

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

31 January 2017

Tuesday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

31 JANUARY 2017

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast		PDI p.A12
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	PNP starts war on bad cops	Cynthia Balana	PDI p.A13
4-5	Tokhang frozen	Cecille Suerte Felipe	Phil. Star p.1
ARMY NEWS			
6	NPA seize sildier, kill 2	Michael Punongbayan	Phil. Star p.14
7	NPA rebels kidnap soldier; troops repel BIFF attack	Priam Nepomuceno	Bus. Mirror p.A3
8	NPA take soldier in Surigao del Norte, raid resort compound in Batangas	Francis T Wakefield	Mla. Bulletin p.1
9	2 sa Army todas sa ambush	Liezie Basa Iñigo	Balita p.5
10	NPA ambush: 2 sundalo utas	Raymund Catindig	Ngayon p.6
11	Army honors three retiring generals		www.dwdd.com
AFP RELATED NEWS			
12	3 bata patay sa Basilan blast 9 dinakma sa Marawi	Al Jacinto	Abante p.6
13	Basilan blast: 2 bata patay, 3 sugatan	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.6
14	Military overruns 3 Maute Group camps in Lanao	Cynthia Balana	PDI p.A7
15	3 kampo ng Abu Sayyaf nawasak ng military sa Lanao Sur		Police Files p.3
16	AFP seizes terrorists' camps in Butig, Lanao del Sur	Zaida delos Reyes Palanca	People's Journal p.13
17-18	3 killed in Basilan blast; 9 held for jihadist links	Al Jacinto	Mla. Times p.A7
19	'Bomb civilians, ASG told'	Florante Solmerin	Standard p.A1
20	All-out war vs Abu Sayyaf, Maute in Lanao del Norte	Jocelyn Montemayor	Malaya p.B1
21	PDU30 versus terror groups	Aries Cano	Abante p.3
22	Hapilon bagong ISIS leader sa PH	Rudy Andal	Ngayon p.2
23-24	Weapons depots put PH-US defense in alliance peril	Genalyn Kabling	Mla. Bulletin p.1
25	US not unloading weapons in Phi – AFP	Michael Punongbayan	Phil. Star p.12
26	Don't store weapons in PH, US warned	Marlon Ramos	PDI p.A4
ONLINE NEWS			
27-28	PAF 2 nd Air Division on its 38 years		www.defensenewsdailyp.wo rdpress.com
29	9 people linked to jihadist detained in Marawi City		www.mindanaoexaminer.co m
30	Man lauded for alerting police on IED in Maguindanao		www.pna.gov.ph
31	PCSO, nagbigay ng 1M donasyon sa Children of		www.dwdd.com

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	Military Heroes		
32	15 killed 7 wounded in the renewed AFP Offensives in Lanao Sur		www.dwdd.com
33	IED Explosion Hits 5 Persons in Albarka, Basilan		www.dwdd.com

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31 January 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER


Page: MR



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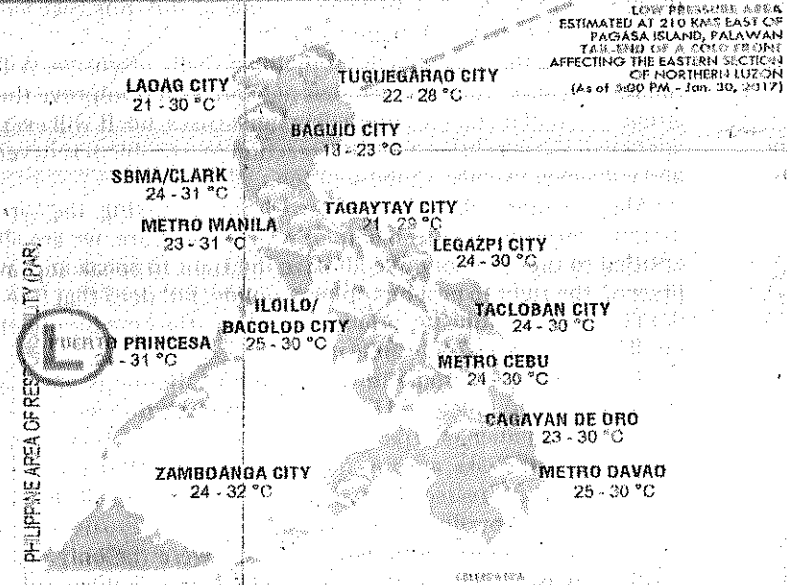


