

Army Vision: By 2029, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS NEWS CLIPPINGS

07 October 2016

Friday



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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Reds reorganize negotiating panel on eve of Oslo peace talks

A 'super public company'

Production of Trump-branded shoes moves to Africa from China

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Convict says he handed drug money to De Lima

Philippines' first 100 days marks loss with exception of Duterte

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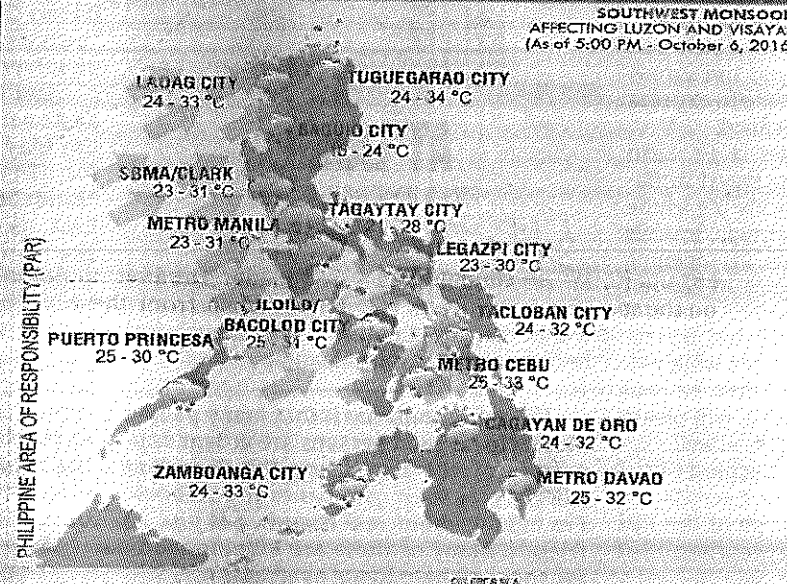
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 7, 2016 | FRIDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 5:00 PM - October 6, 2016)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

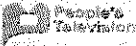


SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:46 AM	5:41 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
10:33 AM	10:16 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
OCT 11 8:11 AM	OCT 5 12:33 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 8:50 AM 0.10 Meter	12:44 AM 0.97 Meter


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

Cloudy, some with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	OCT 6	OCT 7	OCT 8	OCT 9	OCT 10	OCT 11
METRO MANILA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C				
TAGAYTAY			22 - 30 °C	22 - 30 °C		
TACLOBAN					25 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 35 °C	24 - 34 °C				
LEGAZPI			24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C		
CAGAYAN DE ORO					24 - 33 °C	25 - 32 °C
LAOAG	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C				
PUERTO PRINCESA			26 - 31 °C	26 - 32 °C		
METRO DAVAO					25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 25 °C	16 - 25 °C				
ILOILO/BACOLOD			25 - 32 °C	26 - 33 °C		
ZAMBOANGA					24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C				
METRO CEBU			25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C		

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SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!

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Deaths under inquiry by PNP hit 1,784

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

Over a thousand suspected drug offenders have been killed in Metro Manila by alleged vigilante groups, records from the Philippine National Police (PNP) revealed yesterday.

Based on PNP records, there were a total of 1,784 cases of

killings that were classified as "deaths under investigation" (DUI) by the police.

The records said a total of 2,294 suspected drug offenders were killed in 2,105 reported incidents from July 2 to Oct. 3.

The remaining 1,390 persons were killed in legitimate police actions where the suspects had fought it out with arresting lawmen, the PNP's National Operations Center said.

The high incidence of sum-

mary killings triggered reports of a state-sanctioned death squad roaming the metropolis to carry out President Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs.

Duterte yesterday promised to end the drug menace within

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Deaths From Page 1

his term.

"End this problem while I'm still in office. Work on it. No one will go to jail. Do not be afraid," Duterte told the policemen at Camp Rafael Rodriguez in Butuan City.

"Now is the time to kill a criminal correctly," he said.

Duterte, a former prosecutor and mayor of Davao City where he built a reputation for tough anti-crime methods, won the presidential election earlier this year on a promise to end criminality and corruption in the first three to six months of his presidency.

He encouraged police and even ordinary citizens to shoot suspected drug dealers if they resist arrest, and promised cash rewards if they turn in drug lords.

The rising body count has shocked the world and sparked alarm among global human rights groups, fearing the total could be far higher as vigilantes have joined the spree.

Duterte, however, said the global criticisms are interference in the country's internal affairs. He stressed in many public speeches that he is only out to protect the future of Filipinos and their children and grandchildren.

No death squads

However, Chief Supt. Oscar Albayalde, director of the National Capital Region Police Office, denied death squads are behind the killings.

"I can say there are no death squads here in Metro Manila. There is no order to create a death squad. Our orders are to put up dedicated focus teams that will go after the high value targets on illegal drugs like suppliers, and big time dealers to complement the effort of the PDEA," he said, referring to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Albayalde said the government campaign against illegal drugs in Metro Manila had been successful as the PDEA had identified 94 percent of 1,706 barangays in the metropolis were into illegal drugs.

He said the instruction of President Duterte and PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa was to focus on the campaign against illegal drugs by accounting for and arresting drug offenders.

Albayalde gave assurance the police are not ignoring the cases of DUI, saying the five police district directors were tasked to investigate cases of drug-related killings in their areas.

He said the PNP has a check and balance system built in against abusive policemen.

"We have the Internal Affairs Service, even the CIDG (Crimi-

nal Investigation and Detection Group) and the NBI (National Bureau of Investigation)," he said.

Dela Rosa, for his part, urged the public to focus on the number of arrested suspects and those who had surrendered.

He pointed out the intensified campaign against illegal drugs also resulted in the decrease of criminality.

The PDEA added the rising prices of illegal drugs are an indication that the government is winning the war.

"When the market price of illegal drugs rises, it is generally assessed that there is a scarcity in supply available in the market and vice-versa, an indication that the present government is winning the war against the drug menace," PDEA director general Isidro Lapeña said.

He said the scarcity of shabu in the country has effectively increased the price of the illegal drug by an average of 127.7 percent, the highest since 2002.

"The cost of shabu has reached an all-time high, thanks to the revitalized national anti-drug campaign. We have successfully minimized the supply of shabu in the market and currently maximizing our drug-demand reduction efforts in the communities to complement the former," Lapeña said – Giovanni Nilles, Romina Cabrera, Robertzon Ramirez

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MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NDF allows Jalandoni to resign, makes Tiamzon panel member

By ROCKY NAZARENO

OSLO, Norway - The National Democratic Front (NDF) announced Wednesday night that it has accepted the resignation of Luis Jalandoni as chairman of its peace panel, replacing him with vice chairman Fidel Agcaoili just hours before the start of the second round of peace negotiations here.

"The national leadership of the National Democratic Front of ►14

NDF allows Jalandoni... ◀1

the Philippines has granted the long-standing request of Comrade Luis G. Jalandoni to resign as the chairman of the NDFP negotiating panel," the NDFP said in a statement.

The rebel group said it was bringing in former Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) chairman Benito Tiamzon as member of the panel.

The re-organization was announced in a hastily called press conference at the Holmen Fjordhotel that was attended by Jalandoni, Agcaoili, Tiamzon, and Chief Political Consultant CCP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison.

The other members of the NDF peace panel are Connie K. Ledesma, the chair of the NDF special office for the protection of children, NDF representative for Nordic countries Asterio Palima, and Juliet de Lima Sison.

The NDF said Jalandoni, 81, had long been asking that he be allowed to resign. He will, however, stay as senior adviser of the panel.

"I have been asking to resign since 11 years ago. I am 81 now. It's time for younger ones to take over

the function of chairmanship," Jalandoni said.

Agcaoili said he will find the panel chairmanship "a challenging job."

