

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



TEAM ARMY
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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

19 August 2017

Saturday

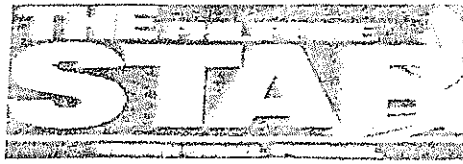
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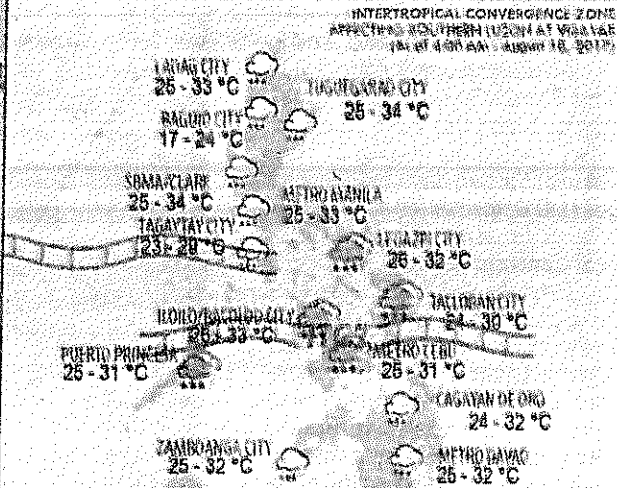
PILIPINAS HD
WEEKDAYS
6AM, 8:30 PM & 9PM
WEEKENDS
6AM

AIR 21
ABOUT AIR FORMERLY 21

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SUNRISE	SET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
6:43 AM	6:17 PM	2:55 AM	3:06 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
8:18 AM AUG 18	2:30 AM AUG 20	3:52 PM 001 4hr	7:08 AM 1:28 1hr

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST AUGUST 19, 2017, SATURDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	AUG 20 SUN	AUG 21 MON	AUG 22 TUE	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	AUG 20 SUN	AUG 21 MON	AUG 22 TUE
METRO MANILA	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 °C 31 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	26 °C 34 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 33 °C	ILOILO, BACOLOD	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
LAGAO	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	17 °C 26 °C	16 °C 26 °C	16 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
SAMA/CLARK	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C
TAGAYTAY	23 °C 28 °C	22 °C 28 °C	22 °C 27 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 31 °C	26 °C 31 °C
LEGASPI	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 33 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C



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NEW KILLING SPREE SPARKS OUTRAGE

STORY BY THE INQUIRER STAFF

As critics and allies howled in protest, Palace defends new wave of drug killings, saying 'there's rhyme and reason in police operations' that have resulted in 80 deaths in Metro Manila and nearby areas. **42**

FROM A1

A new wave of killings in the government's antidrug campaign that has left at least 80 people dead in Metro Manila and a nearby province this week has raised alarm and outrage from both critics and allies of President Duterte.

Presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella on Friday defended Mr. Duterte, saying the public has welcomed the "safer" streets that resulted from the war on drugs spearheaded by the Philippine National Police.

"The perspective of the President has been very clear from the very beginning. This is not a reckless exercise of bloodletting. There is a rhyme and reason in the police operations," Abella said.

The outrage was sparked by the killing of 17-year-old Grade 12 student Kian Loyd delos Santos in Caloocan City on Tuesday night. Officers said he had pulled a gun on them, forcing them to shoot him. However, closed circuit television (CCTV) footage appeared to show they already had the boy in custody before he was killed.

Commenting on the boy's killing, Abella said: "That incident, happily, I think is isolated."

A revised transcript of his statement to Malacañang reporters replaced the word "happily" with "haply," meaning by chance or accident.

"This is not to exonerate everything that happens, but to put context in what government is doing. It is addressing what is happening on the ground to stop something that is destroying the country," Abella said.

The Northern Police District reported 24 were killed, including 13 in Caloocan City, on Thursday and Friday in its antidrug campaign.

Several senators allied to or generally supportive of the President's policies were jarred by the spike in the death toll and the Caloocan boy's killing.

"It's worrisome, to say the least, coming even from somebody who in his previous lifetime as a law enforcer was a natural suspect in violating human rights of crime suspects that we used to pursue," Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief, said in a text message.

Lacson, chair of the Senate committee on public order, warned that the Senate would exercise its oversight authority with an inquiry of its own if investigations by the PNP Internal Affairs Service (IAS) and the Department of Justice were found to be a cover-up.

Abella said the campaign was meant to target street peddlers to destroy the distribution network and addressed both the demand and supply of illegal drugs.

The PNP chief, Director General Ronald dela Rosa, said the recent spike in the number of deaths "is normal because these are massive police operations."