You



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | JANUARY 31, 2017 | TUESDAY



LAOAG CITY 21 - 30 °C

TUGUEGARAO CITY 22 - 28 °C

BAGUIO CITY 13 - 23 °C

SBMA/CLARK 24 - 31 °C

TAGAYTAY CITY 21 - 29 °C

METRO MANILA 23 - 31 °C

LEGAZPI CITY 24 - 30 °C

ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 30 °C

TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 30 °C

METRO CEBU 24 - 30 °C

CAGAYAN DE ORD 23 - 30 °C

ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C

METRO DAVAO 25 - 30 °C

PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C

LOW PRESSURE AREA
ESTIMATED AT 210 KMS EAST OF PAGASA ISLAND, PALAWAN TAKING THE END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF NORTHERN LUZON (As of 3:00 PM - Jan. 30, 2017)

SUNRISE 6:25 AM

SUNSET 5:55 PM

MOONRISE 8:39 AM

MOONSET 8:52 PM

NEW MOON JAN 28 8:07 AM

FIRST QUARTER FEB 1 12:15 PM

LOW TIDE 7:30 AM

HIGH TIDE 2:02 PM

MANILA SOUTH I HARBOR

0.06 Meter 0.30 Meter


Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms




Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Light rains

TIME	6:00	9:00	12:00	3:00	6:00
METRO MANILA	23 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	21 - 29 °C	20 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 28 °C	23 - 27 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	23 - 30 °C
LAOAG	21 - 29 °C	22 - 29 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	13 - 22 °C	14 - 21 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	24 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 30 °C	25 - 29 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 30 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 - 29 °C	21 - 29 °C	21 - 29 °C	21 - 29 °C	21 - 29 °C
LEGAZPI	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C	26 - 30 °C
METRO CEBU	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C
TACLOBAN	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORD	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C
METRO DAVAO	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C



SABOT KO, PADALA MO!

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31 January 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A13

PNP starts war on bad cops

FROM A1

By **Cynthia D. Balana**
@cynchdbINO

The chief of the Philippine National Police on Monday suspended controversial antinarcotics operations to make way for a cleansing of the ranks, after President Duterte admitted that the police force prosecuting his brutal war on drugs was "corrupt to the core."

Speaking at a news conference at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City, Director General Ronald dela Rosa said Mr. Duterte gave the order to suspend the war on drugs at 3 a.m., after a series of scandals in which officers were caught committing murder, extortion and robbery while using the antinarcotics operation as cover.

"The President said we need drastic actions and this is the drastic action we are taking right now," Dela Rosa said.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch dismissed the suspension of the war on drugs as a public relations stunt, unless Mr. Duterte "seeks meaningful accountability" for the wave of drug-related killings unleashed after he took office seven months ago.

More than 7,000 people have been killed since the President launched the campaign after taking office at the end of June last year.

About 2,250 were killed during police operations. The remainder are under police investigation.

AIDG disbanded

Dela Rosa announced the disbandment of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG), which was involved in the kidnapping for ransom and murder of a South Korean businessman last year.

At a news conference in Malacañang late Sunday, Mr. Duterte named the head of the AIDG, Supt. Rafael Dumlao III,

as the mastermind of the abduction of Jee Ick-joo, who was taken from his home in Angeles City, Pampanga province, on Oct. 18 last year and killed inside PNP headquarters.

The killers demanded P5 million in ransom from Jee's wife even though the businessman was already dead.

Choi Kyung-jin paid the ransom, but her husband never came home.

She asked the government for help, leading to an investigation that resulted in the discovery of the crime and the exposure of "tokhang for ransom," the police kidnapping for ransom operation carried out under cover of Mr. Duterte's bloody war on drugs.

