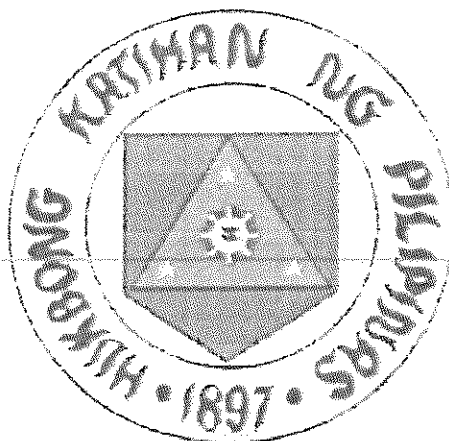


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**13 October 2016**

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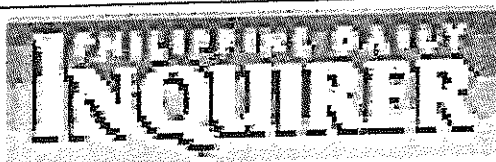
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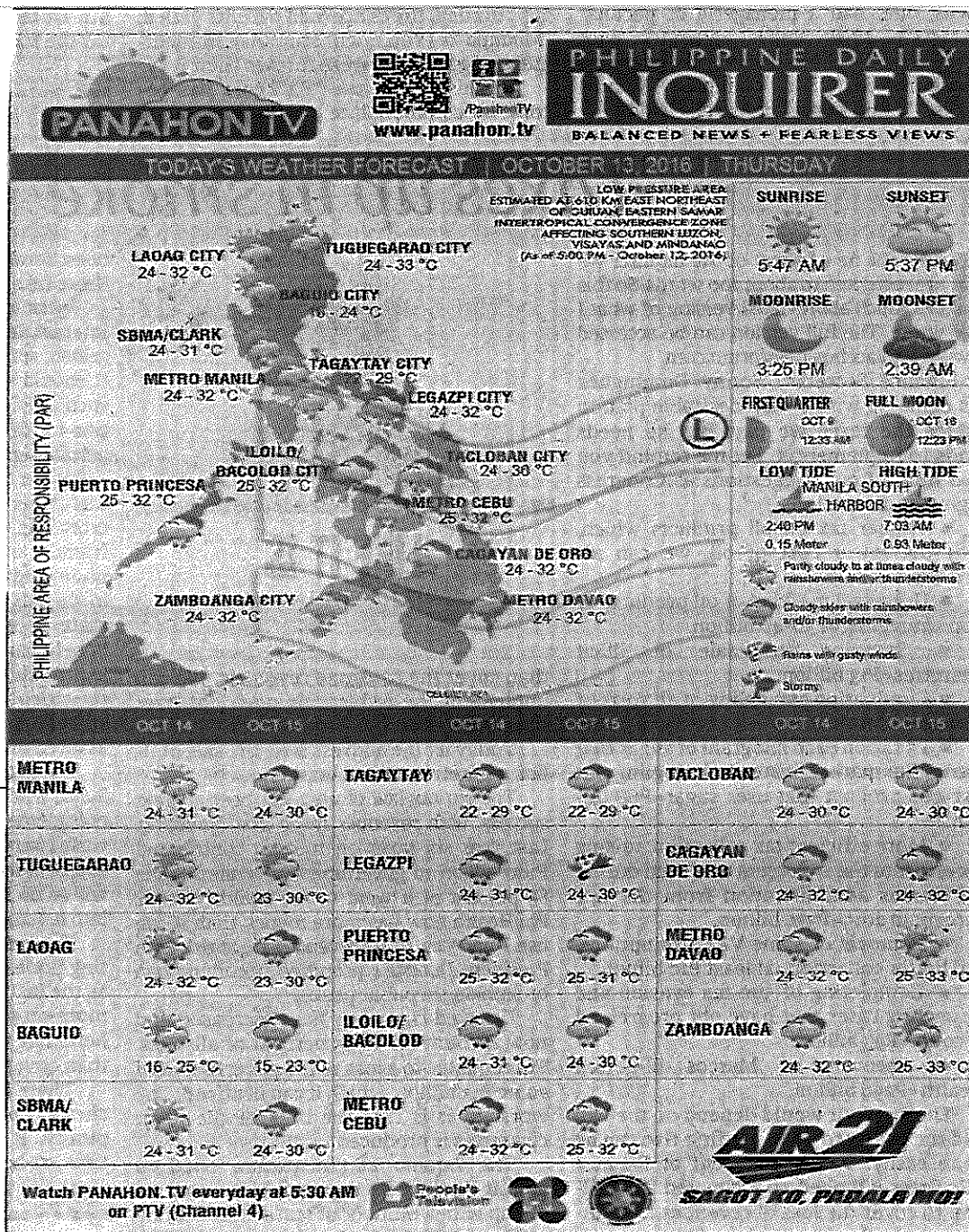
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# US, EU also invited to probe Phl killings

## Rody: No abrogation of defense pacts

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ and ALEXIS ROMERO

With a UN rapporteur welcoming his formal invitation to investigate extrajudicial killings in the country, President Duterte revealed yesterday a similar invitation is being readied for representatives of the United States and the European Union.

