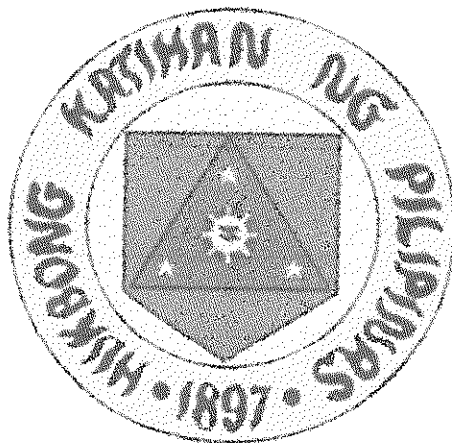


*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
**NEWS CLIPPINGS**

19 March 2016

Saturday

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

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

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

19 MARCH 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p. A16
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>			
2-3	AMLC calls for easing of PH bank secrecy law	Ben de Vera	PDI p. A1
4	BBL best solution to end armed conflict in Mindanao	Jose Rodel Clapano	Phil Star p. 4
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
5-6	The Army and the people	Reynaldo Silvestre	PDI p. A13
7	Soldier, 7 abus slain in firefight	Julie Aurelio	PDI p. A4
8	7 Sayyaf men, soldier killed in Sulu encounter	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p. A26
9	Colonel wounded in AFP-ASG clash in Sulu	Nonoy Lacson	Mla Bulletin p. 16
10	3 ASG men arrested in Sulu	Nonoy Lacson	Mla Bulletin p. 16
11	AFP troops capture major NPA camp	Mike Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p. 16
12	Miyembro ng NPA todas	-	Bulgar p. 4
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
13	Sahiron wounded in Sulu clash	Elena Aben	Mla Bulletin p. 3
14	US underscores increased military aid to Phi	Pia Brago	Phil Star p. 15
15-16	Chinese exclusion zone looms in Spratlys	Reuters	Phil Star p. 1
17-18	US fears Chinese buildup on Panatag	Reuters	PDI p. A1
19	Naval base to rise in Batanes	Jaime Laude	Phil Star p. 3
<b>EDITORIAL/ COMMENTARY</b>			
20	Is China taking over Panatag Shoal	-	Business Mirror p. A4
<b>SPORTS NEWS</b>			
21	Petron, RC-Army eye morale-lifting wins	Marc Anthony Reyes	PDI p. A-19
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
22	EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE II Phi Army	AES / OACPA /	www.dwdd.com.ph

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

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

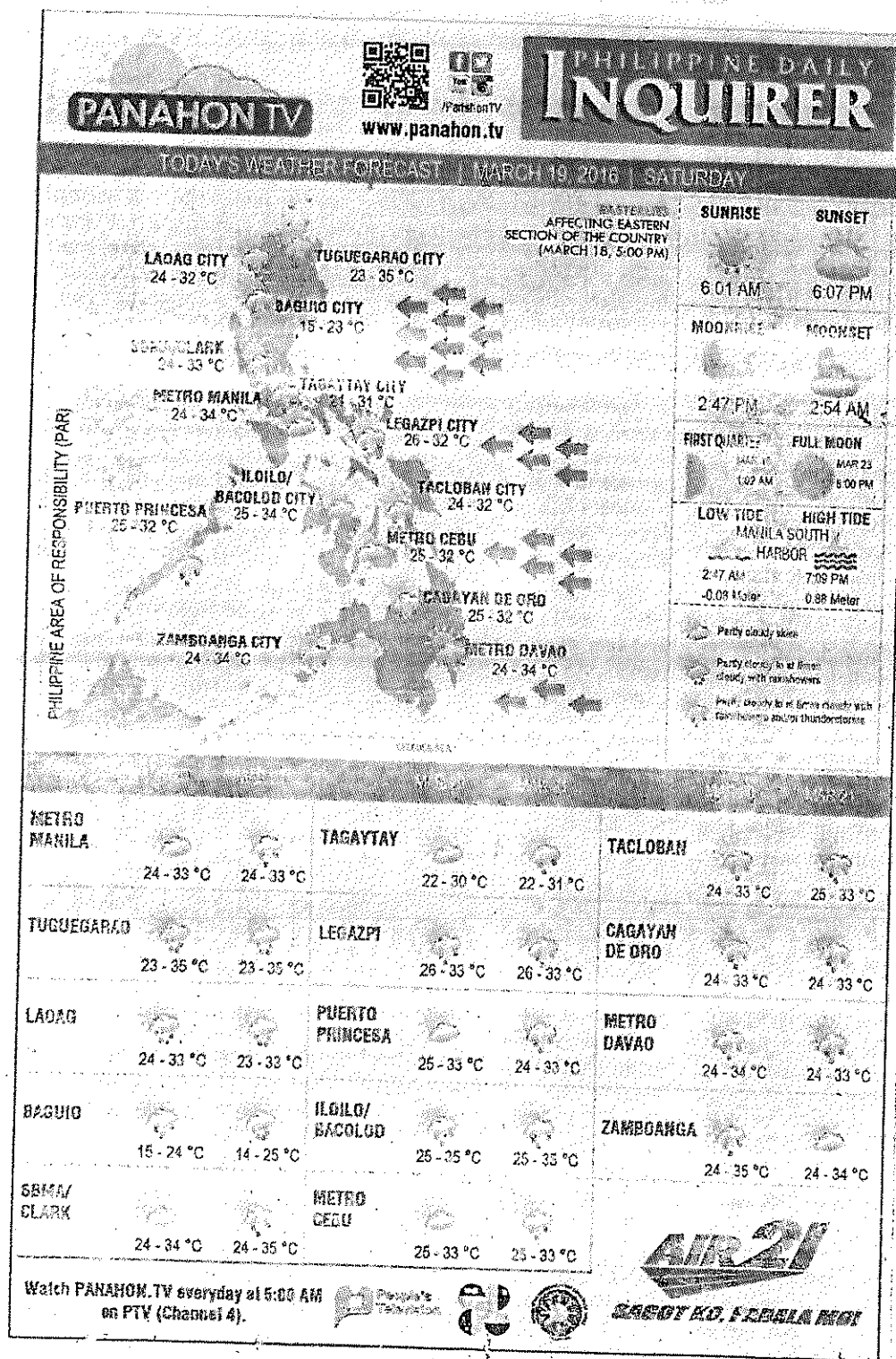
	Achieved Positive Trust and Satisfaction Ratings	MCAG	
23	7 bandido patay, ASG leader kabilang sa mga sugatan sa Sulu clash - AFP	Bombo Mars de San	<a href="http://www.bomboradyo.com">www.bomboradyo.com</a>
24-25	8 die, 19 wounded in Sulu clash	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
	OPAPP sets transitional justice, reconciliation recommendations in motion	-	<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

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

19 March 2016

# INQUIRER

Page: 116



19 March 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1

# AMLC calls for easing of PH bank secrecy law It hampers fight vs money laundering, says BSP gov

By Ben O. de Vera  
Business

THE PHILIPPINES' "very strict" bank secrecy law is hampering the country's fight against money laundering, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

Tetangco, who also chairs the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), reiterated his call to allow prying into a wider array of bank deposits "under certain conditions."

"When a case reaches the AMLC, that is when an investigation begins. So the incident has already happened. We need some kind of preventive measures. The prevention of this

particular activity is being hampered by the very strict bank secrecy law," Tetangco told reporters on the sidelines of the Chamber of Thrift Banks' national convention.

