

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

14 February 2017

Tuesday

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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | FEBRUARY 14, 2017 | TUESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING THE COUNTRY
(As of 5:00 PM on Feb. 13, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE 6:21 AM

SUNSET 6:00 PM

MOONRISE 8:54 PM

MOONSET 9:32 AM

FULL MOON FEB 11 8:13 AM

LAST QUARTER FEB 19 1:13 AM

LOW TIDE 7:09 AM

HIGH TIDE 1:15 PM

0.05 Meter 0.37 Meter

Partly cloudy to overcast with rain showers

Partly cloudy to overcast with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms

Light rain

	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 15	FEB 16		
METRO MANILA	22-30°C	23-30°C	TAGAYTAY	18-27°C	22-28°C	TACLOBAN	21-29°C	21-28°C
TUGUEGARAO	19-27°C	21-30°C	LEGAZPI	24-29°C	24-30°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	21-28°C	21-29°C
LAOAG	19-30°C	22-31°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25-31°C	25-32°C	METRO DAVAO	21-29°C	21-28°C
BAGUIO	10-21°C	12-22°C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	24-29°C	24-30°C	ZAMBOANGA	23-32°C	25-31°C
SBMA/CLARK	20-28°C	22-30°C	METRO CEBU	23-29°C	23-29°C	<p style="font-size: x-small;">SMART TV. PHILIPINA K'DU</p>		

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'Prepare for the Big One'

Phivolcs warns Valley Fault residents

By HELEN FLORES

Residents of Metro Manila and nearby provinces should prepare for the "Big One," a magnitude 7.2 earthquake to be generated by the West Valley Fault, which is ripe for movement.

Amid the devastation caused by the magnitude 6.7 earthquake in Surigao, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) yesterday appealed to residents of Metro Manila and nearby provinces to prepare for a powerful earthquake that could kill thousands.

"Everyone must learn from the recent effects of the magnitude 6.7 earthquake in Surigao del Norte. If

a similar event happens in a highly urbanized area, the effects can be more devastating," Phivolcs director Renato Solidum warned.

State seismologists have repeatedly warned the public that the West Valley Fault is ripe for movement.

The West Valley Fault, Solidum said, moves roughly every 400 years. The last major earthquake generated by this fault was in 1658 or 357 years ago.

The 100-kilometer fault traverses parts of Bulacan through Quezon City, Marikina, Makati, Pasig, Taguig

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Prepare From Page 1

and Muntinlupa in Metro Manila, San Pedro, Biñan, Sta Rosa, Cabuyao and Calamba in Laguna, and Carmona, General Mariano Alvarez and

Silang in Cavite.

A 2004 study funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency for Phivolcs and the Metropolitan Manila De-

velopment Authority showed that the magnitude 7.2 quake could kill up to 34,000 people and injure 100,000 others due to collapsed buildings.

Solidum explained that the movement of the Philippine Fault (Surigao segment) would not trigger the move-

ment of faults farther like the West Valley Fault

Phivolcs continued to record aftershocks from the magnitude 6.7 quake that hit Surigao last Friday night, killing at least eight people and injuring hundreds.

More than 150 aftershocks

have been recorded as of yesterday morning, Phivolcs said.

At 3:51 a.m. yesterday, an aftershock of magnitude 4.1 struck Surigao. It was reportedly felt at Intensity 3 in the city.

Phivolcs earlier warned the public to brace for more after-

shocks from the magnitude 6.7 quake that could collapse already damaged structures.

Eastern Mindanao, including Surigao del Norte, is one of the earthquake prone areas in the country because of the Philippine Fault and Philippine Trench.

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CBCP: WE CAN WORK WITH DUTERTE

STORY BY JOCELYN R. UY

■ **Archbishop Villegas: A group of bishops in touch with a Cabinet official who's an ex-seminarian**

■ **Church and government should look for middle ground for the good of Filipinos, he says**

■ **'Walk for Life' on Saturday will send message that prayers, not blood, should fill the streets**

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FROM A1

By Jocelyn R. Uy
@mj uy/INQ

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is hoping to engage an increasingly antagonistic Duterte administration in "greater critical collaboration," its president, Archbishop Socrates Villegas, said on Monday.

At the Meet Inquirer Multimedia forum, the Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop disclosed that the 120-strong CBCP had designated a group of bishops, whom he declined to name, to keep the communication channel open.

Villegas said this group was doing "pretty well," having been able to establish a connection with one of President Duterte's Cabinet secretaries, an ex-seminarian. There are three former seminarians in the Cabinet: Leoncio Evasco, Ernesto Pernia and Ismael Sueno.

"There is a level of openness with the government because [it] is still composed of Filipinos and most of them Catholics and three of them ex-seminarians and they are also in need of our pastoral care," said the 56-year-old prelate.

"We look at it from the big-picture point of view and looking at the pro and anti as both our parishioners. We want to keep the communication lines open to all sectors of society because we are bishops," Villegas said.

Villegas was asked why the Church was seemingly hesitant to lead its flock into a moral outrage amid the wave of ethical and moral issues hounding the country under Mr.



INQUIRER FORUM-GUEST Archbishop Socrates Villegas, the guest in the Meet Inquirer Multimedia forum on Monday, receives tokens from Inquirer president/CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez. —ALEXIS CORPUS

Duterte's unorthodox style of leadership just as it did during the dark days of martial law.

The CBCP head noted that "critical collaboration" was also the Church's response during the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, listening not just to human rights victims but also keeping the line open to dialogue with the government.

Striking a balance

Villegas said the Church was very vocal and active during the Marcos regime, but there were also occasions during those years when then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin found himself attending socials in Malacañang or celebrating Mass for Marcos.

"It was walking a tightrope,

striking a balance between being a prophet of denunciation and yet a minister of healing and reconciliation. And until now, that is clearly our mission," said Villegas, Sin's protégé.

"We will denounce what is evil but we will also offer the ministry of healing to those who are willing and ready to receive it," he said.

The Church and the Duterte administration have been at loggerheads over a wide range of issues, particularly the rising number of deaths in the President's bloody war on drugs and the moves in Congress to reinstate the death penalty.

On Jan. 30, the CBCP issued a pastoral statement, its strongest message so far, opposing the revival of the death penalty as

Congress began plenary debates on House Bill No. 4727, a consolidated version of seven bills on capital punishment.

Villegas has also endorsed a grand procession, dubbed "Walk for Life," on Feb. 18 initiated by the lay group Laiko following the CBCP pastoral letter to protest the spate of drug-related killings in the country and proposals to revive the death penalty.

During the forum, Villegas said the procession, from 4:30 a.m. to 7 a.m., was aimed at sending the message that the country's streets should be kept safe and should be filled with prayers, not with blood.

'We are not afraid'

"And after that, we hope that there will be more people who would be disturbed every time one human person is killed because one brother or sister killed is already too much and we should not allow this to keep on increasing," Villegas said.

He said the CBCP was not afraid of Mr. Duterte, who had repeatedly blasted the Church as "the most hypocritical institution."

"When I say we are not afraid of President Duterte, don't get me wrong. I'm not picking a fight. I am not saying we are equals. What I am saying is, there is only one thing that makes us afraid and that is sin," he said.

When asked how the CBCP would collaborate with the Duterte administration, he said the Church would start with a study of what good things the other party had done so far in combating corruption, helping the poor and reaching out to the margins, among other things. INQ

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Army officer relieved for beating militiaman

BACOLOD CITY – An Army detachment commander has been relieved from his post after he allegedly beat up a militiaman in Isabela, Negros Occidental.

Investigation showed S/Sgt Joefrey Suerte beat up Estaniel Pulmare in Barangay Cansalongon on Feb 8.

