring the aircraft.

The Aquino administration has invested billions of pesos in the AFP modernization program in light of the current security situation in the region spawned by China's bullying and aggressive occupation of the country's maritime domain in the West Philippine Sea.

Duterte has declared that he will not go to war with China on maritime issues, saying he will not risk the lives of Filipino soldiers in pushing the country's claim over Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

Visaya said the AFP needs more helicopters that could fly at night and could be used

against lawless elements.

"We don't have enough helicopters with night-flying capabilities. The president-elect noticed that during the Samal abduction, the AFP lacked the needed equipment," Visaya said.

Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped three foreigners and a Filipina in a resort in Samal Island in Davao last year and the bandits brought the hostages to Sulu.

Currently, the Air Force has 50 operational helicopters but only a few have night-flying capability, while the Navy has 60 fast-attack craft, including patrol gunboats.

"The president-elect might just be misinformed or ill-advised as to the objective why we have procured these aircraft," an Air Force official, who asked not be named, said.

The official stressed that these FA50s are a vital component of the Air Force capability upgrade and modernization program that is aimed at rebuilding the country's air power that is now lagging behind other countries in the region.

He said that the two delivered jets are trainer aircraft to prepare Filipino fighter pilots in handling supersonic fighter jets.

"If we want other countries to respect us, we should be also carrying a big stick and we are already heading towards that objective," he said.

However, he said that if the modernization program is shelved, the AFP as a professional organization would have no other choice but to follow the wisdom of the country's political leadership.

Under the modernization program of the Aquino administration geared towards territorial and external defense, the AFP is also working out the acquisition of two brand-new frigates worth P18 billion, two long-range patrol aircraft worth P5.9 billion, two anti-submarine helicopters for P5.3 billion and surveillance radar worth P2.6 billion.

Incoming defense chief Delfin Lorenzana said that he believes that insurgency is not solely a military problem but that of the community as well,

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but he is leaving this to current commanders of the AFP to formulate the strategy regarding security concerns.

He belied reports that he is planning to replicate the anti-insurgency tactics that involved the community aspect that he employed while still an Army battalion commander in Davao.

Lorenzana, then commander of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion based in Davao in 1987, closely supported then Davao City mayor Duterte in clearing the city of insurgents and criminal syndicates.

"The insurgency situation in 1987 is very different from today. It could be a model (his own approach before) in a way that it involved the community in a very big way - meaning insurgency is not solely a military problem but a community's. We can only succeed in fighting it if we are in it together - the people, local government, and the police," Lorenzana said.

As this developed, Visaya ordered Bicol-based troops not to relax or lower their guard but to sustain their anti-insurgency operations.

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24 June 2016

The Manila Times

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AFP modernization to continue – Visaya

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will continue to acquire equipment to enable the military to go after militants, particularly members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), incoming AFP chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya said Thursday.

Visaya explained that President-elect Rodrigo Duterte considered the acquisition of 12 FA-50 fighter jets a "waste of money" because he wants to give priority to internal security.

But even if Duterte had expressed his desire to acquire war materiel that can be used in addressing internal security threats such as the Abu Sayyaf, Visaya said there will be no revision of the AFP modernization program.

He said the military equipment on the list of the incoming Commander-in-Chief are helicopters with night-fighting capabilities and fast vessels that can be extensively used in going after the jihadists whose strongholds are in the island of Jolo in Sulu and Basilan province.

Had the military acquired these

equipment, security forces could have intercepted the militants when they snatched Canadians John Ridsdel and Robert Hall and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites Flor from the Island Garden City of Samal in September last year, Visaya said. Hall and Ridsdel were executed on June 13 and April 25, 2016 respectively.

"Ang gusto nya (Duterte) may mga night fighting capabilities, so ito muna bago mag-external (He wants night fighting capabilities, so we will prioritize this). So it (AFP modernization) will be continued. That is part of modernization of the AFP modernization," Visaya said.

Duterte earlier noted that the FA-50 fighter jets may have little or no use at all in addressing the insurgency problem.

The delivery of the first batch of TWO FA-50 fighter jets is part of the Air Force modernization program. The remaining 10 fighter jets will be delivered in batches up to 2017.

FERNAN MARASIGAN

26 June 2016

Malaya
The Nation's Newspaper

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Military to focus on internal threat

BY VICTOR REYES

INCOMING Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya yesterday said the incoming Duterte administration will continue the AFP's modernization program, although it will now focus on addressing internal threats.

"It will continue but his priority is the procurement of

fast craft, more sophisticated helicopters," said Visaya, who will assume as AFP chief on July 1, a day after Duterte's inauguration.

Visaya said Duterte, who has been mayor of Davao City for years, wants to improve the capability of the Armed Forces in addressing various internal security threats, including the

Abu Sayyaf group which is notorious for kidnap for ransom activities and beheading hostages.

"He wants change and his standard is Davao. That's why he wants the country to be like Davao. He wants progress so he would like to start with internal," Visaya said of Duterte.

See MILITARY > Page B6

MILITARY

"He wants to give a boost to the equipment we are using in internal security operations, that's why his priority is modern helicopters and fast craft. He wants helicopters with night-fighting capabilities," added Visaya.

Sources said the Air Force has around 50 helicopters but only a few of them have night-fighting capability. The Navy has around 50 to 60 fast craft in its inventory.