In this regard, Tetangco said, he was amenable to easing or lifting the bank secrecy law under certain conditions, but he did not elaborate.

AMLC/A9

The investigators are looking into the laundering through the Philippine financial system of \$81 million stolen by Chinese computer hackers from the account of Bangladesh Bank, the Bangladeshi central bank, in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York last month.

The money was transferred to five fictitious accounts at the branch of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) on Jupiter Street in Makati City then moved to other banks and to the bank accounts of three local casinos before being taken out of the country.

## Weak point

The AMLC, National Bureau of Investigation and the Senate are investigating the caper, which has put international focus on the Philippines as a weak point in the global financial system.

Senate investigators have run into pleas of bank secrecy from bank employees in their efforts to trace the money trail from the New York Fed to the RCBC Jupiter branch in early February and from there to the country's loosely regulated casinos.

Casinos in the Philippines are exempt from antimoney-laundering requirements.

The Philippines also retains what one US official once called some of the world's toughest bank secrecy laws, recalling a time before the rise of concerns about terrorism financing and tax evasion, when countries promised privacy in the hopes of becoming financial hubs.



## TIME FOR DISCLOSURE

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. is pushing for the lifting of the country's strict bank secrecy law as a preventive measure against money laundering.

But experts and US officials say the Philippines remains a difficult place to catch money launderers.

In a report a year ago on financial crimes, the US state department cited the Philippines' tight bank secrecy laws, a lack of regulation around casinos and difficulties faced by local regulators in watching transactions involving real estate, jewels and nonprofit groups.

It said that in the first 10 months of 2014, the Philippines had one conviction and no prosecutions begun on money-laundering charges.

"The small number of prosecutions and convictions is telling," the report said.

## Amendments to the laws

Sen. Serge Osmeña III, chair of the committee on banks, financial institutions and currencies, on Thursday said he was preparing to propose amendments to

the antimoney-laundering law.

Osmenia said he wanted gaming, and possibly real estate brokers and art dealers, to be subject to the antimoney-laundering law.

He said he also wanted bank secrecy laws to be relaxed.

Earlier, Osmenia said the culprits chose the Philippines to launder the Bangladesh money "because our system is full of loopholes."

"We have been trying to amend these laws for decades, but we can't get it through Congress," he said.

"The trend now in the world is having bank disclosures, not bank secrecy," Sen. Grace Poe, a presidential candidate in May's national elections, said earlier this week. "This is to prevent also the funneling of money to terroristic activities, drug cartels, etc. We should be one with the international community in preventing such activities."

### **Appropriate action**

Tetangco said yesterday that "if the findings [of the investigations] show that further action has to be taken, then the AMLC is prepared to do that."

While declining to comment on the mess at RCBC due to the confidentiality requirements, Tetangco noted that "in principle, if there is liability discovered in the course of the investigation, then the appropriate action should be taken."

"This principle applies to all covered institutions. It does not have to be a specific bank or specific remittance company. We

will apply the same thing if there is a similar situation," he added.

Tetangco played down the impact of the money-laundering scandal on the banking system as a whole.

"If you look at the behavior of the financial markets for the last several days, there has been no indication that there is a negative impact. In fact, the peso has been appreciating in the last few days. The bond markets are steady, the [Philippine Stock Exchange] has been steady and sometimes going up," he said.

But "we have to recognize that there is a risk associated with this," he said.

"We need to address that [risk]. We have to show that there is action being taken with respect to any particular case and with respect to further strengthening the legal framework," Tetangco said.

That, he said, is the reason why the AMLC has been working with Congress to expand the coverage of the Anti-Money Laundering Act to include casinos and real estate.

### **Prevention aspect**

"This is an opportune time to take a look at this and really make a decision consistent with our desire to strengthen the anti-money-laundering framework in the country so we don't become a center for money laundering. We will be working with the government and Congress. We have to make sure the prevention aspect would be there," Tetangco said.

*With reports from AP and New York Times News Service*



19 March 2016



Page: 4

## 'BBL best solution to end armed conflict in Mindanao'

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

The enactment into law of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) remains the best solution to end the armed conflict in Mindanao, the Swiss-led Transitional

Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) said in its report.

The TJRC report said the legislation of a Bangsamoro law that provides for a political and institutional infrastructure pursuant to the Comprehensive Agreement on

The CAB offers an opportunity for the historical and cultural resilience of the Bangsamoro and indigenous peoples to be recognized as a vibrant and constructive part of the Philippines, based on the acknowledgment of plural identities.

"This is indeed a historical opportunity for the Bangsamoro and a historical opportunity for the Philippines," the TJRC report said.

The report was launched in Cotabato City earlier this week in an event attended by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles, government peace panel head Miriam Coronel-Ferrer and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) peace panel chairman Mohagher

Iqbal, along with concerned sectors and local officials.

As stipulated in the CAB, the TJRC was mandated to undertake a study and to make recommendations, based on consultations and expert studies, with a view to promote healing and reconciliation among the conflict-affected communities in the Bangsamoro.

The TJRC report was a product of consultations with more than 210 Moro, indigenous and settler communities in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago, involving some 3,000 community members and local officials.

During the launching Deles revealed that Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. issued a memorandum of instruction to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) to put the recommendations in the TJRC report in motion.

Deles said the memorandum includes the endorsement of the TJRC report to concerned government agencies with their review, assessment and implementation of the recommendations.

The memorandum also seeks to identify and mobilize resources to support the programs that may be implemented.

In addition, the OPAPP is also mandated to encourage and initiate activities toward the mainstreaming and popularization of the framework for transitional justice and reconciliation. Finally, the OPAPP is required to present a report to the executive secretary on compliance with the instructions.

Swiss Ambassador Andrea Reichlin lauded the TJRC for its significant contribution to the peace process.

the Bangsamoro (CAB) could guarantee the non-recurrence of the Mindanao armed conflict.

"The TJRC recommendations cannot replace a durable peace agreement and its legal framework," TJRC chairperson Mō Bleeker said.

"Solving the Bangsamoro situation in a durable manner offers a unique opportunity for a modern state to manage the diversity inherent in any modern democracy in a constructive manner," Bleeker said.

Bleeker added "the Bangsamoro also aspire to a political framework, which will enable them to practice good governance, to develop their region and their people, to proudly assert their identity and to ensure a constructive engagement with their own multi-ethnic constituency."

"The implementation of the CAB is a unique and extraordinary opportunity not only for Bangsamoro, but also for the whole Filipino nation," Bleeker said.

19 March 2016

Page: A13

# The Army and the people

**ANTECEDENT.** The Philippine Army will mark its 119th year on March 22 at its headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, fittingly named after the Katipunan *supremo* who led the armed uprising against Spain in the flame of 1896. After 350 years of colonial servitude and friar despotism, separation was the only answer to the people's aspiration for freedom.

Organized as a revolutionary army at the Tejeros Convention in Kawit, Cavite, in 1887, it elected Artemio Ricarte captain-general to command the sons of the people. A nation was born of the Revolution and an expression of the nation being born.

## COMMENTARY

*Reynaldo V. Silvestre*

Emilio Aguinaldo of Magdalo was awarded the highest prize as its president. A small-town man of a prudence greater than his intellect, he found his doom in playing a role far greater than himself. He ordered Col. Agapito Bonzon to arrest Andres Bonifacio as a rival and a threat, charged him with sedition and treason at a military court presided over by Mariano Noriel, and after a mock trial of five days, had him executed on May 10, 1897.