"I find it difficult to take over the role (of chairman), but I will do my best," he said.

The changes in the composition of the NDF peace panel came just hours before the start of the second round of talks which will focus on the declaration of joint ceasefire and the release of the remaining political prisoners, among others.

Trust

Meanwhile, Royal Norwegian Government (RNG) Ambassador for the Philippine peace process Elisabeth Slattum expressed confidence that the second round of the negotiations between the Philippine Government (GRP) and the National Democratic Front (NDF) would be able to sustain the momentum of a historic first round of talks held here last August.

In an exclusive interview with the Manila Bulletin Wednesday, Slat-

tum said the "trust between the two negotiating panels remains high" on the eve of the talks Thursday at the Holmen Fjordhotel here.

Participants to the talks arrived here Wednesday noon, in time for the opening of the talks Thursday morning.

"(The second round) will be made more promising by the meetings in Manila (between the GRP and NDF) which we also attended," said Slattum citing the gains of the Manila negotiations last September for the possible declaration of a bilateral ceasefire and the composition of a Joint Monitoring Team (JMT) that will oversee the truce.

RNG acts as the official third party facilitator between the GRP and NDF in a bid to broker the end of the 47-year-old insurgency considered the world's longest-running insurgency.

Slattum's optimism over developments in the Philippine peace process came after the RNG's efforts to help negotiate peace in Colombia between the government and FARC rebels went to naught when Colombians voted against the adoption of a peace deal in a referendum.

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NPA's step up kidnapping activities in Sarangani, Davao Occidental

By JOSEPH JUBELAG

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Military authorities assailed New People's Army rebels for staging a series of kidnapping activities victimizing village officials and local traders in the remote villages of Sarangani and Davao Occidental provinces.

Lt Col Ronnie Babac, 73rd Infantry Battalion commander, said local NPA rebels are taking advantage of the ongoing peace negotiation between the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines, stepping up their atrocities in the area.

He said the NPA rebels would invite their victims for a dialogue, and then not allow them to get out of the meeting

venue unless they pay ransom.

Babac cited as an example barangay councilman Romeo Mansigul of Barangay Datal Anggas, Alabel, Sarangani who was abducted by NPA rebels led by a man known only as Commander L3 last Sept. 27. He was later released on Oct. 2 after paying P50,000 and giving a handgun to his captors.

Babac said, two village councilors identified only as Franklin Baab and Toledo Calibay, also of Barangay Datal Anggas were held by NPA rebels led by Commander Joey last Sept. 25.

The two village officials were invited by the rebels for a dialogue in sitio Tangis, Barangay Datal Anggas and then were not allowed to go home after they were accused of being military informants.

The victims were later released

after they gave P25,000 plus a M-16 Armalite rifle to the NPA rebels.

Babac also cited another example in the case of the abduction of a local trader identified only as a certain Jun Opong from Barangay Little Baguio, Malita, Davao Occidental. The trader was summoned by the rebels for a dialogue in Barangay Upper Suyan, Malapatan, Sarangani last August and later was told he could only go home if he paid P20,000.

The NPAs later accepted the P12,000 the trader offered, pleading that is all he can raise.

Babac has called on the local NPA rebels to stop sowing atrocities in the localities and respect the ongoing ceasefire agreement between the government and CPP-NPA.

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The Manila Times

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Army, MILF in Cotabato's joint anti-drug drive

COTABATO CITY: The Philippine Army (PA) troops and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) who were once enemies engaged in bloody combat have joined forces in conducting massive manhunt for drug traffickers in North Cotabato.

Colonel Noly Samarita, commander of the 602nd Brigade based in Carmen, North Cotabato, said 746 Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) mostly from the 118th MILF base command are helping them in tracking illegal drug groups hiding in Liguasan Marsh.

Samarita is referring to the group of Moks Masgal, alias Commander Madrox, who heads a lost command engaged in illegal activities, including drug trafficking.

Government forces on August 14 launched an operation against the group of Madrox but failed to arrest him after the troops were ambushed that left three soldiers dead.

Madrox and his men fled to the marshland on the border of North Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces.

"The troops came back big-time, this time with MILF troops and we were successful to arrest one of the suspects of the ambush, the son of Madrox," Samarita added.

He identified the son as Kamarudin Masgal, 21, who was arrested on Wednesday together with nine persons now being investigated for drug use and trafficking.

Samarita said those arrested admitted they were followers of Commander Madrox.

He added the young Masgal was one of the suspects behind the ambush that killed government troops.

Meanwhile, the manhunt for Madrox continues with MILF forces navigating the vast marshland and government forces using rubber boats and night vision goggles.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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INQUIRER

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In towns where war defined child's play, toys find their place

By Julie S. Alipala
@alipalajulieINQ

LAMITAN CITY, BASILAN— Brothers Gajer and Haiser Bendonillo live in a village here where war has changed the way people live, including how children play.

So when the brothers gave up their toy guns, it was with a heavy heart.

"I am giving away my toy gun because I am looking forward to a bicycle," said Gajer, 10, son of a slain soldier from the 10th Infantry Battalion.

His elder brother, Haiser, wished for something costlier. "A basketball court, basketballs," said Haiser.

On Tuesday, Gajer and Haiser were among at least 700 Yakan children from the war-torn towns of Ungkaya Pukan, Tipo-tipo and Al-barka, who marched on the city streets carrying their toy guns made of either metal, coco lumber, bamboo or plastic. Some of the toys resembled assault rifles.

Their parents escorted the children along with their "big brothers," government soldiers who took part in a ceremony for

peace during which toy guns were turned over in exchange for other toys.

Ezra, mother of the Bendonillo brothers, said it was the first time the children were asked to surrender their toy guns for replacement with bicycles and other toys like dolls, scooters, board games, basketballs and educational stuff.

"I don't object to the idea," said Ezra. "My son grew up with his toy gun. He never had other toys," she said of Haiser.

Haiser got a basketball but Gajer didn't get his bicycle.

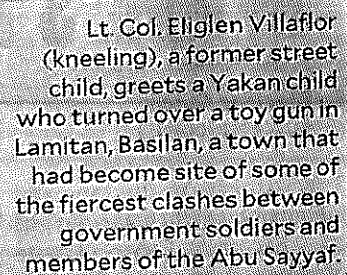
Thousands of pieces of toys and other items, like food, school supplies and sports equipment, had been shipped to the city for the children, who are beneficiaries of the Festival of Love and Peace initiated by Dr. Arlyn Jawad Jumao-as' Save the Children of Basilan.

"We see great transformation in these children," said Jumao-as.

In 2014, Save the Children reached out to a total of 250 children. Of the number, only one has not returned to school.

"The rest are back to school," said Jumao-as.

It was a different story



—JULIE S. ALIPALA

"It was so emotionally charged," said Jumao-as, recalling stories told by children about surviving war "and how war stole their youth."

Lt. Col. Eligien Villaflo, Special Forces Regiment chief of staff who once headed the 4th Special Forces Battalion in Basilan province, recalled his encounter with children when

"When we asked kids to draw soldiers, they drew soldiers shooting their mothers, fathers and themselves," said Villafior.

dropping bombs," Villaflor said.

Three years after that, Villalor said he sees the transformation.

"They now have the drive to go to school, to join sports, to play," he said. INQ

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The Manila Times

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HAIL TO THE CHIEF President Rodrigo Duterte, along with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., poses for photos with soldiers at the Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on October 4. Duterte claims joint military exercises with the US military have not yielded benefits such as technology transfer. MALACANANG PHOTO

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PAF to receive refurbished C-130 plane from US

By JAIME LAUDE

The Philippines Air Force (PAF) will receive on Sunday another newly refurbished C-130 cargo plane acquired from the United States through its

Excess Defense Articles (EDA) Program.