"I don't think it should be alarming," he said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, advised Mr. Duterte "as a friend" to refrain from making pronouncements that would "put pressure" on the police.

The President had said it was a "good" thing that 32 alleged drug offenders in Bulacan province had been killed earlier this week and added that if that number were the daily toll, the country could be

rid of the drug menace.

"You cannot fight the drug menace by just killing," Gordon said. "You must go to the source."

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito condemned the boy's killing and said he was worried that rogue officers were taking advantage of the President's promise to protect them.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian called for a Senate investigation of the killing "to establish the true facts." He said he wanted "to ensure that police impunity will never become the status quo in the Philippines."

Sen. Sonny Angara also said the Senate needed to look into the killings as the body count was reaching "alarming levels" and "to ensure that we are not creating killing machines."

The CCTV footage and eyewitness accounts showed the police officers involved in the killing of Delos Santos were "not only abusive, they are killers and criminals," according to Sen. Francis Escudero.

Detained Sen. Leila de Lima, one of Mr. Duterte's sharpest critics, said the President had a "deranged mind" for wanting 32 sus-

pected drug offenders killed daily.

"They are demonic executioners," a fuming De Lima told reporters at the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court where her arraignment on drug charges had been deferred anew.

Another critic, Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, said the killings were "too much [and] very wrong."

"I cannot, in conscience, let this pass. The senators should have a united stand to stop this," he said.

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejandro, a former Marine captain, called on the police to defy illegal orders from the President in the war on drugs, reminding them of their duty to serve and protect the people.

"You are not the private army of Duterte," Alejandro said.

Commission on Human Rights Chair Chito Gascon said "the pace and scale" of the killings were "unprecedented," adding that the President's statements have "emboldened the security forces" to commit abuses with impunity.

ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro said the killing of Delos Santos was proof of a "fascist, antipoor tool in the guise of an antidrug campaign."

"This so-called war on drugs is actually a war against the people, mostly the poor, who are being killed on mere suspicion and say-so of police," Castro said.

Fr. Jerome Secillano, executive secretary of the committee on public affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said the police actions "already border on insanity" and that the killings cast doubts on the capability of law enforcers to do their jobs rationally and professionally.

Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros urged the government to give higher priority to drug rehabilitation because drug addiction was "more a sickness rather than a crime."

"We do not know the motivation of the police why they had to do the killings ... maybe to impress the President who wanted more," he said.

"God's commandment tells us, 'Thou shalt not kill.' For this reason we condemn such killings," he added. —WITH REPORTS FROM LEILA B.

SALAVERRIA, DJ YAP, JOCELYN R. UY, JODEE AGONCILLO, JEANNETTE L. ANDRADA, JULIE M. AURELIO, JHESSET O. ENANO AND DEXTER CABALZA INQ

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Wounded NPA rebel yields in Sarangani

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 18): Wounded NPA rebel yields in Sarangani

A wounded New People's Army (NPA) rebel surrendered to government troops in Sarangani Province after reportedly being abandoned by his comrades, an Army official said.

Col. Roberto Ancan, commander of the Army's 1002nd Brigade, said the rebel yielded nearly a month after being seriously wounded in an encounter with troops from the 73rd Infantry Battalion (IB) in Sitio Paglidong, Barangay Little Baquio, Malita town in Davao Occidental.

He said the rebel, whose identity was withheld for security reasons, was a member of a field unit of the NPA's Front 71.

"He decided to surrender due to the hardship he was facing after being left by his comrades in the mountains," he said.

Ancan said their troops are currently treating the wounded NPA surrenderer in an undisclosed location in Sarangani.

He said they were supposed to evacuate him through a chopper on Thursday but was rescheduled to Saturday due to weather problems.

73IB troops have intensified their security operations in the last two weeks in the mountains of Alabel and Malapatan towns in Sarangani due reported harassments by NPA rebels in local communities.

"Our units are currently conducting community security patrols to ensure peace and security in these areas," Ancan said.

1Lt. Daryll Cansancio, 73IB spokesperson, said their units have figured in a series of encounters with the rebels since Aug. 3.

He said the major clashes ensued in portions of Barangays Upper Suyan and Kihan in Malapatan that left a rebel dead and three others wounded.

Cansancio said their troops responded to the area following reports of renewed extortion activities by the rebels on civilians.

He said they recovered a landmine unit and a backpack containing personal valuables and subversive documents from the lone fatality, who was identified as Jimmy Tumbo, 22, a resident of Sitio Akbual, Barangay Upper Suyan in Malapatan.

There were no casualties so far from the government side, he said.

As a result of the clashes, more than 30 families have evacuated from Sitio Akbual and the neighboring

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areas.

Sarangani Gov. Steve Chiongbian Solon said the local government has initially sent five days of food and relief rations to the affected residents.