After America annexed Filipinas in the Treaty of Paris on Dec. 10, 1898, Aguinaldo had the chance to take Manila before Yankee reinforcement arrived, as insisted by Antonio Luna—his best professional soldier—but he hesitated. Instead, he fell to George Dewey's duplicity and was deprived of the nation's seat of authority. He had Luna assassinated in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, on June 5, 1899, whose talent he simply could not muster to ensure the Revolution's success.

From 1901 to 1907, the revolutionary army waged guerrilla warfare against the new conquerors and offered its patriots to be killed: Luciano San Miguel, Faustino Guillermo, Makario Sakay and Lucio de Vega of Bulacan; Simeon Ola and Lazaro Toledo of Bicol; Roman Manolan of Pangasinan and Zambales; Manuel Tomines of Isabela; Ruperto Rios of Tayabas; Dionisio Magbuelas of Negros; and Faustino Ablen of Leyte. They remained faithful to the goal of independence. They were not bandits, *tulisanes*, religious nuts and disgruntled politicians; they represented a resurgence of the Revolution on a national scope. The *ilustrados* had all gone over to the American side, but Ricarte continued to make it truly one of the masses and rightfully became its apotheosis. Only when he died, buried unknown somewhere in the northern wilds, did the Revolution truly end.

Yankee imperialism produced a society that forgot a brutal military campaign of suppression and accepted the myth of altruism as gospel truth.

**Commonwealth.** After 35 years of US tutelage, the Army was revived on Jan. 11, 1936, through a National Defense Act. President Manuel Quezon appointed Jose delos Reyes as chief of staff. Under the provisions of the Tydings-McDuffie Act, the Army could be called into the service of America when necessary.

For coordinated defense efforts, US President Franklin Roosevelt formed the Usaffe (US Armed Forces in the Far East) as umbrella military command on July 26, 1941, and called Douglas MacArthur to active duty as its commanding general. The Pacific War broke out on Dec. 8, after Japanese imperial forces bombed Pearl Harbor.

Unprepared for war with MacArthur's inept "War Plan Orange-3," the Army consolidated into vast guerrilla units that gave the people the courage and inspiration to live through the miseries and horrors of war. America abandoned Filipinas in March 1942, to focus its war machine to defeat Nazi Germany in Europe. A livid Quezon raged: "For 50 years I have worked and hoped for my people. Now they burn and die for a flag that could not protect them. I cannot stand this constant reference to England, to Europe. *Que demonio*—how typically American to writhe in anguish at the fate of a distant cousin while a daughter is being raped in the backroom!"

Japan's occupation of Filipinas in 1942-1945 shattered the people's safe colonial world, and the majority reacted as American wards—placing their hopes and fate in MacArthur. Defeats were transformed into illusions, abandonment was rationalized, and the Death March after Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, was counted as an investment for future reward.

**Martial law.** The proclamation of martial law in September 1972 by strongman Ferdinand Marcos was a seminal event for the armed forces. The Army, led by Rafael Zagala, backed martial law because it shared the belief that civilian leadership enshrined by the 1935 Constitution had failed, and that it must save society from elitist greed, oligarchic corruption, political demagoguery and externally-fed subversion. Marcos was the duly-constituted authority.

The martial necessity concerned itself not only with the external symptoms of rebellion, but its roots as well—mass poverty, elitism of wealth and social injustices. The status quo, like a raging river, had separated us from the rich and happy land our patriots envisioned. With courage, wisdom and determination, the vision of martial rule was to build a bridge to arrive at that rich and happy land. The "Martial Law Citation Badge" is worn proudly today by the Army as a testimony of its principled loyalty to its vision.

Edsa I. Shorn of verbiage, Edsa I was simply a military revolt sparked by the defection of two men which gave encouragement to civilians supported by a religious leader with their invaluable presence on the highway. Together with US power with strong adherents within the military, these elements extended their profound acquiescence to the political regime established there—to the Army shifted its allegiance to the people.

The growing efficiency of communication facilities, the intensification of legitimate violence in military hands, and the increasing sophistication of military organization propel it as the most decisive power in any state.



---

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

---

While "People Power" restored democratically-inspired institutions, it likewise returned with a vengeance the historical greed of the elite and oligarchic privilege. People power benefited only a select few and corruption steadily became the hallmark during the watch of Corazon Aquino. The "February '86 Revolution Ribbon" awarded to the Army is worn with apathy and dismay.

Moro substate. In a full-page ad in the *INQUIRER* on Sept. 14, 2015, the Association of General and Flag Officers warned the nation that the House version of the Bangsamoro Basic Law was fraught with constitutional infirmities and creates a substate—acceptable only if the political leadership can cross over their line of bayonets. The Republic was so close to dismemberment and the BBL would be one of the victims of Mamasapano.

As the Army celebrates its foundation day, the nation salutes its courage and the prestige of its name, its perseverance in the worst of times, its patience with the conditions and means to fight the wars of the Republic, and its utmost dedication to the people it passionately serves. Long live the Army!

*Reynaldo V. Silvestre, a retired Army colonel, benemedalled officer and multiawarded writer, was former chief, Office of Strategic and Special Studies, Armed Forces of the Philippines. He belongs to Class 1968 of the University of the Philippines Vanguard in Diliman, and taught political science at UP Manila when called to active duty as first lieutenant in 1975.*

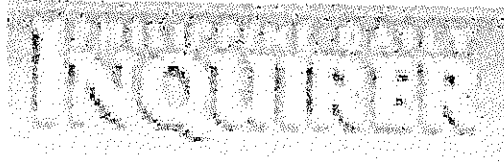
---

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

---

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

19 March 2016



Page: 14

## Soldier, 7 Abus slain in firefight

By Julie M. Aurelio

SEVEN suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists and a soldier were killed during a fierce firefight that erupted in a village of Patikul town in Sulu, the military reported.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, Joint Task Group Sulu commander, said 17 soldiers were wounded in the clash. Six terrorists were also reportedly wounded, including wanted Abu Sayyaf leader Radullan Sahiron, he added.

However, the military said no bodies from the enemy side were actually recovered from the site of the clash.

Arrojado said soldiers from the Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Battalion clashed with around 100 armed men under the one-armed Sahiron in Sitio Maggi, Barangay Panglayahan, Patikul town, on Friday morning. The firefight began at around 9:15 a.m. and lasted until 10:40 a.m.

The United States government earlier put up a \$1-million bounty for Sahiron's arrest, apart from the P5-million reward put up by the Philippine government.

Arrojado said additional troops have been deployed to pursue the terrorist group.

Two military helicopters airlifted the lone fatality and the wounded soldiers on Friday morning and brought them to hospitals for medical treatment.

19 March 2016



Page: A26

# 7 Sayyaf men, soldier killed in Sulu encounter

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – A soldier and seven Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed in an encounter in a village in Patikul, Sulu, yesterday.

Seventeen soldiers and six militants were also wounded.

The military said among the wounded militants were Abu Sayyaf leaders Radullan Saliiron, Asari Sajail and Almujaer Yada.

Col. Mario Jacinto, commander of the 10th Infantry Battalion (IB), was among the wounded soldiers.

Brig. Alan Arrojado, commander of Joint Task Group Sulu, said soldiers belonging to the 10th IB encountered some 100 Abu Sayyaf militants in Sitio Maggi in Barangay Panglayahan around 9:15 a.m.

Arrojado said he ordered the reinforcement of the troops to prevent the bandits from escaping. He said Marines and members of Naval Task Group Sulu are conducting blocking operations.

