

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 September 2016

Tuesday

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

NEWS HEADLINES

13 SEPTEMBER 2016

Du30: US forces must go

Says Abu terrorists consider them 'high-value targets'



How states like PH fall into vigilante violence

36 victims honored 15 years after 9-11 attacks



Duterte lets Jakarta decide Veloso case



Bocanegra still says martial law surge

Gawite draws flak for Marcos boo-boo

The Manila Times

in his let-by-gones-be-gones tour, why did Obama skip the Philippines?

'US troops should leave Mindanao'

Indonesia: American soldiers stirring unrest in South



Nikorea ready for another nuke test - Seoul

Nullify P3-B firetruck deal, Supreme Court asked



Clinton, diagnosed with pneumonia, scraps trips

Manila Standard

Rody wants US special forces to pack up, leave

Veloso doomed



PH condemns China-Russia veto against UN

20 US military injured in 1976 - 1980

Andersen team set to pay for Superfund cleanup

Thank You

Daily Inquirer

Widodo claims Du30 OK'd Veloso execution

Rody warns yellows against plotting ouster, impeach



Panalo spins Ben Mi-Moon's EJK views

RP, Malaysia step up intel during said Tito abduction

Melocanang surprises with coverage ban

TABLE OF CONTENTS

13 SEPTEMBER 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A10
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-4	Rody wants US troops out of Mindanao	Alexis Romero	PhilStar p.1
5-6	Du30: US forces must go	Reuters, Marlon Ramos & Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
7	Gas station owner in Lanao Sur abducted	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
8	Highway robbery	Nonoy E Lacson	Mla Bulletin p.14
9	Ex-ceasefire chief to head Army division in Central Mindanao	Francis Mangosing	http://www.inquirer.net/
10	Spiritual Guide/51D post Chaplain Celebrates 8 th Year of Priesthood	Alvin Santiago	http://dwdj.com.ph/
11	Photo: Cleansing the Command	Leander C Domingo	Mla Times p.A7
12	Photo: Watchful Eye	Juan Carlo de Vela	Mla Bulletin p.11
AFP RELATED NEWS			
13	Combat planes from Korea, not US, clarifies Lorenzana	Cythia D Balana	PDI p.A2
14	DND chief to meet Carter, Asean peers	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B6
15	AFP verifying reports on abduction of 3 Malaysians	Francis T Wakefield, Camcer Ordonez Imam & Nonoy E Lacson	Mla Bulletin p.14
16	Gov't forces locating kidnapped Malaysians	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B6
17	<i>Abu Sayyaf bilang suspek kinukumpirna</i> 3 Malaysian dinukot sa Sabah	Francis T Wakefield	Balita p.5
18	'Self-serving acts of violence'	Julmunir L Jannaral	Mla Times p.A7
19	New military hospital	Nonoy E Lacson	Mla Bulletin p.14
20	Mayon lava wall may collapse-Phivolcs	Rhaydz B Barcia	Mla Times p.A7
21	Duterte to grace anniversary of 250 th Presidential Airlift Wing	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2

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


22	Duterte names 'killer' PCSO head	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A2
COMMENTARY			
23	Arguments for Marcos burial at Libingan	Victor AVECILLA	The Standard p.A5
ONLINE NEWS			
24	Maritime security heightened at Sulu Sea vs Abu Sayyaf	Kristian Javier	http://www.philstar.com/
25	Military launches intel ops after abduction of 3 Malaysian fishermen	Roel Pareño	http://www.philstar.com/
26	Strengthening morale/JTF Sulu Commander visits Troops	Alvin Santiago	http://dwdd.com.ph/
27	Duterte to US troops: Leave Mindanao or Abus will kill you	Alexis Romero	http://www.philstar.com/
28	Intel at Naval ops pinalaks ng AFP sa Tawi-Tawi	Bombo Anne Soberano	http://bomboresadyo.com/
29	Lorenzana to meet with US defense chief to tackle security issues	Francis Mangosing	http://www.inquirer.net/

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


13 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A10



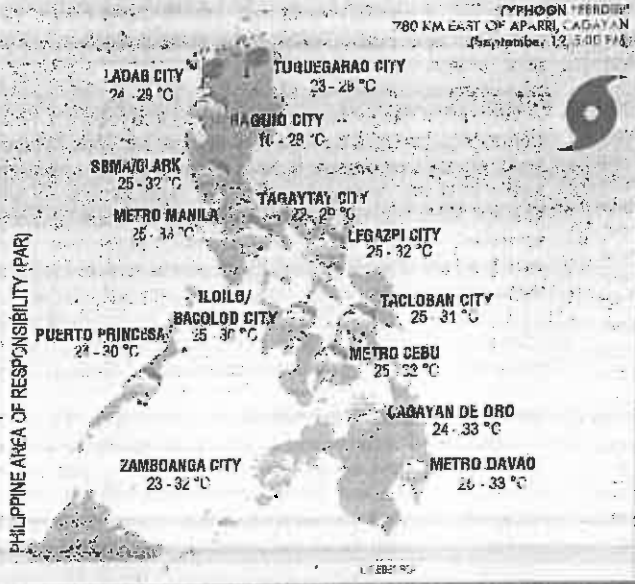
www.panahon.tv



PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 | TUESDAY



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

TYPHOON 'FERDIE'
780 KM EAST OF APARRI, CAGAYAN
(September 12, 3:00 PM)

SUNRISE 5:45 AM
SUNSET 5:52 PM

MOONRISE 3:10 PM
MOONSET 2:01 AM

FIRST QUARTER SEP 13 7:40 PM
FULL MOON SEP 15 6:01 PM

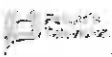


LOW TIDE 3:07 PM
HIGH TIDE 3:37 AM


MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
1.5 Meters / 1.04 Meters

Partly cloudy with rain, cloudy with showers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy with rain, showers and/or thunderstorms
Thunder with gusty wind
Stormy

SEP 13		SEP 14		SEP 15		SEP 16		SEP 17	
METRO MANILA	25-32 °C	24-31 °C	TAGAYTAY	22-28 °C	21-28 °C	TACLOBAN	25-33 °C	26-33 °C	
TUQUEGARAO	24-31 °C	24-32 °C	LEGAZPI	25-32 °C	25-31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24-34 °C	25-33 °C	
LADAG	23-30 °C	23-31 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-31 °C	23-30 °C	METRO DAVAO	26-32 °C	25-34 °C	
BAGUIO	15-21 °C	15-21 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24-30 °C	24-31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24-33 °C	25-33 °C	
SBMA/CLARK	24-31 °C	23-31 °C	METRO CEBU	25-33 °C	25-33 °C				

Watch PANAHOON.TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).



SASOT KO, PADALA MO!

1

13 September 2016



Page: 1

Rody wants US troops out of Mindanao

Soldiers warned of kidnapping by Sayyaf

By ALEXIS ROMERO

After blasting the United States supposedly for interfering in his war on drugs, President Duterte yesterday said he wanted American troops out of Mindanao as he blamed Washington for the conflict and security threats in the south.