Capt. Eduardo Precioso, chief of the Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade civil military operations office, said Pulmare left his post to have lunch. When he returned, he was allegedly under the influence of liquor.

Precioso refused to elaborate on the matter, saying an investigation is ongoing.

Pulmare is reportedly bent on pressing charges against Suerte, who is his superior.

– Gilbert Bayoran

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4 NPAs killed in Masbate

By CELSO AMO

LEGAZPI CITY – Four New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed yesterday morning in an encounter with soldiers in Barangay Pangle in Aroroy, Masbate, the military reported.

Capt Joas Pramis, public affairs officer of the Army's 9th Infantry Division, said a platoon led by 1/Lt April John del Rosario was conducting combat operation at about 6:30 a.m. when they clashed with communist guerrillas.

Pramis said four rebels were killed during the 20-minute firefight and the soldiers recovered two M-16 rifles, two M-14 rifles, an M-203 rifle grenade launcher, an improvised explosive device, two handheld radios, a hand grenade, assorted ammunition and magazines

and communist propaganda materials.

Col. Fernando Trinidad, commander of the 303rd Infantry Brigade, said the bodies of the slain rebels were brought to a morgue in Aroroy town proper.

"Our troops are also verifying the complaints of poor farmers in the barangay of extortion by NPA rebels," said Trinidad.

In Itugao, a soldier and several NPA guerrillas were reportedly wounded during clashes in Asipulo town on Sunday evening.

The Army's 54th Infantry Battalion said the encounter lasted for more than an hour in Barangay Namal.

Army Captain Jefferson Somera, civil military operations officer of the 54th IB, said government troops seized one rifle left by the retreating rebels who carried their wounded companions.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office, said six NPA members were captured by members of the Army's 73rd Infantry Battalion following an encounter in Sarangani.

He identified the rebels as Suneon Salda, Jun Moda, Claude Palbe, Garzon Palbe, Rene Om-pao and Sabelo Colano.

Arevalo said the NPA is suffering tactical defeat since the AFP launched an all-out war against them nine days ago.

Arevalo claimed that while the National Democratic Front continues to push for the resumption of peace negotiations, it is clear that they are losing hold on their men on the ground.

– With Michael Punongbayan, Jose Rodel Clapano, Artemio Dumlaog, Cet Dematera, Raymund Catindig, Francis Elevado

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The Manila Times

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4 rebels slain in Masbate

LEGAZPI CITY: Four communist guerrillas were killed in a 20-minute firefight between government troops and the New People's Army in Barangay Pangle, Aroroy town in the island province of Masbate on Monday morning.

This was the first bloody encounter between the military and the rebels in the Bicol region after President Rodrigo Duterte suspended the peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines over a week ago.

Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Battalion (2IB) led by Army 1st Lt. April John del Rosario were conducting regular combat operations when they encountered the communist insurgents. The gun battle resulted in four casualties on the rebels' side.

Major Gil Perez, spokesman of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom), said soldiers from the Army's 2IB encountered at least 20 members of the NPA at about 6:20 a.m. in Barangay Pangle, Aroroy while on regular patrol.

"Our troops from 2IB under the 903 Infantry Brigade recovered two M14 rifles, two M16 rifles, one M203 grenade launcher and subversive documents from the NPAs," Perez added.

The Bicol region specifically the provinces of Sorsogon, Masbate and Camarines provinces were identified as rebels' lair.

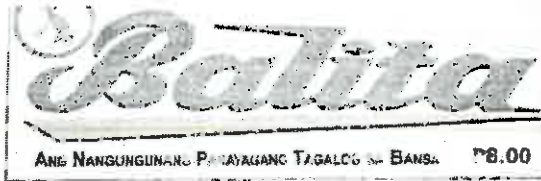
Army Colonel Fernando Trinidad, commanding officer of the Army's 903rd Infantry Brigade, urged the communist guerrillas to return to the fold of the law as the military is willing to assist them and help provide livelihood to start a new life with their families.

The Solcom said they are open for localized peace talks at the grassroots level and encourage the NPA to stop resorting to violent means, attacking government projects and civilians in the countryside.

RHAYDZ B. BARCIA

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4 sa NPA todas sa bakbakan, 2 opisyal timbog

Patay ang apat na hinihinalang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) makaraang makipagbakbakan sa militar sa Aroroy, Masbate, kahapon ng umaga, habang naaresto naman ang dalawang umano'y opisyal ng kilusan sa Caloocan City at sa Sorsogon City.

Ayon kay Capt Joash Framus, hepe ng Division of Public Affairs Office (DPAO) ng 9th Infantry Division ng Philippine Army (PA), nangyari ang engkuwentre bandang 6:30 ng umaga sa Barangay Pangle, Aroroy.

Sinabi ng DPAO na nakasagupa ng 903rd Brigade ang 20 rebelde sa natuyang barangay, at kaagad na napatay ang apat sa mga ito.

Nakarekober ng limang klase ng baril ang militar matapos ang labanan.

2 OPISYAL LAGLAG

Kinumpirma naman kahapon ni Armed Forces of the Philippines-

Public Affairs Office (AFF-PAO) chief Marine Col Edgard A Arevalo ang pagkakadakup sa umano'y NPA leaders na sina Emmanuel Alindogan Mores at Ferdinand T Castillo.

Aniya, bandang 7:50 ng gabi nitong Linggo nang maaresto ng mga pulis at sundalo si Mores, secretary at finance officer ng Larangan I, na wanted sa murder at may P240,000 patong sa ulo, sa Barangay Bibincahan, Sorsogon City.

Nitong Linggo rin naaresto sa Caloocan City si Castillo, secretary ng Metro Manila Regional Party Committee, at may arrest warrant sa double-murder at multiple attempted murder.

16-ANYOS, SUMUKO

Sa Cagayan, ilang menor de edad naman ang napaulat na bagong recruit ng NPA sa lalawigan.

Ito ang nabunyag makaraang isang bagong recruit sa kilusan ang sumuko sa awtoridad sa Baggao,

Cagayan

Batay sa report kahapon ng isang lokal na humpilan ng radyo, ang sumuko ay isang 16-anyos na babae na taga-Bgy Hacienda Intal, Baggao.

Inulat ni Lt Col Kember Baylous, commanding officer ng 17th Infantry Battalion, na may tatlo pang menor de edad na kamag-anak din umano ng dalagita ang nagiatago sa Bgy Balambi sa Sto Niño.

Ayon pa sa report, matinding takot ang nararamdaman ngayon ng dalagita para sa kanyang mga kasamahan na pawang bagong recruit din.

Nabanggit na pawang estudyante ng Hacienda Intal National High School sa Baggao ang mga bagong recruit nang hikayang sumapi sa Charlie Platoon sa West Committee ng NPA noong nakaraang buwan.

**Fer Taboy,
Francis Wakefield
at Liezle Basa Iñigo**

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

CGPA visits Mechanized Infantry Division

Lui Claudio



CAMP O'DONNELL, Capas, Tarlac – LTGEN GLORIOSO V MIRANDA AFP, Commanding General of the Philippine Army visited Headquarters of the Mechanized Infantry Division led by MGEN EDGAR F GONZALES AFP based at Camp O'Donnell Brgy Sta Lucia, Capas, Tarlac on 11 February 2017.

An information briefing, tour of facilities and Capability Demonstration of the newest armored vehicle of the Mechanized Infantry Division, the M113A2, Caliber .50 with Red Dot Sight, Remote Controlled Weapon Station (RCWS) and Unmanned Turret System (UTS) was demonstrated to LTGEN MIRANDA and his party.

