

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



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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

14 August 2017

Monday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

14 AUGUST 2017

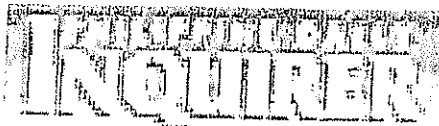
PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather	-	PDI p.A18
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
2	News WesCom Chief	FT.Wakefield	MlaBuletin p.4
3	Ret Army nagbaril sa sarili	LB.Iñigo	Balita p.5
4	Rebels may keep guns after surrender-Army	Carla P. Gomez	PDI p.A21
AFP RELATED NEWS			
5	Air Force officer is new Western Command Chief	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
6	'PH, AFP of you,' Año tells wounded soldier	FT.Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.11
7	Photo: AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año	Pna	DTribune p.3
8	Maute plan to use hostages as suicide bombers	Roel Pareño	PhilStar p.2
9-11	Priest-hostage alive, forced to make bombs	Julie S.Alipala	PDI p.A1
12	Rebellion reps vs 59 Maute men	Pna	MlaStandard p.A1
13	'Fishing lockdown' enforced in Lanao Lake	--	MlaStandard p.A6
14-15	Maute Group Holding dozn of hostages	Dempsey Reyes	MlaTimesp.A1
16	Abu Sayyaf sub- Leader killed in sulu firefight	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
17	AGS Leader killed in Sulu	Dempsey Reyes	MlaTimes p.A1
18-19	Notorius Abu leader slain in Sulu Firefight	Mario Mallari	DTribune p.A1
20	Abu Sayyaf leader falls in Sulu	F.Tuyay	Mla Standard
21	Abu Sayyaf Leader Muktadil Killed	Philip Tubeza	PDI p.A6
22	Photo:Life Line	Erwin Beleo	MlaBulletin p.8
23	Military finds landmines after battling NPAs in Palawan	Jerry Alcayde	MlaBulletin p.9
24	AFPSLAI Support our troops	--	PDI p.A21
25	Preliminary probe of 59 Maute recruits set today	Hector Lawas	Peoples Journal p.13
26	AFP fetes wounded soldiers	FT.Wakefield	Tempo p.2
27	Mga Armas, subersibong material narekober sa bakbakan sa palawan	Jerry Alcayde	BAlita p.5
EDITORIAL			
28	Armed Forces of the Filipino Week	Gerry Zamudio	Police File p.5
29	PAF in the market for FA-50PH tail wheel assembly	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
30	DOJ to start probe on rebellion raps vs 59 Maute recruits Monday	Christopher Lloyd Caliwan	www.pna.gov.ph

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

31	AFP troops palapit na sa Maute leaders	---	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com
32-34	Joint Asean bid vs IS threat set	---	www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

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

August 2017



Page: 18

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST AUGUST 14 2017 MONDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE AREA AFFECTING LUZON AND VISAYAS (As of 4:00 AM- August 13, 2017)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:42 AM	6:19 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
11:14 PM	11:10 AM
FULL MOON	LAST QUARTER
AUG 8 2:11 AM	AUG 15 9:19 AM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
6:25 PM 0.40 Meter	2:47 AM 0.77 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Partly cloudy skies

	AUG 15	AUG 16	AUG 16	AUG 16	AUG 15	AUG 16		
METRO MANILA	26-34°C	26-34°C	TAGAYTAY	22-29°C	22-29°C	TACLOBAN	25-33°C	24-32°C
TUGUEGARAO	26-36°C	25-35°C	LEGAZPI	26-34°C	26-34°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24-32°C	24-32°C
LAOAG	24-32°C	25-32°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-33°C	26-33°C	METRO DAVAO	25-32°C	25-33°C
BAGUIO	16-25°C	17-26°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25-33°C	25-33°C	ZAMBOANGA	25-32°C	25-32°C
SBMA/CLARK	25-34°C	25-34°C	METRO CEBU	26-33°C	26-33°C			

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

WEEKDAYS
6 AM, 6:30 PM & 9 PM
WEEKENDS
6 AM

14 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

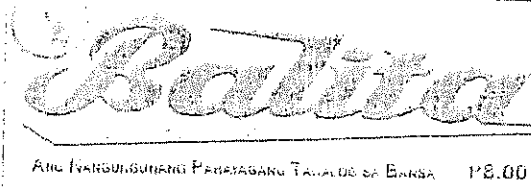
Page: 4

New WesCom chief

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Western Command (AFP-WesCom) has a new commander, following the retirement of Lt. Gen. Raul del Rosario from the military service at the age of 56. Rosario formally relinquished WesCom leadership to Maj. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintana Jr. during the change of command and retirement ceremony held at Camp General Artemio Ricarte in Puerto Princesa, Palawan on Friday. AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año presided over the change of command ceremony. Kintana Jr. is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Sandiwa Class of 1985, where he graduated with honors. He took the Squadron Officer course in Alabama, USA in 1994 where he was recognized with a Distinguished Graduate Award. He then pursued his Defense and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian Defense College in Canberra and Deakin University, Australia. (Francis T. Wakefield)

2

14 August 2017



Page. 5

Ret. Army nagbaril sa sarili

MABINI, Pangasinan – Nagbaril sa sarili ang isang retiradong sundalo sa Barangay Magalong.

Sa report kahapon ng Mabini Police, gamit ang dal. 32 pistol, nagbaril sa sarili si Cirjaco Braganza, Jr., 64, bandang 3:45 ng hapon kamakalawa.

Ayon sa asawa ng biktima, nasa loob sila ng kanilang tahanan at pakahiga ang biktima nang makarinig ang ginang ng putok ng baril.

Nang silipin, nakita na lamang nitò na duguan ang asawa.

Tinangka pang isugod sa ospital ang biktima ngunit patay na ito.

Lieze Basa Inigo

14 August 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A21

Rebels may keep guns after surrender—Army

By **Carla P. Gomez**
@carlagomez1NQ

BACOLOD CITY—The military said rebels who would surrender could keep their guns for protection from ex-comrades and also receive houses and livelihood funds as the Duterte administration pivoted to a new counterinsurgency strategy following the collapse of peace talks.

Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, head of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said President Duterte's offer of new houses and funds for rebels to surrender was meant to help the rebels live normal lives.

"The President is calling on NPA (New People's Army) members or groups composed of entire platoons or front organizations to surrender," Aying said.

"They will be provided with resettlement areas or villages, free house and lots with livelihood training for skills development," he said.

Aying said Mr. Duterte would allow surrendered rebels to keep firearms for self-defense and community protection.

Surrendered rebels in resettlement areas would be given security by the government to protect them from retaliation by former comrades, Aying said.

Dangling cash

Rebels stand to receive P65,000 each under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program and P50,000 more for each high-powered rifle turned over to the government.



Rebels, like these young people at a lightning rally recently in Quezon City, are being lured to surrender with offers of houses and cash. —EARLYN PERIAS

According to Aying, Mr. Duterte announced the package at a meeting with law enforcement officers in Davao City on July 27 after a visit to the wake of policemen slain in an NPA ambush in Guihulngan City in Negros Oriental, Aying said.

The Negros Occidental provincial government is also offering an additional P100,000 to each rebel returnee, plus another P300,000, depending on the caliber of firearms they bring with them, Gov. Alfredo Marañon Jr. said.

Aying also said a reward of P100,000 would be given for in-

formation that could lead to the surrender, imprisonment and killing of a rebel, Mindanao-based Islamic State followers and local terrorists, members of private armed groups and other groups keeping illegal firearms.

