



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

24 August 2017

Thursday

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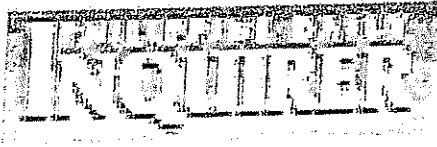
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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.


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


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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS - FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | AUGUST 24, 2017 | THURSDAY

SOUTHWEST MONSOON AFFECTING WESTERN SECTION OF LUZON (As of 4:00 PM - August 23, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:43 AM	6:13 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
7:46 AM	8:13 PM
NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
AUG 22 2:30 AM	AUG 29 4:15 PM
LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	
6:43 PM	11:27 AM
0.19 Meter	1.18 Meter
Partly cloudy to all times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

METRO MANILA	26 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C	TAGAYTAY	23 - 28 °C	22 - 29 °C	TACLOBAN	25 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	26 - 33 °C	25 - 34 °C	LEGAZPI	26 - 29 °C	26 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 - 33 °C	24 - 33 °C
LAOAG	25 - 31 °C	24 - 29 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C
BAGUIO	16 - 21 °C	15 - 22 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	23 - 32 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	24 - 30 °C	25 - 32 °C	METRO CEBU	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C			

DZRHNEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS HD

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

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PMA Class '85 members assume key govt posts

By Florante S. Solmerin

THE Philippine Military Academy "Sandiwa" Class of 1985 is the next ruling class in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, replacing the PMA "Matikas" Class '83 currently being held by Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año.

Many of the Matikas class members were also appointed in key positions in the Duterte government.

Año, who has been repeatedly announced by President Rodrigo Duterte as his choice to lead the Department of the Interior and Local Government, will reach his mandatory retirement age of 56 on Oct. 26 this year.

He will replace Ismael Sueno who was sacked by Duterte because of allegation of corruption in the procurement of multi-million worth of fire trucks.

Reportedly in the race to the military top position to replace Año are Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) chief Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez Jr., Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief Major General Benjamin Madrigal Jr., and 1st Infantry Division chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista.

One of these Sandiwa generals will soon get the most-coveted position.

But according to Duterte, Año could not immediately assume his new government position because of the one-year ban of Republic Act 6975 or the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990, "no retired or resigned military officer or police official may be appointed as Secretary within one year from the date of his retirement or resignation."

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Marawi soldiers get letters, chocolates from Boy Scouts

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN and ROEL PAREÑO

At least 40 members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) in Zamboanga City have sent chocolates and letters of encouragement to soldiers fighting Maute militants in Marawi.

Boy Scouts from the Baliwasan Central School and Southcom Elementary School personally handed their gifts to Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, at Camp Navarro on Tuesday.

The letters and chocolates were collected through the BSP's "Muchisimias Gracias Por Tu Servicio" program, which was launched on June 28.

Jose Rizalino Ortega, BSP-

Zamboanga chairman, said the program was meant not only to show the BSP's appreciation for the services of government troops but also to start a nationwide advocacy of respect for "men and women whose patriotism, gallantry, and service to our country are beyond reproach."

"We shall build a lasting attitude among Filipinos of extending a high level of courtesy to our men and women in

uniform," Ortega said.

Galvez thanked the BSP for its support and assistance. "I will personally bring these gifts and motivational art works to our soldiers in Marawi. This will surely bring renewed strength and vigor to them," he said.

"It is very heartwarming that at a young age, these boys already appreciate chivalry and patriotism. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you so much to the future leaders of our society," Galvez said.

All-women unit

Meanwhile, an all-women unit of police and military personnel will be deployed in Marawi City to provide psy-

chosocial intervention to residents affected in the fighting between government troops and Maute militants, Col. Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs office chief, said.

Arevalo said the "all-girls" team, which is composed of 40 soldiers and 60 police person-

nel, are undergoing training before their deployment on Aug. 29.

He said the deployment of an all-female unit will give a feminine touch in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the city. Only a handful of women soldiers are currently engaged in operations in Marawi. – With Jaime Laude

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Gov't forces pursue rebels after capturing NPA camp

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City – After capturing a New People's Army (NPA) camp Saturday, government forces have stepped up pursuit operations against the fleeing rebels in Surigao del Sur's Diwata range.

Troops of the Army's 36th Infantry Battallion (36th IB), supported by war-earth-moving equipment, were deployed in Diwata range to beef up the pursuing

"Alpha Company" and Scout Platoon troops at the Andap Complex in Marihatag town, Surigao del Sur.

The provincial police mobile force, special force and Surigao del Sur Police Provincial Office (PPO) were also ordered by Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) Regional Director Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix to assist the operating troops of 36th IB commander Lt. Col. Randolph Rojas.

The wide pursuit operation against the fleeing members of guerilla-Front Committee 19 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) took place after pursuing troops of "Alpha" and Scout Platoon of the 36th IB captured the rebels' encampment at 4:40 p.m. on August 19 in Barangay Mahaba (within Andap Complex) in Marihatag town, Surigao del Sur, 36th IB spokesperson Capt.