"You policemen are the most corrupt. You are corrupt to the core. It's in your system," Mr. Duterte said as he railed against Dumlao.

The President said he would form a new interagency anti-narcotics unit that would be headed by the Philippine Drug

Enforcement Agency.

"This time, because of the sordid incident, let me reorganize the system," he said. "Our enemies here are policemen who are criminals."

Facing charges

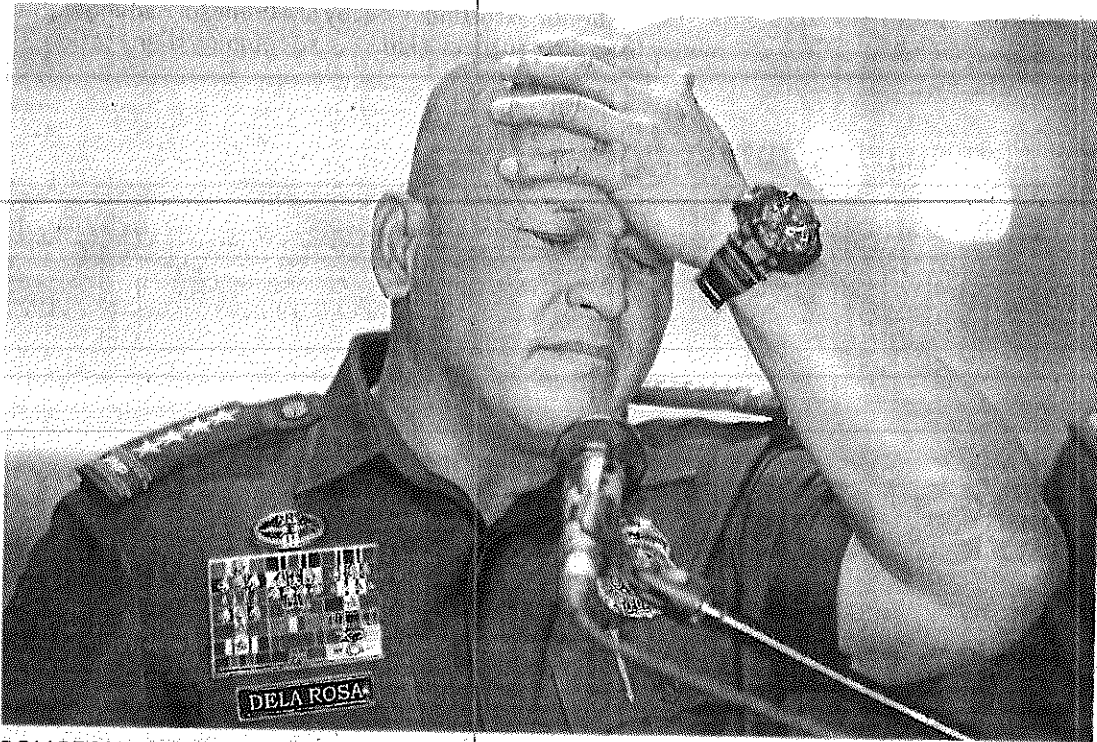
Dumlao, SPO3 Ricky Sta. Isabel—the alleged killer of Jee—and several other policemen, and civilians are facing kidnapping for ransom and homicide charges in the Angeles City Regional Trial Court.

On Nov. 5 last year, a group of policemen raided a jail in Leyte province and killed the mayor of Albuera town, Rolando Espinosa Sr., who was detained on drug charges. Another inmate was killed.

The policemen claimed Espinosa fought back to prevent a search of his cell and was shot dead, but a Senate investigation found that the killing of the mayor was "premeditated."

Twenty-four officers, including the regional commander of the PNP Criminal Investi-

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POLICE PURGE Director General Ronald dela Rosa, Philippine National Police chief, admits a breakdown in police discipline and says he was taking drastic action against policemen involved in crimes during a news conference in Camp Crame in Quezon City. —NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

gation and Detection Group in Eastern Visayas, Supt. Marvin Marcos, are facing multiple murder charges.