Duterte said US troops in Mindanao should leave as they are in danger of being kidnapped by the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

The Special Forces, they have to go. They have to go in Mindanao. There are many

whites there," the President said during the oath taking of new appointees yesterday at Malacañang.

"If they see an American, they would kill him. They would demand ransom then kill him. Even if you're a black

or white American, as long as you are an American (they will kill you)," he added.

Some US troops have been deployed in Zamboanga City to assist Philippine security forces in the campaign against

Turn to Page 11

Rody

From Page 1

terrorists. Since the Constitution prohibits foreign troops from engaging in direct combat operations, the US soldiers' role is limited to assisting the local military through training and information sharing.

The US Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, set up in 2002 upon the request of then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo amid a kidnapping spree in Basilan by the Abu Sayyaf, ended its mission in Zamboanga in 2015. The JSOTF-P consisted mainly of Special Forces and SEALs.

A ranking Philippine military official who declined to be named said fewer than 200 US soldiers have remained in Zamboanga City, and they were mainly involved in providing "technical assistance" to Filipino troops.

"The situation there (in Mindanao) will worsen if they (Americans) are seen there, they will be killed," Duterte said.

The President said it was a message he could not deliver during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Laos last week, mainly out of respect for US President Barack Obama who was at the summit.

"I could not speak then out of respect and I do not want a rift with America. But they

have to go," the President said.

Under Duterte, the Philippines has had an uncomfortable relationship with the US, its treaty partner and longtime ally. The Philippine president has scolded the American government for lecturing him about human rights despite its own record of atrocities committed by its soldiers during the Philippine-American War in 1898.

The US has expressed deep concerns over rising deaths of suspected drug offenders in Duterte's war on illegal drugs. Human rights advocates said Duterte's tough approach to fighting drugs has encouraged summary executions and targeted only the poor. Nearly 3,000 suspected drug offenders have been killed since Duterte assumed office in June, almost half of them by suspected vigilante groups.

Duterte has lashed back at the US by citing its supposed failure to stop the killing of African Americans by policemen and by accusing it of "exporting terrorism" in the Middle East.

The President continued with his tirades against the US yesterday as he blamed Washington for the violence in Iraq and Libya. He also showed photos of the Bud Dajo massa-

cre, where US forces massacred more than a thousand Muslim fighters and civilians holed up in a mountain fortress during the Filipino-American war.

The photo showed American soldiers posing among piles of dead Muslims including naked women. The massacre happened in Jolo in 1906. "The US is a hypocrite," Duterte said.

He had also shown photos of the Bud Dajo massacre at the East Asian Summit in Laos.

"Look at the bodies there. For as long as we stay with America, we will never have peace in that land. We might as well give it up," Duterte said.

"See the soldiers stepping on a woman's bare breast. They even made a postcard out of it," he added.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte's statement reflects the President's "new direction towards coursing an independent foreign policy."

"He (Duterte) has made reference to the unrecognized, unrepented and unatoned for massacre at Bud Dajo in Sulu by the Americans, hence our continued connection with West is the real reason for the 'Islamic' threat in Mindanao," Abella said in a statement.

"The American silence on the matter lacks congruence with its 'moral' position in the light of actions taken in the past by the Germans who

confessed and made atonement for the Holocaust, and Japan which made reparations for the atrocities it perpetrated among the peoples they conquered," he added.

Abella said Duterte is on "morally firm ground" by "breaking up walls that cover dark corners" in the bilateral ties between the Philippines and the US.

Duterte has vowed to pursue an independent foreign policy and has repeatedly stressed that he is not beholden to anyone but the Filipino people.

Rock solid

Despite Duterte's latest innuendo against the US, the Philippines' relationship with the mightiest nation remains "rock solid," according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"It's strong," Lorenzana said. "The US is truly a military ally because of our mutual defense treaty which was signed in the 1950s and is still there," he said, referring to the Mutual Defense Treaty.

"It's not abrogated. What the President said was we're going to talk with others who could give us good equipment to strengthen our defense and we will do that, but we are going to still have our treaty alliance with the United States," he added.

In fact, Lorenzana said he

had a scheduled meeting with the US officials led by Defense Secretary Ashton Carter by the end of September in Honolulu to discuss security issues.

He said ASEAN defense ministers would also discuss security issues in the South China Sea as well as terrorism among other issues.

President Obama called off a planned meeting last week with President Duterte on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit, after the latter spewed out expletives at US officials whom he accused of interfering in Philippine affairs.

"Clearly, he's a colorful guy," Obama said on being told of Duterte's unsavory statements. "What I've instructed my team to do is talk to their Philippine counterparts to find out if this is in fact a time where we can have some constructive, productive conversations."

Meanwhile, military officials - especially those in the Western Mindanao Command - declined to comment on the President's position against the presence of US troops in the region.

"It is beyond our level and any statement relative to that pronouncement of our Commander-in-Chief will be from the higher headquarters," a military official who declined to be named said.

The military official said there are still US military per-

sonnel operating in Zamboanga City under the status of foreign liaison elements at the Westmincom.

US military forces used to operate under the US Special Operation Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) with troops deployed on rotation basis since 2002. It terminated its operations after 10 years and left its camp inside Westmincom only with liaison personnel.

The deployment then of US military forces was upon the invitation of the Philippine government to assist and advise their Filipino counterpart in the campaign against terrorism particularly by the Abu Sayyaf group.

Meanwhile, local officials in Basilan and Sulu said they were saddened by Duterte's pronouncement against the US military. They said US soldiers have been active in humanitarian projects in the region.

"We have reservations on the pronouncement of the President as we all know the assistance provided by the US troops in ensuring the security and peace and order in the city," acting Mayor Cesar Iluralde said. He said they hope the President would reconsider his pronouncement.

"But we will highly respect the President as we are very much supportive of his plans and programs in this matter," he added. - **With Cecille Suerte Felipe, Roel Pareño**

13 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A1

Du30: US forces must go

Says Abu terrorists consider them 'high-value targets'

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday called for the withdrawal of US military personnel from Mindanao, fearing an American troop presence could complicate offensives against Islamist militants notorious for beheading Westerners.

Mr. Duterte, who was in the spotlight last week over his televised tirade against the United States and US President Barack Obama, said Special Forces now training Filipino troops were high-value targets for the Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf as counterinsurgency operations intensified.

"These Special Forces, they have to go," Mr. Duterte said in a speech during an oath-taking ceremony for new officials. "I do not want a rift with America. But they have to go."

He added: "Americans, they will really kill them, they will try to kidnap them to get ransom."

The comment by Mr. Duterte, a former Davao City mayor known for his terse words and during the land.

from page A1

volatile temperament, adds to uncertainty about what impact his rise to the presidency will have on one of Washington's best alliances in Asia.

Mr. Duterte wants an independent foreign policy and says close ties with the United States are crucial, but he has frequently accused the former

colonial power of hypocrisy when criticized for his deadly war on drugs. He denied on Friday calling Obama a "son of a bitch."

Some US Special Forces have been killed in the southern Philippines since 2002, when Washington deployed soldiers to train and advise local units fighting Abu Sayyaf in Operation Enduring Freedom,

part of its global antiterror strategy.