He said the rations, which were sent via chooper, comprise rice, canned goods, medicines and other essential relief items.

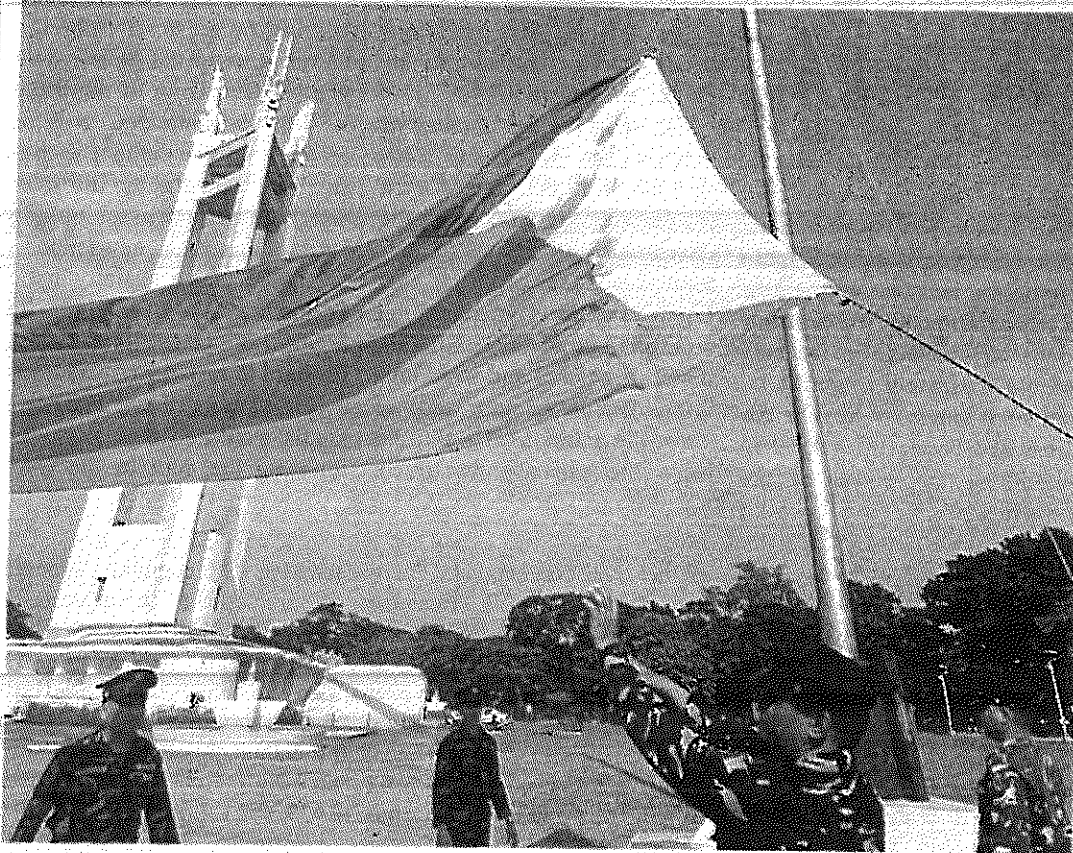
<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1006742>

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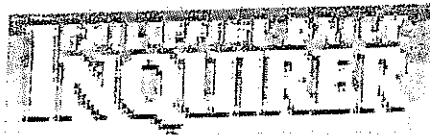
Media Standard

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QUEZON'S DAY. A day before the 139th birth anniversary of Manuel L. Quezon, a member of the Philippine Army raise up a giant flag at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, as part of dry run for the 139th birth anniversary celebration of the late president of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. **Manny Palmero**

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TERROR LEADER IS ALIVE

ESCAPED HOSTAGE TELLS OF OMAR MAUTE'S FRUIT SALAD DAYS

By Julie Alipala
@inquirermindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Terrorist leader Omar Maute is a big fan of fruit salad and would order his hostages in Marawi City to prepare a cup of it every day from canned fruits stolen from stores.

"He loves fruit salad. He kept on asking us to prepare fruit salad," said Rumar Marjalino, one of four hostages who escaped the extremists two weeks ago.

The 38-year-old Rumar said they would prepare the dessert only for Omar using canned fruits ransacked from grocery stores when the Maute group attacked the city on May 23.

"We [would] prepare only a small amount of fruit cocktail for him and add condensed milk," Rumar said, adding that Omar would go to the kitchen every day to personally get his fruit salad.

"He talked to us everyday but I didn't care look at him. He has fierce eyes," he added.

Rumar said Omar was unlike his brother Abdullah Maute, another leader of the bandit group that turned to religious jihad.