Al Anthony B. Pueblas told The Manila Bulletin on Wednesday.

Government forces seized several wires and detonating cords, cache of assorted ammunitions and magazines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other bomb-making materials at the NPA camp, said the 36th IB spokesperson, in an exclusive interview with The Manila Bulletin.

"The NPAs hastily abandoned their camp after sensing that our pursuing troops were closely coming in to their position," Pueblas said.

The seized rebel encampment can accommodate up to 50 persons, he said.

He said some of the seized landmines were found planted along the side of the road. "These pose so much danger to the civilian populace," the 36th IB spokesperson said.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Lead NPA fighter is new intel chief

BY VICTOR REYES

AN Army general who is leading the fight against the communist New People's Army in the Davao region has been named chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (ISAFP).

Brig. Gen. Macairog Alberto, commander of the Army's 1001st Brigade based in Compostela Valley, is due to assume his new post on Friday, said AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

Alberto, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of

1986, will succeed Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva (PMA Class 1985) who assumed yesterday the post of commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Villanueva replaced his PMA classmate, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, who took over as the chief of the Lucena City-based Southern Luzon Command last Friday, vice retiring Lt. Gen. Ferdinand Quidilla (PMA Class 1983).

Arevalo said Alberto, a Scout Ranger, "had successful stint in operations focusing in counter-

terrorism counter-insurgency, applied with educational training locally and abroad in the field of operations and intelligence."

"He is the man fit for the job. He is expected to deliver, especially at this time that we are faced with challenges of terrorism, violent extremism, and the fact that the President declared that after Marawi, we will be focusing once more on counter-insurgency," said Arevalo.

Arevalo was referring to the ongoing armed conflict in Marawi City between government forces

and the Maute Group, which started on May 23.

Alberto served as commander of the military's Task Force Davao operating in Davao City. He has also commanded the Special Operations Battalion and the 2nd and 3rd Scout Ranger battalions.

Alberto holds a Master of Arts degree in Strategic Security Studies focusing on combating terrorism, and a master's degree in Public Management major in Development and Security from the Development Academy of the Philippines.

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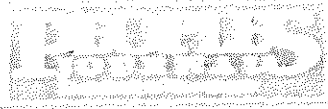
Manila Standard

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FRONTLINERS. This photo taken on Aug. 22, 2017 shows a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front wading through a flooded farm on his way to the frontline in Datu Salibo town, Maguindanao province, in southern island of Mindanao. The Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group said on Aug. 23 it had lost 10 fighters in battles to stop a 'growing force' of radical militants who support the Islamic State group. AFP

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BGY CHAIRMAN, ARMY OFFICER JAILED FOR DRUGS

TWELVE drug suspects, including an incumbent barangay chairman in Misamis Oriental and an Army officer, were hauled to jail by agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in separate anti-narcotics operations in Mindanao.

PDEA Director General Isidro Lapeña said Arnel Abecia, a 30-year-old chairman of Bgy. Kauswagan in Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental; his brother Nelson, 31; and friends Ruben Saberola; and Ramil Relegaño, 38, were arrested by combined operatives of the PDEA Regional Office 10 and the local police in an entrapment operation.

In Bukidnon, PDEA Region 10 agents arrested Army 2nd Lt. Arthur Rey Arango, 23; provincial nurse Geoff Augustus Silabay, 33; Lorenzo Victor Aldeguez, 22; Roger Hernandez, 34; Shinray Dumaguit, 33; Ma. Lourdes Valencia, 20; and Juliet Jane Cruspero, 21, in a sting in a suspected drug dive in Propia St., Malaybalay City.

Alfred Dalizon

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Pahina. 6

Ret. Army pinugutan ng Sayyaf

ZAMBANGA CITY -- Natagpuang patay at pugot ang ulo ng isang retiradong sundalo sa kanyang bahay sa bayan ng Maluso sa Basilan.

Pinaniniwalaang Abu Sayyaf ang tumira sa 62-anyos na si Julio Pasawa na isa ring Muslim convert.

Natagpuan ang bangkay nito kamakalawa sa Barangay Tubigan at sunog na rin ang bahay nito.

Dating sarhento ng Philippine Army si Pasa-

wa at tubong Pangasinan ngunit nakapangasawa ng isang Muslim sa Basilan kaya doon na ito nagretiro.

Matatandaang inatake ng halos 50 Abu Sayyaf ang nasabing barangay at sinunog ang mga kabahayan.

Umabot sa 10 katao ang nasawi sa atake, kabilang ang isang buntis at ang nasa sinapupunan nito. Halos 30 naman ang sugatan sa karahasan. (At **Jacinto**)

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Dinukot na Ex-Army pinugutan ng Abu Sayyaf

Pinugutan ng ulo ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) ang isang retiradong sundalo na dinukot ng mga bandido nang salakayin nitong Lunes ang isang komunidad sa Maluso, Basilan, iniulat kahapon ng pulisya.