The slain soldier, whose identity was withheld pending notification of his family, as well as the wounded soldiers were airlifted to a military hospital in Jolo.

## 4 bandits arrested

Meanwhile, four suspected Abu Sayyaf members have been arrested in separate operations in Basilan and Sulu.

Alhamid Asamuddin, alias Abu Asad, was nabbed yesterday morning in Sitio Sunset, Barangay Tabuk in Isabela, Basilan while Jemar Asgari, Alden Asmad and Dems Abtal were captured in Barangay Bangkal in Patikul, Sulu before noon on Thursday.

Asamuddin, a known follower of the late Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffi Janjalani, is wanted for his involvement in the siege at Lamitan Hospital in May 2001.

Arrojado said Asgari, Asmad and Abtal were tagged in the killing of a police officer and two soldiers on Wednesday.

The bandits were turned over to the Jolo police station for the filing of appropriate charges, including violation of the election gun ban.

19 March 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

**Colonel wounded  
in AFP-ASG clash  
in Sulu**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — An Army colonel was wounded, together with 15 soldiers, after elements of the 10th Infantry Battalion encountered a large number of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits at the boundary of Danag and Panglayahan in Patikul, Sulu, shortly before noon yesterday. A sketchy report reaching this city indicated that elements of the 10th IB figured in an encounter with the ASG about 11:30 am at the boundary of Danag and Panglayahan in Patikul, Sulu, wounding Lt Col. Mario DL Jacinto. The report said the firefight was still raging as of 2:30pm yesterday in the area. Philippine Air Force helicopters ferried the wounded to a military hospital in Jolo, Sulu, the report added. There were no immediate reports as to what group of ASG bandits operating in Patikul, Sulu the military encountered and the reason why a senior military officer was with his men during the encounter yesterday morning. (Nonoy E. Lacson)

19 March 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 16

## 3 ASG men arrested in Sulu

By NONOY E LACSON

**ZAMBOANGA CITY** — Three suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) were arrested shortly before noon Thursday at the village of Bangkal in Patikul town in the province of Sulu.

A military report reaching this city identified the arrested alleged ASG members as Jemar Asgari, 22, married, Alden Asmad, 29, married both of Barangay Darayan, Patikul, Sulu and Demis Abtal, 28, married of Lower Sinumaan, Talipao, Sulu.

The military said the three were the principal suspects in the killing of Corporals Lamustre and Cpl Apiado, both from the intelligence section of the Philippine Army 10th Infantry Battalion based in Sulu province, last Tuesday in Sitio Tibongbong, Barangay Igasan, Patikul, Sulu.

The three were also the suspects in the killing of a policeman recently at the vicinity of the Jolo Airport in Jolo town proper in Sulu.

The military said the suspects were riding on a motorcycle when they were stopped and apprehended at a military check point in Bangkal, Patikul, Sulu.

The suspects were reportedly operating under ASG sub leader Morasil Mudjahirin whose area of operations is in Patikul, Sulu.

19 March 2016

**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1c

# AFP troops capture major NPA camp

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

**B**UTUAN CITY — The military captured a major camp of the New People's Army (NPA) that could accommodate as many as 400 fighters in Agusan del Norte Monday, according to the Army.

Field Army unit commanders said the NPA encampment was the regional headquarters of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) that was located in a thickly forested area, some 45 kilometers from Jabonga town proper. It had 50 outposts, 200 bunkers, function hall, 20 makeshift kitchens, 20 toilets and a complete

radio communication facilities.

The camp also had training facilities and had trenches and foxholes. It drew its power from a generator set.

Troops of the 29th Infantry Battalion (29th IB), under the command of Lt. Col. Ariel Orio, also found inside the camp a bale containing 2,000 meters of wire used in the manufacture of improvised explosive device (IED), 150 commercial plugs, several blasting caps, 50 meters laminated sacks, 50 containers loaded with gasoline, 8 containers engine oil, backpacks, bulk of AK47 rifle live ammunitions with magazines, manual for making of an IED, and several anti-government documents with high intelligence

value.

The captured NPA camp was located at the mountain border of the municipalities of Jabonga, Santiago and Kitcharao — all in Agusan del Norte, within Mount Hlong-Hlong. Despite its remoteness, the camp had strong cellular phone signal from the major providers.

According to military commanders, the pursuit operations after a series of encounters last week led by the 29th IB troopers to the camp.

In seizing the camp, the soldiers killed two unidentified NPA rebels while an undetermined number of other insurgents were wounded and dragged away by retreating comrades.

The troops were supported by at least five helicopter-gunships from the 10th Tactical Operations Group of the Philippine Air Force.

Meanwhile, four regular fighters of the NPA surrendered to the Second Special Forces Battalion (2nd SFB) in Surigao del Sur on Wednesday, according to First Lt. Karl Jan D. Devaras, commander of the 41st Civil Military Operations (Magkahiusa) Company of the Fourth CMO Battalion.

The surrenderees, whose identities were temporarily withheld for security reasons, were regular members of guerilla-Front Committee 21 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NMRC), he said.



19 March 2016



Pahina. 4

### **MIYEMBRO NG NPA, TODAS**

**DAVAO DELSUR**—Isang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) ang napatay sa naganap na engkuwentro ng tropa ng pamahalaan at mga rebelde sa Bgy. Bore, Matanao sa lalawigan ng ito kamakalawa.

Kinilala ang napatay na NPA sa alyas "Jebjeb"

Ayon sa ulat, nagpapatrulya ang tropa ng pamahalaan nang makasalubong ang mga NPA at dito nagbarilan ang magkabilang panig.

Nang tamaan ng bala at mapatay si "Jebjeb" ay mabilis na tumakas ang mga kasamahan nitong rebelde.

19 March 2016

THE BULLETIN  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 3

## Sahiron wounded in Sulu clash

By ELENA L. ABEN

Seven Abu Sayyaf gunmen and one soldier were killed, while 23 others were wounded as fresh fighting erupted between government troops and the Al Qaeda-linked terror group in Sulu Friday.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, commander, Joint Task Group Sulu (JTGS), said among the wounded was Abu Sayyaf ASG (ASG) chief-tain Radullan Sahiron.

The US State Department has issued a \$1-million bounty for Sahiron who has been linked to a string of kidnapping cases, including an American missionary couple in 2001 and three Red Cross members of staff in 2009.

Arrojado said the encounter broke out around 9:15 a.m. at Barangay Panglayahan, Patikul town.

According to the JTGS commander, government troops from the 10IB were conducting operations in the area when they were engaged by approximately 100 Abu Sayyaf men under Sahiron.

The firefight, which lasted until 10:40 a.m., left one soldier dead and 17 others wounded from the government side, while the ASG reportedly suffered seven dead and six wounded.

Aside from Sahiron, the military also identified Asari Sajail and Almujaer Yada as among the wounded extremists.

Arrojado said the Tactical Operations Squadron (TOS) Jolo immediately provided two Huey helicopters to evacuate the military casualties around 2:00 p.m.

He also directed adjacent units to provide reinforcement to the engaged troops.

Last week, the ASG issued a one-month ultimatum to the government and families of the two Canadians, a Norwegian man, and one Filipina to meet their demands or they would execute the hostages who seized from an island resort in Samal, Davao del Norte in September last year.

Despite the threat, the military stressed it was standing by the government's no ransom policy.

"We support the no ransom policy of the government," stressed Col Noel Detoyato, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief said in a statement.