Aying said the NPA in Negros currently had at least 200 armed rebels.

Since 2010, NPA rebels in Negros have killed more than 100 persons, he said.

The latest casualties of rebel attacks were the six policemen and one civilian in Guihulngan.

Aying said rebels interested in surrendering could call 0935-8525490 or 0999-1092829. INQ

4

14 August 2017

Malaya
The National News

Page: 132

Air Force officer is new Western Command chief

BY VICTOR REYES

A SENIOR Air Force general is the new head of the Armed Forces' Western Command (Wescom) which supervises all military operations in disputed areas in the South China Sea or West Philippine Sea.

Maj. Gen. Galileo Kintanar assumed the post last Friday at the Wescom headquarters in Camp General Artemio Ricarte in Puerto Princesa City.

Kintanar, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1985, replaced Lt. Gen. Raul del Rosario, of PMA Class 1984, who bowed out of the military service yesterday, upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

The Wescom commander is one of the most sensitive assignments in the Armed Forces because he will be in charge of all military activities in the South China Sea, where the disputed Spratly Islands are situated.

The oil and minerals-rich Spratly Island is being claimed in part or in whole by the Philippines, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan. China has turned aggressive in its claims over the past years.

Another reshuffle is expected soon with the retirement on August 30 of Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla (PMA Class 1983), chief of the Southern Luzon Command.

Kintanar, before his Wescom post, was commander of the Air Education and Training Command

based in Lipa City. The military has yet to announce who will succeed him as AETC commander.

Before assuming AETC post in May last year, Kintanar was the Chief of Air Staff. He also served as commander of the 15th Strike Wing and chief of the AFP Office for Strategic Studies.

Kintanar took the Squadron Officer course in Alabana in 1994 and was recognized with a Distinguished Graduate Award, said AFP-public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

"He pursued his Defense and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian Defense College in Canberra and Deakin University, Australia," Arevalo also said.

5

14 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 11

'PH, AFP proud of you,' Año tells wounded soldiers

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año visited over the weekend wounded soldiers, who have bravely fought against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), the Maute Group, and the New People's Army (NPA) in different fronts in Mindanao.

In his visit to the wounded AFP personnel and awarding of medals in Zamboanga City, Año praised their bravery, and said that the people and the military establishment are very much proud of them.

"The Filipino people and the AFP are proud of you. Get well soon, brave soldiers," Año said.

Among the soldiers recognized for their bravery were Staff Sergeant Ju-

nifel Pangasian, Sergeant Yusop Nahudan, Sergeant Al-Mukhtar Sali, Corporal Ayatulla Hamid, Private Arjone Bano, Mole Icasama and Lito Lalag of the Civilian Active Auxiliary, and Charlie Alejandro of the Civilian Volunteers' Organization, who were pinned the Wounded Personnel Medal by the AFP Chief of Staff.

The soldiers were wounded in separate encounters with the ASG in Basilan, Maute in Marawi City, and communist terrorists in Zamboanga del Norte.

The awarding was held at the Camp Navarro General Hospital in Bagong Calarian, Zamboanga City at around 4 p.m. Saturday.

In his message to the troops, Año assured that the end of the Marawi armed conflict was already in sight

with more than 500 terrorists slain in the battle area.

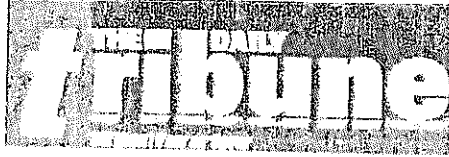
"We see this as an opportunity to end terrorism and bring the defeat of threat groups in Basilan, Sulu, Marawi, and Maguindanao," Año said.

"These are times when we really feel the support of our countrymen, which is very rewarding for us, soldiers," he added.

Año also commended AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) chief Lt. Gen. Carlito G. Galvez, Jr., for the successful offensives against the Abu Sayyaf and the local terrorists within his joint area of operations.

"I (also) laud our medical personnel for giving their service to our battle casualties. We owe our success to the brave soldiers, to the commanders, and our stakeholders," Año said.

14 August 2017



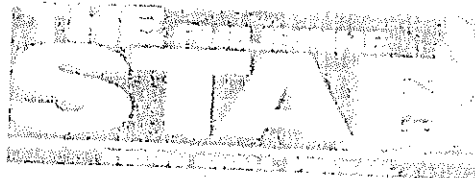
Page: 3



Cited for gallantry Armed Forces chief-of-staff Gen. Eduardo Año awards five soldiers and three militiamen with medals for gallantry in action against the ISIS-inspired Maute group and other enemies of the state in Mindanao during his visit at the Camp Navarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City last Saturday. The soldier-recipients of wounded personnel medal were SSgt. Junifel Pangasian, Sgt. Al-Mukhtar Sali, Cpl. Ayatulla Hamid, Pvt. Arjone Bano and Sgt. Yusop Nahudan. The three militiamen who received medals were Holo Icasama, Lito Lalag and Charlie Alejandro. PNA

7

14 August 2017



Page: 2

Mautes plan to use hostages as suicide bombers

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Maute terrorists are planning to use their captives as suicide bombers

once they are cornered by government security forces, according to three hostages who escaped from the war zone in Marawi City.

Romar Marjalino, 39; his brother Roel, 37, and Jimmy Esperat, 43, yesterday told authorities that the terrorists would strap improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to the hostages.

The three reunited with their families at the Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM) in this city Sunday.

The hostages escaped from their captors last week and were turned over by NFWM chief Rene Medina to Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar on Saturday.

Medina said the victims had to undergo debriefing, as their information could be useful to the military operations.

Marjalino confirmed that Catholic priest Fr. Teresito Suganob is still alive.

"We were with Father Chito. He is okay, but he is tasked to collect powder from piccolo, five-star and other explosives to be used for improvised bombs that will be rigged to us," Marjalino said.

The Mautes have so far not

strapped an IED to any hostage, Marjalino said, adding there are about 46 hostages remaining at the site where the Mautes held them.

Among them are 20 women including teachers and ordinary workers, and 13 minors.

Marjalino said that during their captivity, several children died from suffocation due to bomb explosions and foul smell of decomposing human flesh.

Ready to die

Fr. Suganob is ready to die in the hands of the Mautes, according to Marjalino.

He said they asked Suganob to escape with them, but the priest has become weak due to trauma and bombings that hit their hovel.

"For him, he would be happy if a huge bomb would hit the area."

Marjalino said the most critical part of their escape was when they swam across a river more than 1,000 meters wide and under the watch of enemy snipers.

He said they had been planning to escape since the first day of their captivity, but were cowed by the heavy presence of terrorists watching over them.

"If we would escape we would surely die," he said, adding he opted to stay with his brother and Esperat, who were serving as cooks for the terrorists.

He said Malaysian noodles and canned goods are the favorite meal of the Mautes.

"Some of the terrorists were good to us, others treated us like animals."

Marjalino said the relentless military operations in Marawi reduced the number of their guards.

He said the military air strikes resulted in higher casualties among the Mautes, noting five to six terrorists were killed in a mosque where the captives were held.

Esperat said the terrorists seized all their phones, but they managed to recover one of them.

When the number of Maute guards became fewer, Marjalino contacted his wife Joy, who alerted the NFWM.

The NFWM alerted its units in Lake Lanao, which instructed Marjalino on which route to take.