Ayon sa report ni Senior Supt. Christopher Panapan, hepe ng Basilan Police Provincial Office (BPPO), kinilala ang biktimang si retired Army Sgt. Julio Pasawa, 63, ng Barangay Upper Mahayhay, na dinukot ng ASG sa Bgy. Tubigon

sa Maluso.

Matatandaang siyam na sibilyan ang pinagbabaril at napatay ng mga bandido sa Bgy. Tubigon nitong Lunes, sa kasagsagan ng pagdiriwang ng pista sa lugar. Sampung iba pa ang nasugatan sa nasabing pagsalakay.

Nabatid na nanunog pa ang Abu Sayyaf ng apat na bahay sa lugar, kabilang ang bahay ni Pasawa.

Dinukot din ng mga bandido si

Pasawa, hanggang sa matagpuan ang pugot na bangkay ng huli nitong Martes ng umaga.

Batay sa ulat ng Maluso Municipal Police, dakong 8:00 ng umaga nitong Martes nang matagpuan ang bangkay ni Pasawa na walang ulo.

Ayon naman kay Col. Juvymax Uy, commander ng Joint Task Force Basilan, si Pasawa ay isang retiradong sundalo at isang Islamic convert.

Fer Taboy

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The Manila Times

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'New ISAFP chief fit for the job'

If there is one description for the incoming intelligence chief of the military, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) can only say Brig. Gen. Macairog Alberto is the "man fit for the job."

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs chief, made the statement on Wednesday since Alberto, the former commander of the Army's 1001st Infantry Brigade, will be taking over the position as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP).

The reshuffle of command came after Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. assumed his leadership of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command.

He was formerly the commander of the Philippine Army's 4th Infantry Division.

Madrigal will be replaced by outgoing ISAFP chief Maj. Gen. Ronald Villanueva.

Alberto is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sinagtala" Class of 1986.

Madrigal and Villanueva are members of the PMA "Sandiwa" Class of 1985.

"He is the man fit for the job. He is expected to deliver especially at this time [the AFP] is faced with challenges when it comes to violent extremism. In fact, our President had said that after [the conflict in] Marawi, he will be focusing on counter-insurgency," Arevalo said of Alberto during an interview with reporters also on Wednesday.

Alberto obtained his master's degree in Public Management from the Development Academy of the Philippines.

He is a recipient of various medals and awards including the Distinguished Service Star, Gold Cross Medal and Bronze Cross Medal.

Alberto will be assuming the top military intelligence post on Friday at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City with Villanueva turning over his command.

DEMPSEY REYES

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AFP turns over kidnap victim to Vietnam officials

By NONOY E. LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) officially turned over yesterday Do Trung Huie, the rescued Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) kidnap victim, to Vietnamese officials.

AFP-WestMinCom Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said Huie was presented to the Vietnamese Assistant Defense and Armed Forces Attache (DAFA) to the Philippines Senior Captain Pham Than Tra, and Vietnamese Embassy Third Secretary Ngo Tuan Anh at 10 a.m. yesterday by Lt Gen Carlito G

Galvez, Jr., Commander of the AFP-WestMinCom and Rear Admiral Rene V Medina, the Commander of the AFP-Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command.

Huie was immediately taken by the Vietnamese officials for his trip back home.

“We are happy that Mr Huie is finally going home to his loved ones,” said Galvez. “We will exert all means to find and rescue the remaining six Vietnamese kidnap victims who are still with the ASG,” he added.

Huie was rescued last August 20 in Mataja Island by the elements of the Joint Task Force Basilan, through the Naval Task Group Basilan, Naval Task Force 61, and Navy Intelligence Service Group-Western Mindanao.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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Martial law clearance for ex-Marawi mayor revoked

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY – The Department of National Defense (DND) has revoked the temporary clearance for safe passage it had earlier issued to former Marawi City Mayor Omar “Solitario” Ali and his two sons, according to Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza.

In his message to media Tuesday night, Dureza said the clearance issued to Ali and his sons by Defense Secretary and Martial law Administrator Delfin Lorenzana was “recalled and canceled” after the latter “found basis for their being retained in the arrest list” that was generated after the declaration of martial law in Mindanao, following the outbreak of the Marawi crisis last May.

“After a speedy review made by (the DND) on the basis of the inclusion of former Marawi Mayor Omar Solitario Ali and his two sons in the list to be arrested pursuant to the declaration of martial law, Secretary Lorenzana found basis for their being retained in the arrest list and ordered the cancellation of their temporary clearance,” Dureza said.

There are currently 185 personalities in the DND arrest list.

Dureza had earlier asked Lorenzana that Ali and his sons be allowed to explain their side on allegations that they were involved in the Marawi conflict.

He said the clearance “was intended in our efforts to facilitate their planned meeting with Secretary Lorenzana and be allowed safe passage through martial law checkpoints.”