Visaya cited the kidnapping of two Canadians, a Norwegian

and a Filipina from a posh resort on Samal Island in Davao del Norte in September last year by the Abu Sayyaf. The two Canadians were beheaded last April 25 and June 13 in Sulu.

"We were not able to pursue them (Abu Sayyaf). We don't have enough helicopters with night-flight capability. He (Duterte) saw that we are lacking in those equipment. We all know that ending kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf is his priority," said Visaya.

Duterte last Tuesday vowed to crush the Abu Sayyaf but asked for some time to do it as he said

there are "things" he needs. He did not say what the things are.

A number of assets for external defense are already in the pipeline for acquisition, including two frigates worth P18 billion, two long-range patrol aircraft worth P5.9 billion, two anti-submarine helicopters worth P5.3 billion, and air surveillance radar worth P2.6 billion.

Asked if the acquisition of external defense equipment that are already in the pipeline would be shelved, Visaya just said: "Let's see because I am not (yet) at the GHQ (general headquarters)."

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24 June 2016

The
Standard
DEFENDING THE NEWS

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AFP shifts weapons tack

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines will focus on getting more modern helicopters and naval fast craft under its modernization program so that it can address the internal security threats of the country, the incoming military chief said Thursday.

“[President-elect Rodrigo Duterte] would like to start by improving and updating equipment use for internal security operations so he will prioritize the acquisition of modern helicopters and fast craft, with night-fighting capabilities,” said incoming AFP chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya.

Such platforms are useful in dealing with the country’s ongoing campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group and New People’s Army threats.

Visaya said acquisition of such equipment are included in the AFP Modernization Program as emphasized by the procurement of the night-capable AgustaWestland AW-109 attack helicopters of the Navy and Air Force.

The lack of night-capable helicopters and fast craft, according to the incoming AFP chief, hampered the military response when the ASG attacked Samal Island and kidnapped Canadians John Ridsel, Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Hall’s girlfriend Marites Flor during their Sept. 21 attack on a posh resort in Samal Island.

Ridsel was beheaded last April 25 while Hall was executed last June 13 after the Philippine and Canadian governments snubbed the ASG ransom demand amounting to around PHP600 million for the two Canadians.

Visaya also clarified that acquisition of equipment that will beefed up the external capabilities of the AFP will continue as part of the ongoing modernization program.

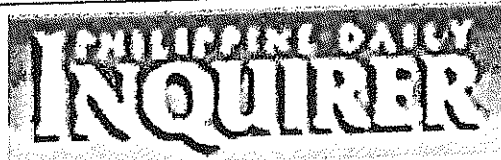
“It [modernization program] will continue, but items needed for internal security operations will be prioritized,” Visaya said.

According to outgoing Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, a total of 36 modernization projects, worth P41.2 billion, were completed and awarded under the leadership of President Benigno Aquino III.

The modernization program was first implemented in 1995 with the enactment of Republic Act No. 7898 which was amended by Republic Act No. 10349 in 2012. PNA

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24 June 2016



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Abu kidnappers seize 7 Indonesians

By Estrella Torres

SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf militants have abducted seven crew members of an Indonesian tugboat that passed through the Sulu archipelago this week, a diplomatic source confirmed Thursday in Manila.

The sailors were seized at around 11 a.m., Wednesday, with the source saying that the Indonesian government was prepared to hand over an average of P13 million for each of the hostages.

The Abu Sayyaf is still holding captive Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites

Flor, who were seized along with Canadians Robert Hall and John Ridsdel in September. Hall and Ridsdel have both been beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf, a self-styled group of Islamic militants blamed for some of the country's worst attacks.

The source said Manila has made a series of appeals to the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia to stop paying ransom to discourage the terrorist group.

"The problem about it [referring to kidnapping], is the Malaysians and Indonesians. If they see a problem, they throw money at the problem in the hope that the problem

goes away with the money," said the well-placed diplomatic source who requested anonymity.

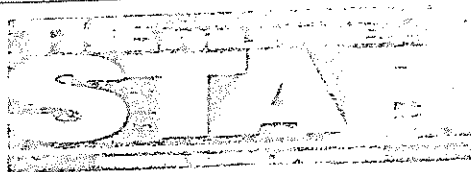
He said the Malaysian government had recently paid P130 million for the release of its four nationals held captive by Abu Sayyaf in the jungle-clad southern region of Jolo.

The diplomat however said he believed that Abu Sayyaf would not behead nationals from Indonesia and Malaysia "because they are fellow Muslims."

Apart from the Norwegian, the Abu Sayyaf is also holding hostages a Dutch, a Chinese and seven Filipinos.

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No new Indonesian kidnap victims – AFP

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The military has denied reports that Abu Sayyaf gunmen kidnapped 13 Indonesian fishermen near the border of Tawi-Tawi on Wednesday night.

"There was no such incident," Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said yesterday.

Reports were circulating that the Indonesians were seized from their tugboat *Charles 00* on their way to Samarinda in East Kalimantan. The kidnappers reportedly split the hostages and fled toward Tawi-Tawi.

Tan assured the public that they have been verifying reports on new kidnapping incidents. Last week, reports circulated that four Malaysians were kidnapped and brought to Sulu, where seven other persons, including a foreigner, are being held.