He made the announcement, apparently still unaware of the UN rapporteur's reaction, at the 115th anniversary of the Philippine Coast Guard in Manila.

In his remarks, Duterte said the UN High Commission on Human Rights is "now in limbo" and couldn't decide whether to send special rapporteur for extrajudicial killings Agnes Callamard.

"You don't go about reprimanding. When I was mayor, good, but these idiots, they don't realize I'm already the President and if there's an issue of human rights, since we're all members of UN, go there and ventilate the issue, ask one of the commission's

organic bodies," Duterte said.

In her Twitter account (@AgnesCallamard), the UN rapporteur indicated she is ready to go to the Philippines upon Duterte's invitation.

Callamard said she welcomed "media report of invitation to visit the #Philippines to investigate the #EJE. Waiting for the letter and confirmation by official channels."

Duterte has made it clear he is ready to answer "everything under the sun" regarding alleged extrajudicial killings in the conduct of his anti-drug campaign.

He also lambasted human rights advocates for threatening to bring a case against him.

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## US From Page 1

before the International Court of Justice, calling such move "stupid."

"You know the crime you're accusing me must be a crime within my own country. There is no crime at all in law books which states the President cannot threaten criminals to go out of the city or I will kill you," he said.

"There is no crime in our revised regional statutes or criminal system. That's the reason why I gave them the best of my slur... for acting too stupid and bringing me into the public international scene, and on my shoulder the

Filipino people..." Duterte added.

He said he could not bear the realization that the Filipinos were put on the spot because of the international attention caused by the UN's criticisms of his vicious way of dealing with drug offenders.

He stressed it's the reason he does not respect his international accusers anymore, as he warned his critics to "be prepared for the worst" as he had "gallons and gallons of epithets, curses."

Duterte had also cursed President Obama and asked the US to go to hell and the EU

to settle for purgatory, as there was no more room in hell.

"The UN body can also bring a case before the Security Council and make recommendation if they want me investigated. Fine," the President said.

### Grateful to China

Duterte took another swipe at the US for the latter's alleged shabby treatment of an ally.

"If you are a friend, if you're an ally, if you are joined by Western alliance, you should do this," he said as he held up a copy of **The STAR** with a photo of a drug rehabilitation center at Fort Magsaysay financed by a Chinese philanthropist.

"It's a dormitory, apartment bunk houses and they have built it for us," he said, referring to the rehabilitation complex built with Chinese help.

Duterte also said he has instructed the defense department not to prepare for joint military drills with US troops next year.

"I insist that we realign, that there will be no more exercises next year," the President said.

"Do not prepare. I told Defense Secretary (Delfin)

Lorenzana: 'do not make preparations for next year. I do not want it anymore. And I will chart an independent foreign policy," he added.

Duterte's statement came a day after the PHIBLEX joint amphibious exercises were concluded ahead of schedule.

He has challenged the US to withdraw its aid from the Philippines, saying Filipinos can survive without "crumbs."

Duterte, who is seeking stronger ties with China, has also suspended joint patrols with the US in the South China Sea.

The President said he is ready to deal with moves to oust him being hatched by another country.

"That's what I said if you do not want me... there are people who want to oust me, starting from a country outside. All they do is criticize me, without looking for the truth," he said. He did not name the country, although he had accused the US Central Intelligence Agency of plotting to have him killed.

Despite his harsh criticisms against the US, Duterte reiterated that he would not sever the Philippines' military ties

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with the superpower.

"We will maintain our military alliances because I said that we need it for our defense," Duterte said.

"We need not really, you know, break or abrogate existing treaties because they say that it would provide us with the umbrella," he added.

Duterte, however, believes that military alliances would be rendered irrelevant if a world war breaks out.

"Should World War III come to fore upon civilization, do you think we still have time to discuss third world war?" he said.

"When all the ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles), when all the Poseidon (are launched), then where will we be? See you in heaven."

### **No backing out**

At Malacañang, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte is not backing out of his decision to stop the war games between the US and Philippine forces.

In a briefing, Abella said the President has "carefully considered" his decision calling for a stop to the war games

in his term.

"He has his own alternatives regarding the matter. And he is fully aware of his responsibility regarding the EEZ," Abella said.

Abella was responding to a call from Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio that the government fulfill its responsibility to protect the country's exclusive economic zone.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), meanwhile, expressed relief Duterte is not cancelling or abrogating military alliances.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO), said as a professional organization, the AFP fully supports the President and commander-in-chief in all his policy pronouncements.

"We took note (of) this particular pronouncement by the President and our commander-in-chief and we see that this will be more beneficial for the country and our Armed Forces," Arevalo said.

The AFP is still heavily dependent on the US for its big ticket requirements like refurbished helicopters, planes and armored assets. – **Jaime Laude**

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13 October 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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# Big business group to join Du30

**FROM A1**

**By Doris Dumlao-Abadilla  
and Gil C. Cabacungan**  
@Team\_Inquirer

Registration for President Duterte's state visit to China next week is oversubscribed.

Initially only about two dozen Filipino entrepreneurs were to accompany Mr. Duterte but the number had ballooned, according to Trade Undersecretary Nora Terrado.