Breakdown in discipline

At his news conference on Monday, Dela Rosa admitted a "breakdown of police discipline," but said he was launching a cleansing process to restore professionalism in the ranks and regain public trust.

"Yes, I agree that there is a breakdown in police discipline, otherwise things like these would have not happened," he said, referring to crimes involving officers.

Dela Rosa said Mr. Duterte had ordered a review of PNP records to determine how rogue officers who had been dismissed managed to return to the service. The review of the reinstatements and of scheduled reinstatements will be given priority, he said.

"I want to find out why they still come back. Do you want to change or do you want to make

money again?" he said. Dela Rosa said he had ordered the Directorate for Investigative Management, Internal Affairs Service and Directorate for Personnel Records Management to work together to produce a list of rogue officers who had been reinstated.

The PNP blamed the reinstatement of some dirty cops on the Regional Appellate Board (RAB).

"This is our problem, why scalawag policemen are able to return. Sorry, RAB members, but since the RAB was put up, many scalawag policemen had been able to return [to the service]," Dela Rosa said.

The top cop admitted that the kidnapping and murder of Jee had shaken the PNP and undermined its gains in the war on drugs.

'Momentary' suspension

He said the suspension of the campaign was just "momentary" and would resume after the PNP had cleansed its ranks.

"To the drug lords: You have your day. This is your day. You may [have achieved] victory right now, but there is always a time for reckoning," he said.

He said he was sorry for the good men in the AIDG who were affected by the dissolution of the group.

"Most of them are performing very well and I am very [sorry] that they were affected because of the foolishness of [a few bad ones]," he said.

Dela Rosa announced the formation of a counterintelligence task force that would oversee the purge of the ranks and "police the police."

He said he would make sure the composition of the task force would be above par to avoid another black eye for the PNP.

Dela Rosa said he wanted to spend his remaining 11 months at the helm of the PNP restoring the good name of the police.

—WITH REPORTS FROM MARLON RAMOS, AFP AND REUTERS INQ

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31 January 2017



Page: 1

Tokhang frozen

AIDG dissolved; PNP out of drug war

By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

There will be no more knocking on doors of suspected drug personalities after Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa suspended yesterday “Oplan Tokhang” or the anti-illegal drug operation.

Dela Rosa also dissolved the Anti-Illegal Drugs Group (AIDG) and all other similar police units in the field tasked to implement Tokhang.

He said the decision to dissolve the AIDG was based on a directive of President Duterte stripping the

police of its power to enforce the anti-drug law.

Dela Rosa said the PNP is no longer allowed to conduct anti-illegal drug operations and would instead focus on internal cleansing.

In his directive, Duterte handed over

to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) all operations against illegal drugs.

If necessary, the PDEA will be augmented by the military in the conduct of its operations.

“Starting today,
Turn to Page 8

Tokhang From Page 1

I am dissolving the Anti-Illegal Drugs Group and all anti-drug units from the national down to the police station level – PAID-SOTE, DAIDSOTE, SAIDOTF. All of these are now dissolved and deactivated. No more anti-drug operation,” Dela Rosa said, referring to the provincial, district and station anti-illegal drug special operations task forces.

He said once the PNP succeeded in cleansing its ranks, the President would instruct them to continue the war on drugs.

The PNP chief created a counterintelligence task force that would go after police officers engaging in criminal activities, including the illegal drug trade.

He said the killing at Camp Crame of Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo allegedly by Senior Police Officer 3 Ricky Sta. Isabel, SPO4 Roy Villegas, Supt. Rafael Dumlao and Ramon Yalung and three others prompted the creation of the task force.

“The counterintelligence task force’s sole mission is to run after the scalawags in the PNP. I warn all scalawags, try to fight this time and you’ll be dead,” Dela Rosa said in yesterday’s flag-raising ceremony at Camp Crame.

He said he is dismayed and ashamed every time he hears reports about police officers getting involved in illegal activities.

“How many of you here have criminal minds like that of Sta. Isabel and Dumlao? I know there are still many among you here who think like them,” he asked the officers.