He said he received on Tuesday a message from the DND chief stating: “Based on the vehement objections of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines), PNP (Philippine National Police) and local leaders in Marawi & Lanao Sur, I have recalled/canceled the clearance I gave to Solitario and his two sons effective today. They are now subject to arrest.”

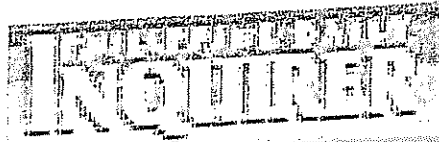
“We submit to the judgment call of Secretary Lorenzana,” said Dureza, who earlier admitted having hired Ali on consultancy, but terminated it after the issuance of the DND issued the arrest orders on June 5.

Dureza’s statement did not name Ali’s two sons that were supposed to be covered by the DND “clearance” reportedly worked out by the Office of the Presidential Peace Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP).

Dureza disclosed that “even before the Marawi (strife) erupted,” Ali had warned him “about possible incidents involving the Mautes” as tipped by his younger brother former Mayor Fahad Salic, uncle by affinity to radical siblings Omar and Abdullah Maute.

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MORO, 'LUMAD' DEMAND END TO ABUSE, MARTIAL LAW



"Lumad" children join the International Youth Day held during a recent human development and poverty reduction forum in Commonwealth Elementary School in Quezon City. —LYN RILLON

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A caravan of close to 300 *lumad* (indigenous peoples or IP) and Moro from Northern Mindanao left this city for Metro Manila on Tuesday for a protest action that would call attention to their plight and to demand an end to martial law in Mindanao.

According to Higaonon Datu Jomorito Goaynon, chair of Kalumbay Regional Lumad Organization, the Northern Mindanao contingent to Manilakbayan, or Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya (Journey of the National Minorities) 2017, is composed of members of the Maranao, Manobo, Talaandig, Higaonon, Bukidnon and Matig-

saog tribes. They would march with other indigenous peoples groups on Friday in Manila to air their concerns about human rights violations, displacement, extrajudicial killings and aerial bombardment of IP communities, including Marawi City where government troops have been battling Islamic State-inspired terrorists since May 23.

President Duterte placed Mindanao under martial law after terrorists took over sections of Marawi City, the provincial capital of Lanao del Sur.

Asliah Ampuan, 25, a resident of Marawi City and a member of the evacuees' group Tindeg Ranao, said she wanted the President to put an end to

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Group leads water drive in Marawi City

Several organizations collaborate and continue to send water relief to thousands of families and military men affected by the ongoing crisis in Marawi City through “Agapay Para Sa Barangay” (APSB) program.

Three months ago, when the armed crisis that displaced close to 360,000 individuals ignited, Manila Water Foundation (MWF) and partners immediately deployed more than 2,000 gallons of clean drinking water which benefitted families currently residing in evacuation centers in nearby cities and provinces.

As a follow through, 12,300

units of 500ml bottles of potable water were also deployed for the sustenance of the members of the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The transport of the said donations was coursed through the office of the Civil Relations Service (CRS) of the AFP and Task Force Marawi which took care of the distribution of the potable water.

With this, Col. Noel de la Cruz of CRS AFP shared his message of thanks while highlighting the importance of such donations.

In total, MWF has sent close to

13,000 gallons of drinking water which was made possible through tie-ups with several organizations including Manila Water Co., Ayala Corp., Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, World Vision Philippines, Soroptimist International of Congressional, and De La Salle-College of St. Benilde.

Through the shared concern for humanity and the extended support of these organizations, MWF was able to fulfill the logistical requirements of the APSB program, specifically the timely delivery and distribution of the said relief for affected communities in times of disaster.

MWF executive director Carla May Berina-Kim expressed her gratitude towards these organizations while expounding on the mission of the program.

“Like-minded organizations help us turn our mission of providing safe and clean water into a reality especially that this is among the first resources that get compromised when crisis like this happens.

Aside from making sure that the affected families will be free from waterborne diseases, we also want to uplift their spirits and spark hope as we usher them back to normalcy,” she said. **Ed Velasco**

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Pahina. 3

Maute sympathizer patay

TODAS ang umano'y "sympathizer" ng teroristang grupong Maute habang apat na sundalo ang sugatan sa bakbakan sa katabing bayan ng Marawi City kamakala.

Ayon kay AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) Chief Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, isa umanong diversionary tactic ang isinagawang kilos ng grupo para mailihis ang atensyon ng mga sundalo sa main battle ground sa loob ng Marawi.

Bukod dito, timing rin umano ang pag-atake ng Maute-supporters sa re-opening ng Mindanao State University (MSU).

Pero dahil sa mabilis na pagresponde ng mga militar ay naagapan ang bakbakan sa Marantao at hindi naman umano nakaapekto sa MSU.

Kasabay nito ay nanawagan si Arevalo sa sympathizers na tigilan na ang pakikisabay sa aniya'y hindi birong krisis na nararanasan ngayon ng bansa.