Tan said the Abu Sayyaf could be behind the disinformation as a diversionary tactic.

"That's possible to release the pressure from ongoing military operations...to avoid being tracked down," he said.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen seized

14 Indonesian and four Malaysian fishermen in separate incidents in March and April. The victims had been released following negotiations and the alleged payment of ransom.

7 Abus killed

As the military steps up its offensive against the Abu Sayyaf, Tan said the number of bandits killed in the encounter in Sulu has risen to seven.

He said four of those reported wounded have died. Three were killed during the clash on Tuesday.

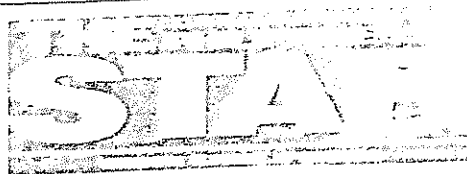
"Intelligence personnel monitored that at least four of those critically wounded died in the village of Panglayahan," Tan said.

Sixteen soldiers belonging to the 32nd Infantry Battalion were wounded in the clash with around 200 bandits in Barangay Pansul in Patikul town. They were airlifted to the Camp Navarro General Hospital for treatment.

Tan said the wounded soldiers received medals from outgoing Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Westmincom chief Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo de la Cruz on Wednesday.

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'Rody can impose martial law in Abu-infested areas'

Instead of giving him emergency powers to address terrorism in Mindanao, president-elect Rodrigo Duterte can simply use the authority granted him under the Constitution to implement martial law in areas where the Abu Sayyaf operates.

"It's not emergency powers, (but) martial law. You don't need a law for that because he is empowered under the Constitution to declare martial law," Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III said yesterday.

Pimentel said Duterte has the prerogative to place certain parts of the country under military rule as commander-in-chief.

Pimentel said then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of emergency in Maguindanao in November 2009 following the massacre of 58 people by a political clan.

Proposals to give Duterte special authority to address the Abu Sayyaf threat followed after the bandits beheaded Canadian Robert Hall early this month.

Hall was the second of two Canadian captives beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf. John Ridsdel was executed on April 25 after the P300-million ransom demanded for his release was not delivered.

The two Canadians were among four that included Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Maritess Flor who were snatched from Samal Island resort in September last year.

Senator-elect Panfilo Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), was vocal in expressing support to give Duterte emergency powers to deal with the Abu Sayyaf and other problems.

- Christina Mendez

24 June 2016

The Manila Times

Page: 1

Abu Sayyaf strikes again

13 Indonesian sailors abducted off Tawi-Tawi

BY AL JACINTO
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants seized 13 Indonesian sailors off the southern Philippine province of Tawi-Tawi two weeks after they released four Malaysian hostages for ransom.

The kidnapped sailors were crewmembers of tugboat Charles OO.

Indonesian media reported that the boat captain phoned his wife and told her that gunmen who introduced themselves as Abu Sayyaf intercepted them at sea on Wednesday then demanded 20 million ringgits for their safe release.

► Strikes A2

The militants and their hostages were last seen heading to Tawi-Tawi, one of five provinces under the Muslim autonomous region. There was no immediate statement from the boat owner, PT Rusiano Brothers.

The tugboat was on its way to Samarinda in East Kalimantan following a trip from the Philippines when it was intercepted. The hostages were reportedly formed into

two groups by their Abu Sayyaf abductors.

A Philippine envoy who declined to be named confirmed the abduction.

"In fact a minister from Indonesia has just called Secretary [Jose Rene] Almendras a while ago," the envoy said.

The official said the rebel group has been carrying on its kidnapping activity because of the

willingness of Indonesians and Malaysians to pay ransom.

The latest abduction occurred after the terror group beheaded Canadian Robert Hall, whose government maintains a no-ransom policy.

"The problem with the Indonesians, and also Malaysians...they throw money at the problem in the hope that the problem goes away with the money," he said, adding.

"They've been doing that for the longest time."

The families of four Malaysian sailors who were freed on June 7 were reported to have paid P130 million ransom to the rebel group. However, only P100 million reached the bandits.

The missing amount fueled suspicions that the rebels may be in cahoots with government officials from Malaysia and the Philippines who may have shared the money among themselves.

According to two highly placed senior Philippine government

officials, the payment of ransom was confirmed by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi who said the families and friends of the victims raised RM12 million (roughly \$2.9 million) for the freedom of brothers Wong Teck Kang, 31, and Teck Chii, 29; their cousin Johnny, 21; and co-worker Wong Hung Sing, 54.

The four were abducted off Sabah on April 1.

The ASG is still holding a Norwegian, Dutch, Chinese and seven Filipinos.

WITH MICHAEL JOET DELIZO

24 June 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Mandatory drug tests on PNP, AFP personnel lead to dismissal of cops

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY – About 20 policemen in Northern Mindanao allegedly involved in illegal drugs were dismissed from service by the Police Regional Office 10 (PRO 10) while 17 others are awaiting decision on their respective cases also involving drugs.

Chief Superintendent Lyndel Desquitado, regional director of PRO 10 said the dismissal of the police personnel is a strong signal that there is no place for illegal drugs in the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix also said three more police personnel are facing dismissal for their involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

“My order on mandatory drug testing to all personnel will continue while our all-out drive against

illegal drug operations will also continue without let up until we hit our objective to make this region a drug-free region in Mindanao,” Chief Supt. Felix added.