"We will just continue with our focused military operations based on available information to support the police operations," added Detoyato, even as he emphasized that "the safety of the hostages is a primary concern during combat operations." (Elena L. Aben)

19 March 2016



Page: 15

## US underscores increased military aid to Phi

The chair of the US Senate foreign relations committee has recognized the importance of increasing foreign military financing to the Philippines in view of China's military threat in the South China Sea.

Philippine government officials engaged US legislators to mobilize congressional support for key Philippine advocacies in the US from March 15 to 16 and thanked lawmakers for impelling the US to take necessary steps in safeguarding the rule of law in the Asia-Pacific region.

On March 15, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia Jr. and acting Justice Secretary Emmanuel Caparas led the Philippine delegation in separate meetings with Sens. Bob Corker and Ben Cardin, chairman and member, respectively, of the foreign relations committee.

During their meeting, Philippine officials noted the committees' role in sustaining US interest in the Asia-Pacific region and giving importance to the "rebalancing of power policy."

"The committee has been influential in the decision-making process of the current US administration. We recognize the considerable impact the committee's initiatives has

had on increasing US foreign military financing to the Philippines and ensuring that the US continues to be engaged in our region," Cuisia said.

The Philippine embassy in Washington said Corker supported raising foreign military financing to the Philippines "because of China's behavior."

Cardin reiterated that while the US maintains its neutrality on the South China Sea dispute, his country takes a strong position against provocative actions.

He also expressed his firm belief in the rule of law and recognized the leadership of the Philippines in developing a regional Code of Conduct.

Rep. Randy Forbes, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and member of the US-Philippines Friendship Caucus, echoed the views of his colleagues in the Senate.

In a statement on March 7, Forbes criticized China's recent actions in the South China Sea and reaffirmed the importance of the alliance

between the US and the Philippines for maintenance of peace and prosperity in the region.

"China's behavior in the Asia-Pacific has undermined regional stability and unnecessarily antagonized the Philippines and other partners in the region. The United States has an obligation under its decades-old security treaty with the Philippines to resist acts of aggression against our ally," the statement read.

Forbes expressed the opinion that the US needs to be more present in the South China Sea and that joint patrols would be "hugely important, helpful and useful."

The Philippines' campaign to combat trafficking in persons (TIP) was also discussed with the senators.

Corker remarked that TIP, described as "modern-day slavery," should not have a place in today's world.

The meetings with the US lawmakers also aimed to shore up greater support for a bill seeking to award a Congressional Gold Medal,

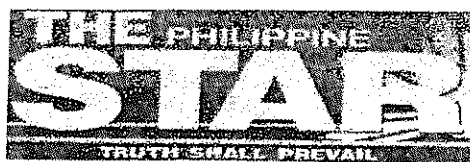
collectively, to the more than 260,000 Filipino veterans of World War II.

The bill titled "Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015" was introduced in the House (HR 2737) and the Senate (S 1555) in June 2015. Cardin and Forbes are among the bill's co-sponsors.

The bill includes a historical account of the dedicated service of Filipino and Filipino-American servicemen and women during World War II and recognizes them for their courage, bravery and valor as they served under the command of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East.

"As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Philippines-US relations this year, let us remember that ours is a friendship forged by the experience of fighting side by side in wars for liberation. It is our fervent hope that our longstanding ties will only grow stronger over time and that our veterans receive the recognition they deserve," Cuisia said. – Pia Lee-Brago

39 March 2016



Page: 1

## Chinese exclusion zone looms in Spratlys?

The United States is worried about the possibility of China declaring an exclusion zone in the South China Sea if it loses in a maritime arbitration case filed by Manila before an international court.

Admiral John Richardson, chief of US naval operations, raised the scenario in an interview with *Reuters* on Thursday. Richardson said the US was weighing responses to such a move. The UN-backed arbitral court based in The Hague is expected to rule on the case in the coming weeks.

He also said Chinese activity around Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, seized from the Philippines in 2012, could be a precursor to more land reclamation in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have rival claims.

Richardson said the US military had seen Chinese activity

Turn to Page 6

around Panatag Shoal in the northern part of the Spratly archipelago, about 125 miles (200 km) west of Subic Bay, once the site of the biggest US naval base outside the mainland. It is now a Philippine-controlled freeport and military base.

"I think we see some surface ship activity and those sorts of things, survey type of activity, going on. That's an area of concern ... a next possible area of reclamation," he said.

Richardson said it was unclear if the activity near the reef was related to the pending arbitration decision.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said it had yet to receive a report about Chinese activities in Panatag Shoal.

A Philippine military official, who declined to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media, said he was unaware of a Chinese survey ship in the area.

"China already has de facto control over the shoal since 2012 and they always have two to three coast guard ships there. We are also monitoring their activities and movements there," the official told reporters.

"There are no indications China will reclaim Panatag

Shoal."

Richardson said China's pursuit of South China Sea territory, which has included massive land reclamation to create artificial islands elsewhere in the Spratlys, threatened to reverse decades of open access and introduce new "rules" that required countries to obtain permission before transiting those waters.

He said that was a worry given that 30 percent of the world's trade passes through the region.

Asked whether China could respond to the ruling by the court of arbitration in The Hague by declaring an air defense identification zone, or ADIZ, as it did farther north in the East China Sea in 2013, Richardson said: "It's definitely a concern."

"We will just have to see what happens," he said. "We think about contingencies and ... responses," he added.

Richardson said the US planned to continue carrying out freedom-of-navigation exercises within 12 nautical miles of disputed South China Sea geographical features to underscore its concerns about keeping sea lanes open.

### Joint patrols

The US responded to the

East China Sea ADIZ by flying B-52 bombers through the zone in a show of force in November 2013.

Richardson said he was struck by how China's increasing militarization of the South China Sea had increased the willingness of other countries in the region to work together.

India and Japan have joined the US Navy in the Malabar naval exercise since 2014, and were due to take part again this year in an even more complex exercise that will take place in an area close to the East and South China Seas.

South Korea, Japan and the US were also working together more closely than ever before, he said.

Richardson said the US would welcome the participation of other countries in joint patrols in the South China Sea, but those decisions needed to be made by the countries in question.

He said the US military saw good opportunities to build and rebuild relationships with countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines and India, which have all realized the importance of safeguarding the freedom of the seas.

He cited India's recent hosting of an international fleet review that included 75 ships from 50 navies, and said the US was exploring opportunities to increase its

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

use of ports in the Philippines and Vietnam, among others – including the former US naval base at Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay.

But he said Washington needed to proceed judiciously rather than charging in "very fast and very heavy," given the enormous influence and importance of the Chinese economy in the region.

"We have to be sophisticated in how we approach this so that we don't force any of our partners into an uncomfortable position where they have to make tradeoffs that are not in their best interest," he said.

"We would hope to have an approach that would ... include us as a primary partner but not necessarily to the exclusion of other partners in the region."

### **Beijing's pledge**

At a Senate budget hearing in Washington, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the US expects China to uphold President Xi Jinping's pledge, made during a state visit last year, not to militarize the Spratly Islands.

He was testifying at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Thursday on the Defense Department's fiscal year 2017 budget request of \$582.7 billion.

"We must have and be seen

to have the ability to ensure that anyone who starts a conflict with us will regret doing so," Carter said.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, in his own testimony said the US has to maintain forces that have the capability and credibility to assure allies and partners, deter aggression and overmatch any potential adversary.