At least 400 businessmen have signed up to join Mr. Duterte's trip, according to Francis Chua, chair emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## Business deals

Chua said the business delegation would be a mix of small and big businesspeople looking for opportunities in what he expected would be a "reawakening" of trade and investment ties that went into hiatus due to rising tension in the South China Sea.

"We expect to have a bounty of business opportunities from this visit, especially with a President willing to explore the limits of a fruitful partner-

ship with China," he said.

Filipino executives are reportedly eager to talk with Chinese business leaders and government officials about deals in a range of sectors from rail and construction to tourism, agribusiness, power and manufacturing.

Big conglomerates from the Philippines, including those led by families with ancestral roots in China, are joining the delegation.

## Tycoons

Business tycoons Ramon S. Ang of the San Miguel group, Manuel V. Pangilinan of Metro Pacific and PLDT Inc., Lucio Tan and son Michael Tan of the Lucio Tan group, Hans Sy of the SM group, Carlos Chan of the Oishi group, Alfredo Yao of the Zest-O group and Henry Lim Bon Liong of the Sterling Group of companies are among those who are joining the state visit to China.

Over a hundred officers and members of Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry will also accompany the President, according to industry sources.

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC) president Frederick Go said the trip would yield more business opportunities given prospects of closer economic ties between

the Philippines and China.

RLC has entered China's residential property market with a 1,300-unit master-planned township project in Chengdu.

## Opportunities

In separate text messages, Ang and Yao replied in the affirmative when asked whether their groups would explore more business opportunities in China.

San Miguel's beer unit, San Miguel Brewery, currently operates two breweries in China.

"We think stronger relations with any country, including China, should be good for the Philippines," said Ozsen Chan, president of Liwayway Marketing (Oishi group).

The Oishi group, which has 16 factories in China, is among the top five snack-food producers in China in the whole sweet and savory snack food category.

For the SM group, its strategy is to build shopping malls in second- and third-tier cities at a pace of one mall per year, said SM Investments Corp. investor relations chief, Cora Guidote.

"China has always been open to partnering with the Philippines. In fact, here in the Philippines, we have a lot of Chinese suppliers and



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tenants. It's just a matter of continuing to harness these relationships," Guidote said.

#### Another SM mall

SM Prime currently operates six shopping malls in China. Before the end of the year, Guidote said SM would open another new mall in China, the first phase of the SM mall in Tianjin.

The visit comes as Mr. Duterte puts aside years of hostility to seek a new partnership with Beijing at a time when tensions between Manila and its traditional ally, Washington, are mounting.

The Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, Geng Shuang, said Mr. Duterte would meet President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in his Oct. 18-21 trip, and they would have a "deep exchange of views" on how to improve ties, cooperation and regional issues.

"China looks forward to increasing mutual trust between the two countries, deepening practical cooperation and continuing the tradition of friendship via the visit of President Duterte," Geng told a daily news briefing.

The two leaders should appropriately handle disputes through talks and promote a strategic, cooperative relation-

ship that is dedicated to peace and development, he said.

"The Philippines is a traditionally friendly neighbor of China. The two peoples have a long history of friend-

ship," he added.

An Inquirer source said Mr. Duterte would be conferred an honorary doctorate by Beijing University. —WITH A REPORT FROM REUTERS INQ

#### FACT BOX: PH ties with China, US

President Duterte flies to China next week as he actively courts the Asian giant while ties with traditional ally the United States have come under strain.

Following are some details of the Philippines' two main bilateral relationships:

- In 2015, Philippine exports to China were \$6.4 billion, to the United States \$8.8 billion.
- In the same year, Philippine imports from China were \$10.83 billion, from the United States \$7.21 billion.
- China had provided the Philippines \$115.33 million in official development loans and \$5.7 million as grants as of December 2014. The United States had provided \$1.15 billion in grants to the Philippines as of June 2015.
- About 250,000 Filipinos were living in China, Hong Kong and Macau as of December 2015. About 6 million Filipinos live in the United States.
- About 454,000 American tourists visited the Philippines in the first half of this year. About 400,000 tourists were from China, Hong Kong and Macau.
- Filipinos in the United States remitted \$8 billion in 2015. The figure from Filipinos in China, Hong Kong and Macau was just over \$1 billion.
- Washington has designated the Philippines, a former colony, as a major non-Nato ally. The two countries signed a mutual defense treaty in 1951. While the United States closed its bases in the Philippines in 1992, the two countries have signed a deal allowing increased US military presence on a rotational basis and storage of supplies and equipment for maritime security and humanitarian missions.
- Manila will receive about \$120 million in US military aid this year, the largest sum since 2000 when the American military returned to the Philippines for training and exercises after an eight-year hiatus. —REUTERS

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## **Army holds two-day humanitarian services in Aurora**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 12): Army holds two-day humanitarian services in Aurora

A total of 537 residents from the five barangays in this town have benefited from the two-day humanitarian services conducted by the 56th Infantry "Tatag" Battalion, Philippine Army.

The beneficiaries, who mostly came from the depressed barangays of Salay, Sapang Kawayan, Maligaya, Toytoyan and Diamanen, were treated for their illness and were provided with other medical services by the military physicians, dentists, nurses from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Health (DOH) Baler and Medicard Foundation contingents.