All these vehicles have the M113 APC platform. These vehicles have a top land speed of 64 kph and top water speed of 5.6 kph. It has long been used in combat in various areas of our country and is proven to be tough and effective. These vehicles were acquired through the Armor Acquisition Project under the AFP's Capability Upgrade Program.

During this visit LTGEN MIRANDA was able to give his personal message to the troops. He emphasized the importance of combined arms and encouraged everyone to have a good teamwork in order to achieve our mission and to realize how potent and how powerful really our capability.

LTGEN MIRANDA also impressed with the performance of the Mechanized Infantry Division during the conduct of Capability Demonstration and He congratulates MGEN GONZALES and his troops for a job well done.



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

NEW BEGINNING | Another NPA Surrender in Surigao del Sur

Lui Claudio



CAMP EVANGELISTA, Cagayan de Oro City — Another member of the New Peoples Army returned to the mainstream society with the help of the 36th Infantry Battalion in Surigao del Sur at 7 o'clock last night, 12 February 2017.

Realizing the futility of the armed struggle, this 23-year-old Manobo (one of the IP Tribes in Caraga) from San Miguel, Surigao del Sur chose to be with his family and live a normal life. He surrendered his M16A1 rifle with one fully-loaded magazine.

Ltc Randolph Rojas, 36IB Commanding Officer welcomed him and ensured to facilitate the benefits that are due to him. "I welcome our brother who finally decided to take the right path. Just like his other comrades who also made the same decision earlier, we will facilitate the benefits based from the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) of the Provincial Government of Surigao del Sur. The program is designed to help all members of the NPA who may wish to return to the mainstream society and start a new and peaceful life with their family."

In 4ID Area of Responsibility covering Northern Mindanao and Caraga Regions, the NPA's regular members mostly come from the Indigenous Peoples. (data is based on the revelations of the former NPAs)

"While we are happy for the decision of our brother as he finally embraced peace, we are still saddened by the grave violation of the NPA leaders on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) Law, Human Rights, and International Humanitarian Law when they continue to arm our Indigenous Peoples to exploit our IP communities and force them to join their money-making and extortion activities." Said by MGen Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr., 4ID Commander in his statement.

"Together with all the Tribal Leaders and IP communities, the peace-loving people of Mindanao, and all the Human Rights Advocates, we ask the NPAs to put an end to all your atrocities and finally heed the call of our President for Unity and Nation Healing. There are programs that are designed to cater your individual needs and will help you go back to mainstream society and live peacefully with your families and loved ones."



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Army division chief reaches out to Maguindanao's orphans of war

Philippine News Agency

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao – With peace prevailing in its area of jurisdiction, the Army's 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division, led by Brigadier General Arnel B. Dela Vega, 6th ID Multi-Sectoral Advisory Board, Goldin Institute Philippines (GIP) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), launched over the weekend its Peace and Development Program in a remote village in Maguindanao.

The program, dubbed as Project "Kagkapia" (Hope), was launched with the support of Regional Governor Mujiv Hataman through the Humanitarian Emergency Action Response Team (HEART) and Dr. Susana Anayatin of GIP, aims to extend help and psychological intervention to orphans of Markaz-ul Aytam Orphanage Center in Barangay Gang, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, 6th ID Public Affairs Office chief, said "Project "KAGKAPIA" or Hope," benefited 280 children who are orphans of war due to the conflict in the region.

Most of these children, with ages ranging from 8 to 22 years old, came from conflict-affected areas in the five provinces of ARMM: Maguindanao; Lanao Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi.

The peace and development project includes activities such as the distribution of sports equipment, slippers, hygiene and sanitary kits, food supplies and the feeding program, Capt. Encinas said.

Physical enhancement of the orphanage's facilities through repair and renovation to be facilitated by the 6th Civil-Military Operations Battalion with construction materials provided by the regional governor, Hon. Mojiv S. Hataman, shall also be undertaken to uplift the living conditions of the orphans.

"The objectives of Project "KAGKAPIA" aims to make the orphans feel that the government and other sectors of the society care for them and guide them to have high hopes for their future," Encinas added.

Convergence of efforts among various stakeholders for the project is also sought by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to realize the whole of nation approach in achieving lasting peace and development.

"Orphans of war, if not properly taken cared of, can be potential source of recruits by bad elements or even terrorists/extremists hence, project "KAGKAPIA" is 6ID's tool to insulate the children from their influence," said Brig. Gen. Dela Vega.

The Markaz-ul Aytam Orphanage Center is administered by Ustadz Hasan Maloon relying only from voluntary contributions from benevolent sources.

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Army, PNP defenses up vs. rebels attacks

Visayan Daily Star

Increasing New People's Army attacks in various areas of the country, have been noted in the past several days and both the Philippine Army and National Police in Negros Island Region are not taking chances by re-visiting their offensive and defensive strategies.

Senior Supt. William Senoron, provincial police director of Negros Occidental, also said yesterday that he reconvened the Joint Peace Security Coordinating Council to review their security contingencies, after the unilateral ceasefire was lifted.

The JPSCC meeting Friday attended by commanders of the 6th Special Action Battalion, Regional Public Safety Battalion 18, 62nd Infantry Battalion, Public Safety companies, and other law enforcement agencies, also focused on the realignment of security forces, in anticipation of possible NPA tactical offensives.

Senoron said the PNP will be actively supporting the internal security operations of the Philippine Army, especially in intelligence gathering.

The Negros Occidental Police Provincial Office is also consolidating its public safety units that are deployed in others areas of the province.

Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, 3rd Infantry Division commander, maintained that livelihood in the countryside is the "key" in the fight against insurgency.

"With the support of the government, the non-government organizations, the military and the people themselves, we will work hard to make such efforts bear fruit," Aying said.

Brig.Gen. Francisco Delfin, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, meanwhile, encourages localized peace talks.

"There have been precedents of localized peace talks, although these were hidden, since the focus was on the peace talks at the national level," Delfin said.

He said that in the past six months, "NIR experienced a peaceful environment, in the absence of insurgency-related incidents, because of the unilateral ceasefire observed by both the CPP-NPA and the Philippine Army."

Priest-turned-rebel Frank Fernandez, spokesman of the National Democratic Front in Negros, has repeatedly turned down offers for a localized ceasefire.

After the unilateral ceasefire was lifted, Army soldiers stationed in Negros island went on combat mode in anticipation of NPA attacks following clashes in Iloilo and other areas of the country.

B

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Army intensifies security for 20th CRAM in Tandag City

Philippine Information Agency

In line with the 20th Caraga Regional Athletic Meet (CRAM) here, the 36th Infantry Battalion (36IB), Philippine Army has intensified its security operations in the city.

In a press statement, 36IB commanding officer Lt. Colonel Randoiph Rojas said he is committed to support in terms of security concerns and other tasks for the duration of the CRAM 2017.

"We are utilizing all our available resources from personnel, mobility, and other assets just to ensure the safety of the athletes, coaches, trainers, spectators and the general public, as well," said Lt. Col. Rojas.

Some K-9 units with the capability to detect bombs and other IEDs, casualty medical evacuation team (CMET) including the field ambulance units were also deployed.

According to 36IB Civil Military Operations officer Captain Al Anthony Pueblias, being one of the members of the Technical Working Committee on Security, their troops are mobilized based on the approved security plan in close coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP), the chair of the committee.

Part of the plan according to Pueblias is the conduct of the joint AFP-PNP checkpoints in the identified entry and exit points in the city.

Feature: 4CMOBn change of command: a challenge, gratitude in uniformed service

Philippine Information Agency

In a recent Turn-Over of Command Ceremony held at the Kalayaan Hall, Camp Bancasi in this city, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Valdez IV became the 4th Civil-Military Operations (Kasaligan) Battallion's (4CMOBn's) newest commanding officer.