He clarified that not all policemen have criminal minds.

“I’m sorry to those officers who are doing their job well and are furious with what happened to Jee. I don’t mean that all policemen are

scalawags,” he added.

Dela Rosa said he and Duterte met over the weekend and he took the opportunity to offer his resignation over the Korean’s slay case.

He said the President turned down his resignation and ordered him to weed out the bad eggs in the police force.

The AIDG was formerly Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force or AIDSOTF.

In 2015, the National Police Commission ordered the PNP to change AIDSOTF to AIDG, a permanent police unit tasked to enforce Republic Act 9165 in support of the PDEA.

Saddened

AIDG chief Senior Supt. Albert Ignatius Ferro was saddened by the deactivation of his unit, saying he did not expect it.

“But we always expect the worst. I would like to share a quote: what is right should be kept right, what is wrong should be set right,” Ferro told journalists as he and 314 other members of the AIDG prepared to pack up their belongings.

“Those who started the AIDG are the most affected and sad. *Hindi naman konting tao lang ang winasak nila kundi isang buong institution. Pero tatalima kami, sundin namin lahat instructions ng liderato at Presidente,*” he added. (Not only a few people were affected but an entire institution was dismantled... we’ll however follow the President’s instructions).

Ferro expressed belief that under his leadership, the AIDG did its best in addressing the problem against illegal drugs and only a few officers got involved in criminal activities.

Ferro cited AIDG’s accomplishments, including the seizure of

180 kilos of shabu in Cagayan, discovery of shabu laboratories in Subic, Isabela, Central Luzon and Catanduanes, and the arrest of self-confessed drug lord Kerwin Espinosa.

As part of the cleansing process, the PNP will come up with a consolidated list of policemen who managed to return to the service despite previous involvement in criminal activities.

Dela Rosa ordered the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, Directorate for Personnel and Records Management and Internal Affairs Service to gather the names of these officers.

He questioned how these scalawag policemen managed to return to the service.

An official of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed support for Dela Rosa’s order to put on hold the anti-illegal drugs war.

CBCP-Episcopal Commission on the Laity Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said he was pleased to learn that Dela Rosa has ordered the suspension of the campaign against illegal drugs to focus on the internal cleansing of the PNP.

Pabillo said the stop on the crackdown on illegal drugs is synonymous to stopping the extrajudicial killings (EJKs) in the country.

“It’s a good development. I hope they really push through with it and this should now be a big challenge to us because people now... knowing that they’ve stopped the war on drugs, it means they should stop the EJK,” he added.

The CBCP official believes this would be a good opportunity to shift the attention to another aspect of the campaign – to rehabilitate the drug addicts that have surrendered.

– With Non Alquitran, Evelyn Macairan

71 January 2017



Page: 14

NPAs seize soldier, kill 2

Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels seized an Army soldier in Surigao del Norte on Sunday and killed two others in an ambush in Isabela yesterday.

Pvt. First Class Erwin Salan was taken while conducting community service in Barangay Budlingin in Alegria town with other members of the 30th Infantry Brigade (IB). At least 15 members of the NPA's Sandatahan Yunit Pampropaganda-Lumad Front Committee 16 led by Florencio Llano reportedly took Salan.

Lt. Col. Rico Amaro of the 30th IB appealed to the rebels to release Salan in support of the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front.

"We fully commit ourselves to peace. We support the peace process. We have high hopes that the leadership of Guerrilla Front 16 also have this commitment for the benefit of every Surigaonon," Amaro said.

Meanwhile, authorities did not identify the soldiers killed in an ambush in Barangay Benguet in Echague town pending notification of their respective family members.

Lt. Col. Vladimir Cagara, commander of the Army's 86th IB, said the soldiers, who were wearing civilian clothes, were escorting villagers to pick up seedlings for a tree planting program when they were waylaid.