At the height of that operation, some 1,200 Americans were in Zamboanga City and on Jolo and Basilan islands, both strongholds of the Abu Sayyaf, which is known for its brutality and for earning huge sums of money from hostage-taking.

The US program was discon-

tinued in the Philippines in 2015 but a small troop presence has remained for logistics and technical support. Washington has shifted much of its security focus in the Philippines toward the South China Sea.

In his speech to officials yesterday, Mr. Duterte repeated comments from last week when he accused the United States of committing atrocities against

Muslims over a century ago on Jolo island.

American troops are staying in the Western Mindanao Command headquarters in Zamboanga City. Both US and Philippine military officials refused to give the exact number of American soldiers.

Early this year, US troops trained elite policemen on marksmanship. The 45-day marksmanship

training focuses on enhancing the skills and capabilities of Special Action Force (SAF) men.

Also early this year, US troops trained SAF men on tactical combat care or life-saving support inside the Zamboanga Eco-zone and Freeport Authority in Barangay San Ramon. Reports from Reuters, Marlon Ramos and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

13 September 2016

Malaya
The Philippine News Paper

Page: B2

Gas station owner in Lanao Sur abducted

A 60-YEAR-OLD female owner of a gas station was abducted by still unidentified armed men in Linamon town in Lanao del Norte early morning yesterday.

Lt. Col. Benedicto Manquiquis, public affairs officer of the Army's 1st Infantry Division in Zamboanga del Sur, said military efforts are underway to rescue the victim, who was identified as Clarita Belisario.

Citing initial reports, Manquiquis said Belisario was abducted at the Caltex gas station she owns at Purok 4 in Poblacion Linamon at around 5 a.m. He said the gas station is located in front of the Belisario's residence.

Manquiquis said Belisario was seized by eight "fully-armed" men who used a gray van and a white Mitsubishi Montero sports utility vehicle, with plate number ABC 5430, in the kidnapping.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the Zamboanga City-based AFP Western Mindanao Command, said the Army's 2nd Mechanized and 103rd brigades are coordinating with the PNP for the rescue of the victim. — *Victor Reyes*

7

13 August 2016



Page: 14

Highway robbery

By NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Five armed men staged a hold-up in a provincial bus at dawn yesterday and carted away the passengers' cash and personal belongings amounting to some P85,000.

Jude Amantiad, driver of Rural Transit Bus Kinglong, and conductor Virgil reported to the Siay Municipal Police Station that five armed men held up their bus about 12:30 a.m. yesterday along the national highway of Barangay Mirangan in Siay town, Sibugay province.

The provincial bus, with plate number JVH-940, was carrying 15 passengers at the time of the incident.

The passengers said the robbers were armed with .45 caliber pistols. They boarded the bus pretending to be passengers.

Amantiad told police probers that two single Honda motorcycles waited at Mirangan, where the holdup incident took place.

Amantiad said the two suspects on board declared the hold-up, one of them pointing a gun to him. The men ordered the bus to stop where the two motorcycles were parked.

He said the three men standing along the motorcycles immediately boarded the bus and took the cash and belongings of the passengers.

One of the passengers, Phil. Army Corporal Rogelio A. Baman, was able to shoot the last suspect who stepped out of the bus, hitting him in the neck area. But the other men took the wounded man with them to escape.

8

<http://www.inquirer.net/>

Ex-ceasefire chief to head Army division in Central Mindanao

By: Frances Mangosing



Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez. FRANCES MANGOSING/INQUIRER.net

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Maguindanao—A military officer who served as ceasefire mechanism chairman during the Mamasapano massacre in 2015 will be installed as commanding officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (6ID) based here.

Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, deputy chief of staff for operations, will assume his new post on Monday in turnover rites to be presided by Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año.

Galvez, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985, will replace Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, who assumed his new position as Army's vice commander last week.

The incoming commander of the 6ID served as chairman of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities, the ceasefire mechanism panel formed in the peace talks with the Moro National Liberation Front for about a year. He was the chairman during the Mamasapano bloodbath in January 2015 that killed 44 elite policemen.

The police forces engaged with the MILF and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters when they took down top Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan.

Galvez served as deputy chief for operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines from October last year. He was previously the deputy commander of the Western Mindanao Command and the commander of the 104th Brigade in Basilan.

Army spokesperson Col. Benjamin Hao described Galvez as a "peace builder" and his role was also crucial in helping to prevent the Mamasapano incident from further escalating. *IDL/rga*

9

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

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

SPIRITUAL GUIDE | 5ID Post Chaplain Celebrates 8th Year of Priesthood

Alvin Santiago



Brigadier General Paul T. Atal, D.P.A. AFP, Commander, 5ID, PA give his present to Rev Fr. Erwin Marc D. Chavez Post Catholic Chaplain during the celebration of his 7th Priesthood Anniversary held at San Lorenzo Ruiz Kiosk, Camp Melchor F. Dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela on September 11, 2016.

Camp Melchor F. Dela Cruz, UpiGamu, Isabela (DWDD) – 5th Infantry (STAR) Division Post Catholic Chaplain Rev Fr. Erwin Marc D. Chavez celebrates his 7th Priesthood Anniversary through a celebrated mass last September 11, 2016 at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Post Chapel, Camp Melchor F. Dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela

The celebrated Sunday Mass were attended by the 5ID Troopers and their family headed by the father of the Star Troopers B Gen Paul T. Atal, D.P.A. AFP

Father Chavez was assigned in 5th Infantry (Star) Division, Philippine Army as Post Catholic Chaplain on May 12, 2016 as reliever of Captain Tyron S. Narisma (Chaplain Service) Philippine Army who is undergoing Schooling at AFP Medical Center, AFP Medical Service School, Camp Col Victoriano K. Luna, V. Luna, Quezon City

Father Chavez hosted a simple lunch for his Star Division family and civilian friends held at San Lorenzo Ruiz Kiosk, Camp Melchor F. dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela.

BGEN ATAL on his greetings to Fr. Chavez, "Happy, Happy 7th Priesthood Anniversary to you Father! Naway gabayan ka ng ating Panginoon sa iyong bokasyon at patuloy mong matulungan ang mga kasama nating Sundalo na sila ay ipanalangin sa Maykapal at ilayo sa ano mang kapahamakan lalo na sa mga kasamahan nating naka-deploy sa Sulu." BGEN ATAL said. **5DPAO / MCAG**

10

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

13 September 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A1



CLEANSING THE COMMAND About 600 soldiers and civilian employees of the Philippine Army's 5th Infantry (STAR) Division under Big. Gen. Paul Atal submit urine samples during a surprise drug test conducted by the Regional Treatment and Rehabilitation Center of the Department of Health in Iligan City, Isabela recently. At least 13 members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Catgu) and a soldier have been dismissed after they were tested positive for shabu. PHOTO BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

17 August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11



WATCHFUL EYE – Soldiers walk among Muslims who gathered in Cebu City's Plaza Independencia during the celebration Monday of Eid' Adha or the Feast of Sacrifice. Police and military presence in the city has been ramped up following the bombing in Davao City last September 2. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

13 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A2

Combat planes from Korea, not US, clarifies Lorenzana

By Cynthia D. Balana

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana yesterday said the two FA-50 combat aircraft that arrived in the country in November last year had come from South Korea and not from the United States as President Duterte had stated.