PAF spokesman Col. Antonio Francisco yesterday said the C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft is now en route to the Philippines from the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona and is expected to arrive at Mactan Air Base in Cebu on Sunday.

With the arrival of the heavy-lift and troop transport aircraft, the Air Force will now have five C-130 cargo planes in its inventory.

This is on top of the three brand-new C-295 medium-lift and three F-27 (Fokker) cargo and troop transport aircraft being used by the Air Force to perform its tasks.

The PAF's fifth C-130, simi-

lar to the one that was also provided by the US on April 5 through the EDA Program, belongs to the "T" model and was originally configured as an airborne tanker.

The two C-130Ts are worth \$61 million.

Francisco said the additional C-130 is a big boost to the PAF's lift capability, especially during the conduct of disaster and humanitarian missions.

Timor-Leste sending personnel for training

Meanwhile, Timor-Leste chief of Defense Forces Maj. Gen. Lere Anan Timur has conveyed his country's interest to send some of its enlisted personnel to undergo training as pilots with the PAF.

Lere participated in the 2016 Annual Chiefs of Defense Conference held recently in Manila. The conference brought military leaders together to discuss regional challenges and promote

cooperation in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

"The visit of Major General Lere comes at an opportune time when the Philippines and Timor-Leste are trying to forge a robust military partnership anchored on capacity-building and training," said Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn Garcia.

Joint exercises under review

This developed as the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) clarified that the joint military exercises between the Philippines and the United States would not yet be terminated.

During a recent Senate hearing on the DFA's proposed P16.63-billion budget for 2017, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said the joint military exercises are, in a sense, under review to determine if objectives are being met.

Yasay made the clarification after President Duterte recently stated that he wants an end to the joint military exercises and that the next scheduled war games would be the last.

He explained that the joint military exercises are not required under the Mutual Defense Treaty between the US and the Philippines.

"The President's concern to these joint exercises is that they have not met the objectives as I have stated, and this is what he is trying to bring across to our American friends. If this objective is not achieved and we continue to be dependent insofar as being able to address our internal and external security needs and concerns, then these joint exercises might not serve the purpose and consequently, he said if it continues to be such during his administration, this will not be continued," Yasay said.

"But it does not mean that because of that it will be stopped immediately or in fact we negate or abrogate the agreements and the treaty that we have with the United States," he added.

He said that the efforts of the administration in reaching out to China in light of the territorial dispute over the West Philippine Sea should not be seen as an indication that the Philippines will be "abrogating our alliances with the United States or weakening our friendship with the United States."

Yasay pointed out that there will be no military alliance with China and that the US remains the sole military ally of the Philippines.

According to former national security adviser Roilo Golez, there would be a drastic change in terms of security not only in the South China Sea but in the entire Indo-Pacific area as well if President Duterte cuts the Philippines' alliance with the US in favor of China. — With Pia Lee-Brango, Alexis Romero, Marvin Sy

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Greens rate Duterte high on gov't environmental protection; 'reforms in the pipeline in most of Phl's environmental woes'

By ARTEMIO A. DUMLAO

BAGUIO CITY — Philippine environmental groups give President Rodrigo Duterte 'good ratings,' believing reforms have begun in most of the country's environmental woes in his first 100 days.

Citing "change have begun" in 10 of 14 environmental demands they outlined, environmentalists however challenge the administration to "do better in pursuing immediate, urgent reforms to ensure environmental protection, wise natural resource management, and people's rights and welfare."

The administration's performance in addressing foreign militarism received a "gold" rating for the president's consistent and strong policy pronouncements in finally putting an end to US-Philippine military exercises that have caused hazardous waste dumps and other forms of environmental degradation over the years. Duterte has also announced that his cabinet is already reviewing the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), the Kalikasan Peoples Network for the Environment said.

While supporting the international court ruling over the West Philippine Sea, President Duterte, the environmental group said, "should look into the long-standing track record of environmental impacts by US military exercises and bases, as well as the EDCA provision that allows the transit of nuclear weapons through 'agreed locations that serve as de facto US bases, as major reasons for repudiating US militarist policies."

Kalikasan-PNE also gave Duterte "silver" ratings in the issues of mining, agriculture, the peace talks and environmental governance citing Environment Secretary Gina Lopez's suspension of 10 big mines, Agrarian Reform Secretary Rafael Mariano's

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two-year land-use conversion freeze, the appointment of pro-people and pro-environment leaders in relevant public offices, and the groundbreaking pace of the peace talks between the Philippine Government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

However, the group cited challenges like "the 'business-as-usual' of corporate-controlled genetically modified organism (GMO) crops, the lack of permanent closures of long-established destructive mines, the entrenchment of corrupt officials in the relevant agencies, and the seeming attempt of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to sabotage the peace talks."

"Bronze' ratings were given to the Duterte administration to issues where initial reforms have been overshadowed

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by negative trends in policy and governance, including toxics, disasters and climate change, reclamation, fisheries, and policy reforms, it said, citing in the issue of toxics as the process of repatriating the Canadian trash dumped in the Philippines does not yet cover all waste containers. There is also no progress yet to push various policy proposals for toxics control reforms, the group said.

Kalikasan PNE also cited inroads of the Duterte administration in different initiatives of government agencies face different problems and limitations such as unsystematic planning, policy gaps, and internal or inter-agency conflicts.

BLACK MARKS TOO

However, the environmental alliance said it is giving the Duterte government "black" marks for the issues of energy, the national greening program, logging and killings and trumped-up charges against environmentalists. Coal power projects continue to expand, the corruption and land-grabbing cases under the National Greening Program remains uninvestigated, both legal and illegal timber operations remain business-as-usual, and at least five cases of killings of environmental defenders have been recorded under the new administration.

Clemente Bautista, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE noted.

The national coalition "Eco-Challenge," a broad national coalition of 40 pro-environment and pro-people formations in the country wherein Kalikasan PNE is a member, commends the Duterte administration "for walking the talk of environmental reforms," though it urges, "there is still much to be done." It cited among those needing actions as: "taking double efforts in strengthening and enforcing environmental regulations, advancing new progressive legislation, and asserting national patrimony and sovereignty toward genuine pro-people, pro-environment development."

The Eco-Challenge meantime vows to continue engaging the Duterte administration and go on with grassroots organizing "to help the Duterte administration in monitoring environmental concerns, holding environmentally destructive and pollutive projects accountable, and supporting programs and policy reforms."

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CHAFF FROM THE GRAIN

High-stakes game



By **HECTOR R. R. VILLANUEVA**

"Take care to get what you like or you will be forced to like what you get."
— George Bernard Shaw

Just to curry favors with China or smoothen the way to Beijing prior to his state visit, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has unilaterally stopped future joint naval military exercises with the United States; cancelled joint sea patrols in the disputed seas of the South China Sea; and is seeking a review again of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with America.

These not-so-subtle overtures are not only obvious but also smack of temerity, or as Edmund Burke would have it, "the concessions of the weak are the concessions of fear."

In charting a new foreign policy, the correct approach is not to be hasty or adversarial but to be more deliberate, amicable and pragmatic.

While it can be said that the "Manifest Destiny" of the United States towards the Philippines was far from ideal, and was punctuated by brutality, discrimination,

and destruction, it has also ushered in democratic institutions and practices which have survived and withstood trials, stresses, turmoil, and upheavals.

While it is apropos and timely to review and restructure our foreign policy and international relations with countries and neighbors in view of the rapidly rising rivalry of the United States and China in the Asia Pacific Rim, there are potential flashpoints and contentious issues in the South China Sea where the Philippines is not only a focal participatory player but also to avoid being in harm's way when the elephants collide.

Indeed, while relations with America need to be re-examined and new criteria established, comprehensive disengagement will be easier said than done with accompanying uncertainties, dislocation, destabilization, and unhappiness with the millions of Fil-Americans who will be dismayed and angered by Duterte's anti-Americanism.