Marjalino said they were asked if they could swim toward the Navy position, whose men would cover them from enemy snipers.

They used plastic containers as floaters until they reached the Navy post.

Roel and Esperat plotted the escape on Aug. 4, as all their Maute guards were asleep.

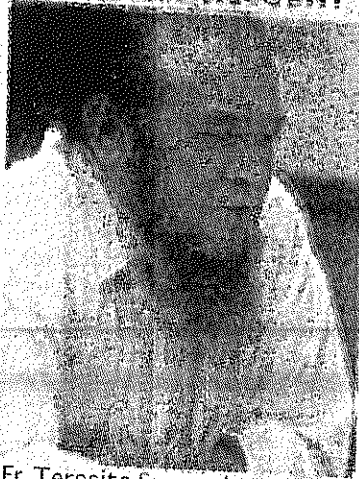
14 August 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

Priest-hostage alive, forced to make bombs

HOSTAGES' ACCOUNT



Fr. Teresito Suganob

PRIEST FORCED TO HELP MAKE BOMBS

By Julie S. Alipala
@inquirermindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Father Teresito Suganob, the vicar general of Marawi, is still alive—and helping to make bombs for Islamic State (IS)-inspired terrorists holding him and more than 40 other civilians as hostages.

According to hostages who recently escaped from the Maute and Abu Sayyaf terrorists, Suganob has

FROM A1

been forced to gather firecracker powder, which the gunmen use to make explosive devices.

The firecrackers have been looted from stores in the city, the hostages said.

“Before we escaped, we saw him being ordered by the Maute to scrape off powder from firecrackers,” said Rumar Marjalino, one of four hostages who escaped from the terrorists nearly two weeks ago.

Walking bombs

“These explosives would be tied to our bodies. If worse came to worst, they would use us to blow up troops,” Marjalino said.

Marjalino, his brother Rowel, Jimmy Esperat—all from Zamboanga City—and Delfin Lapas of Iligan City escaped from their captors on Aug. 3.

They swam Lake Lanao and were picked up by a Philippine Navy boat.

Marjalino said 46 civilians, including Suganob, were still in the hands of the terrorists.

Of the 46, 20 are women, mostly teachers, 13 children some of whom are as young as 2 years old, and the rest male adults, Marjalino said.

The terrorists, who had sworn allegiance to IS, seized them as they laid siege to Marawi City on May 23 to establish an enclave of the Middle East-based jihadist group in Southeast Asia.

A number of hostages had escaped since, as government troops, with air and artillery cover, launched an assault on the terrorists' positions.

Marjalino said Suganob appeared to be resigned to his fate.

He said they tried to convince Suganob to escape with them, but the priest refused because he did not want to leave the other captives behind.

Construction workers

The Marjalinos, Esperat and Lapas were construction workers who were in Marawi when fighting broke out on May 23.

They hid in a house in Raya Madaya village, but seven days later, the terrorists found them.

“They took every-

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REUNITED Rumar Marjalino, one of the hostages who escaped from terrorists in Marawi City, is reunited with his father Ruben in Zamboanga City. –JULIES, ALIPALA

10

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thing—our phones, our belongings, everything,” Marjalino said.

He was thankful, however, that the gunmen did not execute them, he said.

But they were used as human shields, he added.

“We were forced to use guns. Those who refused were shot. To survive, we followed them, volunteered to cook, volunteered as food runners. That’s how we survived,” Esperat said.

Remote-controlled bombs

Marjalino said they were also ordered to look for food and bring meals to other terrorists holed up in other parts of the city.

He said they did not try to escape when they were foraging for food because bombs that could be remotely detonated were strapped to their bodies.

During these errands, they found corpses, he said.

“We took their phones, if there’s any, and I used the emergency lines to call my wife,” he said.

“The longest call [to my wife] was about a minute as we were running in the middle of gunfire,” he said.

But Marjalino said he did not tell his wife that they were taken as hostages.

He said they feared that if the military learned where they were, their location would be bombed and they would perish together with their captors.

Marjalino said the terrorists also made them gather cell phones to be turned into improvised explosive devices.

‘Good’ and ‘bad’ Mautes

For Marjalino, there were “good Mautes” and “bad Mautes.”

The gunmen who found them in Raya Madaya but spared them were good, he said, and those who shot uncooperative hostages were bad.

“On the night of our escape, one good Maute turned a blind eye. Maybe he thought we would not make it,” Marjalino said.

“It was God who allowed everything. That night, not a single sniper fired a shot, not a single sound was heard,” he said.

As they escaped, he called his wife, Mary Joy, who informed someone she knew in the Philippine Navy.

“This man gave the signal. We hurried until we reached

the lake and we were told to swim 1,000 meters. Despite the strong current, we stayed together,” Marjalino said.

“God was there. God is good,” he added.

The Marjalinos and Esperat were reunited with their families on Sunday morning.

Rear Adm. Rene Medina, commander of Naval Forces Western Mindanao, turned over the hostages to their families.

After the turnover, the families stopped at La Naval Chapel to pray, then proceeded to Camp Don Basilio Navarro Hospital for the former hostages to be examined.

Mary Joy Marjalino, speaking for the other wives, said they “owe their husbands’ lives to the Philippine Navy.”

“They (Navy) never left us. They never doubted our words and they brought our husbands back to us alive,” she said.

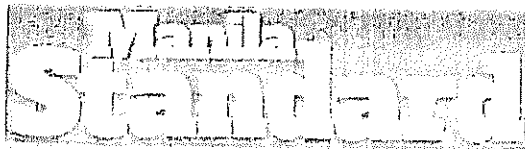
She said two people helped her, but she knew them only as Bon-Bon and Maki.

It turned out that Bon-Bon is SN2 Bernard Bonnie Vicente.

Maki remains unidentified.

Marjalino was also grateful to Army soldier Rico Matos. “He made us feel better after our ordeal,” he said. INQ

14 August 2017



Page: A1

Rebellion raps vs 59 Maute men

THE Justice department will start its preliminary investigation on the rebellion charges filed against the 59 suspected recruits of the Maute terrorist group who

were arrested in Zamboanga City on July 25.

The department's three-man panel handling the case said the respondents were set to submit their re-

spective counter-affidavits on Monday afternoon.

During the proceedings on July 28, the suspects were presented before the

Next page

panel of prosecutors led by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong after they were flown to Manila from Zamboanga del Sur by a C-130 military plane.

Among those arrested was Moro National Liberation Front member Nur Supian who was pinpointed by the suspects as their recruiter.

Of the 59, 32 were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, while the remaining 27, of which four were minors, were arrested along Daisy Road in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. They were all arrested on July 25.

Authorities seized from the suspects military uniforms, boots and MNLF identification cards.

Another MNLF member, Abdurahid Arasid, who was among the 32 arrested, said he was recruited by Supian to supplement the Maute forces that had been looking for recruits to beef up their men in Marawi City.

Arasid said he was told he would receive a monthly salary of P30,000 and firearms once he joined the group.

Arasid said Supian did not tell the other suspects they were being recruited to fight for Maute.

Instead, Arasid told them they were being recruited to undergo training as MNLF intregres to join the military, a statement that was echoed by the other suspects.

Supian belied Arasid's statement and said he had the documents to show they were indeed going to undergo training.

The arrested suspects are detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. PNA

12

14 August 2017



Page: AL

'Fishing lockdown' enforced in Lanao Lake

THE military has implemented a "fishing lockdown" in Lanao Lake amid reports that armed supporters of the Maute terrorist group were using the body of water to enter Marawi City.