In a related development, all field unit commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) are already conducting mandatory drug testing on all their personnel in the field, it was learned yesterday.

The unannounced drug testing was being conducted on the rank-and-file of various combat maneuvering divisions, brigades and battalions and all operational control units (Opcons) the past years to make the AFP drug free, it said.

“We are already doing this a long time ago and any officer or personnel found positive during the unannounced drug testing will be dismissed outright from

the service,” said an Army officer who requested anonymity.

“Our higher command is aiming to make our AFP a drug free institution,” he pointed out.

“Yes, we are already doing this long time ago and it is good that the incoming President made his hard stand on this in an effort to put an end to the illegal drug menace,” another Army officer added.

Last month, all officials and personnel of northeastern (Cagayan) Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) and Northern (Region 10) Mindanao PRO 10 have already started their mandatory drug testing.

The regional commands of PRO 13 and PRO 10 have issued an order requiring all police officials and personnel from the highest to the lowest rank to undergo mandatory drug testing.

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The Manila Times

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Abu Sayyaf's Hapilon recruiting members

A FACTION of the Al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) identified with sub-leader Isnlon Hapilon has been recruiting new members in the name of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Basilan province during the past weeks, a source from the police intelligence community disclosed on Wednesday.

The Manila Times source, an intelligence officer based in Camp Crame, said that the recruitment of new members is centered in the hinterland villages of the towns of Tipo-Tipo and Al-Barka, both in Basilan.

The same source said that the recruitment of the Isnlon group is continuing, indicating that they have their own funding.

"They have already recruited at least 20 new members, mostly belonging to the Yakans," the intelligence source said, adding that the group was limiting recruitment to no more than 20 members to avoid detection.

This is so, the source added,

since Isnlon, who comes from Yakan tribe, is favoring the recruitment of his fellow tribesmen for better command and control.

The recruited Yakans are jobless and hail from hinterland villages.

The source, who uses the code name Pokemon, said that recruits are promised to be paid P5,000 cash, plus an M-16 rifle for every meeting they attend. So far, they have already held three meetings.

ASG is one of the Islamic militant groups in Southern Mindanao that have pledged allegiance to ISIS, an offshoot of the Al-Qaeda network of Osama Bin Laden which has taken huge swathes of territories in the Middle-East.

The other known Islamic militant groups in the Southern Philippines that have pledge loyalty to ISIS are the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and the radical Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM).

ANTHONY VARGAS

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24 June 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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Legal forum a win-option for PH in sea dispute

By Rey E. Requejo

INTERNATIONAL legal forum is the only option for the Philippines in pursuing its claim over the disputed West Philippine Sea, according to a senior magistrate of the Supreme Court.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said the decision of The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), which sources said could be released next month, is the only way by which the country could win the dispute.

"The only forum where we can bring the dispute where we can possibly win is the legal forum. We need the ruling to start all our programs on the West Philippine Sea," Carpio said, in his speech before the Philippine Press Institute event at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Carpio, who was part of the Philippine delegation that argued before the tribunal in July last year, expects the PCA to "purely base [the decision] on the law of the seas."

According to him, war with China is definitely not an option for the government.

"We will not start the war we know we will lose... If we remain in our right mind, we will not start a war with China," he stressed.

The SC justice stressed that the government should remain in its tactic to pursue the case in the legal forum while "China wants to win this battle without firing a shot, just by intimidating us."

Nonetheless, he admitted that a ruling favorable to the Philippines would be hard to enforce.

"There is no world policeman to draw out the Chinese in the [disputed] area," he said, adding that even the US cannot also be expected to enforce the ruling as an ally of the Philippines.

Carpio had been publicly discussing the West Philippine Sea issue in a number of his speeches since 2013.

He believes that China's claim to a "historical right" to the waters enclosed within the nine-dash line in the South China Sea is utterly without basis under international law.

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Page. 4

Sundalo, kinasuhan sa pambubugbog

UMINGAN, Pangasinan - Nahaharap ngayon sa dalawang kaso ang isang tauhan ng Philippine Marines at kasama nito matapos umano silang mambubugbog.

Kinasuhan na kahapon ng frustrated homicide at illegal possession of firearms sina Cpl Resmen Fimalino, 31, may asawa, aktibo sa Philippine Marines, at residente ng Barangay Caurdanetaan, Umingan; at Gemboy Ganafe, 36, may asawa, ng Bgy. Poblacion.

Nauna rito, nirespondehan ng pulisya ang pambubugbog ng mga suspek nitong Hunyo 20, dakong 6:30 ng gabi, kay Jose Pariñas, 59, ng Bgy. Annam sa Umingan.

Nakuha mula kay Fimalino ang isang .45 caliber pistol, at isang stainless magazine na kargado ng pitong bala na walang mga balidong dokumento.

Nakadetina na sina Fimalino at Ganafe.

Liezie Basa Inigo

2 June 2016



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Second most dangerous

WHO REMEMBERS Dexter Condez, who was described as the most vocal figure among the Ati in their struggle for their ancestral land rights in world-famous Boracay? The spokesperson of the Boracay Ati Tribal Organization was gunned down on Feb. 22, 2013, as he was heading home after a meeting, and three years later the persons responsible have yet to be held to account.