JEFF GALLOS

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The Manila Times

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Maute terrorist slain in Lanao Sur

COTABATO CITY: A terrorist was killed after an undetermined number of the Maute group harassed the temporary base of government troops in Marantao, Lanao del Sur at dawn on Tuesday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokesman of Joint Task Force Marawi (JTFM), said the terrorists were positioned 200 meters from the location of the Army troops that automatically returned fire and were reinforced by ground units.

She said the gun battle resulted in the death of a terrorist and the recovery of two rocket-propelled grenades, M79, ammunition link for M60, and M203 ammunition.

"In their attempts to cause havoc, the

terrorists even incurred casualties with the preparation of our ground troops," Brig. Gen. Joselito Bautista, JTFM commander, said.

The military further tightened checkpoints in their respective areas of operations to preempt any diversionary ploy by the Maute group from disrupting the opening of classes at the Mindanao State University (MSU).

"With the heightened security, students were transported from Iligan City to Marawi earlier on Tuesday," Bautista added.

About 600 students and MSU officials on board 12 buses left Iligan City and were escorted by the military and police to the MSU campus.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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MILF nears recovery of area controlled by BIFF faction

By ZEA D. CAPISTRANO

DAVAO CITY, Philippines – An official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said they have recovered almost 80 percent of the area where an Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS)-linked splinter group used to operate.

The source, who asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of their operations, said in an interview that they have recovered “almost 80 percent” of the headquarters of the Jamaah Mohajirin Wal Ansar (JMA), which is headed by Esmael Abdulmaguid or Abu Turaipe.

Abdulmaguid has reportedly pledged allegiance to ISIS.

The operation against ISIS-in-

spired militants started on August 2 when the breakaway group tried to raise the black ISIS flag in Barangay Dapiawan, Datu Salibo in Maguindanao.

But since then, the MILF source said they have been able to overrun “many posts” of the enemies, and recover more than 20 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in what they believe was the main headquarters of the group in Barangay Andavit in Datu Salibo town.

Eleven of these IEDs were recovered three days ago, he said.

“We have overran many strategic posts of the JMA, we recovered many items, materials believed to be used in manufacturing IEDs, black flag and others,” he said adding that the company-size group came from adja-

cent municipalities.

The MILF official said when Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) founding chairman Ameril Umbra Kato died in 2015, Kagi Kari-alan Animbang succeeded him.

However, a faction headed by Esmael Abubakar, who is also known as Bungos, broke away from BIFF. And from Abubakar’s group came the JMA group.

The MILF has endorsed the fatwa issued on July 25 by the Bangsamoro Dal Al-Ifta against violent extremism in Mindanao.

The ruling cited the need to “fight violent extremism on the land and promotion of division among Muslims, as compliance with the injunction of the Quran and the Prophetic Tradition (Al-Hadith).”

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BusinessMirror

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Solon to police, military: No holds barred in fight vs 'keyboard terrorists'

BY JOVEE MARIE N. DELA CRUZ
@joveemarie

THE chairman of the House Committee on Public Information is urging the military and the police to strengthen their partnership with the digital industry to curb "keyboard propagandists" advocating terrorism.

Party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy of Bagong Henerayson said the government has so far taken down 60 social-media accounts, with the help of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Anti-Cybercrime Unit and social-media companies, it deemed facilitating or supporting terrorism.

"In this age of technology where anybody can access the Internet anytime and anywhere, it is also our responsibility, particularly to the young generation, to deny terrorists any social-media platform to spread their cause," she added in a news statement issued on Wednesday.

Dy has already filed House Bill 1378 seeking to establish Magna Carta for Philippine Internet Freedom, cybercrime prevention and law enforcement, cyber defense and national cybersecurity.

As the country moves to provide wider access to Internet through its

free Wi-fi to public places, Dy said it was important to tighten the monitoring of social-media accounts promoting extremist propaganda, but without impeding the rights of the people.

According to the lawmaker, the Armed Forces (AFP) has reported that it was closely monitoring about 300 accounts on various social-media platforms spreading terrorist propaganda.

"We laud the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other law-enforcement agencies for their vigilance in monitoring social-media accounts that espouse terrorism and terrorist activities," Dy said.

"However, I feel we should do more in order to protect this public space that's accessible to many, including children. We should not only guard the citizenry against the misuse of social-media platforms to forward terrorism, but also to the kind of information that is available out there," she said.

Earlier, the Department of Information and Communications Technology has warned in June that those who take part in spreading terrorist propaganda online could face arrest for "cyber rebellion" or "cyber sedition".