Fishing in the area has been prohibited from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The lake, at 340 square kilometers, is roughly twice the size of Quezon City.

"We are asking the help of the mayors, and their constituents to address this issue, especially people who enter or leave towns around the lake," Task Force Marawi spokesperson Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said.

For her part, Senator Grace Poe urged the government to focus on the welfare of thousands of locals displaced by the conflict in Marawi City as she pushed for legislation to protect internally displaced persons.

Poe has filed Senate Bill No. 1513 or the proposed Rights of Internally Displaced Persons Act to ensure that IDPS are accorded the human dignity they deserve.

"IDPs are not specially protected under international law. Reports submitted to the United Nation Economic and Social Council on this topic state that while existing law covers many aspects of particular relevance to internally displaced persons, there remain areas in which the law fails to provide sufficient protection for them," she said.

The measure seeks to protect the human rights of IDPs in situations caused by natural or human-made hazards or disasters, armed conflicts, generalized or organized violence and clan wars.

13

14 August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A1



CHEERFUL GIVER A soldier distributes biscuits to children from Marawi City who took shelter in an evacuation center in Malabang, Lanao del Sur. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maute Group holding dozens of hostages

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday said around 40 or more hostages are still being held by Islamic State-linked Maute terrorists in Marawi City.

Capt. Joann Petinglay, spokeswoman for the AFP's Western Mindanao Command (WestMindCom), said the estimated number was from the 40 counts of the four escapees from the battle area.

Of the 40 remaining hostages, more

■ HOSTAGES FROM A1

Maute

"We will not estimate that there are 40 remaining, it may also exceed because we still don't have a clear view of how many there are. There might be hostages in other areas as well," she added.

The hostages include Fr. Chito Suganob.

The military stepped up its offensives against the Maute Group

on Saturday, hours after a day after AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año visited wounded troops.

State troops have yet to clear 400 structures in the city.

Petinglay said soldiers take one to two days to clear a six-story building.

"For this time, structures are taller and a lot of improvised explosives were planted [by the Maute gunmen] and since it is getting smaller, we are also thinking about the presence of civilian hostages, those are the new chal-

lenges we are facing right now," Petinglay said.

At least 50 Maute members are still holed up in the war-torn city, based on the information given by the four escaped hostages, she added.

Based on the latest military count, at least 560 terrorists have been killed in more than two months of clashes. The AFP said 128 soldiers 45 civilians have also been killed.

DEMPSEY REYES

14 August 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

Abu Sayyaf sub-leader killed in Sulu firefight

BY VICTOR REYES

A SUB-LEADER of the Abu Sayyaf group, who is blamed for the kidnapping of foreigners, was killed in a firefight with government forces off Parang town in Sulu yesterday.

Badong Mukdadil was slain off Barangay Silangkan in Parang town at around 1:10 a.m. by Navy and Marine forces under the Joint Task Force Sulu, who were conducting maritime interdiction operations, said Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, JTF Sulu commander.

Sobejana described Mukdadil as an "expert navigator and spotter of (kidnapping) targets."

Mukdadil's body was retrieved after the brief clash. There were at least nine others with him aboard a boat and the military was still determining if any of them were also killed.

Sobejana said the military learned Mukdadil's group was planning to conduct another kidnapping, "possibly in the border of Tawi-Tawi and Sabah and Pearl Bank (in Sulu)." The information came from "concerned citizens," he said.

Sobejana said Mukdadil has six arrest warrants - five for kidnapping and serious illegal detention and one for murder.

"They (Mukdadil and his men) are also wanted by the Malaysian authorities for their involvement in seajacking, attacks on foreign vessels, and abductions at the maritime borders of Tawi-Tawi and Sabah, Malaysia," he said.

Sobejana said Mukdadil was involved in the kidnapping of Taiwanese Chang An Wei, alias Ewen Chang, from the Pon Pon Island resort in Sabah in November 2013. Chang's male companion was killed during the incident.

14

14 August 2017

The Manila Times

Page: XI

ASG leader killed in Sulu

AN Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-leader who has six arrest warrants was killed in a shootout with military troops from Joint Task Force Sulu in Barangay Silangkan, Parang, Sulu Sunday.

JTF Sulu commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said the remains of Badong Muktdilil was brought to a hospital in Barangay Busbus, Jolo, Sulu for proper disposition.

Muktdilil had five warrants of arrests for kidnapping and serious illegal detention and one for murder.

Sobejana said the terror leader was killed at 1:10 a.m. in the seawaters of Parang, Sulu while aboard a Jungkong-type watercraft.

Muktdilil and other members of his group

➤ Killed A2

■ KILLED FROM A1

ASG leader killed in Sulu

are also wanted by Malaysian authorities for their involvement in attacks on foreign vessels and abductions at the maritime borders of Tawi-tawi and Sabah, Malaysia.

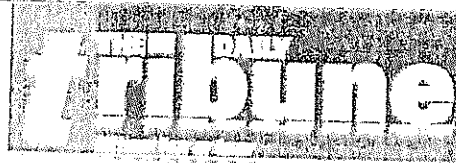
He was involved in the abduction of Taiwanese Chang An Wei alias Evelyn Chan at Pon Pon Island Resort in Sabah in November 15, 2013, the killing of an unidentified man and the hijacking of a Vietnamese vessel (MV Giang Hai) off Pearl Bank in Tawi-tawi.

"The neutralization of Badong is another big setback on the ASG particularly on their kidnapping and terroristic activities," Sobejana said.

DEMPSEY REYES

17

14 August 2017



Page: A1

Notorious Abu leader slain in Sulu firefight

By Mario J. Mallari

An Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-leader, tagged in the abduction of foreigners in Mindanao and also wanted by Malaysian authorities, was killed in a clash with government forces who were tipped off by local residents in Sulu on Saturday, the military said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, identified the slain ASG

leader as Badong Mukdadil, who is wanted for kidnapping, serious illegal detention and murder and has been the subject of a continuous operations by the military in the province.

Sobejana said that Mukdadil was killed after elements of the Fleet-Marines Forces of JTF Sulu caught up with his group along the seawaters of Barangay Silangkan, Parang town at around midnight Saturday.

Mukdadil's group, aboard a jungkong-type of watercraft, immediately engaged the Marine forces in an intense firefight.

"Badong Mukdadil was killed during the process," Sobejana said.

Sobejana said the death of Mukdadil would be a big blow to the ASG, especially in their criminal activities.

"The neutralization of Mukdadil is another big setback on the ASG particularly on their kidnapping and terroristic activities making the residents in Sulu felt some sort of relief from the

threat posed by Badong's group," Sobejana said.

"JTF Sulu would like to thank the concerned citizens and the local government in the area for promptly informing us the presence of the lawless elements that lead their neutralization thus thwart their hostile plans," he added.

According to Sobejana, Mukdadil and his cohorts were also wanted by the Malaysian authorities for their involvement

from page 1

in sea jacking, attacks on foreign vessels and abductions at the maritime borders of Tawi-tawi and Sabah.

Mukdadil and his group were responsible for the kidnapping of Taiwanese Chang An Wei alias Evelyn Chan on November 15, 2013 at Pon Pon Island Resort, Sabah.

Sobejana said the Taiwanese's male companion was killed by Mukdadil and his men.

The ASG sub-leader and his men also pulled off the seajacking of Vietnamese vessel MV Giang Hai, off Pearl Bank, Tawi-tawi on February 19, 2017.