Valdez replaces outgoing battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Rey Pasco who assumed command last March 14, 2015 until February 10, 2017.

Upon relinquishing his post, Lt. Col. Pasco highlighted in his privileged speech the indigenous peoples (IP)-centric approach on solving the challenges of peace and development particularly in Caraga region where he piloted the capacitation of the IP youth.

"For the first time, the youth from the different Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs) in Caraga gathered and actively participated in a summit which equipped them to become better leaders and effective communicators. The activity was successfully conducted in collaboration with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Caraga under the leadership of Dir. Abner Caga wherein the 1st Regional IP Leadership and Communicators Summit held on December 18-21, 2015 at Tiberias Retreat House, Carmen, Agusan del Norte. Consequently, the group was formally registered at the Security of Exchange Commission (SEC) as Caraga Mindanao Cultural Development Incorporated," recalled Pasco.

He added that the unit is also instrumental in the creation of Indigenous People Crises Committee (IPCC), together with Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). This group is composed of IP leaders from different CADT areas in Caraga and was organized last November 14, 2015 to provide a venue for ICC/IP leaders to meet, discuss and agree amongst themselves the different issues and concerns currently being confronted by the ICCs.

Meanwhile, in his assumption speech, Lt. Col. Valdez recounted his significant experiences in the military service. He said that he has learned the value of constant learning as a means for personal and professional growth.

"I am more inclined in doing my best and to continue what my predecessor have started and accomplished especially that he has able to make a difference during his term in this battalion," Valdez said.

As the presiding general officer during the change of command, MGen Benjamin Madrigal, Jr., 4th Infantry Division commander, Philippine Army expressed his gratitude to the local media partners and PIA Caraga for the favorable information and communication support which is essential and instrumental in keeping the people abreast about what the Phil. Army is doing for them. He said that it is important to let the public know the army's programs and projects.

Madrigal urged the partner-stakeholders to continue supporting the 4CMOBn in advancing the peace, security and development in the region. Likewise, Madrigal recognized and reiterated its strong partnership with the PIA Caraga wherein several undertakings were carried out successfully.

"The best quality of a Civil-Military Operations Officer should have good background of intelligence since it deals with different government and non-government sectors and it disseminates relevant information to the community," said MGen Madrigal.

He also stressed that one of the many roles of the Civil Military Operations is to strengthen stakeholder engagements and deliver information effectively and to the communities. "I have placed my trust and confidence in the leadership of these two officers. So, I am challenging them to bear the mantle of perpetuating the rules and mandates of an excellent serviceman," emphasized MGen Madrigal.

Media partners, some heads of government agencies and private stakeholders witnessed the Change of Command Ceremony.

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Sarangani, ComVal clashes leave one soldier wounded

Mindanao Times

A SOLDIER of the 73rd Infantry Battalion was wounded after a series of armed clashes with the NPAs in Sarangani and Compostela Valley on Saturday, Feb. 11.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesperson of 10th Infantry Division, said the first incident occurred around 10:30 a.m. on Saturday when troops engaged communist guerrillas belonging to the Front Guerilla 71 in a two-hour firefight in Sitio Tangis, Barangay Little Datal Anggas, Sarangani.

The wounded soldier, whose name is withheld pending notification of his family, was immediately airlifted to Camp Panacan hospital in Davao City for medical attention.

Meanwhile, three consecutive firefights occurred in Barangay Bollican, Laak, Compostela Valley between troops of 60th IB and the NPA belonging to Guerilla Front 34 and Pulang Bagani Company 4 starting at 10:40 a.m.

The exchange of gunfire lasted for about an hour.

Simba fighting vehicles were immediately dispatched resulting to another 40-minute gunbattle against the withdrawing NPA 700 meters away from the first encounter at around 11:50 a.m. of the same day. The troops involved in the first encounter pursued the NPA in the same area which resulted into half-an-hour clash.

The troops of 73rd IB were in pursuit of the fleeing NPAs following a series of clashes in Sitio Kisoy, Barangay Little Baguio, Malita, Davao Occidental and Sitio Dulid, Barangay Datal Anggas, Alabel, Sarangani on Feb. 6 and 8, respectively.

On the other hand, troops of the 60th IB pursuing the NPA in Laak, Compostela Valley earlier stumbled upon several NPA encampments in barangays Macopa, Langtud and Bollukan.

Batchar said the latest incidents involved the employment of MG 520 attack helicopter and 105mm howitzer which delivered fire support to the engaged troops.

Ground forces are now conducting clearing operations.

In a separate report from the 67th Infantry Battalion, troops on board three KM450 military trucks were attacked with an improvised explosive device at the vicinity of Daw-an, Barangay San Jose, Caraga, Davao Oriental around 2:45 a.m. of Feb. 11. No soldier was hurt in this incident.

The 10th Infantry Division earlier accounted 10 NPA rebels who surrendered since Feb. 1.

Maj. Gen Rafael Valencia, the division commander, said relentless combat operations will continue until they cripple the NPA.

"We are urging NPA members to return to the folds of the law and abandon the group that continuously extorts, attacks and harass our fellow Filipinos," he added.

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Four abducted by NPA, including brgy. captain

Mindanao Times

A BARANGAY official and his wife, along with two others, were allegedly kidnapped by the New People's Army in two separate incidents on Feb. 5 and 8.

Based on the report of 25th Infantry Battalion, Barangay Pangyan chief Rene Carlos and wife Maribeth Carlos were abducted along the road in Trento, Agusan del Sur on Feb. 5. Their companions were released while the couple was hogtied.

There's no news yet of the demand from the armed men on the couple's abduction.

Meanwhile, in a separate report from 71st Infantry Battalion, Jun-jun Custodio and his son, Marjun, were allegedly abducted by armed men, led by alias Mokloy who is reportedly a team leader of NPA's Millisya ng Bayan, in Barangay Malamudao, Maco, Compostela Valley on Feb. 8.

Brig. Gen Macairog Alberto, 1001st Infantry Brigade commander, said they believe the NPA kidnaps innocent civilians to use them as human shields.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen Rafael Valencia, the division commander, urged the NPA to spare civilians in their activities.

"The NPA is being used by their communist leaders as instruments of their propaganda to the extent of using them to sow fear among the innocent civilians," he said.

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Soldier, 2 civilians killed in NPA attack

Mindanao Times

THE ARMY has condemned the rebels' attack in Agusan del Sur that killed two civilians and wounded three other non-combatants on Saturday.

The attack that also killed a soldier is a clear violation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect to Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), which the communist group agreed with the Philippine government in 1998 in The Hague, Netherlands, said Lt. Col. Glenn Joy Aynera, the commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 29th Infantry Battalion (IB).

Guerillas attacked Sitio Sarog, Barangay San Isidro of Santiago, Agusan del Norte on Saturday at 5 a.m., seven hours after an earthquake hit the area.

Aynera said he sent his soldiers to the barangay after receiving reports that there were armed men conducting extortion activity in the area.

"There was a situation in that community that needed to be addressed," Ayner said. "That's why I have sent my soldiers to secure the people against these NPAs."

Upon reaching the community at around 4:30 a.m., the troopers were able to talk with some locals to confirm the report.

But around 10 fully-armed NPAs, unmindful of the civilians in the area, indiscriminately opened fire. Two civilians and one soldier were instantly killed and three other civilians were wounded in a 10-minute attack.

"We condemn their atrocious act that claimed the lives of two innocent civilians, and seriously wounding three others. We are also deeply saddened for the loss of one of our comrades," he further said.

The communist groups under the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), including the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA, signed the CARHRIHL, in which they agreed "to affirm and apply the principles of international humanitarian law in order to protect the civilian population and individual civilians."