His murder is among a long list of murders of environmental activists, indigenous people included, who have spoken out in defense of their rights, their lands, and their natural resources against the inroads of developers, mining and agribusiness firms, logging concessions, etc.

EDITORIAL

Yet, as cold-blooded as it was, Condez's killing, because it happened in 2013, is not among those documented to have placed the Philippines in yet another unenviable distinction: as the second deadliest country for environmental activists among 16 countries in the world in 2015. The distinction was made official early this week by Global Witness, a London-based advocacy group that documented 185 such killings all over the planet last year. In its report, Global Witness said the figure (185) is 60 percent more than in 2014 (116) and the highest since it started its documentation in 2002.

In 2015, Brazil was the deadliest country in the world for environmental activists, with 50 killings; the Philippines was second with 33, followed by Colombia with 26. Almost 40 percent of the 185 killed, or 67, were indigenous people, according to Global Witness. Indeed, 22 of the 33 on the Philippines' scorecard were from indigenous communities fighting to defend their lands from agribusiness and mining interests.

Who remembers Dionel Campos, the leader of the Malahutayong Pakigbisog Alang sa Sumusunod (Mapasu) in the province of Surigao del Sur, and his relative Datu Bello Sinzo? Who remembers Emerito Samarca, executive director of the Alternative Learning Center for Agriculture and Livelihood Development (Alcadev), which served communities seldom reached by government services? Per eyewitness accounts, Campos and Sinzo were shot dead in the wee hours of Sept. 1, 2015, by uniformed armed men who had rounded up the community on suspicion that its members were supporting the communist New People's Army. Samarca's corpse—the throat slit, the hands and feet bound—was later found in the Alcadev compound.

But what were these groups up to? What were their primary concerns? Alcadev, a privately owned secondary school, had *lumad* children as students. Mapasu, a community organization, campaigns against the exploitation of coal, nickel and gold reserves by foreign and local mining companies.

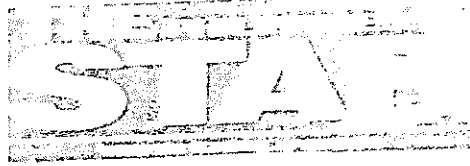
The year 2015 was "the deadliest year on record for killings of land and environmental defenders, people struggling to protect their land, forests and rivers," Global Witness said in its report. It said conflicts involving mining, agribusiness, hydroelectric dams and logging were the cause of most of the killings.

Specifically, Global Witness said "one of the root causes of conflict in the highly militarized Mindanao region" was "the encroachment of agribusiness and mining interests in indigenous peoples' lands without their consent." It said those who oppose such projects are "finding themselves in the firing line of private security companies, state forces, and a thriving market for contract killers."

Were the five Manobo leaders reported killed by the military's Special Forces in Pangantucan, Bukidnon, on Aug. 18, 2015, fighting for their community's rights and interests? The military said the five men were communist insurgents, but the NPA said they were civilians. Was Condez killed in 2013 because of his spirited defense of the Ati's right to a 2.1-hectare beach front property in Boracay?

Lamentably, this "second most dangerous for environmental activists" distinction for the Philippines comes after its tag of "second most dangerous country for journalists," second only to war-racked Iraq. And it doesn't seem like this long-running tag would be erased from the records soon, the tone of the incoming administration's pronouncements on the matter being hardly encouraging.

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EDITORIAL

Collusion

The mayor of Jolo, Hussin Amin, has been challenged by the military to prove his claim that certain officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines may have received part of the ransom paid to Abu Sayyaf bandits for the release of hostages in Sulu.

While Amin tries to substantiate his claim, however, the government should also look into his allegation, particularly amid reports that of P130 million paid by Kuala Lumpur for the bandits' release of four Malaysian sailors in Jolo, only P100 million ended up with the Abu Sayyaf.

Malaysian officials reportedly said the P130 million was given to "legally and religiously sanctioned" organizations in the Philippines as "a form of contribution" prior to the release of the captives. In previous kidnapping cases, the bandits have demanded "board and lodging fees" in return for the release of their captives.

Sulu Vice Gov. Abdusakur Tan has denied that certain local government officials and AFP officers in the province are in cahoots with the Abu Sayyaf, which is still holding several foreigners and a Filipina hostage. The bandits earlier executed two Canadians after their government refused to pay ransom.

Amin's accusation, however, is not

the first of its kind. A former judge and member of the House of Representatives, Amin said a congressional probe in 2004 found that a military colonel received part of the ransom for a doctor who was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu.

At the height of a kidnapping spree during the Estrada administration, local government and military officials in Sulu together with a presidential aide were also suspected of receiving a share of ransom payments. The accusations were never established, but they resurfaced when businessman Reghis Romero II along with several other Filipinos and three Americans were kidnapped from an island resort in Palawan in 2001.

The military has lost many of its personnel in the battle against the Abu Sayyaf, but it cannot rule out the presence of rotten eggs within its ranks. For their part, local officials in Sulu, even if they may not be in collusion with the bandits, should do more to create an environment that will be hostile to kidnappers and terrorists. This takes firm, dedicated and honest leadership. A military solution alone is not enough to end the Abu Sayyaf scourge. Everyone must do his part, with the local government taking the lead.