Inquest on Mantes slated

The Department of Justice (DOJ), meanwhile, said it will start an inquest on the Mantes case

on the rebellion charges filed against 59 suspected Mante terrorist group recruits who were arrested in Zamboanga City last July 25.

The DOJ's three-man panel handling the cases against the suspects said the respondents are set to submit their respective counter-affidavits this afternoon.

During the proceedings last July 28, the 59 suspects were presented before the panel of prosecutors chaired by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong after being flown to Manila from Zamboanga del Sur via a C-130 military plane.

The suspects signed their waiver of detention and decided that the panel of prosecutors proceed with the preliminary investigation.

Among those arrested is Moro

18

National Liberation Front (MNLF) member Nur Supian who was pinpointed by the arrested suspects as their recruiter.

Of the 59, 32 men were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay while the remaining 27, of which four were minors, were arrested along Daisy Road in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. They were all arrested last July 25.

Authorities seized from the suspects military uniforms, boots and MNLF identification cards.

Another MNLF member Abdurahid Arasid who was among the 32 persons arrested said he got recruited by Supian to supplement the Maute forces which have been looking for recruits to beef up its forces in Marawi City.

Arasid said he was told he will

receive a monthly salary of PHP30,000 and firearms if he joins the group. He said he initially refused but was advised to join to keep watch of the group's activities.

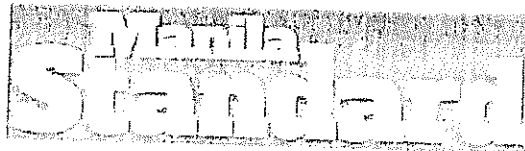
Arasid said Supian did not tell the other suspects they were being recruited to fight for Maute.

Instead, Arasid told them they were being recruited to undergo training as MNLF integreees to be able to join the military, a statement which was echoed by the other suspects.

Supian belied Arasid's statement, stressing that he has proper documents to show they were indeed going to undergo training.

The arrested suspects have been detained at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

14 August 2017



Page: A1

Abu Sayyaf leader falls in Sulu

By Francisco Tuyay

JTF security forces in a mission to rescue dozens of kidnap victims still being held by the Abu Sayyaf Group on Sunday pinned down a deputy Abu leader in a brief firefight in Parang, Sulu.

Brig. Gen. Cirilio Sobejana, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu, said ASG sub-leader Badong Muktadil was killed in an encounter with the Marines in the coastal waters of Silangkan village around 1:10 a.m.

Sobejana said Fleet-Marine Forces of the JTF were operating in the seawaters of Silangkan village against the Abu Sayyaf when the seaborne troops spotted

next page

Abu...

From A1

the group of Muktadil aboard a watercraft cruising the village.

Minutes later, the troops engaged the Muktadil group in a firefight and killed Muktadil on the spot.

With Muktadil were with nine other Abu Sayyaf bandits aboard the watercraft when they were surprised by gunfire from the Marine troopers.

Muktadil's body was recovered by the troops and was subsequently brought to Camp General Teodoro Bautista Station Hospital in Busbus, Jolo.

"The neutralization of Mukta-

dil is another big setback on the ASG, particularly on their kidnapping and terroristic activities, and it made the residents in Sulu feel some relief from the threat posed by Badong's group," Sobejana said.

He said Muktadil's group had five warrants of arrest for kidnapping and serious illegal detention and another for murder.

Muktadil's group, Sobejana said, was wanted by the Malaysian authorities for its complicity in the attacks on foreign vessels and the abduction in the maritime borders of Tawi-Tawi and Sabah, Malaysia.

Muktadil was involved the abduction of Taiwanese national Chang An Wei, also known as

Evelyn Chan, at the Pon Pon Island Resort in Sabah on November 15, 2013, that resulted in the killing of an unidentified male companion of the kidnap victim.

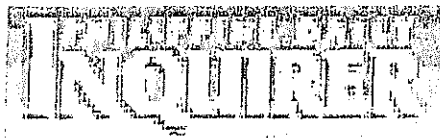
He also figured in the hijacking of the Vietnamese vessel *m/v Giang Hai* at the Pearl Bank in Tawi-Tawi in February this year.

Sobejana attributed the success of Muktadil's death to the close cooperation of local citizens in the area who immediately tipped-off ASG's presence.

"The JTF Sulu would like to thank the concerned citizens and the local government in the area for promptly informing us about the presence of the lawless elements that led their neutralization," Sobejana said.

20

14 August 2017



Page: AG

ABU SAYYAF LEADER MUKTADIL KILLED

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

An Abu Sayyaf leader from Sulu who was linked to kidnappings in Sabah, Malaysia, has been killed, the military said on Sunday.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu commander, identified the dead Abu Sayyaf leader as Badong Muktaḍil, who together with his brothers was linked to cross-border kidnappings in Sabah since 2013.

"The neutralization of Badong is another big setback for the [Abu Sayyaf], particularly on their kidnapping and terror-

istic activities, making the residents in Sulu feel some sort of relief from the threat posed by Badong's group," Sobejana said.

He said Muktaḍil was killed around midnight on Saturday in waters off Barangay Silangkan in Parang, Sulu.

Sobejana said several Marines patrolling the waters off Barangay Singkan encountered the group of Muktaḍil, who were onboard a "jongkong" watercraft, or a speedboat designed to cut through shallow waters.

A firefight ensued between the Marines and the bandits and Muktaḍil was killed, Sobejana said.

He said Muktaḍil's cadaver

was brought to CGTB Station Hospital in Barangay Busbus, Jolo, Sulu, "for proper disposition."

"JTF Sulu would like to thank the concerned citizens and the local government in the area for promptly informing us on the presence of lawless elements that lead to their neutralization, thus thwarting their hostile plans," Sobejana said.

Muktaḍil was linked to piracy and kidnapping activities in Sulu and in Sabah, Malaysia.

They were believed to have been involved in the kidnapping of a Chinese tourist and a Filipino worker from a resort in Semporna, Sabah, in 2014. INQ

14 August 2017

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 8



LIFE LINE
— Military personnel, as well as civilians gather at the People's Hall in San Fernando City, La Union to donate blood, which will be transfused to patients suffering from various life-threatening ailments and conditions. (Erwin Heleo)

22

14 August 2017

MAHILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 9

Military finds landmines after battling NPAs in Palawan

By JERRY J. ALCAYDE

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Landmines — banned in all armed conflicts by an international convention — were found by government troops over the weekend following an encounter with at least 20 suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Taytay, Palawan.

Chief Superintendent Wilben M. Mayor, regional director (RD) of the Police Regional Office 4-B (PRO4-B covering Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan or MIMAROPA), said two improvised landmines were found among the litter of firearms and subversive materials left on the battlefield by the rebels.

Three men have been invited for questioning following the heavy firefight between government troops and the armed guerrillas in Sitio Maubog, Barangay Alacalian, Taytay — 45 kilometers away from the national highway.

The encounter broke out at 10:20

a.m. last Friday when patrolling elements of the First Maneuver Company of the Regional Public Safety Battalion (RPSB) led by Inspector Michael P. Rivera traded fire with the heavily armed guerrillas who allegedly fired the first shot.

The operating RPSB team, together with personnel from the 212 Marine Company of Mobile Battalion Landing Team, Philippine Marines led by First Lieutenant Mark Anthony Jordan retaliated and pursued the rebels, engaged the guerrillas in a fierce exchange of fire.