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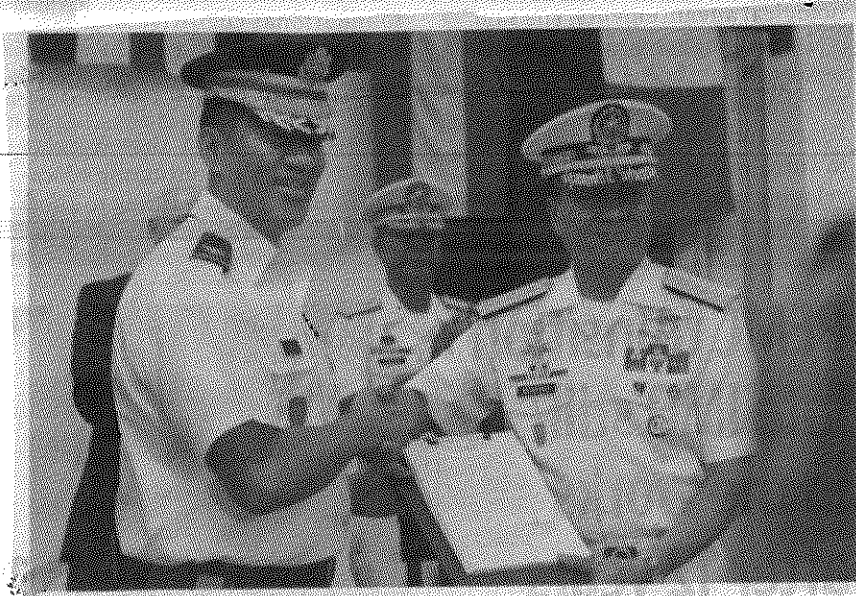
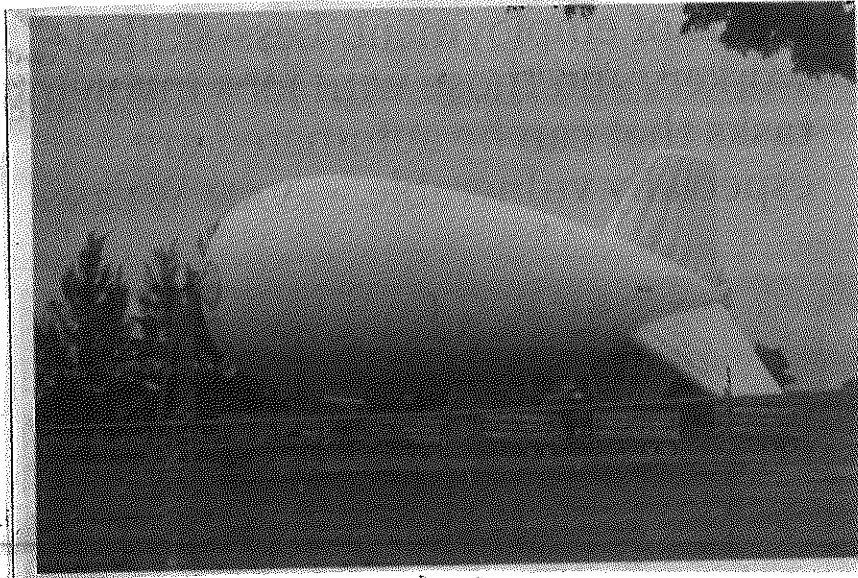
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Jusmag turns over TARS radar system to PHL Navy



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PHOTO on the left shows the 28M Class Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS) anchored at the Naval Education and Training Command in Zambales. Next photo shows Col. Ernest C. Lee, chief of the Joint US Military Assistance Group and Vice Adm. Ronald Joseph S. Mercado, flag officer in charge of the Philippine Navy shake hands after signing the formal turnover documents awarding the TARS to the Philippine Navy. RECTO/MERCENE

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By RECTO MERCENE

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COL. Ernest C. Lee, chief of the Joint US Military Assistance Group (Jusmag) in the Philippines, formally transferred a new 28M Class Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS) to Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy (PN) Vice Adm. Joseph Ronald S. Mercado in a turnover ceremony at the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) in Zambales on Tuesday.

Mercado was the guest of honor and keynote speaker, and US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Michael Klecheski also delivered remarks during the turnover.

The 28M Class TARS is a self-sustained, rapidly deployable, unmanned lighter-than-air platform that can rise to an altitude of 5,000 feet while

tethered by a single cable.

Some members of the diplomatic beat suggested that this radar be immediately deployed in the Pagasa Island in the West Philippine Sea to monitor the area and immediately report any signs of incursions by foreigners in real time.

The Department of Foreign Affairs lamented that the report by Party-list Rep. Gary C. Alejano of Magdalo that a Chinese flag has been mounted on a pipe and planted on a sand cay some 7 nautical miles Northeast of Kota Island in the Kalayaan Island happened in July.

Alejano, a former marine captain, would not divulge his source, but said he was told that the flag was discovered around the third week last month.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio over the weekend said

China is guarding the sandy cay located some 2.5 nautical miles off Pagasa Island, which is well within its 12-nautical-mile territorial waters. China reportedly has two frigates, a coast guard vessel and two military fishing boats in the area.

Pagasa also serves as the seat of government of Kalayaan town.

Sixteen Philippine Naval Information and Communication Technology Center personnel are engaged in a rigorous six-week training program at the NETC in Zambales to learn assembly, handling, operation, maintenance and troubleshooting for the TARS. These 16 students will become instructors for the next class of operators.