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24 June 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Ways to make China comply with UN ruling on S. China Sea

ELLEN TORDESILLAS



It is doubtful that China would withdraw from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea over an adverse ruling.

on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to suspend the processing of China's extended CS claims until China complies with the ruling.

That's why it is doubtful that China would withdraw from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea over an adverse ruling on the case filed by the Philippines because if they are not part of UNCLOS they would not be able to explore the seabed.

Carpio said the Philippines would just have to be creative.

Carpio proposed to suspend for 100 years any claim in the South China Sea and declare the area a Marine Protected Area and allow the reefs to recover. No military facilities. Only Coast Guards would be allowed to protect the resource rich area.

The future generation will thank us for this.

Blog: www.ellentordesillas.com
E-mail: ellentordesillas@gmail.com

THE Philippines is not exactly helpless if the United Nations Arbitral Court decides in favor of the Philippines in its case against China's nine-dash line map and its transforming into islands, rocks in the Spratlys that are only seen during low tide.

In his lecture before members of the Philippine Press Institute yesterday at the Century Park Hotel, Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio said, "there is no world policeman to enforce the rule" but the following can happen:

1. The world's naval powers which consider freedom of navigation and over flight their national interest have declared they will sail and fly in the high seas and the Economic Exclusive Zones of the South China Sea.

Carpio expects the United States, which insists on freedom of navigation in the maritime waters where some \$5.3 trillion pass through annually, to "really wave

the UN ruling."

France's Defense Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, called for "regular and visible" European patrols in the South China Sea during the recent Shangri-la Dialogue in Singapore.

2. If the China National Offshore Oil Corporation lifts the oil and gas in the Reed Bank, the Philippines can sue the CNOOC in countries where the

CNOOC has assets like Canada and the U.S.

3. China has secured four permits from the International Seabed Authority to explore the seabed, and has two pending applications. The Philippines can ask ISA to suspend the four permits and the processing of the two pending applications using the ruling. 4. The Philippines can also ask the UN Commission

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ONLINE NEWS

24 JUNE 2016

www.inquirer.net

3 militiamen surrender to join Palparan in 2nd kidnap case

By: Carmela Reyes-Estrope

03:51 PM June 23rd, 2016

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Three militiamen surrendered on Wednesday after being implicated in a second lawsuit against retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for the 2006 kidnapping and serious illegal detention of two brothers in San Ildefonso town.

Michael Dela Cruz, 57, and Maximo Dela Cruz, 44, members of the Civilian Active Auxiliary (CAA), and Marcelo Dela Cruz, 54, placed themselves under the custody of the Bulacan police following arrest warrants issued by Bulacan Regional Trial Court Judge Francisco Felizmenio of Branch 19.

They were accused of taking part in the abduction and torture of Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo.

Palparan is currently standing trial for an earlier kidnapping and serious illegal detention case filed by the families of missing University of the Philippines students Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño. The students also disappeared in 2006.

The Manalo brothers testified against Palparan in the Cadapan-Empeño trial.

The militiamen said they surrendered because they were fearful about being killed by policemen, tasked to locate them.

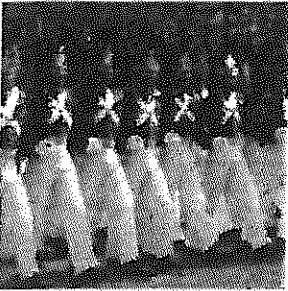
They are detained at the Bulacan PPSC custodial facility.

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

www.dwdd.com

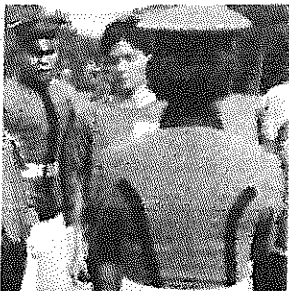
PMA | Molding Leaders of Our Nation

Alvin Santiago, June 23, 2016 0 Comment [breaking news](#)



Why be a PMA Cadet?

- A noble privilege in serving the country
- Free college education with a well-rounded curriculum
- Monthly salary and allowances
- Guaranteed job after graduation
- Progressive career as an officer in the Philippine ARMY, NAVY or AIRFORCE



Admission

The start of the journey of a Filipino youth who dreams to embrace the profession of arms, through the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), is when he submits his application form to the Office of Cadet Admission(OCA) for processing, so that he can take the Philippine Military Academy Cadet Qualification Test (PMACQT),

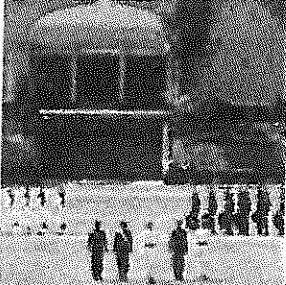
After receiving the Test Permit from the OCA, the applicant will report to the designated Examination Center on the date indicated on the permit. The applicant is to bring said Test Permit so that s/he will be allowed by the Proctors to take the Exam. If the applicant passes the Exam, s/he will receive a written notice from OCA informing him of the result of the Exam and instructing him to report to AFP, Medical Center (AFPMC). He will then undergo the Complete Physical Examination (CPE) where his medical, physical, mental and emotional condition will be examined to determine his readiness and fitness for the military training in the Academy. CPE takes days, so a cadet candidate is required to stay in the billeting area provided by the Academy in AFPMC.