Nevertheless, the Philippines is so notoriously pro-United States that it will take sometime for Asians to believe that the Philippines is truly charting an independent foreign policy without overtly

aligning itself with China.

On the other hand, China, under international pressures and criticisms, may suddenly accept the UN Arbitral Tribunal's decision under UNCLOS of which China is a signatory, will be a signal victory for the Philippines. But what if China insists on the nine-dash-line policy?

It is plausible that President Duterte could fall miserably between two stools, so to speak, if China

remains adamant and recalcitrant, and the United States will be disappointed with the Philippines and will distance itself from President Duterte.

When all is said and done, the new boy in the block, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, is too inexperienced and unknown in international affairs to engage this early in power politics with world powers.

World politics is not for amateurs.

You be the judge.

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E · D · I · T · O · R · I · A · L

Rocking the boat gets results

Figuring out toughie Rody has become not only a national pastime but also a major undertaking among foreign governments and institutions, particularly those which are the periodic targets of his highly volatile mouth.

From the initial shock and disgust, Rody's daily dose of insults, profanities and out of this world statements has become a standard daily fare and now it seems the Americans, at least, have taken a position to just ignore him for the meantime.

The reason for the US government's move apparently was its trepidation after Rody cited the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) in a recent speech saying it did not even carry the signature of Noyonoy, his predecessor.

Also the United States is preoccupied with elections in which new policies are expected after November which gives Rody a good breathing space on whatever he throws at the US and the outgoing President Barack Obama.

Timed with his scheduled visit to China before the end of the month, the hostility toward the US can even be a strategic move for him.

Proof that which Rody has been saying against mainly the US is all bluster was that none of what was said thus far including his supposed desire for the American forces stationed in Mindanao to leave, have not translated to actual policy decisions.

Experts said that even his threat or intention to shift to either Russia or China for military arms would entail huge expenses and a major reorientation of Philippine security forces to make this a reality.

Rody just recently boasted that he had started to negotiate with China and Russia for arms supply since the United States is not providing the complete armaments that the local military can use.

The Philippine military is hugely dependent on American arms which has become more pronounced in the last two years with the holding of exercises and training, using US technology and methods.

Despite the acerbic statements against the US, the Philippines remains the largest recipient of US funds in the Asia-Pacific region under the Foreign Military Financing program, which is provided by the United States to help countries purchase American-made weapons and equipment, according to reports. It also received \$50 million under the FMF for last year.

For Duterte to make good his plans to turn to Russia and China for military capabilities, the weapons and systems that are all configured based on US technology would have to be radically changed and the Philippine military would have to retool its command-and-control structure.

Lyle Goldstein, an Asian expert at the US Naval War College said, for instance, that while Russia in particular could offer high-quality weapons systems, the Philippines would have to take into account their interoperability with existing American stock.

The capabilities of many Philippine officers if not all, are also based on the American military system, particularly those educated in the United States. This too will need tweaking to be able to hew with Chinese or Russian weapons technology.

US military experts added the military relationship between the United States and the Philippines goes well beyond arms sales, extending to training exercises and support for maintenance of which Russia and China do not have the same reputation in providing comprehensive training and support, said Amy Searight, former US deputy assistant secretary of defense for South and Southeast Asia.

Likely, Rody is not intending to break away from the US and his sharp statements were meant to extract the maximum benefits from the Americans who he said is the main beneficiary of its long military relations with the Philippines.

Whether its all bluster or there's a long-term plan to it, it seems that Rody is getting his desired effect on the Americans reviewing its relationship with the country while new unprecedented relations are built with China and Russia.

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The Manila Times

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Our foreign policy muddle

The main problem is not malice but ignorance

ERRATIC and disjointed presidential sound bites now rule the nation, so we need to be more deliberate and discriminating. The mass media, in particular, have a special duty to first understand what President Rodrigo Duterte is saying before quoting him. They must understand not only the meaning



FIRST THINGS FIRST
FRANCISCO S. TATAD

and context of his words but also the logic and validity of

► **TatadA5**

assertions. Radio and television, when broadcasting his talks live, should always put everything in context after airing his statement. This is especially necessary, in the area of foreign affairs, which seems foreign to most everyone. The media should help prevent confusion, and save the President from needless criticism. This demands greater competence among journalists and broadcasters, but this is the first requirement in any profession.

The EDCA controversy

Consider what DU30 said on the withdrawal of American troops from Mindanao and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. At first, he said he wanted the US troops out, without disturbing EDCA, which authorizes the stationing of the troops inside Philippine bases. Then he said he wanted to see the agreement reviewed, a couple of weeks or so later.

On both occasions, he was clearly thinking aloud, but the media mechanically reported what he said, without cursory analysis or explanation. The result was general confusion.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana countermanded the President by saying the US troops would remain in Mindanao. Then Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said there would be no need to review EDCA because the Supreme Court had already ruled it was constitutional. This was the first time in the nation's history that two senior Cabinet members publicly overruled the President and Commander-in-Chief on an important national security issue, without said Cabinet members resigning or being asked to resign.

In both instances, it was obvious the President had made an unfortunate misstatement, which needed to be refined; but it should have been done without causing him any undue "loss of face." Instead of Lorenzana correcting the President, the latter should have amended his own statement, by saying that upon the recommendation of the security sector he was temporarily changing his position in favor of the US troops. No further explanation was needed.

Did Aquino sign the agreement?

With respect to EDCA, Yasay should have exerted greater effort to minimize the effect of DU30's statement that the

2014 agreement was flawed because it did not bear the signature of the President of the Philippines. This was an obvious error, known to anyone who has heard of the Vienna Convention on Treaties. The President does not have to sign international agreements or treaties; lower officials are allowed to do so by investing them with "full powers" from the President.

Who signed the MBA, MDT, VFA?

In fact, the 1966 agreement shortening the 99-year lease term of the 1947 Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement to the next 25 years was signed only by US Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Philippine Foreign Secretary Narciso Ramos.

The Mutual Defense Treaty of Aug. 13, 1951—the core treaty governing Philippine-American security relations—was signed by Carlos P. Romulo, Joaquin Elizalde, Vicente J. Francisco and Diosdado Macapagal for the Philippines and by Dean Acheson, John Foster Dulles, Tom Conally and Alexander Wiley for the US.

And the Visiting Forces Agreement, an implementing treaty of the MDT, was signed by Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr. and US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard in 1998.

Yasay could have simply said that DU30 strongly believed BS Aquino 3rd should have personally signed EDCA since he had decided it should be a mere executive agreement rather than a treaty requiring the concurrence of the Senate. After all,

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President Manuel A. Roxas signed the 1947 Military Bases Agreement and the Military Assistance Agreement with US Ambassador Paul V. McNutt. This would have introduced a new perspective to DU30's statement, and saved him from so much unnecessary embarrassment.

Yasay's rebuke

But Yasay chose to rebuke the President and expose him to ridicule when he said the Supreme Court ruling, which many lawyers scoff at, had rendered the proposed review unnecessary. He could have saved DU30 from his unfortunate slip, knowing that the President needed no legal excuse to subject EDCA to a review, anytime he wanted to do so. That is his prerogative. In fact, the agreement's termination clause gives him the power to terminate the agreement upon one year's notice. But it goes without saying that termination was to be based on a sound and objective assessment of the national interest, not on anything occasioned by a bout of foul language or the mere absence of the past President's signature on the document.

Instead of making it appear that DU30 did not know what he was talking about, Yasay could have said that, because of certain intricate issues involved, the President has decided to hold his intended review of EDCA "under advisement." This is close enough to gobbledygook, but it would have made it clear that the President was still in charge. Since it was the President who first talked about a review, he should also be the one to talk about not pushing through with it, rather than his foreign secretary, who is only his alter ego.