Mayor said there was no reported casualty or injury from the government side and after the clearing operations, troops collected the two

landmines, an M-16 A1 rifle with 10 magazines, a portable generator set, 10 assorted magazines for caliber 7.62 and 5.56 ammunition, 22 pieces of cloth

marked "New People's Army," 30 pieces of cloth marked "Bienvenido Vallever Command," 10 olive-colored shirts marked "Bagong Hukbong Bayan-

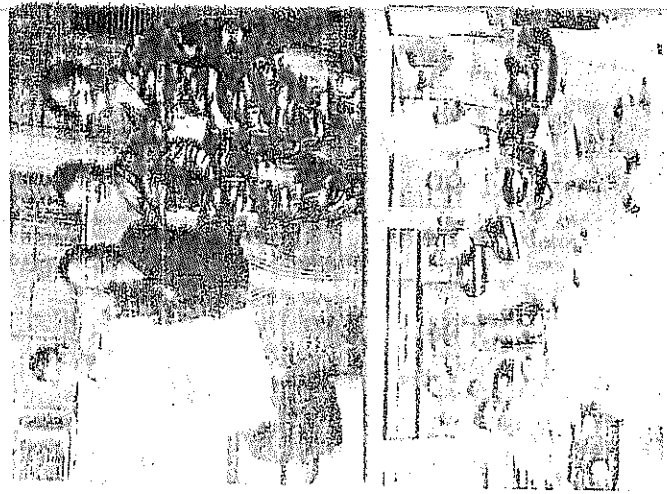
Palawan and Bienvenido Vallever Command," an assortment of books, six cellular phones, and an ASUS netbook, among others.

23

14 August 2017

Page: A21

INSPIRATION



AFPSLA

supports our troops

The Armed Forces and Police Savings & Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLA) has been committed to uplifting the lives of its members, not only through its products and services, but also through various social-responsible activities.

In the midst of the terror and tragedy that surround Marawi City in Lanao del Sur, AFPSLA has been actively supporting Filipino soldiers who were deployed to protect the state and the people of Marawi City due to the armed conflict.

The conflict resulted to a number of casualties and some of whom were confined in different AFP hospitals. AFPSLA Branch Offices in Cagayan de Oro, Pagadian and Zamboanga, in their own way, eased the plight of the wounded soldiers by providing them with personal hygiene kit which they could use as they recuperate.

Likewise, the AFPSLA Board of Trustees has approved the increase in ALIMS (Assistance to Lifer Members' Survivors) benefit from Php 25,000.00 to Php 50,000.00 effective May 16, 2017. The increase in financial assistance was initiated by AFPSLA to help the bereaved families of its Regular Members who are Killed-in-Action (KIA).

Just recently, AFPSLA donated Php 1.7M to the AFP in support of its fundraising program that would provide additional death and disability benefits to battle-casualty soldiers, not just in Marawi City but in other areas as well. AFPSLA shall continue to be a dependable partner of the AFP in enhancing the welfare of its personnel and their families.

OFFICE OF T

14 August 2017

Page. 13

Preliminary probe of 59 Maute recruits set today

By Hector Lawas

THE Department of Justice (DoJ) will start today its preliminary investigation on the rebellion charges filed against 59 suspected Maute group recruits who were arrested in Zamboanga City last July 25.

The DoJ said the suspects are also expected to submit their counter-affidavits today.

During the last proceeding, the suspects were presented before the panel of prosecutors handling the case after they were flown to Manila from Zamboanga del Sur aboard a C-130 military plane.

The suspects signed their waiver of detention and decided that the panel of prosecutors proceed with the

preliminary investigation.

Among those arrested is Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) member Nur Supian, who was tagged by the suspects as their recruiter.

Of the 59, 32 men were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay while the other 27, including four minors, were arrested on Daisy Road in Guiwan, Zamboanga City last July 25.

Authorities seized from the suspects military uniforms, boots and MNLF identification cards.

The suspects are being detained at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

25

14 August 2017



Page. 7

AFP fetes wounded soldiers

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año awarded the Wounded Personnel Medal over the weekend to five soldiers and three militiamen for gallantry in action against militants and the New People's Army in Mindanao.

They were Staff Sergeant Junifel Pangasian, Sergeant Yusop Nahudan, Sergeant Al-Muktar Sali, Corporal Ayatulla Hamid, Private Arjone Bano, and militiamen Mole Icasama, Lito Lalag, and Charlie Alejandro.

Año praised their bravery and told them that the people and the military leadership are proud of them as he visited them at Camp Nayarro General Hospital in Zamboanga City.

"The Filipino people and the AFP are proud of you. Get well soon, brave soldiers," Año said.

The soldiers and militiamen were wounded in separate encounters with the Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan, the Maute Group in Marawi City, and the NPA in Zamboanga del Norte.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the people should be more vigilant in reporting to military and police any suspicious persons coming in and out of their communities to prevent terrorists from taking over just like in Marawi City. **(Francis T. Wakefield)**

26

14

August 2017



Page. 5

Mga armas, subersibong materyal narekober sa bakbakan sa Palawan

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro - Tatlong lalaki ang inimbitahan para sa interrogasyon matapos ang bakbakan ng mga tropa ng pamahalaan at ng 20 armadong lalaki na pawang pinaghihinalaang miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa Taytay, Palawan, nitong Biyernes ng umaga.

Sa ulat na ipinarating sa tanggapan ni Chief Supt. Wilben M. Mayor, regional director ng Police Regional Office-MIMAROPA (Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), nagsagawa ng combat operations ang mga tauhan ng First Maneuver Company of the Regional Public Safety Battalion (RPSB), sa pamumuno ni Inspector Michael P. Rivera sa Sitio Maubog, Barangay Alacalian, Taytay, Palawan, may 45 kilometro ang layo mula sa national highway, nang makaengkuwentro

nila ang mga armadong NPA, dakong 10:20 ng umaga noong Agosto 11.

Ayon kay Insp. Rivera, bago ang sagupaan, nakita nila ang isang babae na nagsasagawa ng lecture sa tinatayang 20 armadong lalaki sa isang kubo.

Nang pagbabarilin ng mga NPA, gumanti ng putok ang operating RPSB team at ang mga tauhan ng 212 Marine Company ng Mobile Battalion Landing Team, Philippine Marines, sa pamumuno ni First Lieutenant Mark Anthony Jordan, at hinabol ang mga rebelde.

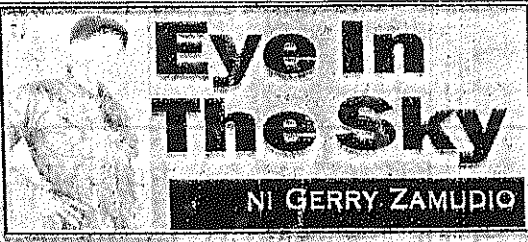
Sinabi ni Chief Supt. Mayor na walang iniulat na nasugatan o namatay sa panig ng pamahalaan.