Abdullah was reclusive and

"didn't mingle with the civilian hostages," said Rumar, who used to deliver food every day to the Maute brothers as well as Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

'A very quiet man'

Rumar described Hapilon "as a very quiet man" who listens to suggestions from his men, including some "foreigners" who spoke what sounded to them like Arabic.

Rumar said they also learned that most of the fighters inside the war zone were not from the Lanao area but from Western Mindanao, including Zamboanga, Basilan and Sulu.

"I have met a number of them, (I have) spoken to them," he said.

Rumar's account belied earlier reports that Omar Maute was killed in the fighting last June and Hapilon had already fled the area.

Rumar said the last time he saw Omar was a few hours before he, his brother Rowell and two other companions decided to escape while the extremists were praying on Aug. 4.

When they escaped, he said Catholic priest Teresito Suganob was also alive with at least 40 other civilians who were seized

at the start of the fighting in May. Suganob and his fellow captors were being given various tasks by their captors, Rumar said.

Some of the hostages, he said, were even given firearms and ordered to fire at government troops closing in on their position.

"They brought 14 men to the battlefield one day and ordered them to shoot at the military tanks. They were killed by our own soldiers believing they were Maute [group members]," he said.

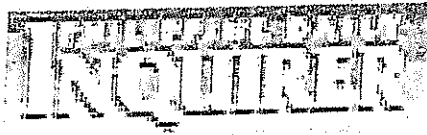
"The others who refused to fire at the tanks were shot by the Isis on the spot," he added.

The Marjalino brothers and their two companions were carpenters building a house in Marawi when the fighting broke out. They hid themselves for 11 days but were later captured.

Rumar said the Maute group stored in their base plenty of food that were looted from grocery stores when they attacked the city.

"They used male civilians who were unable to carry firearms to carry the loot for them. We had such food as instant noodles, rice and sardines," he said. INQ

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Bombing runs, artillery fire vs Maute continue

MARAWI CITY—The military continued to pound on Friday the positions of the Maute group and its allies here, 88 days since fighting started on May 23.

From the air, a P3 Orion guided bomber planes as they dropped explosives on the remaining battle zone measuring about a square kilometer, where some 70-80 gunmen were holed up, while helicopters also fired rockets towards it.

On the ground, artillery fires also battered the same area.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesperson of the Task Force Marawi, said the air

strikes and the use of howitzers were necessary.

"The air assault continues," Petinglay said.

She said the use of air assets depended on ground commanders. "If they see it's important, we use them," Petinglay said.

She said the air strikes and the artillery fires had been helping ground troops in their advance to clear more areas.

Petinglay said that as of Thursday evening, soldiers were trying to clear an area measuring about 800 by 600 meters inside the main battle area.

"Some strategic structures

occupied by the terrorist have already been regained," she said.

The battle to regain control of the city had become costly for the military in terms of soldiers lives.

Petinglay said that since the fighting started, 128 soldiers and policemen had already been killed. The figure included those killed in what the military dubbed as "friendly fires."

But for the last eight days, she said the military had incurred zero casualty.

"We are happy to announce that we did not have soldiers killed for the past eight days,"

she added.

Since the war started, nearly 1,000 soldiers were also wounded but 380 had since returned to the battlefield, according to Petinglay.

She said the extremists had so far lost 573 members and soldiers had recovered 635 firearms from the main battle area.

"Our troops are still trying to clear more than 400 structures. A total of 1,200 improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance were recovered and disrupted by our troops," she said. —JEFFREY

MAITEM AND ALLAN NAWAL INQ

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Muslim clerics declare war on IS, Maute

By John Paolo Bencito

MUSLIM clerics in Lanao del Sur have issued a "fatwa" or Islamic ruling condemning the current rebellion in their Marawi City led by the ISIS-inspired extremist groups, the Palace said Friday.

On the 88th day of the siege in Marawi City, the military also announced that the battle ground had been reduced to "half a kilometer grid square" as the Mindanao State University was scheduled to resume its classes on Aug. 22.

"This supports the declaration

of war against the ISIS-inspired Maute terror group of all 41 mayors in Lanao del Sur through a manifesto signed on Aug. 12," Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella told Palace news briefing.

"The 40 towns and one city of
Next page

Muslim...

From A1

the province shall strengthen the civilian security plan of barangays mobilizing religious leaders with the said declaration," he added.

Military spokesperson Brig Gen Restituto Padilla Jr. said the fatwas issued by the MILF and the ARMM Grand Mufti and the Darul Ifta were "very critical ingredients in our program to fight and prevent the spread of violent extremism and radicalism."

Uamilodin Sharif, deputy mufti of the provincial Darul Ifta of Lanao, on Tuesday said the main objective of the conference was for the Ulama across the country to have a fatwa against terrorism amid the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City.