Aynera said the agreement calls that "civilian population and civilians shall be distinguished from combatants and, together with their property, shall not be the object of attack."

"They shall likewise be protected against indiscriminate strafing," he said.

Aynera assured the public that they will "always continue to conduct peace and security operations to ensure the safety and security of the people in Agusan del Norte."

Pursuit operation is ongoing to capture the perpetrators of the attack.

The NPA declared a ceasefire in the earthquake-hit Surigao del Sur and three towns of Agusan del Norte. Santiago is not among the three towns but is in the boundary of Tubay and Jabonga, two of the three municipalities.

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

Another attack

In Laak, Compostela Valley on the same day, 60th IB troopers engaged undetermined number of NPAs guerillas in a 30-minute gunfight.

No soldier was hurt.

The attackers belong to the NPA's Guerilla Front 34 and Pulang Bagani Company (PBC) 4.

Meanwhile, two NPA amazons returned to the folds of the law after a community dialogue conducted by the troopers of 67th IB in Caraga, Davao Oriental on Friday.

Capt. Rhyan Batchar, spokesperson of 10th Infantry Division, identified the two amazons as Ka Joy, 20, and Ka Rose, 17, and both members of Guerilla Front 15.

Soldiers of 67th IB were consulting with 150 displaced families temporarily housed in Caraga Municipal Gymnasium when the two NPA amazons surrendered

The displaced families from Barangays Don Leon Balante and PM Sobrecarey of Caraga reportedly left their homes due to NPA presence in their communities.

Earlier, six NPA members returned to the folds of the law in Davao Oriental through the 67IB while two others submitted to the 73IB in Davao Occidental.

The latest surrender count is now 10.

Maj. Gen Rafael Valencia, 10th ID commander, encouraged the NPA members to leave their group before the full brunt of military capabilities will catch up with them.

"The NPA members are just victims of the manipulation of their communist leaders," he said.

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

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Rebel leader falls in Metro

BY FERNAN MARASIGAN

SECURITY forces captured an alleged ranking leader of the New People's Army (NPA) in Metro Manila, reports reaching Camp Crame, Quezon City said on Monday.

Ferdinand Castillo, tagged by the police as secretary of the NPA's Metro Manila Regional Party Com-

mittee, was arrested by intelligence agents of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Criminal Investiga-

tion and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Intelligence Service Group of the Philippine Army in Barangay Sia Quiteria, Caloocan City Sunday.

Castillo is facing a warrant of arrest for wanted for double murder and multiple attempted murder issued by Branch 63 of the Calauag, Quezon Regional Trial Court.

Seized from Castillo were a .45 cal. pistol with five bullets and assorted identification cards.

Meanwhile, Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Office, said that since the government launched an all-out war against the NPA, six rebels have been killed, 12 arrested, 14 surrendered and 19 firearms were recovered.

"It has been nine days since the AFP launched an all-out-war against the New People's Army (NPA). And since then, the com-

munist rebels had suffered several tactical defeats and the support of some frightened citizens continues to erode," Arevalo said.

"While the National Democratic Front (NDF) continues to push for the resumption of the peace negotiations, it is clear that they are losing hold of their men on the ground. They are either attacking innocent civilians and business establishments; or surrendering to the government fold," he added.

On Monday, four rebels were killed during an encounter with government forces in Masbate.

Arevalo said members of the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry Battalion and the 96th Military Intelligence Company were conducting security operations in Barangay Pangle in Masbate when they encountered around 20 NPA guerrillas.

No casualty was reported on government side.

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14 February 2017

NGAYON
Diyaryong disente ng masang Intellihente

Pahina. 6

Lider ng CPP/NPA sa MM, timbog

NI JOY CANTOS

Bumagsak sa pinagsa-
y na operatiba ng pulisya
militar ang isang mata-
na lider ng Commu-
st Party of the Philip-
ines New People's Army
PP-NPA) sa operasyon

sa Brgy Sta Quiteria, Calo-
ocan City, kamakalawa ng
hapon

Kinilala ni PNP Spokes-
man Senior Supt Dionar-
do Carlos ang nasakoteng
suspect na si Ferdinand

Castillo, Secretary ng Me-
tro Manila Regional Party
Committee.

Sinabi ni Carlos, alas-

4 20 ng hapon nang ma-
sakote ng Criminal In-
vestigation and Detection
Group-National Capital
Region at Intelligence
Service Group (ISG) ng
Philippine Army si Castillo
sa nasabing lugar

Ayon kay Carlos, bago
rito ay isinalalim sa surveil-
lance operations ang lugar
matapos na makita rito
ang presensya ng wanted
na lider ng komunistang
grupo

Si Castillo ay dinakip ng
mga awtoridad sa bisa ng
warrant of arrest sa kasong
double murder at multiple

attempted murder

Nakumpiska mula rito
ang isang cal. 45 pistol na
may limang bala at sari-sa-
ring mga identification card.

Kasalukuyan na nga-
yong humihimas ng rehas
na bakal ang suspek na
sasampahan ng karagda-
gang kasong illegal pos-
session of firearms.

14 February 2017



Pahina. 2

NPA nagdeklara ng ceasefire sa Surigao

Nagdeklara ng pansamantalang unilaterial ceasefire ang mga rebeldeng New People's Army (NPA) sa North Eastern Mindanao Region sa mga lugar na grabeng napinsala ng lindol sa Agusan del Norte at Surigao del Norte partikular na sa Surigao City

"This temporary ceasefire in areas covered by NPA Front 16, which started last February 11, 2017 and will end at 11:55 in the evening of February 20, 2017," pahayag ng National Democratic Front sa isang press statement

Ito'y isang araw naman matapos na manawagan ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa CPP-NPA-NDF na huwag atakehin ang tropa ng mga sundalo na nagsasagawa ng search, rescue at relief mission sa mga lugar na nasalanta ng lindol.

Niyang noong Pebrero 10 ng gabí a ng 6:7 maginitude ng lindol ang Surigao City at iba pang mga kanugnog nitong lugar na kumitil ng buhay ng aabot na sa siyam katao habang 202 naman iba pa ang mga nasugatan.

Ayon sa NDF, umaasa silang tatalima rin ang pulisya at militar sa pansamantalang unilaterial ceasefire sa Surigao del Norte at Agusan del Norte

Ang pansamantalang unilaterial ceasefire ay oobserbahan naman sa mga bayan ng Cabadbaran, Tubay, Jabonga at Santiago sa Agusan del Norte habang sa Surigao del Norte ay sa Surigao City

"That's a very nice gesture from them. Our troops will also not operate against them during the rehabilitation of Surigao Del Norte (and other quake-battered areas)," pahayag naman ni

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana

Samantala, dumadating pa rin ng kakapusan sa malinum na malinis na tubig ang mga residente ng Surigao City

Nanawagan na rin ang Malacañang sa mga NGO's at LGU's mna tulungan ang mga taga-Surigao City lalo sa pangangailangan sa potable water. (Joy Cantos)

14 February 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Valor awardee heads fight vs Abu Sayyaf in Sulu

BY VICTOR REYES

A RECIPIENT of the Medal of Valor, the highest military decoration in combat, is the new commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu which is going after the Abu Sayyaf in the island province.

Col. Cirilito Sobejana of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1987 assumed the post Saturday in rites presided by Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez, chief of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, in

Camp Teodulfo Bautista, the task force's headquarters, in Jolo town.

Sobejana, who was commander of the 601st Brigade based in Maguindanao before his new designation, replaced Brig. Gen. Jesus Mananquil who is now commander of the Joint Task Force National Capital Region.