He said there is need to continually improve US war-fighting capabilities because "I don't believe we ever should send Americans into a fair fight."

Carter in a statement said five evolving challenges were driving the focus of the DoD's planning and budgeting – Russia, China, North Korea, Iran and terrorism.

He described Russia and China as the most "stressing competitors" that have both developed and continued to advance military systems that seek to threaten US advantages in specific areas.

The Defense Department is taking a "strong and balanced approach to deter Russian aggression" in Eastern Europe, Carter said.

"The other challenge is in the Asia-Pacific, where China is rising, which is fine, but behaving aggressively, which is not," he said.

In the Asia-Pacific he said

the US was moving more of its forces to the region, including 60 percent of its Navy and overseas Air Force assets.

"They reflect our efforts to support and strengthen a regional security architecture that benefits everyone – from strengthening and modernizing our alliances, to bolstering our ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to building the security capabilities of our many friends and allies who increasingly want to do more with us in the region," he said.

He said the US was deeply concerned about the pace and scope of land reclamation in the South China Sea, the prospect of further militarization, as well as the potential for these activities to increase the risk of miscalculation or conflict among claimant states.

While there is no question that the US retains a decisive military edge in the Asia-Pacific today, China is investing in capabilities to counter third-party – including the US – intervention during a crisis or conflict, Carter said.

These capabilities include ballistic and cruise missiles of increasingly greater range and accuracy, counter-space and offensive cyber capabilities, and electronic warfare systems. – Reuters, Jose Katigbak/STAR Washington bureau

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

19 March 2016

# INQUIRER

Page: A1

## US fears Chinese buildup on Panatag Shoal lies 200 kilometers west of Masinloc, Zambales

WASHINGTON—The United States has seen Chinese activity around a reef only 200 kilometers off Zambales province that China seized from the Philippines nearly four years ago, that could be a precursor to more land reclamation in the disputed South China Sea, the US Navy chief said on Thursday.

The head of US naval operations, Adm. John Richardson, expressed concern that an international court ruling expected in coming weeks on a case brought by the Philippines against China over its South China Sea claims could be a trigger for Beijing to declare an exclusion zone in the busy trade route.

Richardson told Reuters the United States was weighing responses to such a move.

Richardson said the US military had seen Chinese activity around Scarborough Shoal about 200 km west of the Subic Bay naval base in Zambales in the northern part of the disputed Spratly chain.

"I think we see some surface ship activity and those sorts of things, survey type of activity, going on. That's an area of concern ... a next possible area of reclamation," he said.

Richardson said it was unclear if the activity near the reef, one of the crucial disputed land formations between China and the Philippines that China seized in 2012, was related to the pending arbitration decision.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year. Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.

Scarborough Shoal, known as Panatag Shoal or Bajo de Masinloc in the Philippines, lies about 218 km (118 nautical miles) west of Zambales province and within the Philippines' 370-kilometer (200 nautical mile) exclusive economic zone, as defined by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). It is 550 nautical miles, or more than 1,000 km, off the closest Chinese coast on Hainan island.

In April 2012, a Philippine warship tried to arrest Chinese fishermen, whose presence in the shoal was illegal. The Chinese Coast Guard intervened, resulting in a standoff that went on for two months.

China says it has owned Scarborough for centuries, based on what it calls its historical rights to the area.

### AFFP 'unaware'

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Friday said it was verifying the US Navy report about Chinese activities in Panatag Shoal.

"We are verifying the report with our concerned agencies," said Assistant Secretary Charles Jose, the DFA spokesperson.

Just last week, the DFA criticized China's plan to launch civilian flights from the contested Paracels.

A Philippine Armed Forces official who declined to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media said he was unaware of a Chinese survey ship in the area.

"China already has de facto control over the shoal since 2012 and they always have two to three coast guard ships there. We are also monitoring their activities and movements there," the official told reporters.

"There are no indications China will reclaim Scarborough Shoal," he said.

Richardson said China's pursuit of South China Sea territory, which has included massive land reclamation to create artificial islands elsewhere in the Spratlys, threatened to reverse decades of open access and introduce new "rules" that required countries to obtain permission before transiting those waters.

He said that was a worry given that 30 percent of the world's trade passes through the region.

Asked whether China could respond to the ruling by the International Court of Arbitration in The Hague by declaring an air defense identification zone, or Adiz, as it did farther north in the East China Sea in 2013, Richardson said: "It's definitely a concern."

"We will just have to see what happens," he said. "We think about contingencies and ... responses."

Richardson said the United States planned to continue carrying out freedom-of-navigation exercises within 22 km (12 nautical miles) of disputed South China Sea geographical features to underscore its concerns about keeping sea lanes open.

### Joint patrols?

The United States responded to the East China Sea Adiz by flying B-52 bombers through the zone in a show of force in November 2013.

Richardson said he was struck by how China's increasing militarization of the South China Sea had increased the willingness of other countries in the region to work together.

India and Japan have joined the US Navy in the Malabar naval exercise since 2014, and were due to take part again this year in an even more complex exercise that will take place in an area close to the East and South China Seas.

South Korea, Japan and the United States were also working together more closely than ever before, he said.



OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Richardson said the United States would welcome the participation of other countries in joint patrols in the South China Sea, but those decisions needed to be made by the countries in question.

He said the US military saw good opportunities to build and rebuild relationships with countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines and India, which have all realized the importance of safeguarding the freedom of the seas.

He cited India's recent hosting of an international fleet review that included 75 ships from 50 navies, and said the US was exploring opportunities to increase its use of ports in the Philippines and Vietnam, among others—including the former US naval base at Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay.

But he said Washington needed to proceed judiciously rather than charging in "very fast and very heavy," given the enormous influence and importance of the Chinese economy in the region.