"Terrorism is one of the major problems the country is facing. Yes, it is true that there are already two existing fatwas issued by the regional Darul Ifta of ARMM and from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Our purpose here is to bring to the national level the scope of the Fatwa. That's why we are convening a national conference on this," he said.

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DOH on 'heightened vigilance' over avian flu; troops deployed

By **CHARINA CLARISSA L. ECHALUCE** and **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

The Department of Health (DOH) is now on "heightened vigilance" following the re-

ported new cases of bird flu in Nueva Ecija.

"Hindi po [alarmino]. ▶ 7

DOH on 'heightened vigilance' over avian... ◀1

Kamiponaynasa state of heightened vigilance. Alam naman natin na itong situwasyon sa bird flu ay nasa mga feathered animals, particularly sa manok. Wala pa po kaming nareport na nahawa. Patuloy po ang pagmomonitor namin niyan. It remains an animal health problem (It's not yet alarming. We are in the state of heightened vigilance. We all know that in this situation, bird flu is affecting feathered animals, particularly chickens. We have not recorded any case of human influenza caused by bird flu virus. We continue to monitor. So far, it remains an animal health problem)," DOH spokesman Eric Tayag said.

"Heightened vigilance" means the DOH teams are ready to be deployed at any moment.

Tayag said a team of experts from the DOH are now ready for deployment to Nueva Ecija after the Department of Agriculture (DA) confirmed the spread of bird flu in the province.

In an ambush interview Friday, Tayag said the DA has already informed Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Ubial about the new cases of bird flu in Jaen and San Isidro Nueva Ecija.

But prior to the confirmation, the DOH team in Pampanga had already assembled a team ready to be deployed to Nueva Ecija.

"Naghanda na rin po sila, sapagkat kapag nilabas po iyong resulta na positive, sila po ay kaagad na ide-deploy po roon para po tumulong sa Department of Agriculture at para gawin din po ang nasimulan nilang gawin sa San Luis (They have already prepared, so they would be ready for deployment should the result

be positive. They will be deployed there to help the DA and do what they are doing in San Luis, Pampanga)," Tayag added.

Nueva Ecija became the second province in the country with confirmed cases of bird flu, after Pampanga.

At present, the DOH is monitoring those who are working in poultry farms in the affected areas.

Apart from DOH teams, the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Northern Luzon Command (AFP-Nolcom) have assembled soldiers for culling of bird flu-affected fowls in Pampanga.

Lt. Col. Isagani G. Nato, chief of the AFP NolCom's Public Information Office, said 303 troops from the 48th Infantry Battalion (IB) were deployed to Pampanga and have already culled a total of 6,000 chickens as of Thursday midnight.

Nato said the activity manifests the commitment of Northern Luzon Command under Lt. Gen. Romeo T. Tanaigo to respond, protect, and secure the Filipinos in its area of responsibility, through inter-agency coordination and support to national development.

Nato said the soldiers will augment DA teams in the conduct of chicken culling activity.

"They were initially trained and individually screened based on the health condition parameters set by the Department of Health (DOH) before being authorized to participate in culling," Nato said.

The Fort Magsaysay Station Hospital also sent military medical personnel to assist in expediting the screening process and authorization of those who can cull chickens.

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AFP urges gov't: Raise Chinese incursions in WPS

The military wants to bring Chinese incursions at sandbars in the West Philippine Sea before the China-Philippines Bilateral Consultative Mechanism (BCM).

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesman Gen. Restituto Padilla broached the idea after the military affirmed reports of the presence of

Chinese vessels near Pag-asa Island in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

"We will work to clarify all of these things and there is a mechanism that is built-in in our current relationship, which is called the Bilateral Consultative Mechanism, that has already been initiated before," Padilla said.

The BCM was formed by the Philip-

pinas and China to address concerns in the disputed seas.

The first BCM was held last May in Guiyang, China – the venue chosen by President Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Through the BCM, both parties can raise issues surrounding the maritime claims in a bid to avoid violent confrontation between the two

countries.

"It would be best to ask the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) what happened to this mechanism because this is the proper forum to address those issues," Padilla said.

Earlier, the DFA reported that a second meeting is forthcoming within the

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AFP From Page 1

year where the Philippines can futher bring its concerns.

Ambassador Chito Sta. Romana has said the BCM is a good venue to talk about possible areas of cooperation aimed at building mutual trust and confidence between Philippines and China.

Padilla said the AFP is in the process of looking further into the report of Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano who exposed the presence of Chinese boats in the area.

"We did receive word from the camp of Congressman Alejano regarding the presence of Chinese ships. There have been a lot of fisherman from our side who have been fishing in our waters over there," Padilla said.

"And I think the bone of contention was regarding the presence of some of our fisherman in some of those areas because the Chinese are there also," he said.

Alejano claimed there are two Chinese naval vessels, two fishing ships and a Chinese Coast Guard ship operating around Pag-asa Island since Aug. 12.