Sobejana was awarded the Medal of Valor "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty" in

connection with a fierce gun battle with at least 150 Abu Sayyaf criminals in Isabela City in Basilan in January 1995. Then a captain, he led the 1st Scout Ranger Company in a two-hour firefight that led to the death of 30 Abu Sayyaf men. Sobejana sustained a bullet wound that almost severed his right arm.

Early last month, Armed Forces chief Gen. Eduardo Año set a new timetable for the military to defeat the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist

groups in Mindanao - within the first six months of the year.

Sobejana said he is confident he can finish off the Abu Sayyaf within the timeframe.

He said he would introduce some adjustments in the strategy to defeat the Abu Sayyaf. "It's not going to be an abrupt adjustment. It's just a matter of strategizing the deployment of our forces and the concept of operations that we will be undertaking."

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Rogue cops to combat ASG in Basilan

By NONDY E. LACSON

ISABELA CITY, Basilan - About 300 rogue policemen will arrive here on Thursday next week to face off with Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorists in the towns where they have holed up.

Basilan Police Provincial Office Director Sr Supt Nickson Muksan said about 50 policemen will be assigned each to Lamitan City and Maluso police stations while the Municipal Police Stations located in the towns of Akbar, Al-Barka, Hadji Mohammad Ajul, Lantawan, Sumisip, Tipo-Tipo,

Tuburan and Ungkaya Pukan will be assigned 25 policemen each from Metro Manila.

Muksan said they will be tasked to conduct foot patrols in the community where they will be assigned to and conduct checkpoints in the villages where ASG bandits are found.

"I will make these police scalawags or abusado policemen from Metro Manila conduct foot patrol in Abu Sayyaf Group areas so they will become straight," Muksan said.

Muksan, who is known as a disciplinarian in the police organization also said "ayoko ang police na

abusado (I do not like abusive cops.) The police should protect the lives and properties of the Filipino people and not to become abusado (abusive) in the community where they are assigned."

The police provincial director also said that the police scalawags who will be assigned to Basilan will not stay in office. They will always conduct patrols in the vicinity of their assigned towns.

"They will not stay inside the police office. They will conduct foot patrol in the area under the concept of police visibility," he said.

Lamitan City Mayor Rose Furigay

opposed the assignment of policemen in her city saying that she would prefer the presence of smart policemen in the city over police scalawags.

Lamitan City Councilors Ajid Dalawis, a retired police chief of Lamitan City and Malik Uyag were one in saying that the scalawags should be assigned to critical areas and join military operations against the ASG.

Councilors also said PNP Chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa should instead terminate the police scalawags from the service and recruit new ones who can protect and serve the people better.

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Pahina. 2

Ceasefire sa Surigao ikinatuwa ng Palasyo

LABIS na-ikinatuwa ng Malakanyang ang positibong pagtugon ng mga miyembro ng rebeldeng New People's Army sa panawagan ng militar na tigil-putukan sa lalawigan ng Surigao at ilang bahagi ng Agusan del Norte matapos itong yanigin ng magnitude 6.7 na lindol.

Sinabi ni Presidential Communications Office Sec. Martin Andanan na unti-unti ang pamahalaan na tutupain ng NPA ang kanilang deklarasyon at hindi ito isang bluff lamang.

Sa kasalukuyan, nagsasagawa ng damage assessment and rescue, evacuation and rehabilitation activity ang Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Aniye, kailangan lang na tuloy-tuloy ito at hindi maherdlangan upang makapagbigay ng agarang tulong ang pamahalaan sa mga biktima ng natural calamity.

Sa ulat, nakusap ang militar sa mga rebelde na huwag atakihin ang mga sundalo na

maghahaid ng tulong sa mga tinamaan ng disaster.

Sa pahayag ni Ka Oto na tagapagsalita ng NPA sa rehiyon, sinabi niyang sinimulan nila ang pagpapairal sa unilateral interin ceasefire sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan mula noong Pebrero 11.

Magpapatuloy aniya ito hanggang sa makabawi o makabwelo na ang probinsya mula sa kalamidad.

Tiniyak ni Ka Oto na hindi sila sasalakay laban sa mga militar sa kasagsagan ng interim ceasefire, hangga't hindi na asalakayin ng mga sundalo ang kanilang mga teritoryo.

Samantala, sinabi ni Presidential Communications Office Sec. Martin Andanan na tuloy-tuloy ang 'acts of building confidence measures' gaya ng socio-economic programs ng pamahalaan sa mga rebelde subalit hindi ito nangangahulugan na ibalik ang tinatawag na 'act of talking on the negotiating table'. KRIS JOSE

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Pahina. 5

EDITORIAL

PEACE, MAY PAG-ASA PA RIN

MAY malaking pag-asa pa rin na magkaroon ng kapayapaan mula sa naggigiye-rang mga pwersa ng New People's Army at Armed Forces of the Philippines at Philippine National Police.

Ito'y sa kabla ng all-out war na inilunsad ng magkabilang panig makaraang alisin ng pamahalaan at NPA ang kanya-kanyang tigil-putukan.

Isang palatandaan ang pahayag mismo ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa Surigao City gusto na niyang magkasundo-sundo ang pamahalaan at lahat ng mga rebeldeng pwersa.

Nariryan din ang sinasabi mismo ng AFP na hanggang sa NPA lang ang labanan at hindi nila gagalawin ang mga hindi armadong militante o kaalyado ng mga rebelde.

May suporta ang mga awtoridad sa pag-uusap na pararaanin sa ibang paraan kung hindi uubra ang direktang negosasyon sa pagitan ng mga lider ng mga rebelde sa ibang bansa at peace panel ng gobyerno.

Malakas din ang panawagan mismo mula sa Kongreso, kabataang estudyante mismo na militante, simbahan, mamamayan at lider-komunista gaya ni Jose Ma. Sison para sa pagbabalik sa pag-uusap na pangkapayapaan.

Ang sinasabi ng Pangulo, dapat kallmutan ang mga interes na bumabalot sa mga partido para sa pag-uusap at ang isaalang-alang ay ang interes ng buong bayan.

Ang bayan na mismo ang humihiling ng pagkakasundo-sundo.

Sana pakinggan ang mga ito ng naggigiye-rang mga pwersa na patuloy na nalalagasan, nasusugatan at nawawalan ng mga pagkaka-taon sa buhay at kinabukasan.

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FINDING ANSWERS

ROTC is good for the Filipino youth



ATTY. JOEY D. LINA
former Senator

MALACANANG'S recent approval of the plan to make the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program mandatory for all senior high school students certainly comes as good news to those yearning for a more disciplined and patriotic citizenry.

And beyond the sense of discipline and patriotism that one gets from active involvement in ROTC is the readiness to fulfill the ultimate responsibility of defending the Philippines from foreign aggression, considering that defense of the state is the duty of everyone.

It was Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew who prominently pushed the idea that an army comprised of the nation's citizenry can serve as a deterrent to foreign invaders because of the "knowledge that even if they could subdue our armed forces, they would have to keep down a whole people well-trained in the use of arms and explosives."

The move to revive mandatory ROTC comes at a time when controversies — hazing, abuses by trainers and cadet officers, corruption, among others — that hounded the program in the past are still in the minds of those who decried the 2001 killing of cadet Mark Chua who exposed corruption that plagued the ROTC at the University of Santo Tomas. After his death, ROTC became optional starting in 2002 through RA 9163 or the National Service Training Program Act.

Critics of ROTC cannot be blamed if abuses and violence in the past have created the impression that the program is no good and students are not learning anything other than marching on the field un-

der the sweltering heat of the sun. A militant youth group even claimed ROTC promotes "blind obedience" and that it is "nothing more than a fascist tool of repression used by the state to instill a militaristic mindset" among students.