Lorenzana issued the clarification following the President's speech before the Filipino community in Indonesia last week, that the two FA-50s, which he claimed were just for show, had come from the United States.

"*Mukhang nagkamali lang siya (It looks like he made a mistake),*" said Lorenzana. "*Iyong FA-50 is from Korea. Sabi nya dalawa lang binigay, hindi eh labindalawa iyon (The FA-50 is from Korea. He said only two aircraft were given, but there were 12.)*"

Ceremonial only

In his speech before the Filipino community in Indonesia on Sept. 9, the President belittled the US defense assistance to the Philippines as for "ceremonial" purposes only.

He said: "We have received so many things from America. Thank you for your generosity. What they sold us, two, only two FA-50 (fighter jets). It's FA-50 but they never gave us the missiles and the bullets and the can-

ons to fight. For ceremonial lang (only.)"

Manufactured by the Korean Aerospace Industries (KAI), the FA-50s are expected to serve as the PAF's lead-in trainer. Lorenzana said 10 more FA-50s will arrive in batches next year as part of the 12 planes purchased for the Armed Forces of the Philippines P18.9-billion modernization program.

According to IHS Jane's All the World's Aircraft, the FA-50 type, although billed as a "light" fighter, has a potent air-to-air and air-to-surface capability.

"The type has been flown by South Korea and the Philippines, with Iraq set to receive its first aircraft shortly and Peru considering an offer of the aircraft," said IHS Jane, considered the most trusted and respected public source of defense, risk and security information in the world.

Lorenzana said the FA-50 would serve as lead-in fighter, which means it could serve both as a trainer and fighter plane for Filipino pilots who have not experienced flying fighter planes for a long time.

The defense chief said it will take many years to train fighter pilots from the Philippine Air Force to fly real fighter planes.

"So FA-50 first, and then later on, if we have capabilities to purchase real fighter planes, we will do that," he said.

13

13 September 2016

Malaya
THE NATION'S NEWS

Page: 36

DND chief to meet Carter, Asean peers

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is due to fly to Honolulu, Hawaii at the end of the month to meet US Secretary Ashton Carter and his Association of Southeast Asian Nation counterparts.

Lorenzana made the announcement after attending the assumption of new 6th Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Carlito Gaivez at the 6th ID headquarters in Maguindanao yesterday morning.

"We are going to discuss the security in the South China Sea, security against terrorism and other problems, general

problems concerning our security," he said the Asean defense ministers meeting.

Lorenzana did not elaborate on the specific issue that will be discussed about the South China Sea, or West Philippine Sea where the oil and minerals rich Spratly Islands are situated.

The Spratly Islands chain is being claimed in part or in whole by the Philippines, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan.

A United Nations arbitral court invalidated China's excessive nine-dash line claim in the South China Sea last July. Also,

it said China's occupation and reclamation of Mischief Reef was in violation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Lorenzana said the Philippines' defense relations with the US remains strong, amid a rift between President Duterte and US President Barack Obama over human rights issues.

"It's strong. It's rock solid as the Americans described our defense relation or relationship," said Lorenzana. "US is our ally, military ally because of the Mutual Defense Treaty which was signed in 1950s."

-- Victor Reyes

14

August 2016

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 14

AFP verifying reports on abduction of 3 Malaysians

By FRANCIS J. WAKEFIELD,
CAMER-ORRONEZ IMAM
AND DINDY E. LACSON

The Armed Forces of the Philippines said yesterday that it is still verifying reports on the alleged abduction of three Malaysians by the Abu Sayyaf Group near the tourist resort of Pulau Pom Pom off Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia.

Marine Col. Edgar A. Arevalo, the chief of AFP's Public Affairs Office, said the military will make the announcement when information becomes available.

"We're validating the report, as well. We will make necessary reports as information become available," Arevalo said.

AFP Spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said they have received an initial report on the incident but they have yet to validate it especially the information that the Abu Sayyaf Group was involved.

He quoted a report from Star Malaysia Online which said three fishermen were abducted by gunmen in Sabah waters near the tourist resort of Pulau Pom Pom off Semporna.

The suspected Filipino armed group composed of seven men is believed to have taken the victims across the border towards the southern Philippines island chain of Tawi-Tawi province.

Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) commander Datuk Wan Abdul Bari Abdul Khalid confirmed that they received a report from the owners of the fishing trawler at 1:59 a.m. Sunday.

"I can only confirm Sabah police commissioner (Datuk Abdul Rashid Harun) will release the details later," he said when contacted.

The owner of the fishing boat confirmed that the gunmen kidnapped the skipper and two crew members at about

10:20 p.m. on Saturday.

It is believed that the three fishermen, one of them identified as Filipino Bajaus, were among a crew of 11 on the trawler when seven kidnappers confronted them at gunpoint.

The kidnappers only took three crewmen and fled in a green-colored fast boat towards southern Philippines. The rest of the crew steered the trawler back to the Semporna jetty.

Meanwhile, AFP-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WesMinCom) Spokesman Maj. Filemon Tan said yesterday that the Malaysian Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) has formally informed the military here of the recent kidnapping incident involving three Malaysian citizens.

The report of the ESSCOM said that the seven suspected members of the ASG were on board two 75-horsepower engine speed boat, took the victims at gunpoint and immediately sped to the high seas bordering Malaysia and Philippine waters.

Tan said operating troops of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi and Naval forces Western Mindanao (NFWMD) immediately mobilized their water assets to prevent the entry of the armed men with their hostages to Tawi-Tawi and Sulu.

Tan said the military in this part of the country and ESSCOM will be sharing and exchanging information to track down the whereabouts of the suspects and their hostages.

The incident came hardly two days after Esscom conducted an intensive operations against cross-border smugglers in the five districts in the east coast.

Esscom has said that security forces were on high alert along the border as the Philippine military had launched a massive all-out war against the Abu

Sayyaf in Jolo.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo Visaya visited and rallied troops involved in the offensive against the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

This is the fifth time that the AFP Chief visited troops taking the brunt of the fighting in the effort to destroy the ASG and rescue the remaining hostages. Three of those visits were done after the beheading of Patrick James Almodvar, a local Muslim Jolo resident, said Col. Rodrigo Gregorio of the Information Support Team, Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS).

The top brass of the AFP who accompanied the Chief of Staff were the Commanding General of the Phil Army, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano; Western Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo dela Cruz, Chief Surgeon, Brig. Gen. Mariano Mejia, and other generals from the General Headquarters.

He said the troops were headed by Joint Task Force Sulu Commander, Brig. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega, with 101st Brigade and 501st Brigade Commanders, Col. Jesus Manangquil and Col. Jose Faustine including Battalion Commanders and other key officers and troops.