He added the Chinese have a sinister plan to occupy the sandbars in the area.

Padilla however assured the public that the matter is now being addressed but he has yet to confirm the number of ships spotted in the area.

The AFP's Western Mindanao Command has been tasked to check out the report to ensure the Filipino fisherman are "well and protected."

"Now, we will file our ongoing and

continuing protest for any of these movements, and the foreign affairs department will see to that," Padilla added.

"We file diplomatic protest whenever we have sightings close to our areas. Especially this one," he said.

As this developed, the US government is set to donate an unmanned radar blimp to the Philippine Navy to enhance its intelligence gathering and disaster response operations.

US Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Klecheski will hand over the Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS) – a self-sustained, unmanned lighter-than-air systems – to Navy chief Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado on Monday.

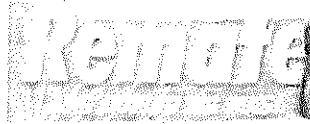
The turnover ceremony will be held at the Naval Education and Training Command in San Antonio, Zambales.

In a statement, the US embassy said the radar is expected to enhance the Navy's capability in maritime intelligence surveillance reconnaissance by effectively detecting maritime and air traffic within the country's coastal waters using sensors.

It will also be utilized in the conduct of humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

The TARS also includes a weather station that provides telemetry data to the ground station for the monitoring of ambient temperature, pressure, wind, speed and other pertinent parameters in the operation of the system. – **With Christina Mendez, Jaime Laude, Helen Flores**

19 August 2017



Pahina. 2

AFP tinabla ang hirit ng Muslim scholars

TINABLA ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang Muslim scholars na nanawagan na itigil na ng tropa ng pamahalaan ang airstrikes sa Marawi City.

Sa Mindanao Hour briefing, humingi ng paumanhin si AFP Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, Jr. sa publiko sa kanilang nagpatuloy na operasyon.

Aniya, marami ang nahahangad na matapos na ito subalit ang pagsasagawa ng pagbobomba o ng airstrike sa ilang mga lugar sa Marawi City ay kinakailangan pa dahil may 50 hanggang 60 na mga kalaban na patuloy na nagiging bafakid sa pagbabalik sa normal ng Marawi City.

Kinakailangan aniya nilang gawin ito upang mai-

wasan ang pagbubuwis ng buhay hindi lang ng sundalo kundi maging ng sino man na maaaring naiwan pa sa loob ng Marawi City.

Iyon ay dahil sa ang hangarin nila ay ma-rescue pa rin ang mga patuloy nilang hinahawakang bihag.

"At nais naman po naming ibigay ang aming assurance sa lahat ng ating mga residente sa Marawi na hindi po natin iiwanan kayo dahil tutulungan pa rin namin kayo sa pagbabalik sa normal at sa pagsasagawa po ng rehabilitasyon, ng rebuilding at saka ng reconstruction ng buong Marawi. And this is a promise that we support the promise of the President to make Marawi better," ani B/Gen. Padilla.

KRIS JOSE

19 August 2017



Pahina. 2

Pagbawi sa Marawi abot-tanaw na -- AFP

Inanunsyo kahapon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla Jr. na positibo ang ginagawang operasyon ng militar at pakonti na nang pakonti ang Maute Group sa Marawi City.

Sa Mindanao Hour briefing sa Malacañang kahapon, sinabi ni Padilla na abot-tanaw na ng mga tropa ng gobyerno ang tagumpay at pagbawi sa Marawi.

“Our road to victory and the liberation of the city. I am happy to inform you that military operations in the area is progressing very well.”

sabi ni Padilla dahil lumit na rin aniya ang hawak na lugar ng Maute Group.

“The area of the main battle area has been reduced to just over half a kilometer grid square. Previously, we have been talking about slightly over a kilometer grid square, and then a kilometer grid square. Now, it’s slightly over half a kilometer grid square. So the world of the enemy is getting smaller,” ani Padilla.

Ibinalita pa ni Padilla na walang nasawi sa mga tropa ng gobyerno sa nakalipas na walong araw. (Aries Cano)

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POLICE FILES

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5 pirata timbog sa Sultan Kudarat

TACURONG CITY – Nadakip ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng pulisya at 2nd Marine Battalion Landing Team ang limang mga miyembro ng armed lawless group sa probinsya ng Sultan Kudarat.

Nakilala ang mga suspek na sina Bonao Mangarin, Usop Mangarin, Mimong Agam, Osik Mangarin at Seleno Ogib.

Ayon kay Sultan Kudarat police provincial director S/Supt. Raul Supiter, ni-raid ng pulisya at Philippine Marines ang tahanan ni Tent I Tau Mangarin alyas Kumander Winston sa Barangay Ito, Andong Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat. Ngunit bago pa man makarating ang raiding team ay nakatakas na ang kanilang target na si Kumander Winston ngunit lima sa kanyang mga kasamahan ang nahuli.