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

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

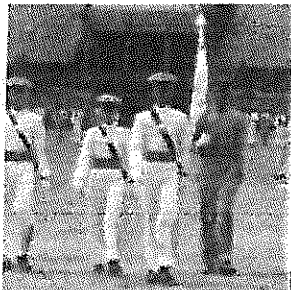
If the applicant successfully makes it, he will be required to report to PMA Liason Office in AFPMC for final processing during the last week of March before s/he will be brought to Philippine Military Academy (PMA) on April 01 for the Oath-Taking Ceremony and Reception Rites, signaling his official entry to the Academy as member of a PMA Class.

From then on, and during the four years stay in the Academy. s/he will undergo the education and training in the Academy designed to prepare her/him into becoming an officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the soldier of the Filipino people.



PMA Philosophy of Education

PMA adopts a holistic view of man as body, soul, and spirit. PMA believes that future leaders can be selected, formed, and developed to their fullest potentials. PMA is principally an institution for military leadership and it is from the total view of man that PMA's leader development program is based. It contains character development, a balanced college education, military leadership, and physical development, necessary to prepare the cadets for the profession of arms and to be responsive to the needs of the Armed Forces and the Nation.

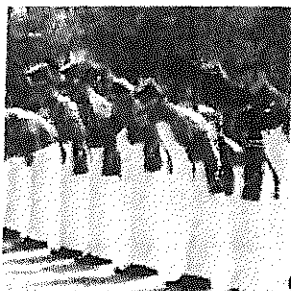


PMA Program Competency Statement

A PMA graduate is a values-centered leader who possesses the character, the broad and basic military skills, and the education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career in selfless service to the AFP and the Nation

The education and training of a cadet in the Academy is characterized by the acronym CAMP, which stands for Character, Academics, Military Skills and Physical Fitness. These serve as the pillars in developing a well-rounded cadet who will become the future officer and leader of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The CAMP is the blueprint of the present curriculum being implemented in the Academy. The competency statement of each pillar is stated below:

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

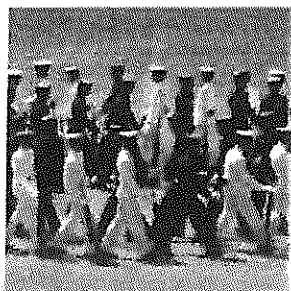


Character Development Program Competency Statement

A PMA graduate is a motivated leader who has imbibed the PMA core values, serves as a role model, acts a mentor, and exhibits both moral soundness and ethical responsibility in the performance of his/her expected roles

Academic Program Competency Statement

A PMA graduate is a military professional who possesses the broad and basic education holding a Bachelor of Science degree and who can competently use the knowledge learned from the Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Languages, Management, Mathematics, Humanities, Literature, Engineering and Technology in appropriate situations in his/her progressive military career



Military Program Competency Statement

A PMA graduate is a military leader who possesses the basic military competencies of soldiery and the basic preparatory knowledge of his/her major branch of service peculiarities needed in the effective performance of his/her roles in the AFP

Physical Program Competency Statement

A PMA graduate fully understands and applies the basics of Physical Fitness, Fitness Training, Nutrition and Sports Discipline, adheres to a healthy lifestyle and wellness which makes him/her physically prepared for military occupational tasks

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www.dwdd.com

PH to host 6th Asean Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference in July

Military Medical Service, June 23, 2016. Photo by AFP. Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer.



File Photo from Google

Quezon City — The Armed Forces of the Philippines under the Department of National Defense will host the 6th ASEAN Chiefs of Military Medicine Conference (ACMMC) aimed to promote cooperation, exchange of experience and expertise, cope up with security challenges and help ensure peace and stability in the region.

The Conference, with the theme "Global Climate Change: Challenges to the ASEAN Military Medicine" will be held on July 11 to 13, 2016 at the Shangri-la Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The event will be attended by a head of delegation, his spouse, a senior delegate and young Asean military medical officers from nine (9) countries which include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Brig. Gen. Reuel N. Sorilla, AFP Adjutant General, said one of the highlights of the conference is that each participating country will send entries of their respective scientific research papers that will be presented during the 'Scientific Sessions.'

He said the conference would focus on the roles, functions and duties of chiefs of military medicine, increase their mutual understanding, and exchange of experience and expertise, particularly by young military medical staff, from the region.

There would also be bilateral meetings between Philippines and delegations from the region to discuss and possibly resolve various regional issues and concerns between and among the host country delegates and their counterparts.

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

Aside from the bilateral meetings and a tour of the AFP Medical Center's Orthopedic and Traumatology Department, the host country will treat the ASEAN delegates to a 'fellowship night' where there will be awarding of winning scientific papers presented in the sessions.

The delegates would also be treated to a cultural tour to the historic Corregidor Island in Cavite. The island played an important role during the invasion and liberation of the Philippines from Japanese forces during World War II.