A local radio station reported that they received a text message saying members of the NPA's Benito Tesorio Command perpetrated the ambush. – Michael Punongbayan, Ben Serrano, Raymond Catindig, Ed Amoroso

31 January 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A3

NPA rebs kidnap soldier; troops repel BIFF attack

By PRIAM F. NEPOMUCENO | *Philippines News Agency*

NEW People's Army (NPA) rebels kidnapped a member of the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion who was working as a member of a peace and development team in Alegria, Surigao del Norte, on Sunday afternoon.

No motive was given for the abduction of Pfc. Erwin R. Salan, said the Armed Forces spokesman, Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Padilla said Salan was abducted at 3:40 p.m. in Barangay Budlingin in Alegria by around 15 armed men identified to be members of the NPA's Sandatahan Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP)-Lumad, Front Committee 16, North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) under the leadership of Florencio Llano, alias Ricky.

He added that the soldier was with youth volunteers and they had just finished a cleanup drive in the vicinity of Lumondo Falls, a popular tourist destination in the area, and were heading back to Barangay Budlingin when stopped by the rebels, who then grabbed and tied up Salan.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Rico Amaro, 30th Infantry Battalion commander, urged the rebels to release the abducted trooper unharmed.

"We fully commit ourselves to peace; we support the peace talks and peace process; we have high hopes that the leadership of Guerrilla Front 16 also has this commitment for the benefit of every Surigaonon. It is not too late to rethink their action, we appeal in the name of peace, for the release of our comrade," he added.

As this developed, suspected Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) tried to overrun two Army and militia detachments in North Cotabato after government forces, although outnumbered, defended their posts early Sunday.

Supt. Romeo Galgo Jr., speaking for the police command in Central Mindanao, said an undetermined number of BIFF gunmen attacked a detachment of the Army's Seventh Infantry Battalion at Barangay Nalapaan, Pikit, at about 12:45 a.m.

Although outnumbered, the soldiers and Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) volunteers returned fire, forcing the attackers to flee. No casualty was reported on government forces.

“ We fully commit ourselves to peace; we support the peace talks and peace process; we have high hopes that the leadership of Guerrilla Front 16 also has this commitment for the benefit of every Surigaonon. It is not too late to rethink their action, we appeal in the name of peace, for the release of our comrade.” —AMARO

Galgo could not say if the attackers sustained casualties.

At about 4 a.m., the same group, using rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles, harassed an Army base in Barangay Pagangan, Aleosan, also in North Cotabato.

A 30-minute firefight ensued.

The two detachments are 3 kilometers apart.

Galgo said the North Cotabato portion of the national highway linking Cotabato City and Davao is now open after the military cleared the area.

31 January 2017

MANILA BULLETIN THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

NPA's take soldier in Surigao del Norte, raid resort compound in Batangas

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD and MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

A military personnel belonging to the Philippine Army deployed as a member of the Peace and Development Team (PDT) in Barangay Budlingin, Alegria, Surigao del Norte, was ab-

ducted Sunday by some 15 armed men identified to be members of the New People's Army (NPA).

Reports said the soldier belonging to the 30th Infantry Battalion of the Army's 4th Infantry Division was reportedly abducted by members of the NPA's Sandatahan Yunit



NPA's take soldier...



Pampropaganda (SYP)-Lumad, Front Committee 16, North Eastern Mindanao Regional Committee (NEMRC) under the leadership of Florencio Llano alias "Ricky."

The soldier was identified as Private First Class Erwin R. Salan. He is with the Army's Peace and Development Team working on environmental protection and preservation. He was with youth volunteers near the Lumondo falls engaged in a forest clean-up drive.

Salan and the youth volunteers were returning to Barangay Budlingin when they were stopped by the rebel group. One of the youth volunteers said the NPA tied Salan and took him away.

Lt. Col. Rico Amaro appeal to the armed rebel group for the release of Salan. "We fully commit ourselves to peace, we support the peace talks and peace process. We have high hopes that the leadership of Guerrilla Front 16 also has this commitment for the benefit of every Surigaonon... We appeal in the name of peace for the release of our comrade," Amaro said.

Since the government and NDF declared unilateral ceasefires in August, 2016, there has been no armed confrontation between the troops and

communist guerrillas in Caraga region, particularly in Surigao del Norte.