The visit aims to boost the morale of troops, be abreast of the conduct of operation and hear for himself the needs of the operating units as well as provide guidance and convey the message of President Duterte to ground troops on the war against terror, Gregorio said.

The AFP chief also inspected the newly constructed camp hospital and status of its facilities.

"Those in the Abu Sayyaf who want to surrender, the AFP will accept them, provided that they release their hostages; if not, our soldiers will hunt them down and pursue them until all of them are neutralized," Gen. Visaya said.

13 September 2016

Malaya
The Nation's Newpaper

Page: 86

Gov't forces locating kidnapped Malaysians

BY VICTOR REYES

GOVERNMENT forces have been deployed in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi to locate three Malaysian fishermen abducted from Malaysian waters last Saturday, a military official said yesterday.

The Abu Sayyaf is suspected to be behind the kidnapping, said Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the Armed Forces' Western Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City.

Malaysian officials on Sunday said the three crew members of a trawler were abducted last Saturday near a resort in Semporna by a group of seven "Filipino armed men" who headed to Tawi-Tawi after the incident with their victims.

They did not specifically point to the Abu Sayyaf which is blamed for the kidnapping of dozens of Indonesians and

Malaysians in Indonesian, Malaysian and Philippine waters over the past several months.

Tan, citing reports received from Malaysia's Eastern Sabah Security Command, Tan said the fishermen were seized at around 11 p.m. Saturday in the general area of PomPom island near Mataking Island Resort off Semporna.

Tan said the suspects used a boat, powered by two 75-horsepower engines.

"The boat was described to be a color green and white with red line which sped off towards northeast in the direction of Alice reef and Bulubulu island of Tawi-Tawi," he said.

Tan said ground and naval forces immediately conducted intelligence operations established security points at the kidnappers' probable routes.

Tan said the military is continuously coordinating and sharing

intelligence information with Malaysian authorities.

Tan said the kidnappers may have difficulty bringing their captives to Mindanao.

"The sea is rough. The Navy said they will have difficulty crossing because of the sea condition," he said.

If the kidnapping was indeed perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf, the group did it possibly to distract the military from its operations against the group in Sulu and in Basilan.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he "suspects" the kidnap victims will be brought to Tawi-Tawi, Jolo in Sulu, or Basilan, where it would be easier for the Abu Sayyaf to hide.

He also said the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf is continuing.

President Duterte has said he wants the Abu Sayyaf destroyed during his term.

16

13 September 2016

ANG HANAPONG MATA NG TAWI-TAWI SA BANGSA 1:8.00

Page. 5

ABU SAYYAF BILANG SUSPEK KINUKUMPIRMA

3 Malaysian dinukot sa Sabah

Sinabi kahapon ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na sinisikap pang kumpirmahin ng mga intelligence operative kung ang Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang nasa likod ng pagdukot sa tatlong Malaysian sa karagatan ng Sabah malapit sa resort ng Pulau Pom Pom sa Semporna nitong weekend.

Ayon kay Major Filemon Tan, Jr., tagapagsalita ng AFP-Western Mindanao Command, nagsasagawana ng masusing inbestigasyon ang mga intelligence operative mula sa Tawi-Tawi at Sulu upang matukoy ang mga aktuwal na detalye sa pagdukot.

"Lahat gumagalaw 'yan, lahat gagalaw 'yan. So magkakaroon ng intelligence sharing 'yan na tinatawag. Meaning Tawi-Tawi and Sulu nagko-compare ng notes 'yan," ani Tan,

idinagdag na kabilang sa mga layunin ng militar ang maharang ang mga kidnapper at mabawi ang mga bihag.

"Yes. Kung sa atin talaga pumunta, kasi may aron nga, eh, may issue pa d'yan, eh. Ang lakas-lakas ng alon, nagawa nila 'yun? Ibig sabihin, according to the Navy, mahirap matawid nila 'yan sa atin dahil sa situation sa dagat," sabi ni Tan.

Naniniwala si Tan na hindi magangahas ang mga kidnapper na magbiyahe nang ilang oras upang marating ang Mindanao.

"Hindi nila itutuloy 'yun (biyahe patungong Mindanao) basta-basta kasi malapit lang sa resort ng... Naitimbre 'yan, kasi malapit lang sa resort 'yung pinangyarihan, sa Semporna. Four hours kasi ang biyahe, magiging vulnerable sila. Ang gagawin n'yan

itatago muna nila 'yan," ani Tan, idinagdag na malaki ang posibilidad na sa Malaysia pansamantalang itinatago ng mga suspek ang mga bihag.

Gayundam, hindi itinanggi ni Tan ang posibilidad na ibang grupo ang nagsagawang kidnapping at ginagamit lang ang Abu Sayyaf para kumita sa ransom.

"We are looking at two angles. First, the ASG did that in order to distract (the ongoing military operation in Sulu) and if not, there are other kidnappers who want to earn money," sabi ni Tan.

Bikod sa pagdukot sa Sabah, sinabi kahapon ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana na bineperipikang nila ang mga ulat ng pagdukot umano sa isang babaeng negosyante sa Lanao del Sur, kahapon ng umaga.

Francis T. Wakefield

13 September 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A1

'Self-serving acts of violence'

COTABATO CITY: Regional Gov. Mujiv Hataman of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) on Monday said sacrifices of those calling themselves Muslims but are sowing terror are considered self-serving acts of violence.

Hataman in his Eid'l Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) message said, "There are those who sow fear and terror as they claim they are Muslims who follow the path of Islam. Their so-called sacrifices are nothing but self-serving acts of violence, their so-called faith is nothing but a lie. Theirs is the work of the devil and they are a disgrace to the ummah [Muslim community]."

The governor was apparently referring to the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) that claim they are fighting for Islam but sowing terror by kidnapping innocent civilians.

The ASG has become more notorious with their barbaric acts when they behead their captives who can not meet the ransom they demand.

"As Muslims who live true to the values of Islam, we make many sacrifices based on faith – faith in ourselves, faith in others, and faith in Allah," Hataman said.

In remembering the virtues of Eid'l Adha, he recalled the sacrifices of Prophet Abraham, whose faith

and loyalty were tested by Allah to sacrifice his son Ishmael.

"Today, we remember Ibrahim's sacrifice, one that is guided by his faith in Allah. It is an example we aspire to live up to as we celebrate Eid'l Adha," Hataman said.

The ARMM regional governor called on all Muslims to unite and fight the reign of terror.

"Today, as we celebrate the Eid and remember the sacrifices we have made along the way, we are reminded of the many reasons why our faith must never be taken in vain. Not in our name," Hataman said.

JULMUNIRI JANNARAL

18

13 August 2016



Page: 14

New military hospital

Jolo, Sulu - The new military hospital inside Camp Gen. Mendillo Bautista at the village of Astunao, here, was blessed by a military priest yesterday. Brig. Gen. Arnel Adala Vega, Commander of Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS), said the newly constructed station hospital will treat soldiers and their families who are stationed in Sulu province. "We appeal to the people of Sulu for their continued cooperation to ensure the safety of all members of the community in the province," he said. The military is presently intensifying their efforts in eliminating the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and in rescuing their remaining hostages. Ongoing military operations in Sulu and Basilan, so far, have left 39 members of ASG dead and scores wounded. However, 18 soldiers were killed and 28 were wounded during the said operations. (Nancy E. Lacson)

19

September 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A7

Mayon lava wall may collapse – Phivolcs

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay: The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has reiterated its warning against entering the 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone (PDZ) as lava wall collapse may occur that could lead to pyroclastic flow in the southeast quadrant of the restive Mount Mayon here.