Sorilla said the ACMMC has made great contributions in forging close, friendly and inclusive relations among ASEAN militaries, not only in forum, but also as "venue for collaborative mechanism on military medical cooperation in enhancing the professional skills in coping with the increasingly complicated, unpredictable, and transnational medical challenges, such as the widespread and dangerous epidemics and natural disasters as well." (RAE)

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

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP modernization to continue, more focus to be given on platforms to curb internal threats

From the Philippine News Agency (Jun 23): AFP modernization to continue, more focus to be given on platforms to curb internal threats

The continuation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program will give more focus on platforms that can be used to address the country's internal security threats.

This was stressed by incoming AFP chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya Thursday.

"(President-elect Rodrigo Duterte) would like to start by improving and updating equipment use for internal security operations so he will prioritize the acquisition of modern helicopters and fastcrafts, with nightfighting capabilities," he added.

Such platforms are useful in dealing with the country's ongoing campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and New People's Army threats.

Visaya said acquisition of such equipment are included in the AFP Modernization Program as emphasized by the procurement of the night-capable AgustaWestland AW-109 attack helicopters of the Navy and Air Force.

The lack of night-capable helicopters and fastcrafts, according to the incoming AFP chief, hampered the military response when the ASG attacked Samal Island and kidnapped Canadians John Ridsel, Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Hall's girlfriend Marites Flor last during their Sept. 21 attack on a posh resort in Samal Island.

Ridsel was beheaded last April 25 while Hall was executed last June 13 after the Philippine and Canadian governments snubbed the ASG ransom demand amounting to around PHP600 million for the two Canadians.

Visaya also clarified that acquisition of equipment that will beefed up the external capabilities of the AFP will continue as part of the ongoing modernization program.

"It (modernization program) will continue, but items needed for internal security operations will be prioritize," he said in Filipino.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Sayyaf propaganda taunts Rody

From Malaya (Jun 23): Sayyaf propaganda taunts Rody

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 breakaway 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 importance 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

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"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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China plans construction activities in Scarborough Shoal — Golez

From GMA News (Jun 23): China plans construction activities in Scarborough Shoal — Golez

China reportedly plans to build several structures on Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal in preparation for its eventual occupation of the a part of the Philippine territory, former national security adviser Roilo Golez said Thursday.

In a press conference, Golez showed a map of Panatag Shoal with markings indicating China's construction plans for a lagoon as big as Quezon City in the area.

Pointing at the map, the former Parañaque lawmaker said China plans to build a port and 3,000-meter long runway for the northern portion of the lagoon.

On the eastern side, meanwhile, will rise a "tropical and holiday area" eyed to attract tourists.

Government buildings and a hotel will be constructed at the southern portion of the lagoon while the mouth of the shoal is eyed as an entryway for Chinese ships.

Golez said he obtained the map from reliable sources.

The former lawmaker sounded the alarm on Beijing's purported plans to build structures in Panatag Shoal, also known as Bajo de Masinloc, amid the ongoing maritime row between the Philippines and China over the West Philippine Sea.

"This will be a huge military base and it's so close to the Philippines. It's a dagger that will be aiming at our vital economic installation. It will be a clear threat to us and to the region, Golez said.

China already occupies Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, which now features several structures and an airstrip.

An airstrip has already been constructed by Beijing on Fiery Cross Reef, also known as Kagitingan Reef.

Last April, China began operations of a lighthouse in Subi Reef, which is only 26 kilometers southwest of Pag-asa Island.

The three reefs where Beijing has built structures are part of the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

Citing statements made by senior defense officials during two Senate hearings on the Scarborough Shoal dispute in 2013 and 2015, Senator Antonio Trillanes IV said last May that the area remains a part of the Philippines even if there is a prevailing perception that it has been seized by Beijing.

The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration is expected to issue a ruling soon on the arbitration case filed by the Philippines against China.

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Suspected Abu Sayyaf members kidnap ship crew

Armed men believed to be members of the notorious group seize 7 of 13 crew members from a cargo ship manned by Indonesian and Malaysian sailors, a source tells Rappler

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DAVAO CITY, Philippines – Suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) reportedly abducted 7 crew members of a cargo ship headed to Indonesia on Tuesday, June 22.

The cargo vessel was traversing Indonesian waters from the Philippines when the armed men, who were on motorized boat, fired at the vessel and seized 7 of the 13 crew members, said to be a mix of Indonesian and Malaysian citizens, a source told Rappler.

It was not known whether the kidnappers took both Indonesian and Malaysian hostages, as of posting.

With their victims, the kidnappers reportedly fled towards the direction of Tawi-Tawi in the southern Philippines.

The same source said the captain of the vessel was able to contact his wife to inform her they were kidnapped and that a ransom payment demand was set at P20 million.

The incident is the latest in a string of abductions in seas between Indonesia and the Philippines. On May 1, the ASG released its captive Indonesian sailors after the crew members' company reportedly paid a P50-million ransom.

The latest kidnapping incident comes as Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte warned that the group will soon have to face the consequences of their actions.

Last week, outgoing Philippine President Benigno Aquino III personally went to Sulu after the ASG headed a second Canadian hostage when a ransom payment demand was not met. He said that Philippine authorities have refined their operations in the hope rescuing the remaining hostages.

On Tuesday, June 21, 3 ASG members were killed in a military encounter in Sulu, which also left 16 soldiers wounded.

The Canadian government under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Philippine government are strictly observing a no-ransom policy, to keep the Abu Sayyaf from funding more criminal and terror activities. – Editha Z. Caduaya/Rappler.com

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