The government and the NDF concluded its third round of the formal peace talks on January 25, 2017, in Rome. Both panels signed ground rules to speed up discussion on social and economic reforms.

However, the NDF peace panel, reportedly disgruntled over unfulfilled promises by government forces, gave the forces in the field the go signal "to withdraw from the unilateral ceasefire" which the Communist group had been enforcing since August this year.

Search-rescue operations

Yesterday, search and rescue operations were launched by field units of the 401st and 402nd Infantry Brigades in Caraga region for Salan.

Surigao del Norte and Alegria local government unit crisis committees were activated yesterday to work for the safe release of the soldier.

The National Democratic Front (NDF), the political wing of the CPP-NPA, has not yet issued any statement confirming if indeed, the NPA had taken Salan, Lt. Col. Rico Amaro, commanding officer of the 30th IB, said yesterday.

Batangas raid

Meanwhile in Batangas, about 25 armed suspected NPAs attacked and disarmed security guards of an exclusive residential resort in Nasugbu Sunday.

Security Officer Rolando Baon in his report to authorities said at around 6:15 p.m., armed men in what appeared to be military uniforms ordered the security guards of Selective Security Agency in Barangay Payapa, to drop their weapons. The armed men took the security guards' 26 12-gauge shotgun, seven M16 rifles, a 9mm, and a .38 caliber handgun, along with the guards' cellphones and hand-held radios.

Then they proceeded to the residential compound, where one woman and four armed men introduced themselves, claiming to be inspectors from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The armed men disarmed the guards here and proceeded to ransack the building and offices inside the compound. They confiscated two M16 rifles, three 12-gauge shotguns, three 9mm, guns, 10 hand-held radios, 10 cellphones, and a laptop from security guards of 3i International Services, Inc.

The armed men fled after the incident. No one among security guards and employees were injured. (With reports from Danny J. Estacio and Lyka Manalo)

31 January 2017



Page. 5

2 sa Army todas sa ambush

ECHAGUE, Isabela - Dalawang sundalo ang kumpirmadong napatay matapos tambangan sa Barangay Mabayad sa Echague, Isabela.

Ayon sa report, dakong 8:45 ng umaga kahapon nang isagawa ang ambush na ikinamatay ng hindi pa napapanganang mga tauhan ng Philippine Army.

"Two personnels of BT operators of 86B (Infantry Battalion), while on their way to facilitate the TWG were ambushed by unidentified armed group at Barangay Mabayad, Echague, Isabela," ayon sa report na tinanggap ng Isabela Police Provincial Office.

Liezie Basa Inigo

31 January 2017



Pahina. 6

NPA ambush: 2 sundalo utas

TUGUEGARAO CITY, Cagayan - Dalawang sundalo ang napatay makaraang tambangan ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army habang ine-eskortan ang convoy ng mga barangay official sa Barangay Benguet, bayan ng Echague, Isabela kahapon ng umaga.

Nagpahayag ng ngitngit si Lt. Col. Vladimir Cagara, kumander ng Army 86th Battalion na nagsabing lumabag ang mga rebelde sa umiiral na ceasefire ng pamahalaan.

Hindi muna binanggit ni Cagara ang pangalan ng dalawang sundalo na nakasakay sa motorsiklo habang sinasabayan patungo sa Barangay Poblacion ang mga opisyal

para maghakot ng binhing itatanim sa tree-planting nang araw na iyon.

Ang hinanakit ni Cagara sa mga rebelde ay ipinahayag matapos marinig sa himpilan ng radyo ang binasang text message na umano'y mula sa NPA

Benito Tesorio Command na umako sa ambush.

Sinisiyasat naman ng pulisya kung totoo at hindi katuwaan ang mensahe na naglagay sa balag ng alanganin sa nangyayaring peace talks. **Raymund Catindig**

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

Army honors three retiring generals

By Luf Claudio

FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila – Three Army retiring generals were honored by the Philippine Army in a traditional testimonial review held on Friday, January 27, 2017.