Lt. Col. Louie DS. Villanueva, who led the two-day activities which started Monday, together with 1lt. Reynaldo "Potpot" Aragones Jr.-civil military operations officer, Dipaculao Mayor Joanna Wilma C. Salamanca, Dr. Alma Mendoza, the team from Civil Military Affairs Brigade, Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command (AFPRESKOM), also conducted grand pulong-pulong (dialogue), medical/dental missions and free haircut services to the civilian populace in barangays Toytoyan and Diamanen, on the first day.

They also conducted optical/medical/dental mission, free haircut services, book and gift giving, and fun games to residents in barangays Salay, Sapang-Kawayan, Maligaya on the last day.

Aragones, in an interview, said that the army donated 12 boxes of books for grade 1 to 6 pupils to Emeterio M. Quirino Elementary School in Barangay Salay.

Two balikbayan boxes loaded with stuff toys were also distributed in barangays Toytoyan, Diamanen, Salay, Maligaya and Sapang Kawayan.

"We maintain good relationships to the people of Aurora. We come to show that the people here are very important to us," Aragones said.

The 56th infantry Battalion is planning to conduct another humanitarian assistance in three villages in Dingalan town.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=930728>

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BusinessMirror

Page. A1

## SOLDIERS 'RATTLED' BY EVERY COMMAND DUTERTE DISHES OUT



AP PHOTO

BY RENE ACOSTA @reneacostaBM

**P**RESIDENT Duterte is expected to go down in history books as the only commander in chief in the history of the Armed Forces, who, in every order he makes, not only rattles soldiers, but would leave commanders on their own to explain that such directives are not yet final and subject to clarifications, not from the President himself but from his subalterns.

Oftentimes, it has been observed that the President's orders are reversed or, worse, outcommanded by his own subordinate defense officials and senior military officers.

During the past weeks, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana was preoccupied in explaining and clarifying Mr. Duterte's defense and security pronouncements, admitting that one has to "see the many finer points" of some of these policy directives.

"He's a very poor commander, an erratic commander in chief whose orders are subject to challenge every time," an Army junior officer remarked.

"I would not go into battle with him as my commander. We will all die. He will order for an attack, and yet, in the middle, he will backtrack," he added, referring to

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the land.

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SEE "SOLDIERS," A2

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## Soldiers. . . CONTINUED FROM A1

Mr. Duterte's penchant to reverse or, worse, blur his own orders or statements. President Duterte has issued a number of directives in the form of strong statements over the past weeks, most of them concerning the country's defense and security relations with the United States, but his officials said all of them, except one, are not yet final.

Before he was elected, Mr. Duterte said he would ride a Jet Ski into the West Philippine Sea, apparently to assert the country's claims against China, only to establish a China-leaning diplomacy after he was elected.

Not contented, he also ordered the military to procure weapons and other armaments from China, and even Russia, only to be reminded by Lorenzana that it may not work out, since the Armed Forces has been used to handling Western-supplied weapons.

Firearms maybe, but not other weapons, the defense chief said.

Initializing his anti-American rhetoric, the Commander in Chief said US Special Forces troops assisting Filipino soldiers in the counterterrorism operations in Mindanao should go because in no way they are helping, but Lorenzana and even Malacañang officials said the pullout is not yet final.

The Palace even offered explanations that President Duterte is only concerned with the safety of the American soldiers.

On the other hand, Lorenzana said they need to brief the President and give him the "real picture."

Unlike past presidents who have solid appreciation of the issues in the Armed Forces, Mr. Duterte has the habit of issuing strong but controversial statements, only to backtrack later.

"His mouth sets the tone for his mind to follow," one soldier said. "The President should be reminded by people around him that anything he says will automatically forms part of the government's policy, the military not exempted," he added.

The problem with the Commander in Chief, as former President Fidel V. Ramos has observed, is "he is not listening."

President Duterte has also said he no longer wants the conduct of joint patrols with the US in the South China Sea, of which, in the first place, none has happened yet, and that he favors a review of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

Malacañang officials said these pronouncements of Mr. Duterte are not yet final, as they went on to clarify and explain these pronouncements.

However, as the Commander in Chief wanted the Philippine Bilateral Exercise, which closed on Tuesday as the last exercise between the US and the country, Lorenzana has informed US military officials that it will be so.

But again last week, President Duterte said he was ready to break ties with the US, but on Tuesday, he changed his stand and said he would not cut military ties with the Americans, although he was asking himself whether such partnership is still needed.

"The President is losing credibility because of his double talk. He should exert effort to study, acquaint himself of issues before he opens his mouth," another military officer said.

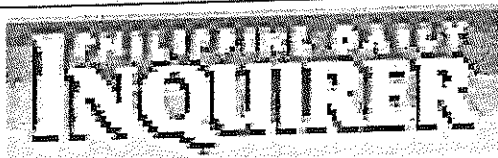
He added Mr. Duterte's security policy with the US is something that the Armed Forces is closely following, but their Commander in Chief's "dangerous liaison" with China is "deeply troubling," which could break the tie for military.