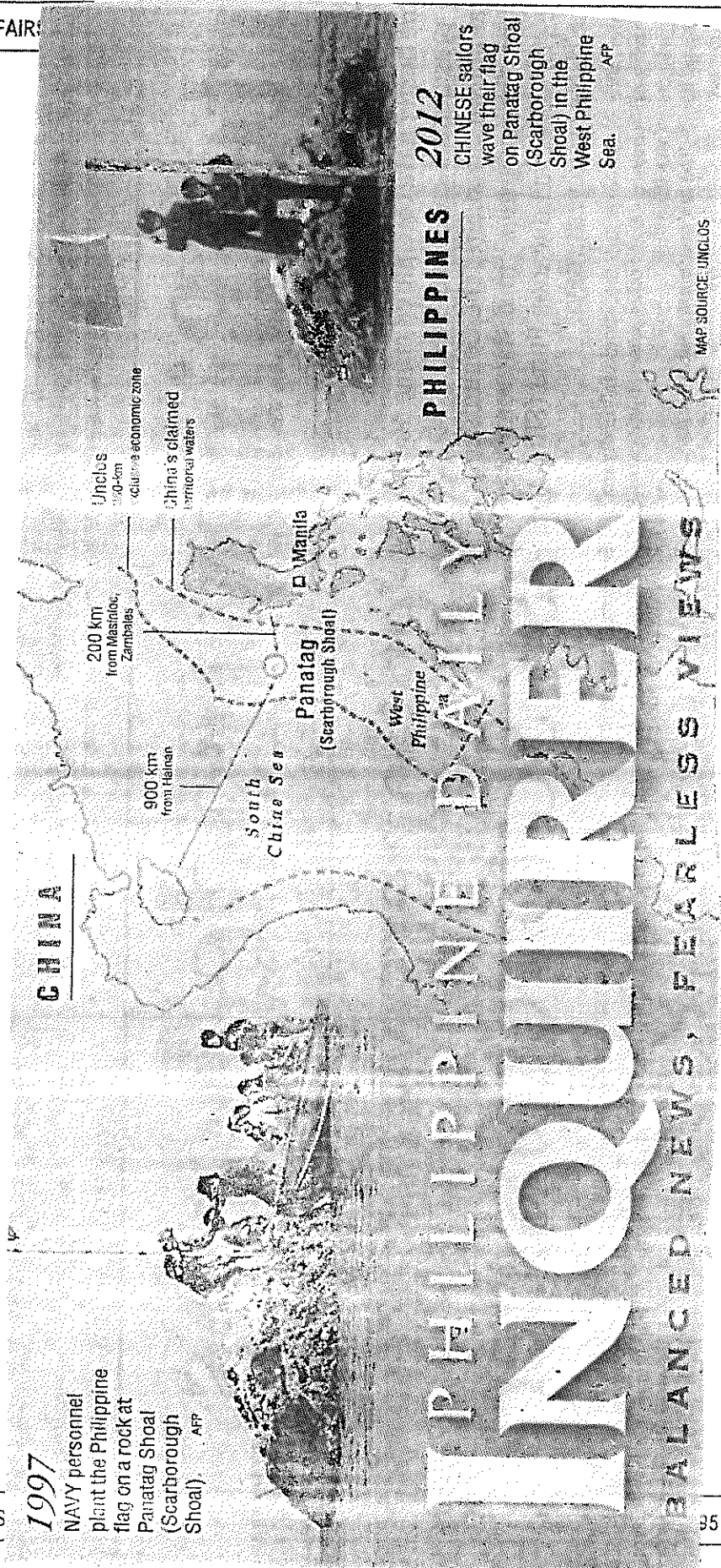
"We have to be sophisticated in how we approach this so that we don't force any of our partners into an uncomfortable position where they have to make tradeoffs that are not in their best interest," he said.

"We would hope to have an approach that would ... include us as a primary partner but not necessarily to the exclusion of other partners in the region." Reuters

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

1997

NAVY personnel  
plant the Philippine  
flag on a rock at  
Panatag Shoal  
(Scarborough  
Shoal) AFP



295

MAP SOURCE: JUNGLOS

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

95

19 March 2016



Page: 3

## Naval base to rise in Batanes

By JAIME LAUDE

facility will also be used by the Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

With the base, the Navy aims to improve the existing

capability and infrastructure of the current Mahatao boat shelter to be utilized for training exercises, combat and humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

"The place is chosen as the most strategic area based on

historical facts during World War II. Its harbor spaces provide natural protection to our naval vessels, considering that the province of Batanes has been the frequent route of storms and typhoons, especially during rainy season," Gazmin said.

The Department of National Defense (DND) announced yesterday that a naval base is being built in Batanes.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad led the groundbreaking ceremony for the P166.5-million project last

Thursday.

"We envision a naval base that shall have accessible naval installations which could provide logistics, training and other support services in the conduct of prompt and sustained fleet and marine operation," Gazmin said in

his speech.

When completed, the naval base will include a logistics facility, wharf and beaching areas, small craft facility and communication and electronics facilities.

Aside from the Navy, the

19

March 2016

## BusinessMirror

A broader look at current business

Page. 74

# Is China taking over Panatag Shoal?

**I**t was only a matter of time. While the nation's focus is on the money-laundering scandal and the administration spending its time campaigning for its anointed candidate, China is completely taking over the Panatag Shoal.

The head of US naval operations, Adm. John Richardson, said the US military had seen Chinese activity around the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, which could be a precursor to more land reclamation. As if it was not bad enough that China could be building a military base some 200 kilometers from the island of Luzon, Richardson also expressed concern that an international court ruling expected in coming weeks on a case brought by the Philippines against China over its South China Sea claims could be a trigger for Beijing to declare an exclusion zone in the busy trade route.

And this is the "official" US response: "We will just have to see what happens," he said. "We think about contingencies and responses."

Meanwhile, 2,500 km away, North Korea has launched at least one and, perhaps, two more medium-range ballistic missiles in to the Sea of Japan. Actually, the name "Sea of Japan" is in dispute, since both North and South Korea call that ocean area the "East Sea."

The US State Department responded forcefully to the North Korean action by sending a message on social-media platform Twitter, saying, "We call again on North Korea to refrain from actions that further raise tensions in the region." The US government released a statement: "We are closely monitoring the situation on the Korean Peninsula."

President Aquino and his administration are not solely to blame for this situation. On two previous occasions, the Philippines reached out to China in hopes of trying to smooth relations and build closer ties. China reacted with its usual "take or leave it" attitude.

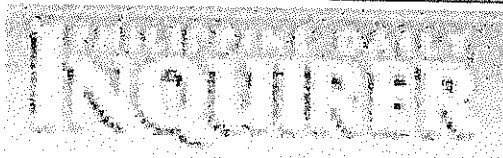
However, the administration must take responsibility for escalating the rhetoric when on two occasions it compared China's actions in the region to Nazi Germany. That is not the proper language of diplomacy when you are the underdog. But President Aquino and his advisors counted on Uncle Sam to come to the rescue. Instead of "coming," the US is thinking and monitoring.

It was and still is unrealistic to expect our allies to do anything substantial to stop this stealing of Philippine territory. But complaining about the current government's actions is a waste of time. What we need to hear from each of the presidential candidates is their specific framework to resolve these issues. To this point, they have all ignored speaking of the problem. We cannot blame them. When Vice President Jejomar C. Binay tried to discuss joint development, he was met with a firestorm as public opinion is so angry with China.

One thing is certain, though. In the coming months after the election, the Philippines is going to need strong and competent leadership that will be forced to make difficult decisions that the public may not always agree with.

49

March 2016



Page: A-19

## Petron, RC-Army eye morale-lifting wins

PETRON and RC Cola-Army will try to end the third round on a winning note by taking on separate rivals today in the Philippine Superliga Invitational Conference women's volleyball at Filoil Flying V Center in San Juan.

Already through to the final round where they get a crack at Thai team FST Cola, the Lady Troopers will battle the Cignal HD Spikers at 3 p.m. while the Tri Activ Spikers will lock horns with the Foton Toplander in the

1 p.m. opener

Regardless of the outcome of today's matches, Petron, RC Cola-Army and idle F2 Logistics will snag the three local berths to the final round which starts after the Holy Week.

The HD Spikers, who have won two straight including a rousing upset over the Tri Activ Spikers, won't make the cut even if they prevail and forge ties at 4-2.

Based on quotient, Cignal can only

get a maximum 11 points, while Petron and F2 Logistics have 12 points each. RC Cola-Army has 13 points.

But expect the Lady Troopers to go all out after suffering a shock five-set defeat at the hands of the Tri Activ Spikers last Thursday.