Narekober sa clearing operations ang dalawang pirasong improvised land mine, isang M16 A1 rifle na may 10 magazine, isang portable generator set, 10 assorted magazine para sa caliber 7.62 at caliber 5.56, mga bala, anim na cellular phone at

headset, isang netbook, 22 pirasong damit na may mga katagang "New People's Army", 30 name cloth na may markang "Bienvenido Vallever Command"; 10 kamiseta na may markang "Bagong Hukbong Bayan-Palawan" at "Bienvenido Vallever Command" at 12 sombrero, walong itim na bandolier, iba't ibang libro na may titulong Aklat ng Maikling Kurso ng Lipunan at Rebolusyong Pilipino, Araling Aktibista, Dagitab, Batayang Kurso ng Partido, at Piling mga Sulating Militar ni Mao Zedong, isang watawat ng National Democratic Front (NDF), mga kuwaderno, certificate of training mula sa Bienvenido Vallever Command na may pangalan ng mga partisipante at iba pang subersibong dokumento, isang military compass, iba't ibang gamot at dalawang improvised stretcher at iba't ibang uri ng improvised explosive device (IED) at iba pang pampasabog.

Jerry J. Alcayde

27



Eye In The Sky

NI GERRY ZAMUDIO

Armed Forces of the Filipino People Week

SA mga pamayanan ng kasalukuyang sibilisasyon, meroon tayong isang ugali na magkapareho saan mang bahagi ng mundo. Ito ay kung ano ang ugaling ating ipinapakita sa mga bagay na matuturing nating na ating pag-aari. Sa larangan ng batas, ito ay pinatitibay ng mga civil laws ukol sa property. Pero kung paano natin ipinapakita ang ating ugali ukol sa pag-aari natin ng mga bagay, ito ay tinatawag na ownership. Pangangalaga ang kadalasang nasa likod ng ating ugali kung naging ating pag-aari, maging ito ay isang bagay, mga likhang ating maimbentong kaisipan, o di kaya'y mga institusyon na sa bandang atin ay may malaking halaga sa lipunan at naging isa tayo sa mga nangangalaga para ito ay manatiling buo, may value sa lipunan, o di kaya naman ay nagdudulot sa atin ng isang identity.

Nailabas ko ang topic na ito dahil malapit nang ipagdirwang ang ikatlong taon ng RA 10664 o ang batas na nagtalaga sa huling linggo ng Agosto taon bilang ito ay isang *Armed Forces of the Filipino People Week*.

Ito ay isang batas na hindi lang para bigyan ng tamang recognition ang mga importanteng papel at kontribusyon ng ating kasundaluhan sa lipunan simula nang mabuo ang *Armed Forces of the Philippines* matapos ang matagumpay nating pakikibaka kontra sa mga

Kaya ngayon pa lang ako ay maaanayagan sa ating mga parents na himukin nila ang kanilang mga anak na sumali sa Air Force. Ito na ba ang tinatawag nating equity ng isang pamilyang Pilipino sa ating Sandatahang Lakas, yung payagan ang kanilang mga anak na sumali bilang sundalo.

Ang Philippine Air Force, bilang isang technical service, ay malaki ang pangangailangan sa mga bagong sundalo na may kakayahang gumamit ng mga makabagong teknolohiya. Lalo na't territorial defense na ang nagiging focus natin ngayon kung saan maraming technology-driven infrastructures at systems ang nakaplanong i-develop ng ating Air Force. Mga radar sites, communications facilities, at support systems na kailangan ng mga kabataang may exposure at skills sa mga makabagong teknolohiya.

Kamakailan lang natin nabuo ang mga kailangan nating jets. Ito na ang panibagong paglipad ng matatag nating Air Force!

Tama po ba kung sabihin ko na sa ating lipunan ngayon ay tila maasa na lang natin ang lahat sa gobyerno at sa mga kinakukunan? Ito marahil ang dahilan kung bakit nabuo ang *bahala na syndrome* sa ating pag-pugali. Kasi wala tayong sense of ownership sa mga bagay na importante sa atin.

Sa bandang akin mali po ito. Kasi sa halim ng demokrasyang ating tinataguyod malaki ang halaga ng taumbayan bilang haligi ng isang dynamic na bansa. Wala question po na ang ating gobyerno ay binuo para tayo pangalagaan. Pero para ito ay makapagserbisyo ng naayon sa ating kagustuhan, kailangan meroon tayong tinatawag na equity. Ito yung naraambag natin para patuloy ang serbisyo ng gobyerno sa atin.

dayuhang mananakop.

In short, sinasabi sa atin ng RA 10664 na ang pagkaka-isa natin noon na siyang nagbigay buhay sa AFP ay dapat nating ipagpatuloy na suklian ang kabayamihan at kagitingan ng ating mga sundalo ng suportang pakikibaka na siya namang nararapat dahil atin itong AFP sa kadahilanang ahensya ito ng gobyernong ating inaprubahan sa pamamagitan ng ating pag-aayon sa mga nilalaman ng ating Konstitusyon noong ito ay isinumute sa atin para iratipika o di kaya ay isantabi. Ang pag-sangayon natin sa dokumentong ito ay nagbuo ng isang kontrara sa pamamagitan ng gobyerno at taumbayan na ang mga ito ay inaagkatuwang sa pagsulong ng mga aditkang nilalaman ng Konstitusyon kasama na ang mga institusyon na itinatag nito katulad ng AFP.

Para lalong maging matibay ang AFP, isapiyo natin na atin ito. Bantayan ito kontra pagmamalabis nang sa gayun ay maserbisuhan tayo nito ng naayon sa ating batas.

Isa sa mga nakikita ko na kaaya-ayang ipinapakita ng civilian government ay kung paano nila sinusulong ang kapakanan ng ating pambansang seguridad. Kamakailan lang inaprubahan ng Malakanyang na magdagdag ng 5,000 bagong sundalo kung saan 1,000 ay mapupunta sa Philippine Air Force. Ito ay maliban sa taunang pangangailangan ng PAF na 600 at ang 400 pa na inaprubahan ng Department of Budget and Management. Ang simula ng training ng mga ito ay sa March 1, 2018.

Noong Bryernes nagkaroon ng lindol. Malakas ito sa Balangas, Cavite at pati na sa Metro Manila. Ang di natin alam ay ang dami ng bagyong sunod sunod na pumapasok sa ating bansa kung saan marami ang napipinsala.

Dumating na naman ang pagkakataon para itanong ng marami na kung sakaling magkaroon ng malalaking sakuna paano mapumuan ng gobyerno ang pagresponde kung layong mga mamamayan ay sarili lamang ang mising?

Dito po natin mapapansin ang halaga ng isang AFP na may solid na reserves. Marami man ang kasundaluhan, pero bilang first responders hindi nila mabigyan pansin ang mga importanteng pangangailangan katulad ng paglista ng mga pangalan ng mga biktima, pag-organisa ng mga sibilyan responders at marami pang iba na kayang kaya gawin mga reservists.

Paano mapalakas ang reservists force natin? Simple lang po ang sagot ko dyan: balik ang ROTC.

28

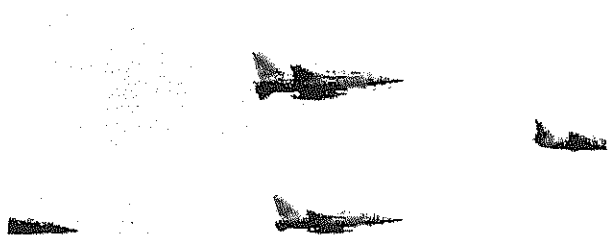
ONLINE NEWS

14 AUGUST 2017

www.pna.gov.ph

PAF in the market for FA-50PH tail wheel assembly

Priam Nepomuceno August 13, 2017, 10:15 am



MANILA, Aug. 13 --- To ensure that all of its available aircraft are flyable and mission-worthy at all times, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) announced that it is allocating the sum of PHP8,340,000 for the procurement of a wheel assembly for one of its brand-new FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" jet aircraft.