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## TRIBAL FOLK GIVE DU30 HIGH SCORE, BUT CALL FOR MORE ATTENTION

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—Indigenous peoples from Southern Tagalog and Mindanao on Wednesday gathered at the University of the Philippines Los Baños campus here as they prepare for the final leg of a caravan that seeks to bring their concerns to the attention of the national government.

Aboard buses, vans and jeeps, at least 2,300 delegates to the "Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya" (Caravan of National Minorities), which consist of Mangyan, Dumagat and Pala'wan tribes from Southern

Tagalog and lumad and Moro tribes from Mindanao, are on their way to the UP Diliman campus in Quezon City.

At the Mindanao group's stop in Naga City earlier this week, lumad leaders said they gave President Duterte a rating of 8, in a scale of 10, in his first 100 days in office as they continue to press the government for action on their plight.

Kaerlan Fanagel, a B'laan leader and spokesperson of Lakbayan, said his group credited Mr. Duterte with an initiative to review and suspend mining

operations in Mindanao.

Fanagel said the lumad also appreciated the administration's move, through the Department of Agrarian Reform, to pursue land reform by issuing a two-year moratorium on land conversion.

He said the lumad would continue to call on the national government to stop the killings of tribal people and harassment of lumad schools in the hinterlands, which have been targeted by paramilitary groups.

Fanagel said the group, though, recognizes Mr. Duterte's

efforts to disband paramilitary groups in Mindanao.

"Now, President Duterte has told the Armed Forces of the Philippines to recognize that [the military] organized and armed these paramilitary groups. [This] shows that these paramilitary groups must be held responsible for the killings of lumad," he said.

Fanagel said the group wanted to unite all indigenous peoples in the country so they could speak in one voice. —REPORTS FROM KIMMY BARAOIDAN, JUAN ESCANDOR JR. AND MARS ARGUELLES INQ

13 October 2016



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# DUTERTE DETERMINED TO STOP JOINT PATROLS IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

By Gil C. Cabacungan  
and Cynthia D. Balana  
@Team\_Inquirer

Malacañang said on Wednesday that President Duterte was determined to stop joint patrols with the United States in the South China Sea despite Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's reminder that the Constitution mandated the state to protect the country's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said Mr. Duterte ordered a stop to joint patrols between the Philippine Navy and the US Navy because he did not want any Philippine action that China might deem hostile.

The two navies began joint patrols in the South China Sea in April under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement signed by the Philippines and the United States two years ago.

The joint patrols began as the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague prepared to hand down a decision in an action brought by

the Philippines challenging China's claim to 90 percent of the South China Sea, including waters within the Philippines' 370-kilometer EEZ.

On July 12, the tribunal ruled against China, saying it had no historic title to the South China Sea and had violated the Philippines' right to fish and explore for resources in waters within its EEZ.

China, which refused to take part in the arbitration proceedings, rejected the decision, saying it would not change the situation in the South China Sea.

To assert its claims in the South China Sea, China is building artificial islands on reefs in the Spratly archipelago, topping some with airstrips that can handle large military planes.

The militarization of the area has raised tensions between China and its rival claimants — Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam—but Beijing blames the tensions on the United States, which it claims is trying to contain its rise as a potential economic and military power in Asia.



**FAREWELL HANDSHAKE** Maj. Gen. Andre Costales Jr. of the Philippine Marines and US Brig. Gen. John Jansen bid goodbye at the end of the war games. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

Last month, Mr. Duterte said there would be no more joint patrols, as he did not want the Philippines to be dragged into a conflict between the United States and China over dominance in the South China Sea.

But Carpio, who has done

extensive studies of the territorial dispute between the Philippines and China, said Mr. Duterte had a duty to protect the country's territory.

Speaking to reporters at the closing ceremonies of the Philippine Amphibious Landing

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Exercise (Phiblex 33) at Philippine Marine Corps headquarters in Taguig City on Tuesday, Carpio said the Constitution mandated the State to protect the country's waters, which can be done only by sending patrol vessels to prevent foreigners from poaching on the country's marine resources.

#### **Carefully considered**

He also said the Armed Forces of the Philippines was responsible for protecting the national territory. "Who is the head of the Armed Forces? The President," he said.

Carpio said Mr. Duterte must rethink his position.

"There is only one power on earth that can stop the Chinese from poaching on the Philippine EEZ and that is the [United States]," he said.

Abella said Mr. Duterte's decision had been "carefully considered" and "is fully aware of his responsibility regarding the EEZ."

"He has his own alternatives regarding the matter," he added.

Speaking during the Philippine Coast Guard anniversary

yesterday, Mr. Duterte reiterated that he would not break any of the Philippines' security agreements with the United States.

But he said Phiblex 33 was definitely the last joint military exercises of his presidency.

He said he had instructed Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana not to make preparations for joint maneuvers next year.

"It's about time we change the rules here," Mr. Duterte said. "I insist that we realign, that there will be no more exercises next year. Do not prepare, I told Defense Secretary Lorenzana. Do not make preparations for next year's [war games]. I don't want it anymore."