Nakuha sa mga nahuli ang apat na M16 armalite rifles, isang garand rifle, isang kalibre .45 na pistola, dalawang granada, mga bala, magazines, military uniforms at teleskopyo.

Ang grupo ni Mangarin ay sangkot sa "ambat-pare" o panimirata sa mga mangingisda, extortion, pagnanakaw at ibang krimen.

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12 BIFF, 5 MILF men slain in Maguindanao

MAGUINDANAO—At least 12 members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and five Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas died in an encounter in Salibo town yesterday.

Police identified the slain MILF men as Mahmud Laguiab, Darix Kendag, Kuzak Ali, Anwar Maulana and Kalidin Ulama of Task Force Ittihad. They clashed with the group of Esmael Abdulmalik in Barangay Tee. Abdulmalik is reportedly a former henchman of slain Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan.

The fatalities from the BIFF side were known only by their aliases of Salik, Noboh, Amir, Sanged, Mohaimin, Sulah, Tatoh, Pagal, Arsad, Dindih, Musib and Awal.

The BIFF gunmen reportedly fired at MILF guerrillas

who responded to reports that Abdulmalik and four other suspected terrorists – Salahudin Hassan, Bashir Ungab, Nasser Adil and Ansari Yunus – had been sighted at the border of Barangays Sambulawan and Butilen.

Senior Superintendent Agustin Tello, Maguindanao police director, said four other MILF guerrillas were wounded in the three-hour gunfight.

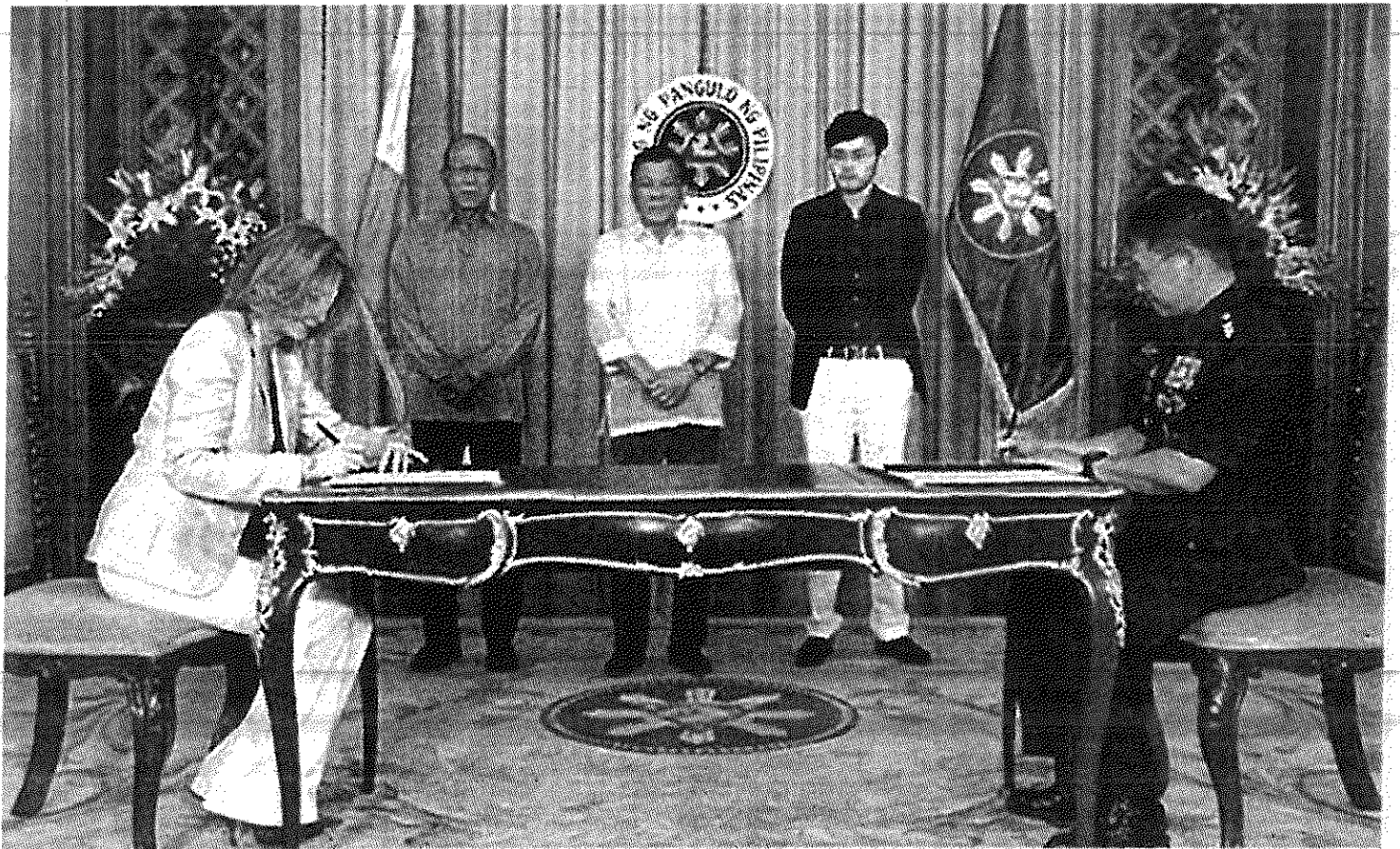
The MILF is helping the military in its anti-terrorism campaign in keeping with the agreements it signed with the government. Among the accords is the 1997 Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities, which enjoins the two parties to cooperate in neutralizing terrorists and criminals in conflict-flashpoint areas.