But many are in favor of ROTC. Listeners of the DZMM teleradyo program, *Magpayo nga Kayo* (Saturdays, 9:30 to 10:30 am), which I now co-host with veteran broadcaster May Valle Ceniza, have called in or sent text messages to express support, saying military training fosters not only discipline but also chivalry which now seems to be waning among the youth in these modern times.

All the marching and the various formations that ROTC cadets execute under the hot sun indeed have their purpose. Leadership skills, teamwork and unity are developed and the grueling exercises instill the value of discipline and sacrifice to achieve common objectives. I should know. I became corps commander in Preparatory Military Training during my high school days.

In those days, we viewed the training as a sort of rite of passage from adolescence towards adulthood. Sporting long hair was the fad then, and like others in the bloom of youth, I didn't want to go against the trend by having the short haircut required for the training. But it didn't take long for us to learn and appreciate the value of humility and obedience to authority.

Discipline and obedience to authority developed through the ROTC program can go a long way in addressing the problems our country is faced with — from the hellish traffic jams worsened by undisciplined motorists and pedestrians, to the nightmarish drug menace.

With all the values that help shape a young person's character — aside from toughening of the physique through pushups and jumping jacks — derived from ROTC, it is essential to bring back the old glory of citizens' military training, minus all the bad things that have tarnished its image. As the idiomatic expression goes, "Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater."

To gain widespread acceptance and make the public realize the necessity of ROTC in our country's development and security, there is need to enhance the program and put in place the necessary safeguards to avoid controversies anew.

Our leaders could be guided by what Lee said when he started building Singapore's defense system to the exemplar that it is today. "We had to re-orientate people's minds to accept the need for a people's army and overcome their traditional dislike for soldiering. Only if we changed people's thinking and attitudes could we raise a large citizen army like Switzerland or Israel."

With public acceptance of an improved ROTC program, it would then be easier to implement, if the need should arise, the provision (Article 2, Section 4) in the 1987 Constitution which states that "Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service."

And the knowledge that millions of Filipinos with ROTC training would be capable of defending the motherland can indeed help deter enemies of the state.

E-mail: finding.lina@yahoo.com

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Hopes remain for revival of peace talks

THE call of over a hundred congressmen for the revival of the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) representing the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) reflects a widespread feeling that, with so much already accomplished in the talks, it would be unfortunate if they are now abandoned.

The call to revive the talks was made last Thursday by some 100 lawmakers represented by the Makabayan bloc in the House of Representatives, after the collapse of the peace talks in Rome, Italy. Frustrated by President Duterte's refusal to release immediately some 400 political detainees, the NDF-CPP-NPA panel had announced that the NPA commanders in the field were now free to determine if they would still follow their unilateral ceasefire. President Duterte answered with his own announcement cancelling the government's own ceasefire.

The Makabayan bloc in the House includes lawmakers of party-list organizations Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, Anakpawis, and Kabataan. The bloc lamented the breakdown of the talks when so much progress, it said, has already been accomplished.

The negotiating panels had held three sessions – the first two in Oslo, Norway, with the support of the Norwegian government, and the latest in

Rome, Italy. The two sides had reached agreement on several issues under Socio-Economic Reforms and Political-Constitutional Reforms. They were to take up proposals for a binding bilateral ceasefire -- to replace their separate unilateral ceasefires -- at their next meeting on February 22-25 in Utrecht, Switzerland.

In its resolution urging a revival of the talks, Makabayan stressed that the talks under the Duterte administration had gone so much farther than in previous administrations. In response to the President's statement that the peace talks would resume if there is a compelling reason that will benefit the nation, Makabayan said a "just and lasting peace" is a compelling reason to continue the talks.

The two sides will have to step back from their positions on the release of detained political prisoners and reach some middle ground. They also need to talk it out on the NPA complaint that government soldiers are helping in civic community programs in areas they claim to be under their authority.

These are minor issues compared to the solid and basic socio-economic and political-constitutional matters that they have already discussed. Even without declared ceasefires, the two sides should exert all possible efforts to avoid any encounter. In due time, the proper atmosphere for talks should come about and the peace efforts can resume.

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Navy sets sights on team crown, too

By JOEY VILLAR

PILI, Camarines Sur –Navy-Standard Insurance skipper Lloyd Reynante considers topping the team event equally important as claiming the overall individual title worth P1 million in the LBC Ronda Pilipinas 2017.

So when the 14-stage race resumes today with the 46.6-km Pili-San Jose Stage Six team time trial, the 38-year-old Reynante expects his members to give it their best shot.

"We're not thinking of the prize but the prestige of winning the team event because we want to dedicate it to Navy and our sponsor Standard Insurance," said Reynante.

"We consider the team title as important as the individual crown," he added.

After five stages, the fancied Navymen, a mix of seasoned cyclists and promising young riders, are on top with a total time of 72 hours, 48 minutes, 47

seconds, over 20 minutes ahead of Go for Gold.

Go for Gold, a squad skippered by Ronnel Hualda and coached by his wife Eds, has an aggregate clocking of 73:09:42 while the Cris Joven-led Kinetix Lab-Army is at No. 3 (73:21:41).

Bike-Extreme, a team headed by Stage Five winner Jaybop Pagnanawon, is at No. 4 (73:58:12) while RC Cola-NCR is at No. 5 (74:14:56).

Completing the top 10 are Ilocos Sur (74:21:48), Zambales (75:31:29), Neopolitan (75:31:29), Mindanao-Sultan Kudarat (77:40:03) and South Luzon (77:53:18).

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AFP: NPA suffering tactical defeat

By Audrey Morallo (philstar.com) | Updated February 13, 2017 - 5:21pm



The Philippine military is claiming that communist rebels are suffering "tactical defeat" following the decision of President Rodrigo Duterte to declare all-out war against the guerillas. File Photo

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines claimed on Monday that communist rebels are suffering a tactical defeat following a spate of kidnappings, encounters and arrests over the past few days. In a press statement, the Armed Forces declared that the New People's Army (NPA) has suffered defeats in several fronts in different provinces more than a week after President Rodrigo Duterte launched an all-out war against communist guerillas.

"And since then, the communist rebels had suffered several tactical defeats and the support of some frightened citizens continues to erode," the military said.

The AFP attributed these advances to "deliberate, surgical, focused and well-planned combat, intelligence and civil-military operations" launched by the military in various areas.

The military also asserted that the communist rebels were losing hold of their men on the ground as demonstrated by the mismatch between National Democratic Front's (NDF) call for continued peace talks and the rebels' attacks on civilians and businesses.

In Barangay Pangle in Masbate, four NPA members were killed after a 20-minute gunfight at 6:30 am on Sunday. Elements of the 2IB and 96 military intelligence encountered the rebels while conducting security operations in the area.

The troops recovered two M14 rifles, two M16, one m203 and subversive documents following the retreat of the rebels toward the southeast direction.

The military also said that two civilians and one soldier was killed in an ambush staged by NPA rebels in Agusan del Norte on February 11 while the soldiers were acting on reports on NPA presence in Santiago town.

Three civilians were also seriously wounded when the 10 rebels "indiscriminately fired" government troops. Other incidents of NPA attacks were also reported on February 11 in Caraga, Davao Oriental and on February 12 in San Fernando, Bukidnon. No casualties were recorded in these two incidents.

The AFP also reported that NPA elements abducted four civilians in two separate incidents in Trento, Agusan Del Sur on February 5 and in Moco, Compostella Valley on February 8.

On February 12, the Philippine National Police and an intelligence unit of the military arrested an NPA leader in Caloocan City.