"Possible collapse of lava wall might occur due to brittleness of the wall instigated by molten materials. Wall collapse is very dangerous because that could trigger pyroclastic flow," Phivolcs regional director Ed Laguerta said on Monday.

He explained that if the lava dome currently blocking the volcano's rim explodes side by side with the wall collapse then pyroclastic flow may fall anytime.

Pyroclastic is the hottest molten volcanic material and can travel as fast as 60 kilometer per hour.

The southeast quadrant of the volcano is facing the towns of Santo Domingo, Daraga and Camalig and the city of Legazpi.

"So we are reiterating to the public not to enter the six-kilometer danger zone even though Mayon Volcano appears very calm. We don't know when the volcano may erupt but fresh magma beneath the volcano is activating," Laguerta said.

Over the weekend, Phivolcs led by Laguerta with Raffy Alejandro of the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol, Cedric Daep, chief of Albay Public Safety Emergency Management Office, and Air Force Major Arvin Buan of Tactical Operations Group 5-Philippine Air Force conducted an aerial survey to check possible development of new lava dome in the northern part of the volcano aside from the existing dome in the southeast quadrant.

Daep told *The Manila Times* that they are not discounting the possibility of lava wall collapse in the coming days specifically when the volcano is expected to become more restive.

Mayon is an active stratovolcano and the most active in the country, having erupted more than 50 times in the past 400 years.

RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

13 September 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 62

Duterte to grace anniversary of 250th Presidential Airlift Wing

BY VICTOR REYES

PRESIDENT Duterte will grace the 48th foundation anniversary today of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing of the Philippine Air Force in Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

The mission of the 250th PAW is to "provide safe, secure and effective air transportation" for the President and the immediate members of his or her family, and for visiting heads of state, state guests and other VIPs.

After the anniversary celebration, the President will preside over his first command conference with the Air Force leadership. The command conference will be attended by other military and defense officials.

"He will be engaging with Air Force personnel and their dependents through the 'talk to the airmen' and boodle fight that will follow," said Air Force spokesman Col. Alaus Robert Musico.

This will be the second major

Air Force event that the President will attend since assuming office on June 30.

The first was last July 5 during the celebration of the PAF's 69th foundation anniversary in Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Before assuming as President, Duterte criticized the acquisition by the Air Force of FA-50s as a "waste of money." What should have been bought, he said, were helicopters with night-flying capability.

The previous administration acquired 12 FA-50s for P18.9 billion from the Korean Aerospace Industries. Two of the aircraft were delivered last year while the rest are due for delivery this year and next year.

The acquisition of the fighter jets signaled the return of the Air Force to the supersonic age since the decommissioning of a fleet of F-5s in 2005 due to old age and costly maintenance.

Last Friday, Duterte said the US sold the Philippine military

the fighter jets.

He said: "We have received so many things from America. Thank you for your generosity. What they sold us, two, only two FA-50 (fighter jets). It's FA-50 but they never gave us the missiles and the bullets and the cannons to fight. For ceremonial lang (only)."

In an interview yesterday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana acknowledged the President made a mistake by saying the FA-50s came from US.

"Nagkamali lang siya, yung FA-50 is from Korea. Sabi niya dalawa lang binigay, hindi e, labindalawa yan, yung sampu ide-deliver pa lang," Lorenzana said in an ambush interview in Maguindanao.

Lorenzana defended the acquisition of the fighter jets by the previous government.

"Ang nakita kong justification nung pagkuha nung past administration is that lead-in fighter kasi 'to. Ibig sabihin pwedeng gawing trainer, pwede ring gawing fighter," he said.

13 September 2016

INQUIRER

Page: A2

Duterte names 'killer' PCSO head

By Marlon Ramos

PRESIDENT Duterte has tapped a retired Marine general, who testified about the massive cheating during the 2004 elections, to "kill" corrupt officials in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Retired Maj. Gen. Alexander Balutan, who was earlier reported to head the Bureau of Corrections, took his oath yesterday as general manager of the state-run lottery agency, replacing Ferdinand Rojas III.

Mr. Duterte also appointed former police Director Jorge Corpus as PCSO chair, succeeding former Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi.

Balutan is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1983, while Corpus belongs to Class '82.

"I know both of them. I have never heard of them being involved in corruption," the President said.

He also named political analyst and former University of the Philippines VP for

public affairs Prospero de Vera commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education.

The President had said he wanted a "killer" to head the PCSO, calling it a corrupt government agency for allowing operators of the illegal numbers game "jueteng" to continue with their activities using the state-sanctioned small town lottery as cover.

17 September 2016

The Standard

Page: A5

Arguments for Marcos burial at Libingan



(Part 2)

DURING the 2016 campaign, lameduck President Benigno Aquino III urged voters not to elect their Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., who was running for vice president. Aquino warned that electing the son will resurrect the authoritarian government of the father.

Despite Aquino's nationwide hate campaign, Bongbong got millions of votes, enough to land him in first place during the first three days of the election tally, and onward until the Commission on Elections and its controversial foreign contractor tampered with the counting machines.

The millions of voters who supported Bongbong at the polls not only gave him their blessings for his quest for higher office; they also repudiated the Martial Law bogeyman—the scarecrow repeatedly used by the Aquinos to instigate continuing public scorn and hatred for the Marcoses.

President Ferdinand Marcos may have stepped down from office in February 1986 unceremoniously, but soon thereafter, the Filipino people reinstated his family to power. Former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos has repeatedly won congressional seats. Eldest daughter Imee leads her dad's Ilocos Norte. Bongbong was elected senator. From this perspective alone, whatever anti-Marcos sentiment there was in the Philippines in 1986 has been extremely diluted today.

The anti-Marcos petitioners

contesting President Marcos' burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani insist that Marcos was a criminal who plundered the nation's wealth—enough reason, they say, to stop the burial. They cite several decisions of the Supreme Court which contain passages that label the former president and his Martial Law regime as corrupt and abusive.

Their argument has a flaw—there is no Philippine court decision on record which convicted President Marcos for the crimes the anti-Marcos petitioners now attribute to him. The Constitution mandates that every person is, in the absence of a final criminal conviction, presumed innocent. Therefore, to insist otherwise, as the anti-Marcos petitioners want to, is to violate the Constitution. That makes the Marcos accusers violators of the fundamental law.

Indeed, there are statements in past decisions of the Supreme Court which do not put President Marcos and his strongman administration in a very good light. Those statements, however, were made in civil (not criminal) cases decided while Marcos was stranded in Hawaii, or had already passed away there. Where is the fairness in those statements?