The use of language

There is no suggestion here of malice on the part of Yasay, but it seems he needs to show a little more competence, if one may be so blunt. Language is the soul of diplomacy: although he is nowhere near DU30's grade in the use of language, he ought to have a better mastery of it.

In all this, the press had a major role to play. Albert Camus' advice is worth its weight in gold: "Do not quote without judging." The "honest error" by a totally spontaneous President was needlessly magnified by the less than competent reporting in the mainstream press. In the first instance, the press failed to point out that since the US troops were stationed in Mindanao under EDCA, they could not be pulled out except by mutual agreement between the two governments, or without first modifying the terms of the existing agreement.

But since DU30 had no plans of disturbing EDCA, then it means he could not implement the US pullout or he really had no serious plans of demanding such a pullout. Had the media made this clear, there would have been no need to hear from Lorenzana.

In the second instance, the press failed to supply the ready information that DU30 did not have under his thinking cap when he said the EDCA was flawed because his predecessor had failed to sign it. DU30 was misled into thinking that the signatures of Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, on behalf of the Philippine government, and Ambassador Philip Goldberg, on behalf of the US, were not enough to validate the agreement.

No one tried to point out that under the Vienna Convention on Treaties they were authorized to represent their respective governments upon instructions of their Presidents. And no one bothered to find out if Aquino had signed the ratification of the agreement, which, in fact, he had. They apparently presumed that the agreement was never ratified because it was not coursed through the Senate.

Until now, most, if not all, of our newspapers, refer to the "ratification" of

international agreements and treaties as a function and proceeding of the Senate. Thus, some of them say EDCA should have been "ratified" by the Senate. I maintain that, contrary to the Supreme Court ruling, EDCA should have been submitted to, and approved by, the Senate, pursuant to the clear language of the Constitution, which the High Court inexcusably misread. The result would have been a more stable agreement, not subject to the whimsies of a temperamental President.

But "ratification" is not the term for it. It is the Chief Executive that "ratifies" international agreements and treaties; the Senate merely "concurs" in the process.

The drive toward independence

The EDCA issue goes into the heart of our security alliance with the US, and DU30's desire to forge an "independent" foreign policy for his government. DU30 needs to define these two concepts with sufficient clarity, and the press, instead of merely quoting the President, can and should help clarify what he says. Neither the one nor the other is doing that right now.

DU30's apparent grievance against the US has nothing to do with its performance as a security, economic and political partner of the Philippines, but appears to be caused by the US government's failure to turn a blind eye on the summary killing of suspects in his current war on drugs, and his use of vulgar and offensive speech as the lingua franca of his presidency, and as a political tool to humiliate and terrorize dissenters and critics.

He seeks to advance his avowed pursuit of an "independent" foreign policy by attacking Barack Obama, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and flashing the middle finger at the European Union in response to their criticism of the drug killings, and by speaking fondly of China and Russia, and the "high respect" he is allegedly getting from their leaders. But not everyone sees in this a drive toward independence; many rather see in it an attempt to replace an existing alliance with a world power with a new alliance with an emerging power.

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What kind of independence?

This is not the "independent" foreign policy posture we're looking forward to. We want to see the country on friendly terms with all the major powers, but dependent on none. If it has been a mistake to pivot toward America until now, would this be corrected by pivoting toward China and Russia? This is what DU30 must explain to our people. The Cabinet and the media must help.

Unfortunately, DU30 is the only one we hear.

Attended by a Mindanao-based Cabinet whose members are mostly from Davao, and from the law college in Manila where he had studied law as a young man, DU30 has managed to gather together a group of men and women with virtually zero experience in their respective fields of assignment; a couple of notable exceptions prove the rule. Even his communist appointees, whom even non-communists and anti-communists were expecting to perform, have failed to deliver. He and the nation deserve something better, and that may be long in coming.

In the beginning, any criticism of the man and what he says was quickly drowned by the thunderous applause from his supporters. After only three months in office, his alleged 91 percent approval rating is reported to have plunged to 64 percent, and roar of the next thunder from the ground may no longer be one of approval but one of disgruntlement and disapproval. Very few will accuse DU30 and his people of deliberate malice, but lack of competence, if not downright ignorance, in domestic as well as in foreign affairs, could take us to the point of no return.

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Sakay sovereignty

CAMP Eldridge in Los Baños is now Camp General Macario Sakay. America claimed to have won the Philippines from Spain, when in fact, Spain's reign had already been defeated by revolt by Filipino tenacity. The camp in the 1900 was the command post of the 564th Construction Battalion under the US Army's 51st Engineering Brigade. Later used by the Philippine National Police Training Camp for Scout Program recruits. Named after an American soldier, Eldridge may have been that Medal of Honor recipient for killing a lot of American Indians (and Filipinos too, no doubt). Or it could have been an Eldridge from Alabama here with the US 14th Infantry Regiment who was killed near Bacoar, Cavite. The camp was first garrisoned by the Company H of the U.S. 13th Cavalry. Years later, the Signal Corps was assigned here.

The renaming of the camp to Camp General Macario Sakay was officially recognized with the commemorative program spearheaded by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) following the memorandum signed by then Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin.

September 13, 1907 was when Macario Leon Sakay, labeled by the Americans as a bandit, was

hanged by the Americans. Sakay was a founding member of KKK (Katatastaasang Kagalanggalang Katipunanang Ng Mga Anak Ng Bayan).

Born in Tondo, Manila in 1870, Macario Sakay, a friend of Andres Bonifacio, joined the revolution and was a victorious war chief in Marikina and Montalban. A founder of the short, fiery Partido Nacionalista, he was forced to take up arms when the Americans implemented the Sedition Law in 1902, which made his party illegal. He and his men vowed not to cut their hair until the Philippines attained independence. Sakay continued fighting even after the surrender of President Emilio Aguinaldo. He made his headquarters at Mt. San Cristobal near Mt. Banahaw. He even declared his own government; he

was president of the Republika ng Katagalugan.

Sakay took to the hills and organized guerrilla forces which operated in Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and the foothills of Mt. Banahaw. No ragtag band, just one of Sakay's commanders had 4,000 troops. He formed the Tagalog Archipelago as the true revolutionist with government in Dimas-Alang, complete with Constitution enacted and published in Muling Pagsilang and El Renacimiento, two existing publication at that period of unrest, edited by Lope K. Santos, this columnist's grandfather.

Sakay was lured by an enemy agent, Dr. Dominador Gomez, a medical graduate of UST to leave Sakay's hiding place in Rizal to come to Manila on the written

guarantee from the American Governor-General promising the setting up of a Philippine Assembly, "A Door to Freedom" if Sakay and his General laid down their arms. A lie of course, he was arrested by the Governor-General's men and imprisoned where survivors reported prison atrocities of the Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib variety; 300 of Sakay's forces were secretly hanged and the rest injected with lethal serum. Sakay was hanged on September 13, 1907 as a bandit at the old Bilibid Prison in Manila.

Last month, on Sakay's death day, Lt. Col. Ronald Alcudia (GSC) Philippine Army, and the Provincial Government of Laguna under Gov. Ramil L. Hernandez led the advocacy to rename and commemorate Camp General Macario Sakay. A monument of General Sakay will soon rise on the site, AFP officials said.

Through numerous colonizations, fretting and fighting failed to teach us who we now are as a sovereign country and be true to our sovereign self, something President Duterte is teaching us. Without this sovereignty, our youth will lose their sense of identity and not know who they are, and what rights they have. So writes Carmen Guerrero Nakpil in her book "Heroes and Villains" which was a reference for this piece.

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DAHLI ASPILLERA



Renaming the Laguna camp after General Sakay helps remove the historical distortion imposed by the American colonizers upon our collective memory. P/DU30 is here to rekindle the fire of nationalism and sovereignty needed today.