Through this donation, the PN is poised to enhance its capability in Maritime Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance by effectively detecting maritime

and air traffic within the country's coastal waters using sensors. Moreover, it will also be utilized in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) operations.

The TARS includes a weather station that provides telemetry data for the monitoring of ambient temperature, pressure, wind speed and other parameters to successfully operate the system.

The NETC in Zambales is the staging point for the TARS as it is the largest PN base with flat terrain, and fits the minimum requirement of 300 square feet for the launching of the system.

The donation is part of the US Maritime Security Initiative (MSI), a capacity-building assistance program for Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, that aims to improve their ability to address a range of maritime challenges.

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Mindanao
Standard

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We lost 10 men fighting rebels – – Iqbal

THE Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group said Wednesday it had lost 10 fighters in battles to stop a "growing force" of radical militants who support the Islamic State group.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front said it was seeking to prevent the militants from gaining a foothold in an area of Mindanao island that the MILF calls its own, senior rebel leader Mohagher Iqbal said.

Iqbal said 50 or so militants had pledged allegiance to IS and had ties to gunmen waging a deadly three-month-old battle with government forces in the southern city of Marawi.

"The radical elements are growing as a force," Iqbal added.

An AFP video journalist who joined the MILF soldiers on Tuesday said the fighting was centered on vast marshy forests and

farmlands near the town of Datu Salibo.

MILF men were filmed firing automatic weapons from a house, crossing streams and marshes with their machine guns, automatic rifles and rations raised above their heads, and inspecting the ruins of burnt houses.

Datu Salibo is about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Marawi and about 800 kilometers south of Manila.

Iqbal put the MILF death toll from the fighting, which began early this month, at 10.

He said the militants had also sustained fatalities, although he could not give confirmed numbers.

The 10,000-strong MILF has been leading a decades-long rebellion to establish an independent or autonomous homeland in Mindanao for the mainly Catholic Philippines' Muslim minority.

The conflict has claimed more than

100,000 lives.

The MILF signed a peace agreement with the previous administration in 2014 that envisages an autonomous Muslim homeland in Mindanao, and is hoping President Rodrigo Duterte can shepherd a final deal through a reluctant Congress.

However, a range of more hardline militants, including former MILF members, oppose any form of peace with the government and some have in recent years pledged allegiance to IS.

The MILF has repeatedly warned that, if the peace process collapses, it will lose many of its younger members to IS-aligned groups.

Hundreds of IS supporters occupied parts of Marawi in late May.

Government forces have been unable to dislodge the militants in Marawi despite a massive, US-backed military campaign. AFP

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

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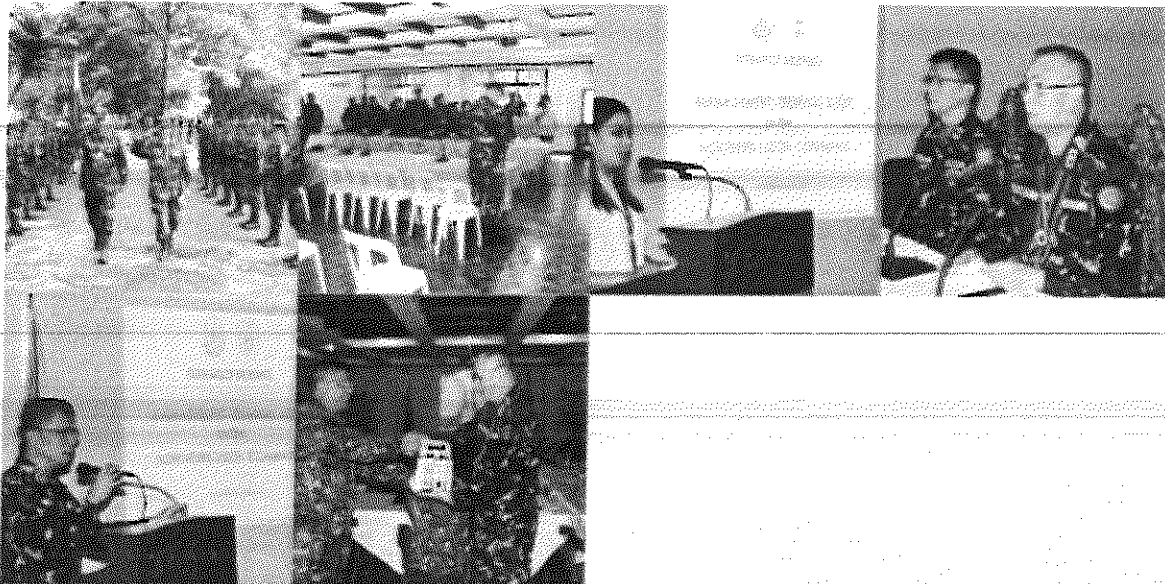
<http://dwdd.com.ph>

BRIEFING | NOLCOM Management Audit

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on August 23, 2017 at 2:48 PM