For the record, President Marcos wanted to leave Hawaii and go home to the Philippines to face the music, but President Corazon Aquino refused to give him a passport, a refusal sustained by the Supreme Court. This deprived Marcos of his right to defend himself. Thus, it is unfair for the anti-Marcos petitioners to invoke those cases against Marcos.

Anti-Marcos remarks in past decisions of the Supreme Court,

made while President Marcos was stuck in Hawaii, or had already died there cannot take the place of the requisite final judgment by a Philippine court rendered after due trial, finding Marcos guilty of the crimes attributed to him. There being no conviction by final judgment that may be cited against Marcos, the criminal label against him is in violation of due process.

The anti-Marcos petitioners may argue that it is not their fault that Marcos died in Hawaii before he could be accused of and convicted for crimes he allegedly committed against his country and his people. It's not Marcos' fault, either. Remember, Marcos wanted to return to the Philippines but Mrs. Aquino did not permit his repatriation.

Republic Act No. 10368, enacted in 2013 (long after President Marcos passed away) calls for the payment of reparations to persons who allegedly suffered during the Martial Law years. It does not prohibit Marcos' burial at the Libingan.

Even if Republic Act No. 10368 were to contain a provision categorically declaring Marcos a criminal and prohibiting his burial at the Libingan for that reason, that provision is unconstitutional because it amounts to class legislation, and convicts an individual without a prior trial.

Whether or not regulations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines regarding burials at the Libingan are binding on the Supreme Court is immaterial. President Duterte is the commander-in-chief of the AFP, and he has the discretion to amend AFP regulations any time. His recent decision to allow the Marcos burial at the Libingan reveals all prior

AFP regulations. As such, and as stated in last week's column, the only issue to be resolved in the anti-Marcos petitions in the Supreme Court is whether or not President Duterte committed a grave abuse of his discretion when he allowed the Marcos burial at the Libingan. From all indications discussed in this column, President Duterte did not commit a grave abuse of discretion.

Finally, it is speculative to say that President Marcos was dishonorably discharged from office by the Filipino people in the so-called 1986 Edsa Revolution.

First, stories about the events which led to the 1986 EDSA Revolution were written by Aquino allies. Those stories praised the event as a bloodless revolt, but failed to mention that the event was bloodless precisely because President Marcos refused to use military force on the people assembled at EDSA. The television coverage of the event reveals that Marcos rejected the idea of hurting his own people, despite his trusted generals' repeated insistence that violence is the only feasible way to disperse the people.

Second, the less than one million people who went to Edsa in February 1986 are a mere fraction of the millions more who voted for the Marcoses in elections held after 1986. Evidently, the present has disavowed the past.

Hopefully, when the time comes for the Supreme Court to rule on the Marcos burial issue, the high tribunal will confine the issue to whether or not President Duterte acted arbitrarily in allowing President Marcos to be buried at the Libingan, dismiss the anti-Marcos petitions, and let justice be done though the heavens fall.

ONLINE NEWS
13 SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Maritime security heightened at Sulu Sea vs Abu Sayyaf

By Kristian Javier (philstar.com) | Updated September 12, 2016 - 11:36am



Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said the Armed Forces of the Philippines is focused on guarding the Sulu West Sea. Philstar.com/File

MANILA, Philippines — Government forces will be added near the Sulu West Sea to heighten maritime security against the Abu Sayyaf, Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said.

During President Rodrigo Duterte's state visit in Indonesia last Sept. 9, he and President Joko Widodo talked about the issue of piracy and maritime security in Sulu and at the Sulu West Sea.

Andanar said that the two presidents were able to talk about security in the said area, particularly the kidnappings and activities of the Abu Sayyaf. He added that the two countries will be helping each other regarding the issue.

Defense ministers of Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines also held a trilateral meeting to talk about the authorized sea lanes between the three countries.

"Anybody who sails outside of the authorized sea lanes will be deemed hostile," according to Andanar. Andanar also said that the main focus of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is to guard the Sulu West Sea.

In recent reports, however, Malaysia's Eastern Sabah Security Command reported that three Malaysians were taken from their trawler off Sabah late Saturday evening.

The Western Mindanao Command said they were alerted of the kidnapping, but could not immediately say if it was another case of cross-border kidnapping involving groups associated with the Abu Sayyaf.

They gave assurance, however, that troops were placed on alert for the Malaysians.

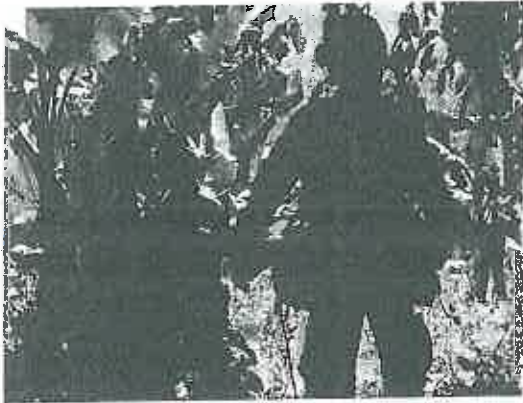
24

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

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

Military launches intel ops after abduction of 3 Malaysian fishermen

By Roel Pareño (philstar.com) | Updated September 12, 2016 - 5:10pm



However, the military said there was no immediate report on the identity of the suspects or whether they are linked with the Abu Sayyaf. **Philstar.com/File**

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The military launched intelligence operations to trace the possible presence of three Malaysian fishermen abducted by gunmen off the waters in Sabah, a military official said Monday.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman of Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said troops from the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi and Naval Forces Western Mindanao also established security points at all possible routes and passages of the kidnap-for-ransom groups operating in the borders of Philippines and Malaysia.

"Coordination and intelligence sharing and exchange with the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) is now being done," Tan said.

According to Tan, reports they received from ESSCOM disclosed that the three Malaysian fishermen were abducted about 11 p.m. Saturday in the general area off Pom Pom Island near Mataking Island Resort off Semporna, Sabah.

The gunmen, about seven of them, were on board a speedboat, powered by twin-engine at 75 horsepower each, seized the victims and headed northeast in the direction of Alice Reef and Bulubulu Island of Tawi-Tawi.

However, Tan said there was no immediate report on the identity of the suspects or whether they are linked with the Abu Sayyaf group that operates the cross-border kidnapping.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has been on the run due to intense military offensives in Sulu, has not claimed responsibility for the latest kidnapping.

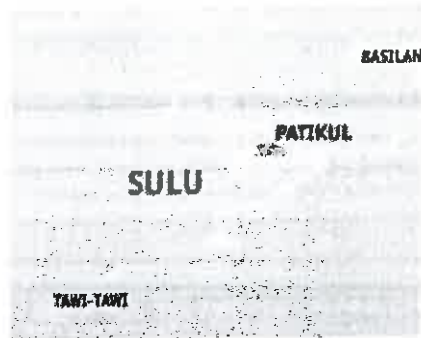
25

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

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

STRENGTHENING MORALE | JTF Sulu Commander visits Troops

Alvin Santiago



CAMP BAUTISTA, Sulu (DWDD) – The Sulu Commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines visited troops in the frontline fighting the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in hinterlands of Patikul and Talipao towns the whole day today.