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ONLINE NEWS

07 OCTOBER 2016

www.philstar.com

Abu Sayyaf in Sulu splits up to evade military

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated October 6, 2016 - 3:32pm



Army Special Forces troopers clearing the area around a captured Abu Sayyaf bunker in Barangay Baguindan, Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. AFP Westmincom, file
LAMITAN CITY, BASILAN, Philippines — The Abu Sayyaf Group has splintered into smaller factions to focus on mobile tactics after being chased out of a base in this province by military offensives.

Col. Cirilo Donato, commander of the 104th Infantry Brigade, said the 200-member Abu Sayyaf group that used to occupy a camp in Barangay Baguindan as a base of operations against Tipo-Tipo town, fled last month because of the military operations.

Donato said the Abu Sayyaf group led by Isnilon Hapilon suffered close to 50 dead and several wounded during its occupation last month.

Hapilon and his group are known to have pledged allegiance to the extremist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and vowed to establish a caliphate in Basilan.

Donato said that Hapilon's group prevented the villagers from visiting their farms. Residents would only be allowed to go if they agree to join the Abu Sayyaf.

Residents reported the harassment, which prompted the military and the local government to launch the offensive against the militants.

"They have lessons learned from holding a camp, so they decided to break up and [are] now mobile so they will not be cornered," Donato said.

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Donato said about 100 Abu Sayyaf militants are believed to be hiding in the jungle of Sumisip near Sampinit Complex.

He said the Abu Sayyaf group is also believed to be low on ammunition.

The military is trying to trace the Abu Sayyaf's supplier of guns and bullets.

"We hope to cut that line of supply," Donato said.

www.philstar.com

Near-encounter between troops, MILF prevented in North Cotabato

By John Unson (philstar.com) | Updated October 6, 2016 - 2:04pm



A cleric and the new commander of the 6th Infantry Division resolved the coordination issue promptly after a three-minute talk via mobile phones. Philstar.com/File photo

MAGUINDANAO, Philippines - Direct communication lines between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the military prevented a showdown Wednesday between soldiers and guerillas tasked to neutralize drug trafficker Mokz Masgal in Midsayap, North Cotabato.

The MILF guerillas, the same group that killed foreign-trained bomb-maker Abdul Basit Usman last year, eventually broke through the marshy areas in Midsayap from Maguindanao after a three-hour delay caused by coordination issues between their leader, Ustadz Wahid Tundok, and Army Infantry Division (ID) and mechanized units positioned along their routes.

The MILF's bid to arrest Masgal has the imprimatur of the 6th ID and the joint ceasefire committee, but poor telecommunication linkages hampered the dissemination to rebel commanders and their Army counterparts on the ground of the details on how the selected guerillas are to fuse ranks with the Army's 602nd Brigade waiting for them in Midsayap.

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Through backchannel procedure, Tundok, a cleric who studied Islamic theology abroad, and the new commander of the 6th Infantry Division, Major Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., promptly restrained the soldiers assigned near the proposed bivouac areas of the guerillas, enabling them to link up with Col. Nolly Samarita of the 602nd Brigade.

The joint Army-MILF anti-narcotics operation last Wednesday resulted in the arrest of the hatchet man of Masgal, Kamarudin, who is his son by his second wife, and nine relatives also engaged in peddling of illegal drugs.

Local officials said Kamarudin helped Masgal, also known as "Commander Madrox," supervise followers distributing methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) in North Cotabato's neighboring Midsayap, Aleosan and Pikit towns.

A combined team of policemen, personnel of 6th ID's 62nd Reconnaissance Company and agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency raided Masgal's hideout last August to arrest him but he and his men resisted.

They killed two soldiers and a policeman and wounded seven others in a firefight that preceded their daring escape to the nearby Liguasan Delta.

While there is this July 1997 Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities between the government and the MILF, sudden encounters between units of 6th ID and MILF forces can erupt anytime if they come face to face without prior arrangements by the joint ceasefire committee.

Galvez and Tundok resolved the coordination issue promptly after a three-minute talk via mobile phones.

They took the cudgel of immediately notifying their respective subordinate-commanders of the exact areas the MILF guerillas from Maguindanao, many of them armed with shoulder-fire rocket launchers, are to cross on their way to Midsayap, where they are to help soldiers hunt for Masgal there.

"It is good to have efficient communication lines with people in the MILF's ceasefire committee and with the commanders of their major units. That is something that can effectively prevent undue encounters that can ruin the gains of the peace engagements between the government and the MILF," Galvez told The STAR noontime Wednesday.

Galvez, in fact, missed on Wednesday morning an initial phone call from Tundok, who first tried to reach out while the general was talking to representatives of the Australian-funded Basic Education Assistance for Muslim Mindanao Program at 6th ID's headquarters in Camp Siongco in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

The coordination between 6th ID's component-units in the second district of Maguindanao and Tundok's subordinate-commanders was facilitated by the Moro civil-military relations staff of Galvez, Lt. Col. Markton Abo, who is an ethnic Maguindanaon and is the division's current liaison conduit to the local Muslim, Christian and Lumad communities.

Sources from the MILF's central committee, who requested anonymity for lack of authority to speak on the issue, said their figurehead, Al-Haj Murad Ebrahim, and the chief of their Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces,

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--Sammy Al-Mansour, were elated with the turn of events on Wednesday, something so positive for both of them.

Galvez understands well the intricacies and ramifications of the security protocols between Malacañang and the MILF, having served as chairman of the government's Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) prior to his assumption last September 12 as commander of 6th ID.

It was during his tenure as chairman of the government's CCCH that guerilla forces under Tundok, chief of the MILF's 118 Base Command, killed Usman, a cohort of the slain Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, most known as Marwan, in an encounter in Guindulungan, Maguindanao on May 3, 2015.

Usman was said to have undergone training in fabrication of improvised explosive devices using mortar projectiles and anti-tank rockets in Peshawar, Pakistan and in Kandahar, Afghanistan during the early 1990s.

Usman first got wounded when elite Special Action Force (SAF) operatives of the Philippine National Police raided Barangay Inog-og in Mamasapano, Maguindanao on Jan. 25, 2015 to arrest him and Marwan.

The injured Usman managed to escape along with more than a dozen recruits he was training then in handling of IEDs and fabrication of roadside bombs using materials that can easily be obtained from rebel arsenals.

Marwan was killed in the January 25 dawn raid, which turned haywire when the SAF commandos figured in running firefights with MILF forces and a second group, the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, while retreating from Barangay Inog-og.

A total of 44 SAF commandos, 17 MILF members and five innocent civilians perished in the ensuing encounters, which shook the nation to its core and challenged Malacañang's Southern Mindanao peace process.

The hostilities, blamed on the PNP's disregard of the security protocols between the government and the MILF, almost caused the collapse of the now 19-year peace overture between the rebel group and Malacañang.

www.dwdd.com.ph

SUCCESSFUL | 26IB Troops Assisted in Anti-Illegal Drug Operation in Agusan del Sur

By Alvin Santiago on October 6, 2016

BUNAWAN, Agusan Del Sur (DWDD) – Troops of 26th Infantry Battalion under 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army successfully supported the PNP Law Enforcers and the Municipal Anti-Illegal Drug Abuse Council of Bunawan, Agusan del Sur during the simultaneous implementation of the eight search warrants at P-1, Brgy Consuelo. Bunawan, Agusan Del Sur around 7:20AM yesterday, October 5, 2016.

By virtue of the search warrants issued on September 30, 2016 by Hon. Dymphna C. Gozon-Labindao of 1st Municipal Circuit Trial Court in San Francisco, Agusan Del Sur, the joint government operation has been launched and successfully recovered nine (9) sealed transparent plastic sachets of SHABU weighing of about

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395 grams with an estimated market value of (P4,661,000.00); and assorted drug paraphernalia. The authorities immediately arrested the two suspects namely, Ms. Saada Cabugatan Macasalong, 23 year old, married; and Mr. Amil Sultan, age unknown, single, who are caught in the possession of these prohibited drugs during the said operation. They were among the identified personalities who are included in the PNP's drug list in the said town and among the eight personalities included in the search warrant orders.