"I will chart an independent foreign policy. We will not break or abrogate existing treaties because they say this will provide us with an umbrella," Mr. Duterte said.

But he expressed cynicism about how the treaties could protect the Philippines, especially in a catastrophic World War III.

"See you in heaven," he said.  
INQ

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The Manila Times

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# US warships leave Subic

BY PATRICK ROXAS

**S**UBIC BAY FREEPORT: *USS Bonhomme Richard* (LHD-6), a Wasp-class amphibious assault ship and flagship of the United States Navy Expeditionary Strike Group Seven, sailed out of Subic Bay on Wednesday ahead of two other warships and six supply ships, signaling an end to this year's joint military exercises between the Philippines and the United States.

Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship *USS Germantown* (LSD-42) and San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock *USS Green Bay* (LPD-20), dry class cargo ship *USNS Matthew Perry* (T-AKE-9) and fleet replenishment oiler *USNS Walter Diehl* (T-AO-193) also sailed out of the freeport one after another in the afternoon after the joint marine landing maneuvers

Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise (Philblex 33) was cut short ending on Monday instead of the supposed scheduled run until October 12.

The departure of four other supply ships, *USNS Fall River* (T-EPF-4), *USNS Millinocket* (T-EPF-3), *USNS Victorious* (T-AGOS-19) and the pathfinder class oceanographic survey ship *USNS Bowditch*, will

be announced later, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) seaport department pullout schedule given to *The Manila Times*.

The joint military exercises involved 500 Filipino soldiers and 1,400 American troops.

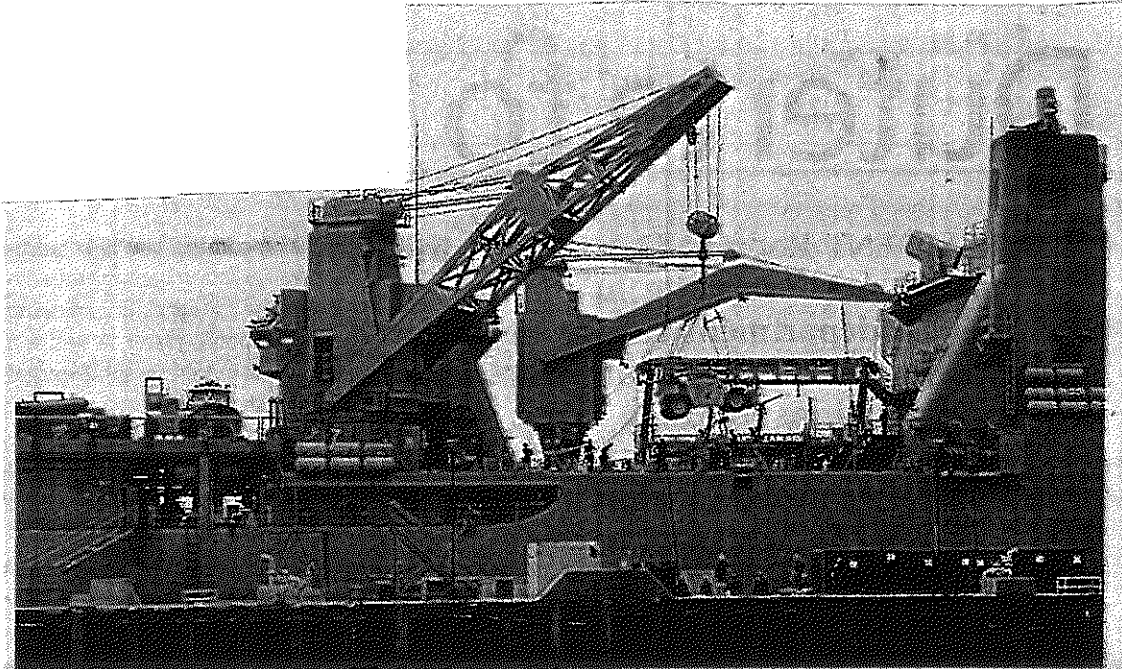
Crew of both the *USS Bonhomme Richard* and the *USS Germantown* were seen loading military vehicles and other equipment onboard the two ships on Tuesday.

President Rodrigo Duterte's earlier pronouncement that he will no longer allow future joint military exercises between Filipino and American troops had caused concern here particularly from businesses that benefit from the economic activities generated by the visits of US troops during the staging of the annual joint military exercises.

It was not clear if the shortened joint landing exercises was a result



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■ A military equipment being loaded back to the *USS Germantown* (LSD-42) at the Alava Pier of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in preparation for the ship's departure. PHOTO BY PATRICK ROXAS

of the President's statement

Duterte had lately expressed his desire to chart an independent foreign policy and announced he wants US troops out of Mindanao.

He was also quoted saying he no longer wants the country to participate in joint patrols in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

A businessman who operates a bar along the Subic Freeport waterfront, who requested not to be named, said it is sad if the joint military exercises between the Philippines and the US are canceled as the economic benefits derived from these are quite substantial.

Olongapo City Mayor Rolan

Paulino, a known advocate of US presence in Subic Bay for its economic benefits to city residents, said he will follow and respect the President's decision.

*The Manila Times* tried to get a comment from new SBMA Chairman Martin Difo but got no reply as of this writing.