The Thais, made up of the country's second team, are scheduled to plane in this weekend. Sixteen-year-old open hitter Chatchu-on Moksri will lead the visitors. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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

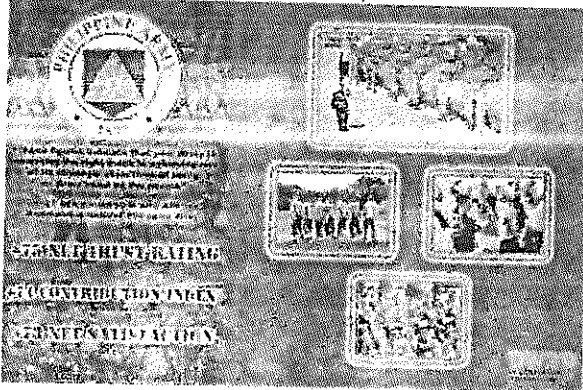
## ONLINE NEWS

### 19 MARCH 2016

[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

#### EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE II Phi Army Achieved Positive Trust and Satisfaction Ratings

**FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD)** – The Philippine Army has achieved positive result of their trust and satisfaction ratings, to include its nation-building contribution index based on the latest nationwide survey conducted by Club Media Asia, Inc.



According to Lt Gen Eduardo Ano, Commanding General of the Philippine Army, the organization has maintained an excellent trust rating and has improved their net satisfaction rating and nation-building contribution index this year. The army has maintained their excellent trust rating of +75, similar to its baseline record in 2015; while in terms of net satisfaction rating, they received a +73 rating, or an increase of +3 points based from its +70 rating last year.

The Philippine Army's biggest improvement in the survey was its nation building contribution index which got a +74 rating compared to +68 in 2015.

Lt Gen Ano added that these figures indicate that the Philippine Army is traversing the right track in achieving one of its strategic objective of being an army loved by the people and it also meant that the services they provided were appreciated by Filipinos.

The survey was conducted among 1, 032 respondents from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

This latest achievement is considered another development for the Philippine Army's Transformation Program after receiving the coveted Island of Good Governance Award from the Institute for Solidarity in Asia in October 2015.

Lastly, Lt Gen Ano reiterated that this is a great anniversary gift for the Philippine Army, on their 199<sup>th</sup> year of existence and rest assured that their army will continue to serve the people and secure our land as mandated by our Constitution. AES / OACPA / MCAG

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

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

[www.bomboradyo.com](http://www.bomboradyo.com)

**7 bandido patay, ASG leader kabilang sa mga sugatan sa Sulu clash - AFP**  
By Bombo Mars de San

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Kinumpirma ng militar na kabilang sa anim na nasugatan sa panig ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ay ang kanilang kilalang lider si Radullan Sahiron sa nangyaring engkuwentro na nagsimula dakong alas-9:15 ng umaga kanina sa Sitio Maggi, Barangay Panglayahan, Patikul, Sulu.

Ito ang inihayag ni B/Gen. Alan Arrojado, ang commander ng Joint Task Group (JTG)-Sulu, habang nasa pitong mga bandido pa umano ang napaulat na napatay sa sagupaan.

Napag-alaman na nakasagupa ng tropa ng 10th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army na nasa ilalim ni LTC. Jacinto ang humigit-kumulang 100 bandido na pinangungunahan mismo ni Sahiron.

Ayon kay Arrojado, bandang alas-10:40 ng umaga nang humupa ang matinding putukan sa lugar.

Hindi pa natukoy ng militar ang identity ng pitong nasawi sa ASG habang dalawa pa sa anim na sugatan ay kinilalang sina Asari Sajail at si Almujaer Yada.

Una rito, kinumpirma ni Major Felimon Tan, tagapagsalita ng Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), na isang sundalo ang binawian ng buhay sa bakbakan habang umaabot na sa 17 ang sugatan.

Base sa impormasyon, kinilala ang nasawing sundalo na si Cpl. Pasiol.

Habang 15 sa 17 sugatan, ay kinilalang sina LTC. Mario Jacinto, TSg. Edgar Pahunang, SSg. Henry Paguyo, Sgt. Abduraman Ladjahasan, SSg. Randy River, Sgt. Jul Amin Baridji, Sgt. Rey Saluag, Sgt. Baguio Balansi, Cpl. Jeralikim Cuello, Cpl. Ruel Sinao, Pfc. Gleen Richard Ponse, Pfc. Jojo Anlas, SSg. Bernard Rey Tamparo, Sgt. Anthony Remotin AT SI Pvt. Isagani Moracilla.

Sa ngayon ay nagpapatuloy ang pursuit operation ng magkasanib na puwersa ng iba't ibang unit ng militar sa lugar laban sa mga papatakas na bandido.

Tumulong na rin ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) sa fire support sa ground troop habnag nagsasagawa na rin ng blocking poperation ang mga sundalo sa mga nagsisilbing withdrawal route ng mga bandido.

Dalawang Huey helicopter ng PAF ang ginamit sa pagdadala ng mga sugatang sundalo sa military hospital sa Jolo habang ang iba ay inilipat papunta sa Camp. Navarro General Hospital sa loob ng WestMinCom sa Zamboanga City.

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



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

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

### 8 die, 19 wounded in Sulu clash

Eight people, including a soldier, were killed while 19 others were wounded in a firefight between government troops and suspected Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) brigands in the hinterlands of Sulu, a top military official disclosed Friday.

Brig. Gen. Alan Arrojado, Joint Task Group Sulu commander, disclosed the fire fight broke out around 9:15 a.m. Friday in Barangay Panglayahan, Patikul, Sulu.

Arrojado said the troops from the Army's 10th Infantry Battalion were on security operations when they clashed with around 100 ASG brigands led by Commander Radullan Sahiron.

Sahiron, who is known as the one-armed bandit commander, is the oldest among the existing ASG leaders in the province of Sulu.

Arrojado disclosed that 16 of the 19 wounded were soldiers while the remaining three included Sahiron and two of his followers namely Asari Sajail and Almujeer Yada.

Arrojado did not release the identities of the slain and wounded soldiers, who were taken to the Camp Bautista Station Hospital for medical treatment.

Arrojado directed the nearby military units to provide reinforcement while the Fire Artillery Battalion was ordered to provide fire support to the engaged troops.

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

### OPAPP sets transitional justice, reconciliation recommendations in motion

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Sec. Teresita Deles has assured recommendations made by the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) to forward the Bangsamoro peace process will be operationalized.

The recommendations were included in a report launched to the public on March 15 in Cotabato City.

During the launch, Deles said Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa, Jr. issued a memorandum of instructions to OPAPP to put in motion the recommendations in the report.

The TJRC conducted various consultations across the country on what would be an important component to promote healing and reconciliation among the communities affected by the decades-long armed conflict in Mindanao.

Deles outlined concrete actions on how the TJRC report could be implemented.

"We will seek at the earliest possible time to draw up Memoranda of Agreements to institutionalize the partnership along these different tasks with selected government agencies," she said.

The government agencies are the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF); the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); the Department of Education (DepEd); the National Historical Commission (NHC); the Claims Board for Human Rights Victims of Martial Law; the Autonomous Region

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

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

in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) regional government; and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Deles said that those agencies "have already initiated relevant processes and reforms on which the work of truth-telling, memorialization, redress, and reconciliation can build."

"As well, we will try to expand our efforts by tapping the expertise and knowledge base of the academic community and civil society," she added.

Despite setbacks, Deles called on everyone "not to give up" on the peace process.

"This Bangsamoro opportunity is one we ignore at our own peril. And we take heart in seeing that the parties in this peace process are not ignoring this opportunity and are in fact doing all they can to make sure we take it and make the most of it. Despite setbacks and difficulties along the way, no one is backing out. No one is giving up—not the MILF, not the government. And we ask you not to give up as well," Deles said.

The TJRC finished drafting its report in December 2015 and subsequently submitted to the Philippine government (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) negotiating panels during their meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia held on Feb. 10 to 11, 2016.

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