The two will be facing criminal charges on violations of the Republic Act 9165 also known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

MGen Benjamin R Madrigal Jr., Commander of 4th Infantry Division lauded the smooth implementation of the said operation, he said, "Our increased coordination with the PNP resulted to the success of the operation. I commend all the people involved in planning and execution that led to the successful arrest of these two suspects and recovery of illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia. You have exhibited the highest form of professionalism especially on the proper implementation and execution of the search and arrest procedure."

"This shall serve as a stern warning to everyone who uses illegal drugs or involved in this kind of illegal activities. The government forces are more persistent and focused to hunt you down and bring you to the court of law. Meantime, while you still have all the opportunity to renew your lives. We urge you to stop involving yourselves to these illegal activities and start living a normal life." He added.

The two suspects and recovered items are brought to Bunawan Municipal Police Station, Agusan del Sur for documentation and proper disposition of the case. **4DPAO / MCAG**

www.dwdd.com.ph

LOVE AND CARE | Joint Medical /Dental Civic Action in Loreto, Agusan Del Sur

Posted by Alvin Santiago on October 6, 2016



LORETO, Agusan Del Sur (DWDD) – 2LT Fernaluz Mateo (QMS) PA together with 2LT Karl Macaraig (INF) PA of the 26th Infantry "Eveur Onward" Battalion initiated and participated in the Joint Medical and Dental Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) held at Brgy Poblacion, Loreto, Agusan Del Sur.

This was in coordination with the Municipal Local Government Unit of Loreto headed by Hon Ligaya Otaza, Municipal Mayor, Sangguniang Bayan Kimberly Otaza and Dr Ricardo F Vergel, Regional Health Unit of Loreto.

Said activity was also participated by Dr Kristine Ann D Yec-yec, Municipal Health Office (MHO) of San Luis Agusan Del Sur, with more or less 600 civilian populace of Loreto, Agusan Del Sur who availed different

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medical services such as circumcision-54 health consultation-576, dental-75, free haircut-556, massage-161, feeding-400 and bloodletting-16/ 8,000 cc. CMO 26IB / MCAG

www.pna.gov.ph

PHL forces getting more expertise in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Oct. 6 (PNA) -- Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) units are getting more expertise on various humanitarian assistance and disaster relief readiness techniques by training with American forces.

This was stressed by Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in an interview on Wednesday.

This joint-training provides AFP personnel and their American counterparts with more capabilities to respond in times of calamities and disasters, he said.

Incidentally, Philippine and American forces are now conducting the 33rd iteration of the Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) which has special focus on disaster relief missions.

PHIBLEX started last Oct. 4 and will end on Oct. 12. Around 1,400 American military personnel and 500 Filipino soldiers are taking part in the maneuvers.

Lorenzana said this capability was readily demonstrated by US forces during the onslaught of super typhoon "Yolanda" in Leyte in Nov. 8, 2013 where American aircraft, ships and personnel readily helped their Filipino counterparts until the situation was stabilized.

Lorenzana's view was shared by US 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade head Brig. Gen. John Jansen.

"Within four hours, Ospreys from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa, arrived to support the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The MV-22s evacuated more than 1,200 people while delivering over 20 tons of supplies, none of which would have been possible without the Philippine government and military's fast actions, and the practice we all receive during exercises. Our forces have come together again and again, in 2013 for the Bohol Earthquake and typhoon Bopha, typhoon Washi in 2011, typhoon Frank in 2008, and typhoon Reming in 2006," Jansen stressed. (PNA)

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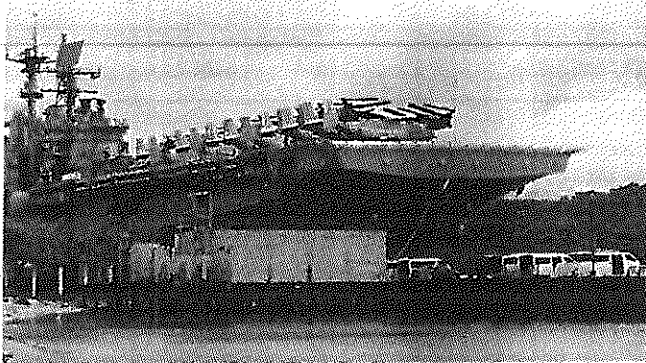
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US warships arrive in Subic for PH, US war games

Up to 1,400 US service members based in Okinawa and 500 Filipino soldiers participate in the war games

Rappler.com

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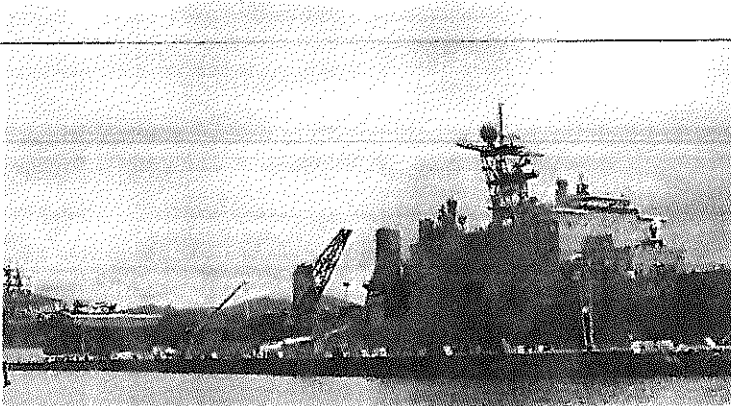


AIRCRAFT CARRIER. Sea Knight transport and Sea Stallion attack helicopters sit on the deck of the assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard, which will participate in the ongoing PHIBLEX war games between the Philippines and the United States.

SUBIC, Zambales – Three warships of the United States Navy arrived here on Wednesday, October 5, to participate in this year's Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX 33) to be held in various areas in Luzon.

The Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group (BHR ARG) consists of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD-6), the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay (LPD-20), and the Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD-42).

About 1,400 US service members based in Okinawa, Japan, and 500 Philippine Armed Forces personnel are joining the war games here.



LANDING SHIPS. The dock landing ship USS Germantown (right) and the assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard occupy the length of the Alava Pier in the Subic Bay Freeport on Wednesday. The ships, along with USS Green Bay, are in port for replenishment before participating in the ongoing war maneuver between the Philippines and the United States.

The exercise is meant to enhance the interoperability and capability of the naval forces of both countries, said Marine Corps Public Affairs Office director Captain Ryan Lacuesta.

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

Some of the activities are the following:

- Amphibious Landing Exercise on October 7, 2016 at the Naval Education Training Command in San Antonio Zambales
- Combined Live Fire exercise (CALFEX) on October 10, 2016 at the Crow Valley in Tarlac
- Turn-over ceremony of Engineering project at the Palawig Elementary School and San Vicente Elem School on October 11, 2016 at Sta Ana, Cagayan
- Closing Ceremony PHIBLEX33 on October 12, 2016 at the Acero Hall, Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

– Randy Datu/Rappler.com

www.interaksyon.com

DND chief Lorenzana says Duterte may be 'misinformed' on US alliance

By: Martin Petty, Reuters

October 5, 2016 8:45 PM



President Rodrigo Duterte (C) clenches his fist as he poses with members of the Philippine Army during his visit at the army headquarters in Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines October 4, 2016. REUTERS/Romeo Ranoco

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA, Philippines – Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana sought to patch up cracks in a military alliance with the United States on Wednesday, saying President Rodrigo Duterte, who has appeared intent on scrapping joint programs, might be misinformed about their value.