10 0

CAMP GEN SERVILLANO, AQUINO, San Miguel, Tarlac (DWDD) – The leadership and personnel of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) welcomed the arrival of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Internal Auditor, MGen Leandro A Loyao III last August 16, 2017 followed by an entrance briefing regarding Management Audit of NOLCOM. **NOLCOM PAO / MCAG**



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<http://dwdd.com.ph>

HIGHLIGHTS | NOLCOM Commander's Cup 2017

Posted by Alvin Santiago on August 23, 2017 at 2:05 PM

CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac (DWDD) – Highlights during the 2-day NOLCOM Commander's Cup held at Camp Aquino Firing Range from 19-20 Aug 2017. NOLCOM PAO



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

<http://retiredanalyst.blogspot.com>

Govt troops run after Abu raiders

From the Manila Times (Aug 22): **Govt troops run after Abu raiders**

Security forces have been deployed to Basilan to hunt down Abu Sayyaf terrorists who raided a village in the restive Muslim province, the Philippine Army spokesman said.

The Western Mindanao Command's (WestMinCom) Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay on Tuesday said troops will not let up in their hunt for the bandits, whom authorities have blamed for a spate of deadly attacks in the province.

She added that at least nine people were reported dead and nine injured in the attack in Maluso town on August 21.

But local police, quoting wounded victims who were brought to Zamboanga City, said as many as 30 people were injured in the attack by about 50 gunmen in Tubigan village.

One victim, Marcelino Ramos, 31, said the attackers were members of groups linked to the Islamic State.

Petinglay said pro-government militia and soldiers from the 68th Infantry Battalion clashed with the terrorist who were forced to withdraw but not after they burned at least five houses and a multi-purpose hall.

She added that prior to the raid, troops captured on August 19 an Abu Sayyaf encampment in Mangalut village in Akbar town where the terrorists assemble improvised explosives.

The area, the spokesman said, was being used by rebel leader Nurhassan Jamiri.

Soldiers recovered assorted materials used in the manufacture of improvised explosives, including rifle magazines, cell phones, batteries and solar panels.

Troops chasing the terrorists, who escaped the military raid, caught up with them the next day and in a clash killed three gunmen—Omar Abdurahim, Kahim Jovel Indanan and Ekram Alam.

Five others—Abduhari Kabus, Boy Idris, Hasan Kabus, Mammang and Jaber Sali—were wounded in the fighting but they managed to escape.

<http://www.manilatimes.net/govt-troops-run-abu-raiders/346154/>

Posted by [Retired Analyst](#) at 6:20 PM

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

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

Troops start clean-up drive in Marawi

From the Philippine News Agency (Aug 22): Troops start clean-up drive in Marawi

Government forces have been deployed to undertake clean-up operation of the "grimy and ruined streets" as fighting continues in the "main battle area" of the besieged city of Marawi.

The Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said in a statement e-mailed to the Philippine News Agency that security personnel, armed with brooms, grass cutters, bolo and white wash, roamed in areas of the city already declared "cleared" of enemy presence.

The clean-up drive initiated by the Joint Task Force Tabang headed by Col. Thomas Sedano is dubbed as "Kaplimpiyo tano ko Kalilintad" in Maranao, which means in Tagalog as "Maglinis tayo para sa kapayapaan (Let us clean for peace).

The target areas of the clean-up drive are the roads in Barangays Emie Punud, Matampay, Sarimanok, Marawi poblacion and Malalat.

Utilizing all the Civil Military Operation units available, the group was successful in cleaning up what was left of the fighting after Daesh-inspired Maute group attacked Marawi City.

Sedano said they "will do it little by little" since they lack manpower to undertake clean-up drive.

But Sedano said they will ensure that the streets will not look as grubby and filthy as how it appeared to be before "we started cleaning up,"

"Our primary intention is to avoid an epidemic that could plague our communities by the time residents of Marawi (City) will be allowed to come back," the Westmincom said, quoting Sedano said saying.

The clean-up drive for religious icons such as mosques was launched on Saturday, August 19, in Barangay Lilod, Tulali, Marawi City.

Around 15 policemen and a team of soldiers cleaned and undertake minor repairs of the Saad Huzam Almusairi Masjid located in the area.

Senior Supt. Rolando Anduyan, Joint Task Group PNP commander, said they deployed Maranao policemen to undertake clean-up of mosques "to specifically address cultural sensitivity issues,"

"They are the proper persons who know how to do the job without violating religious practices and beliefs," Anduyan said.

"We will continue doing this in partnership with the police so that mosques that have been preserved will be able to cater Moslem believers immediately by the time we give a green light for soldiers to go back to their homes," Brig. Gen. Joselito Rolando Bautista, Joint Task Force Marawi commander, said.

He said the next in line for clearing are mosques inside the Main Battle Area.

"Your uniformed troops will be continually involved in rehabilitation activities within and outside Marawi City," Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Westmincom chief said.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1007079> Posted by Retired Analyst at 6:56 AM

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