Brig. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Joint Task Force Sulu Commander met troops of the 101st Infantry Brigade in Patikul led by Col Jesus Mananguil and the 501st Infantry Brigade headed by Col Jose Faustino. Brig.

Gen. Dela Vega's visit intends to boost the morale of troops in the field and was at the same time appraised on the progress of the focused military operations. Several media were also among the contingent and able to see first-hand the situation and the untiring efforts of troops to pursue the ASG.

Asked by media on the complexity of the operation, Brig. Gen. Dela Vega said "it will just be a matter of time before our troops will engage the ASG and punch a decisive blow into their ranks and leadership".

When asked by media on particular advantage of the ASG on terrain familiarity, Col Jesus Mananguil of 101Bde said, "the familiarity of terrain is a noted advantage to them as of now but as our troops conduct more operations and patrols and become more familiar with the terrain, we will negate that advantage and we will deliver a decisive blow against the ASG.

Media and NGOs accompanying the visit marvelled at the scenic beauty of the place from Patikul to Talipao. Col Jose Faustino of 501Bde said "We have to cleanse Sulu of the scourge of the Abu Sayyaf and make this place peaceful so that economic activity and tourism will prosper".

The latest tally of ASG killed is 59 (32 in Sulu, 27 in Basilan) while govt troops suffered 18 killed in action (15 in Sulu, three in Basilan); 28 wounded in action (27 in Sulu, one in Basilan). **JTFS / MCAG**

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

Duterte to US troops: Leave Mindanao or Abus will kill you

By Alexis Romero (philstar.com) | Updated September 12, 2016 - 5:38pm



President Duterte said the Abu Sayyaf bandits hate the US so much that they are ready to kill any American they would see **STAR/File**

MANILA, Philippines — After blasting the United States (US) for supposedly interfering with his anti-drug war, President Rodrigo Duterte said American troops in Mindanao should leave as they are in danger of being abducted by terrorist group Abu Sayyaf.

Duterte said the Abu Sayyaf bandits hate the US so much that they are ready to kill any American they would see.

"The special forces, they have to go. They have to go in Mindanao. There are many whites there," the president said during the oath taking of new appointees Monday in Malacañan.

"If they see an American, they would kill him. They would demand ransom then kill him. Even if you're a black or white American as long as you are an American," he added.

Some US troops have been deployed in Zamboanga City to assist Philippine security forces in its campaign against terrorists.

Since the Constitution prohibits foreign troops from engaging in direct combat operations, the US soldiers assist the military through training and information sharing.

Duterte said he could not express the sentiment during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meet in Laos last week, which was also attended by US President Barack Obama.

"I could not speak then out of respect and I do not want a rift with America. But they have to go," the president said.

<http://bomboradyo.com/>

Intel at Naval ops pinalakas ng AFP sa Tawi-Tawi

By Bombo Anne Soberano

Nasa proseso pa ang pamunuan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa pag validate sa panibagong report na may tatlong Malaysians ang dinukot ng mga hinihinalaang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf.

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson BGen. Restituto Padilla na may natanggap na report ang militar subalit kasalukuyan nila itong bina-validate.

Sa ngayon kasi lalo pang pinalakas ng militar ang kanilang operasyon sa probinsiya ng Sulu na layon mailigtas ang mga bihag ng bandidong grupo.

Sa kabilang dako, kumikilos na rin ngayon ang intelligence community ng militar sa southern Philippines para i-monitor ang presensiya ng mga abductors kasama ang kanilang tatlong bihag.

Pinalakas din ng Philippine Navy ang kanilang naval operations sa karagatan ng Tawi-Tawi at Sulu.

Batay sa report naganap ang pagdukot sa may karagatan ng Sabah malapit sa isang tourist resort sa Pulau Pom Pom sa Sempornah.

Nasa pitong armadong kalalakihan ang dumukot sa tatlong bihag at dinala patungo sa southern Philippines area.

Ang panibagong insidente ng pagdukot ay kinumpirma mismo ni Eastern Sabah Security Command Commander Datuk Wan Abdul Bari Abdul Khalid kung mismo ang may ari ng fishing trawler ang nag report sa kanila.

Batay sa report naganap ang pagdukot bandang alas-10:20 ng gabi noong Sabado.

Samantala, ayon naman kay Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) spokesperson Maj. Felimonm Tan na nagsasagawa na rin ngayon ng intelligence operations ang mga tropa ng Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi at Naval Forces Western Mindanao.

Sinabi ni Tan na nag established na rin sila ng mga security points sa mga posibleng ruta ng KFRG. Dagdag pa ni Tan na ongoing na ang kanilang koordinasyon at intelligence sharing sa kanilang counterpart ang ESSCOM.

<http://www.inquirer.net/>

Lorenzana to meet with US defense chief to tackle security issues

By: Frances Mangosing

DATU ODIN SINSUAT — Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will fly to Honolulu in Hawaii at the end of the month to meet with US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and his counterparts in the ASEAN to discuss security issues including the South China Sea dispute and terrorism.

"Ang pag-uusapan namin ay seguridad ng South China Sea, seguridad natin against terrorism at saka yung iba pang pwedeng problema sa kaligtasan natin," he told reporters on the sidelines of turnover rites at Army's 6th Infantry Division here.

A ruling in July by an international tribunal court favored the Philippines in its case against China's massive claims in the South China Sea.

'Rock solid' ties with US

Despite the tirades of President Rodrigo Duterte that led to the calling off a bilateral meeting with the United States at the ASEAN Summit in Laos, Lorenzana said the relationship between the two countries has not changed.

"It's strong. Malakas yan... Rock solid nga sabi ng mga Americans dyan ang defense relationship because US ang ating military ally. The Mutual Defense Treaty which was signed in the 1950s and it's still there. Hindi naman namin inabrogate yun," he said.

"Ang sabi lang ni Presidente we are also going to talk with others kung sino ang makakapagbigay ng magandang equipment to strengthen our defense alliance and we will do that but we will still have an alliance with the United States," he also said.

FA-50s for training

The defense secretary also defended Duterte's wrong reference of the FA-50 lead-in fighter trainer jets supposedly purchased from the United States instead of South Korea.

In his speech to the Filipino community in Indonesia last week, the President criticized the jets given by the United States. The brand new jets were bought from South Korea.

"Mukhang nagkamali lang siya. Yung FA-50 is from South Korea, sabi niya dalawa lang eh hindi 12 yan. Yung 10 i-deliver pa lang," he said.

He said the purchase of the FA-50s was necessary because it will train Air Force pilots until the government can afford real fighter planes like the F15 fighter jets.

"Ang nakita kong justification nung pagkuha ng past administration is the lead-in fighter kasi to eh, ibig sabihin pwede gawing trainer, pwede ring gawing fighter. Ang mga piloto dyan matagal ng hindi nakkahawak ng fighter planes so hindi natin pwede isabak agad sa real fighter planes... It takes years to train fighter pilots. Itong FA-50 ito yung una muna and then later on if we have the capabilities to purchase the real fighter planes we will still do that," Lorenzana said.