The leader was identified as Ferdinand Castillo, secretary of the Metro Manila Regional Party Committee. The arrest was done by virtue of a warrant of arrest for double murder and multiple attempted murder charges issued by the Regional Trial Court Branch 63 in Calauag, Quezon Province.

In Sarangani, six NPA members were arrested, five of whom were carrying high-powered firearms.

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HOPE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE|| CPP declared ceasefire in SDN, after quake

Lui Claudio



The Armed Forces of the Philippines sees a silver lining as the Communist Party of the Philippines declared a unilateral ceasefire in Surigao del Norte after the province was hit by a magnitude 6.7 earthquake on Friday, February 10, 2017.

This welcome development came after the AFP's plea to the rebels not to attack the soldiers who are conducting search and rescue operations on the severely affected areas.

AFP Public Affairs Office Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said that it is a good sign to once again open the peace talks.

He also added that there are still lots of good-willed people on the side of the New People's Army.

The Armed Forces are looking forward to the rebels' cooperation not only in times of calamity. -EPJA

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

AFP open to localized peace talks with NPA groups

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Feb. 13 (PNA) --- While reflective of the dissent within the New People's Army (NPA) ranks, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is open to pursuing localized peace talks with rebels.

This was stressed by AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo 's press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City Monday.

Request for such negotiations came from NPA groups operating in the Visayas and Masbate, he added. These groups are reportedly surprised at the decision of their national leadership to terminate the unilateral ceasefire with the government effective 11:59 p.m. of Feb. 10.

And while the military is open to such negotiations, Arevalo said a mechanism must be first crafted so that common ground rules between the two parties can be set-up. (PNA)

RMA/PFN

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NPA Violates CARHRIHL, indiscriminately killed 2 Civilians and 1 Soldier, Wounding 3 More

Lui Claudio



BUTUAN CITY — The NPA Terrorists Violated the only agreement that the CPP-NPA-NDF had so far signed with the government, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect to Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), when they swooped down a peaceful community of Sitio Sarog, Barangay San Isidro, Santiago town of Agusan del Norte and killed two civilians, wounding three others and killed one soldier at around 5 A.M, 11 February 2017.

A report was earlier received by the 29th Infantry Battalion about the presence of the said extortionist-terrorists in the area.

“There is a situation in that community that needs to be addressed that is why I have sent my soldiers to secure the people against these NPAs.” Ltc Glenn Joy Aynera, 29IB Commanding Officer on his statement.

Upon reaching the said community at around 4:30 A.M., troops were able to talk with some locales to confirm the said report. However, unmindful of the civilians in the area, more or less ten (10) fully-armed NPA terrorists indiscriminately opened fire against the troops. Two (2) civilians and one (1) soldier were badly hit that caused their instantaneous death while three (3) other civilians were wounded.

The harassment lasted for about ten (10) minutes before the NPAs withdrew towards the nearby communities.

The government troops immediately applied first aid to the wounded civilians and facilitated their delivery to the nearest hospital, and conducted combat clearing operations.

Ltc Aynera said “This is a clear violation of the CARHRIHL which is duly signed by the GPH and NDFP in 1998 at The Hague, The Netherlands that Civilian population and civilians shall be distinguished from combatants and, together with their property, shall not be the object of attack. They shall likewise be protected against indiscriminate strafing.”

“We condemn their atrocious act which claimed the lives of two innocent civilians, and seriously wounding three others. We are also deeply saddened for the lost of one of our comrades. Rest assured we will always continue to conduct peace and security operations to ensure the safety and security of the people in Agusan del Norte.” Ltc Aynera Concluded.

Pursuit operation is ongoing to capture the perpetrators of the said crime.

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

Ceasefire by NPA in quake-hit areas a 'good move'—AFP

By: Frances Mangosing

The declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by the New People's Army (NPA) in quake-hit areas in Surigao del Norte and parts of Agusan del Norte was a "good move," the military said on Monday.

"We welcome this expression within the portion of the ranks of the NPA. Ipinapakita lang nito na may bahagi ng NPA na nararamdaman na mas higit nilang gusto na yumakap sa kapayapaan (This shows that a part of NPA wanted to embrace peace)," Armed Forces of the Philippines public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

The NPA in North Eastern Mindanao Region on Monday declared a temporary unilateral ceasefire in Surigao del Norte and quake-hit areas in Agusan del Norte from Feb. 11 to 11:55 p.m. of Feb. 20 to give way to relief operations.

A strong 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck Surigao del Norte last Friday which has left eight people killed so far. Arevalo said the temporary ceasefire by the NPA was "a good move" and they were happy that the communist rebels responded to their calls of sparing soldiers doing relief operations.

"There remains people who have good intentions, who have good desire at nagpapakita ng pagmamalasakit sa kapwa (show compassion for fellow countrymen)," Arevalo said.

He also urged the NPA to help out in relief operations and hoped they would do similar acts in the future.

"We hope this will not happen only during calamities. Malay natin (Who knows) a repetition of similar actions may lead to the resumption of the peace talks," Arevalo said.

President Rodrigo Duterte terminated the peace talks early this month following the collapse of the unilateral ceasefires of the government and communist rebels. *RAM/rga*

<http://www.update.ph>

Israel to provide equipment to Philippine special forces

Gracel Ortega

1,190 Sets of force protection equipment (FPE) worth PhP53.5 million from Israeli company MAROM Dolphin Ltd. is set to be delivered in the second quarter of 2017. These equipment will be for the use of Joint Special Operations Group of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The winning company, MAROM Dolphin, supplies force protection equipment to the Israel Defense Force. The mode of procurement is government-to-government pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding on Logistics and Defense Industry Cooperation and the Implementing Arrangement for Procurement of Defense Materials between the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Israel Ministry of Defense (ISRAEL-MOD).

JSOG is at the forefront of the current intensified anti-terrorism campaign. It is composed of specialized units from the various major services of the AFP, including the Philippine Army's Light Reaction Regiment, the Philippine Navy's Naval Special Operations Group, and a Special Operations Wing from the Philippine Air Force.

The Department of National Defense said this procurement is part of various equipment acquisitions that the Department is pursuing in order to upgrade the capability of the AFP in combating terrorist groups and terrorist cells.

"We have prioritized the procurement of these specialized vests for our defenders to enhance their survivability in encounters and battles against terrorists and lawless elements. Kahit saang lupalop sila magtago, hahanapin sila ng ating mga tropa!" Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana said.

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16-year jail term vs AFP engineer affirmed

Malaya Business Insight

THE Sandiganbayan Third Division has affirmed the 16-year jail sentence meted out against engineer Dante Senen, supply accountable officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Military Supply Unit in Cebu City on his conviction for graft and malversation of public property concerning the anomalous sale of four power generators to a private individual in 2002.

Senen failed to convince the anti-graft court to reverse its decision dated November 29, 2016 that found him guilty of conspiracy with former Philippine Air Force (PAF) Brig. Gen. Vladimir delos Trino, Major Antonio Jason Garcia, and private defendant Antonio Ularte of Eduard Enterprises for the unlawful transaction.

Delos Trino and Garcia were convicted of both charges in May 2011 but their co-accused, Senen and Ularte, remained at large. Senen was arrested only on November 21, 2011 inside Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. All three were collectively ordered to pay the government the sum of P1.2 million as indemnity for the loss sustained on the sale on top of a P1.2 million fine.

The court found the three AFP officials liable for selling the power generators to Ularte for only P800,000.00 without holding the required public bidding that tended to favor Ularte's firm.

In his appeal, Senen argued that there was no evidence that he colluded with Delos Trino and Garcia.

The court, however, declared otherwise, noting that it was Senen who had official custody of the power generators but the accused failed to inform his commanding officer about their transfer and did not include them in his inventory and inspection report that he submitted to the headquarters.