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## Mega drug rehab facility in N. Ecija opening soon

By ARGYLL CYRUS B. GEDUCOS

The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday reported that the sprawling drug rehabilitation facility being constructed in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija is now 50 percent complete.

DOH Secretary Paulyn Ubial yesterday said that the facility will start its operations next month.

"Six weeks after the foundations were laid, building structures gradually took shape and now almost 50 percent of the facility has been constructed," she said.

Ubial said the building's right wing, which can accommodate almost a thousand in-patients and offices, are now ready to be furnished.

Construction of its left wing and the female dormitory is underway.

Ubial said the DOH needs around 908 employees to man a 2,500-bed capacity drug facility.

According to Ubial, around 600 personnel are now undergoing training.

Two hundred are from existing drug rehabilitation facilities in Luzon, 200 are newly-hired, and another 200 were provided by the Department of the Interior

and Local Government.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also identified a drug addiction specialist to address the training needs and the operations of the drug facility.

Ubial also added that the operation of the said facility will be modeled after the existing 44 drug facilities of the DOH.

Patients will also undergo assessment by the DOH when it comes to payment. According to Ubial, a patient can get free treatment or pay as much as ₱10,000 per month depending on the patient's capability to pay.

According to DOH, the construction of the facility, which began on July 2016, started when a Chinese philanthropist donated 10,000 beds for the rehab center.

Ubial said the partial turn-over of 2,500 beds will be made on Saturday, Oct. 15, while the remaining 7,500 beds will be turned over on Nov. 16.

The Health Chief also added that another donor on Tuesday has committed for the furnishing of the facility.

DOH is also eyeing donations from the Japanese government for treatment and rehabilitation centers.

## ONLINE NEWS

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### **PHL, US Marine Corps reiterate commitment in sustaining peace**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 12): PHL, US Marine Corps reiterate commitment in sustaining peace

The Philippine and US Marine Corps remain committed in sustaining peace, security and development within their respective territories.

This was revealed by PHIBLEX exercise director Brig. Gen. Maximo Ballesteros during the closing phase of the seven-day maneuvers.

"Occasionally, challenges may impose an interval on the continuity of plans; nevertheless, we share a common vision to create and sustain peace, security, and development within our territories, around the region, and all throughout transnational boundaries," he added.

PHIBLEX stands for Philippine Amphibious Landing Exercise, an annual maneuver participated by American and Filipino marine units.

It started last Oct. 4 and ended on Tuesday. It was supposed to end Wednesday but previous commitment by senior military made it imperative for planners to cut the drills by one day.

"Change must not collide with consistency; rather, consistency and change should both be balanced to achieve sustainable peace, security, and development. banking on consistency to effect change," Ballesteros pointed out.

He also PHIBLEX is a commitment for both Philippine and the US Marine Corps to capabilities to sustain peace through the conduct of exercises.

Around 1,400 US troops and 500 Filipino soldiers took place in the various drills in Luzon and Palawan.

"With commitment, we try to balance forces of power and differences to keep abreast with the demands of time. with persistence, we remain loyal to the call for peace and development through whatever side of the prism we are looking through," Ballesteros pointed out.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930695>

## **AFP still conducting EEZ patrols**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 12): AFP still conducting EEZ patrols

Philippine sovereignty patrols, which covers the country's 200-nautical miles exclusive economic zone (EEZ), are still ongoing.

This was confirmed by Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo in briefing Wednesday.

He made this statement in wake of Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio's advice not to limit patrolling to the country's territorial waters which only covers 12 nautical miles.

Arevalo said sovereignty patrols are still conducted on the country's EEZ as the Philippines has vast maritime interest in the area which includes the Malampaya oil separation platform which lies off Palawan and supplies a huge part of Luzon's energy requirement.

"We are conducting patrols off Malampaya, we have ships deployed there, and in fact, we also have a Task Force Malampaya whose primary obligation is to secure the safety and operation of the Malampaya facility," he said in Filipino.

Arevalo said Malampaya patrols are being supervised by the Western Command in Palawan and its naval component, Naval Forces West.

"In the process, they are going to and from these bases and in the process, they are on the lookout for any threats to the continuous operation of (the) Malampaya oil gas separation platform," he added.

Protecting the country's EEZ is mandated by the Philippine Constitution, Arevalo said.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930747>



## **Duterte to tackle military equipment in Japan**

From Update.Ph (Oct 12): Duterte to tackle military equipment in Japan

President Rodrigo Duterte, during the courtesy call in Malacañang of Japanese investors based in the country October 11, mentioned his upcoming visit to Japan before the end of October.

He said his upcoming trip to Japan aims to discuss matters that would further strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations.

He would be tackling matters on trade and commerce, the disputed islands in the West Philippine Sea, military equipment, and transportation.

The visit is in acceptance of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's invitation. Duterte and Abe met at the sidelines of ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings in Vientiane, Laos last month.

Before going to Japan, President Duterte will visit first Brunei and China. He is also looking to visit Russia after his visit to Japan.

President Duterte said in his speech after the mass oath-taking of 124 newly-appointed government officials and 25 League of Municipalities of the Philippines, also yesterday, that his government will focus on alliances that would contribute to health and education of Filipino youth.