– John Unson

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GOLDEN ROOSTER DONATION TO AFP. The Golden Rooster Foundation Inc., led by chairperson Monica Prieto-Teodoro, donated P1,000,000 to the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the benefit of the children of AFP casualties of the Marawi siege. The event was held in Malacañan Palace before President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. The Golden Rooster Foundation was established by Mrs. Teodoro, a former Tarlac representative who was responsible for the creation of the standing committee on the welfare of children in the 14th Congress, to pursue initiatives promoting children's welfare and to assist children who are abused, displaced, or orphaned. As a legislator Mrs. Teodoro was credited for having the most numerous child welfare bills passed into law and for the creation of the Amor Village in Anao, Tarlac, a center for abandoned children rated number 1 in the country by the DSWD. Photo shows Mrs. Teodoro handing the donation to Gen. Eduardo Año, AFP Chief of Staff, President Duterte, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, and Jaime Prieto Teodoro who witnessed the donation.

ONLINE NEWS

19 AUGUST 2017

AFP denies trampling on IP communities, rights

Priam Nepomuceno August 18, 2017, 12:58 pm

MANILA -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has vehemently denied reports claiming that its forces are militarizing Lumad communities and trampling on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

"These allegations follow the same rhetoric they had in 2015 and covers up the exploitation of the Lumad by left-leaning groups," AFP public affairs office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, said Friday.

The AFP, he said, has already unmasked this deliberate and orchestrated effort by left-leaning organizations and the New People's Army (NPA) who encroach on IP communities.

Dubbed as "Taktikang Bakwit", left-leaning organizations distort the facts and circumstances that force Lumads to evacuate their homes, blaming instead the government's legitimate peace and security operations, he pointed out.

"The AFP's presence in IP communities has always been in response to the presence of armed NPAs, as reported by Lumad leaders. It is the NPAs who have militarized these areas by setting up camps and by using Lumad schools for indoctrinating, agitating, and recruiting new cadres," Arevalo said.

These facts have been corroborated by an Affidavit of Unified Declaration of Tribal Leaders of Talaingod, Davao del Norte that was submitted by Lumad leaders, who condemned the abuses and exploitation committed by left-leaning organizations in the UCCP-Haran incident.

Arevalo said they strongly condemn any action that uses the Lumads for propaganda against the government.

"Rest assured that the AFP will not stop in proactively seeking solutions through continuous dialogues with local leaders, government agencies, and non-government organizations to ensure that the rights of the Lumads are protected from exploitation and violence perpetrated by the NPA and its front organizations," he added. (PNA)

www.pna.gov.ph

AFP: 2 soldiers lost legs after tripping on land mines in Marawi

From GMA News (Aug 18): AFP: 2 soldiers lost legs after tripping on land mines in Marawi

The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Friday said two soldiers lost their legs after stepping on land mines believed to have been planted by the pro-ISIS Maute group in Marawi City.

AFP spokesperson Brigadier General Restituto Padilla Jr. during the Mindanao Hour said that no soldier was killed in the past few days.

"Operations, as I have mentioned, are progressing very well, and noting that we have had no one killed in action for the last eight days," he said.

"Unfortunately, wounded are still suffered and we just had two soldiers who lost their legs because of tripping into IEDs that were left in a building that they were clearing. That is the sad note of what I have for you this morning," he added.

As of 7 p.m. on August 17, 128 soldiers, 45 civilians, and 573 terrorists have been killed in Marawi. Authorities were able to rescue 1,728 civilians rescued as well as recover 635 firearms, eight improvised explosive devices, and 16 unexploded ordnance since Maute attacked Marawi City on May 23.

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/622369/afp-2-soldiers-lost-legs-after-tripping-on-land-mines-in-marawi/story/>