Submission and opening of bids is on Aug. 22, 9 a.m. at the PAF Procurement Center Conference Room, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

This was bared by PAF bids and awards committee chief Brig. Gen. Nicolas Parilla in a bulletin posted at the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System website.

The FA-50PHs are currently being used by the military in the ground-support role in the ongoing effort to neutralize the remaining Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City.

Other aircraft helping in the ground-support role are the Rockwell OV-10 "Bronco", SIAI-Marchetti SF-260 light attack planes and AgustaWestland AW-106 attack helicopters, to name a few.

The PAF operates 12 units of the Korea Aerospace Industries-made fighter jet. The entire order is worth PHP18.9 billion. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

DOJ to start probe on rebellion raps vs 59 Maute recruits Monday

Christopher Lloyd Calivan August 13, 2017, 12:47 pm

MANILA, Aug. 13 -- The Department of Justice (DOJ) will start its preliminary investigation on the rebellion charges filed against 59 suspected Maute terrorist group recruits who were arrested in Zamboanga City last July 25.

The DOJ's three-man panel handling the cases against the suspects said the respondents are set to submit their respective counter-affidavits on Monday afternoon.

During the proceedings last July 28, the 59 suspects were presented before the panel of prosecutors chaired by Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Peter Ong after being flown to Manila from Zamboanga del Sur via a C-130 military plane.

The suspects signed their waiver of detention and decided that the panel of prosecutors proceed with the preliminary investigation.

Among those arrested is Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) member Nur Supian who was pinpointed by the arrested suspects as their recruiter.

Of the 59, 32 men were arrested at a checkpoint in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay while the remaining 27, of which four were minors, were arrested along Daisy Road in Guiwan, Zamboanga City. They were all arrested last July 25. Authorities seized from the suspects military uniforms, boots and MNLF identification cards.

Another MNLF member Abdurahid Arasid who was among the 32 persons arrested, said he got recruited by Supian to supplement the Maute forces which have been looking for recruits to beef up its forces in Marawi City.

Arasid said he was told he will receive a monthly salary of PHP30,000 and firearms if he joins the group. He said he initially refused but was advised to join to keep watch of the group's activities. Arasid said Supian did not tell the other suspects they were being recruited to fight for Maute.

Instead, Arasid told them they were being recruited to undergo training as MNLF intregres to be able to join the military, a statement which was echoed by the other suspects.

Supian belied Arasid's statement, stressing that he has proper documents to show they were indeed going to undergo training.

The arrested suspects have been detained at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City. (PNA)

AFP troops palapit na sa Maute leaders

From Abante (Aug 12): **AFP troops palapit na sa Maute leaders (AFP troops closing in on Maute leaders)**

Malapit nang mapasok ng mga tropa ng gobyerno ang pinagkukutaan ng mga lider ng Maute Group, ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla sa Mindanao Hour press briefing sa Malacañang kahapon.

"We have gone close to where they are hiding," ayon kay Padilla.

Naniniwala rin ang AFP na nasa battle area pa rin ang mga lider ng Maute Group. "We believe they're still inside the battle area and the reason why fighting has been intense is potentially," ayon kay Padilla.

Tungkol naman sa larawan nina Abdullah Maute at Isnilon Hapilon na kumalat sa social media, sinabi ng AFP spokesperson na kinukumpirma pa nila kung totoo ito.

"With the recent advances in technology and potential ways of altering a picture, mahirap magkomento sa mga lumalabas na mga photos hangga't hindi kami nakapagsasagawa ng forensic examination at doon malalaman mo kung talagang authentic at recent 'yung photo," ani Padilla na hindi isinasantabing baka propaganda lamang ito.

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Joint Asean bid vs IS threat set

From the Daily Tribune (Aug 13): Joint Asean bid vs IS threat set

MARITIME, AERIAL PATROLS RAMPED UP

A regional effort to stem the growing Islamic State (IS) threat in the region is shaping up as a result of the joint statement among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and its dialog partners that included China urging multinational cooperation against terrorism.

The anti-terror effort starts with Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines expanding the joint maritime patrols to include aerial surveillance operations. Malaysian Defense Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said.

Hishammuddin was quoted in a Malaysian publication as saying plans were also underway to invite Brunei and Singapore security patrols as part of measures to counter the IS threat in the region.

"If possible, we would want to get all 10 Asean nations involved as well," he said after a Battle of Honor ceremony to pay tribute to servicemen involved in the operations against Sulu gunmen in Lahad Datu in 2013.

He said it was imperative for Asean countries to prevent the IS from expanding in the region.

"The IS flag is being flown for the first time in this region," he said referring to the IS militant insurgency in Marawi City that has stretched into its third month.

Hishammuddin said Malaysia was considering acquiring the P8 Orion surveillance aircraft from Japan for the purpose of air patrols.

He said the Philippine government is expected to call for a meeting with defense ministers from the three countries to discuss further joint patrols.

A series of high-level meetings in the recent Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) held in Manila among members of the bloc and its dialog partners China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Russia resulted in a joint statement sending a strong message to the international community urging concerted efforts on counter-terrorism.

"Cognizant of the fact that radicalization and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are

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common scourges of mankind, we reaffirmed our commitment to combat this plague through effective implementation of measures and counter-measures at the national, regional, and sub-regional levels,' said the Asean foreign ministers in a joint communique.

Broader approach vs terrorism

Under the Asean Convention on Counter-Terrorism (ACCT), the United Nations (UN) Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, the regional bloc underscored the importance of a "whole-of-nation approach" as opposed to a purely military option in combating the problem.

The chairman's statement at the conclusion of Asean Plus Three, a forum which consists the bloc's members with Japan, Republic of Korea and China agreed on initiatives to address terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization.

The Asean members and the three other nations committed to share information on terrorism and transnational criminal organizations, and the implementation of measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Meanwhile, the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) which is made up of a larger number of nations condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Referring to the ACCT, the ARF reaffirmed its strong commitment to enhance cooperation and undertake effective measures in countering terrorism which covers the prevention and suppression of terrorist acts on the basis of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS).

It stressed the need to address conditions conducive to terrorism and the spread of terrorist ideology, including through the terrorist use of Internet and social media, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution, 2354 (2017) in support of a comprehensive international framework on countering terrorist propaganda.

The ARF is comprised of 27 members, including the 10 ASEAN member states (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States), Papua New Guinea an ASEAN observer, as well as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Medals for wounded troops

A total of 107 soldiers who were wounded while fighting Maute Group terrorists in Marawi City and other areas in Mindanao, were decorated for their gallantry during a short ceremony at the

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Army General Hospital in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last August 10.

In a statement, Philippine Army spokesman, Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, said the soldiers were presented the Army's Wounded Personnel Medal during the ceremony that was led by Army Support Command head, Maj. Gen. Elmer Pabale.

Tiongson said that through the medal, the Army recognizes the bravery, professionalism, and heroism of the soldiers, who continue to be a source of national pride.

"The Army also extended its gratitude to all its personnel in Marawi City and all over the country who continue to risk their lives to achieve just and lasting peace and stability for the country," he said.

Latest reports showed the number of fatalities in the Marawi crisis has been placed at 552 Maute terrorists, 128 government troops, and 45 civilians. Some 1,728 civilians have been rescued from the clutches of the enemy and about 610 weapons have been seized from the terrorists.

34

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