<http://www.update.ph/2016/10/duterte-to-tackle-military-equipment-in-japan/10264>

## **PHIBLEX can change tactics to comply with ongoing war against illegal drugs**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 12): PHIBLEX can change tactics to comply with ongoing war against illegal drugs

As the 33rd iteration of the Amphibious Philippine Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) formally ended Tuesday, a ranking Filipino military official said they can change their tactics and plans to comply with President Rodrigo Duterte's ongoing campaign against illegal drugs.

"Taking off from our amphibious nature, we consistently change with the law of the situation to fulfill our duties. We stretch our scope of operations if need be, just like the current administration's war on drugs. In ways possible, our initiatives may be reshifted to include narcotics operations while not undermining our internal security operations, territorial defense and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," PHIBLEX Philippine exercise director Brig. Gen. Maximo Ballesteros said.

He also expressed confidence that PHIBLEX could become a platform for military operations that cater to peace and security issues like drugs, human trafficking, and cyber-terrorism.

PHIBLEX started Oct. 4 and was originally scheduled to end on Wednesday but the annual exercises between the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) and US Marine Corps (USMC) concluded on Tuesday due to previous commitment of senior military leaders.

Around 1,400 US military personnel and 500 Filipino troops have participated in the event.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930669>

## **President Duterte's pronouncement not to cut ties with PHL military allies very beneficial to nation, military**

From the Philippine News Agency (Oct 12): President Duterte's pronouncement not to cut ties with PHL military allies very beneficial to nation, military

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) called President Rodrigo Duterte's announcement that he will not cut ties with the country's military allies highly beneficial for the nation.

"We took note (of) this particular pronouncement by the President and our Commander-in-Chief and we see that this will more beneficial for the country and our Armed Forces," AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said in Filipino Wednesday.

Earlier, Duterte said that he will not cut ties with long-standing military allies of the country despite questioning the need for such during these times of powerful weapons and equipment.

"These are policy pronouncements and we leave (their formulation to our politicians and national leaders) as the AFP's role as a professional organization is for us to go where, and to do what our orders say," Arevalo pointed out.

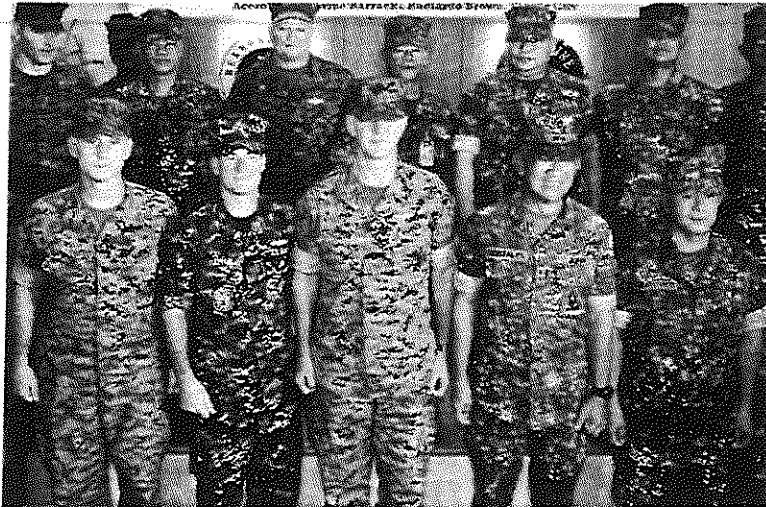
He also took this opportunity to stress that the President has more information and data at his access to make his policy statements.

In line with this, the military official said that the AFP always remain supportive of the President and the Commander-in-Chief.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=930739>

## US to honor Philippines commitments, expects same in return

From the Philippine Star (Oct 12): US to honor Philippines commitments, expects same in return



*US Marines Brig. Gen. John Jansen, third from left front row, of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Maj. Gen. Andre Costales, third from right front row, Commandant of the Philippine Marines Corps, pose with other military officers following the opening ceremony for the 33rd joint US-Philippines amphibious landing exercises dubbed PHIBLEX at the marines corps in suburban Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines Tuesday Oct. 4, 2016. President Rodrigo Duterte said he was giving notice to the United States, his country's long-standing ally, that joint exercises between Filipino and American troops this week will be the last such drills. He told the Filipino community in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, last week that he will maintain the military alliance with the US because of the countries' 1951 defense treaty. But he said this week's exercises will proceed only because he did not want to embarrass his defense secretary. AP Photo/Bullit Marquez*

The top US diplomat for East Asia says the US will honor its commitments to the Philippines and it expects its Southeast Asian ally to do the same.

Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel said the US values the relationship and wants to keep it on an "even keel."

President Rodrigo Duterte has announced steps to scale back military cooperation with the US as he looks to improve relations with China. Duterte said Tuesday he will not abrogate a defense treaty with the US but questioned its importance

Russel said the US has no problem with the Philippines discussing its territorial and maritime disputes with China if it is done on terms acceptable to the Philippines and consistent with international law.

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2016/10/12/1632867/us-honor-philippines-commitments-expects-same-return>