Referring to recent strongly worded comments by Duterte, in which he has declared that the Philippines' military gained little from US security ties, Lorenzana said the armed forces were still weak and the country got a lot out of the US relationship.

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"That's why I said the President was misinformed, because I think the information he is getting is incomplete," Lorenzana told reporters, a day after the launch of the latest round of PHIBLEX military exercises involving troops from both sides.

"Maybe, the defense ministry and the armed forces were remiss in providing him the correct information. This, we will address in the coming days."

The United States has been on the receiving end of a torrent of hostility from Duterte, who was angered by US expressions of concern over his war on drugs.

On Tuesday, Duterte said US President Barack Obama should "go to hell" and that in his time, he might "break up" with Washington, with which Manila has had a security treaty since 1951.

Last week, he also caused a stir when he said the PHIBLEX exercises would be "the last one" and on Sunday said a US-Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) would be reviewed.

That deal includes setting up storage facilities for maritime security, humanitarian and disaster response operations and grants US troops some access to Philippine bases.

Lorenzana said the ongoing exercises gave Philippine troops exposure to new guns, technology and body armor and training in warfare tactics, marksmanship and quick responses to natural disasters.

"According to him, only the American troops are benefiting from those exercises," he said, referring to President Duterte.

"But based on what we gathered from the GHQ (general headquarters) and army, there are (benefits)." US officials have played down Duterte's remarks, focusing instead on the decades-long alliance which they have sought to bolster in recent years in response to China's moves to enforce its claims over the South China Sea.

The White House said on Tuesday the United States had not received any formal communications from Duterte's government about changing the relationship.

www.bomboradyo.com

US sinabing walang pagbabago sa pagtupad ng EDCA

By Bombo Anne Soberano Posted in Latest News Thursday, 06 October 2016 07:17

WASHINGTON - Wala umanong gagawing pagbabago ang Estados Unidos sa pinirmahang kasunduan sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at Amerika ang Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

Ayon sa tagapagsalita ng Pentagon na si Peter Cook na patuloy silang makikipag-ugnayan sa Duterte administration para ipatupad ang nasabing kasunduan.

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Sinabi ni Cook na hanggang sa ngayon wala pa silang natatanggap na opisyal na communication mula sa Malakanyang na kinakansela na ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang nasabing kasunduan.

Una rito nagbanta ang pangulo na kaniyang kanselahin ang EDCA.

Ibinunyag din ni Cook na positibo at napaka productive ang naging pag-uusap nito sa kaniyang counterpart na si Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Tiniyak ng Washington na fully committed pa rin sila sa kanilang mga commitments sa kanilang kaalyadong bansa. (AP/AFP/CNN)

www.dwdd.com.ph

ZOPADC | United for Peace and Development

Posted by Alvin Santiago on October 6, 2016



KALAMANSIG, Sultan Kudarat (DWDD) – The Zone of Peace and Development Council (ZOPADC) is a platform initiated by the 1st Marine Brigade to harmonize the actions of the different municipalities in its Area of Operation, addressing their common interests pertaining to security, socio economic development and others. It is primarily designed to empower LGUs in pursuing complementary action towards attaining sustainable peace and development.

The 1st Zone of Peace and Development Council meeting for CY 2016 was conducted at Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat last October 05, 2016. It was attended by BGEN ALVIN A PARRENO AFP, Commander, 1st Marine Brigade as Co-Chairman of the Council, the Local chief Executives of Lebak, Kalamansig, Palimbang all of Sultan Kudarat Province and Upi, Datu Blah Sinsuat and South Upi all of Maguindanao Province and the local PNP.



A new ZOPADC Co-Chairman was elected by the council members as Hon. Rolando P Garcia, Vice Mayor of Kalamansig, formally vacated the position. Hon. Ronan Eugene C. Garcia, Mayor of Kalamansig, was elected un-opposed as its new Co-Chairman. In his speech, he swore to nurture and cultivates the seeds sown by his predecessors in pursuing its noble cause.

During the program proper, the security sector headed by the 1st Marine Brigade together with the local PNP updated the council on the status of peace and order in the area. After the security briefings, the agenda for discussion were presented to the council.

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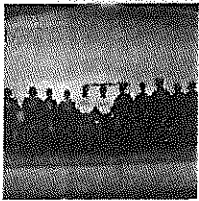
Significant among the agenda presented was the proposed creation of a ZOPADC Task Force, which aims to synchronize all efforts and existing mechanisms as well as Standing Operating Procedures of the Marines, PNP and the local government agencies covering the entire AOR of the 1st Marine Brigade to address various threats in the area. The council deemed it necessary to level up the measures and processes to strengthen the existing guidelines of inter-operability of security forces. The council designated the 1st Marine Brigade together with the PNP to spearhead a technical working group that will undertake the formulation/creation of a viable mechanism which will be the basic template for all the member municipalities.

It has been said that unity in purpose and vision survive the test of time. ZOPADC since its inception has proven to be a solid platform to effectively pursue the common aspiration of the member municipalities towards peace and development. 1MBDE MCAG

www.dwdd.com.ph

LGU SUPPORT | Pride in Uniform

Posted by Alvin Santiago on October 6, 2016



LEBAK, Sultan Kudarat (DWDD) – "I am thankful that my constituents are volunteering themselves for the service of the nation" was the message of Hon Horacio P Suansing Jr, Congressman of the 2nd District of Sultan Kudarat. As a sign of his support, the said Representative donated sweatshirts for the Marine Reservists. A symbolic turn-over ceremony was held last 01 October 2016 at Multi-Purpose Covered Gymnasium of Salaman Institute in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat.



Although the main benefactor was not present, Hon Dionesio B Besana Jr, Mayor of Lebak and Mr. Manuel Lontoc assisted BGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP in the said activity.

Wearing the Marine color is not just a source of pride but more of a responsibility.

When the Marine Reservists received and wore the olive drab colored garment, you can see the excitement and pride in their faces. But it was stressed by the Marine Instructors that wearing the uniforms is the product of their continued commitment to service. "We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the good Congressman for taking care of your constituents", "claimed Hon Bonifacio F Aguada, Brgy Chairman and a reservist of Brgy Kalamongog, Lebak Sultan Kudarat. In the near future similar ceremonies will be undertaken to the other municipalities of Upi, Datu Blah Sinsuat, all of Maguindanao Province and Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat. Through this we can see the priceless effect of just a simple garment to the drive and resolve of the Marine Reservists in their quest of serving the country through selfless volunteerism. 1MBDE MCAG

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PAF says perfectly normal to stockpile aircraft spares including engines

MANILA, Oct. 6 (PNA) — The Philippine Air Force (PAF) announced that it is perfectly normal to acquire and stockpile various aircraft spare parts including engines.

This was disclosed by PAF spokesperson Col. Antonio Z. Francisco in a message to the Philippines News Agency on Wednesday.

"Yes, its perfectly normal to have spare engines. We do that in all of our aircraft," he added.

Francisco issued this reply when queried about the Department of National Defense (DND) announcement that it is allocating PHP416,476,000 for the acquisition of brand-new engine unit for one of its two FA-50 "Fighting Eagle" jet aircraft.

Funds for the engine will be sourced from the Philippine Air Force General Appropriations Act CY 2016.

Earlier, reports claimed that the engine of one of the two operational FA-50PHs was totally destroyed after a bird strike in Clark Field, Pampanga.

The first two FA-50PHs, out of 12-plane order from Korea Aerospace Industries, was delivered last November.

Winning bidders are required to deliver the engine within 720 days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed.

They should have also completed a similar project within the last five years.

The DND Bids and Awards Committee will hold a pre-bid conference on Oct. 13, 10 a.m. at the DND BAC Conference Room, basement, left wing, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

While bid opening is on Oct. 25, 10 a.m. at the same venue. (PNA)

BNB/PFN