Major General Rolando V Picar, Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Resource Management Office; Brigadier General Allan F Martin, Commander of the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command of the AFP; and Brigadier General Nelia F Valmonte, Chief Nurse of the AFP, will retire from the service upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 on February, respectively.

Army Vice Commander General Harold Cabrerros together with other HPA-based officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees came to witness the ceremony and pay respect to the generals for their honorable service to the nation.

Picar, a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandigan" class of 1982 rendered 38 years and 9 months in the military service. Prior to his current position he held vital posts in the Philippine Army such as the Battalion Commander of the 66th Infantry Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division in 2002; Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G3 of the 6th Infantry Division in 2004; and later as the Commanding Officer of the Finance Center of the Philippine Army.

During Picar's stint as the commander for the 66th Infantry Battalion, he strengthened the unit's community partnerships and led successful Internal Security operations in Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, and Sultan Kudarat.

Likewise, Martin is also a member of the PMA from the "Matikas" class of 1983. He rendered 37 years and 9 months in the military service. He took up key roles in the field while he was in the Army. He served as the Battalion Commander of 39th Infantry Battalion, 6th Infantry Division in 2000 and also as the Commander of the 302nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in 2014.

As the Commander of the 302nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Martin successfully led "Bayanihan" team activities bringing the army closer to the community. Such efforts greatly contributed in addressing insurgency in the provinces of Siquijor, Bohol, and Cebu.

On the other hand, Valmonte is one of the few female star officers of the AFP. She is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has a Master's Degree both in Hospital Administration and in Nursing.

Prior to Valmonte's current position she served as the Army Chief Nurse. During her stint, she was awarded as one of the Outstanding Professionals of 2015 by the Professional Regulations Commission. She worked to improve the Army's nursing care services and ensured that the Army nurses are capable to provide the best medical and health care services to soldiers.

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31 January 2017



Pahina. 6

3 bala patay sa Basilan blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Isang homemade bomb ang sumabog na ikinamatay ng 3 bata at pagkasugat ng dalawang iba sa bayan ng Al-Barka sa magulong lalawigan ng Basilan sa Muslim autonomous region sa Mindanao.

Ang pagsabog ay naganap kamalawa sa Barangay Danapali at agad itong ibinintang ng Western Mindanao Command sa rebeldeng Abu Sayyaf upang takutin dumano ang mga Muslim sa lugar. Ang naturang bayan ang kilalang kuta rin ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front na ngayon ay may peace talks sa pamahalaan.

Naglalaro umano ang mga biktima sa lugar nang sumambulat ang bomba.

Sa ipinarating namang report sa Camp Aguinaldo kahapon ni Lt Col Franco Raphael Alano, spokesman ng Western Mindanao Command (WMC), bandang alas-11:00 ng umaga nang maganap ang pagsabog.

Sa inisyal na impormasyon, sinasabing grupo ni ASG leader Furuji Indama ang itinuturong responsable sa nasabing insidente dahil hindi sila sinusupportahan ng mga residente sa lugar.

Maring kinondena ni WestMincom commander Major General Carlito Galvez Jr. ang pagpapasabog ng bomba kung saan ang mga inosenteng sibilyan pa ang mga naging biktima na karamihan ay mga bata. (Al Jacinto/Betchai Julian)

9 dinakma sa Marawi

ZAMBOANGA CITY — Hawak ngayon ng pulisya ang 9 katao matapos silang dakpin kahapon ng madaling-araw sa isinagawang raid sa Marawi City sa Lanao del Sur province.

Iniiinvestigahan ang mga dinakip sa hinalang may koneksyon sila sa jihadist Maute group. Dalawang bomba rin umano ang nasamsam ng mga parak at sundalo sa naturang raid sa isang gusali sa compound ng Mindanao State University.

Hindi pa mabatid kung miyembro o supporters ng Maute group ang mga

dinakip.

Patuloy pa rin ang operasyon ng militar laban sa Maute group at sa Abu Sayyaf sa bayan ng Butig sa naturang lalawigan.

At sa propaganda ng militar, sinabi nilong napatay nila ang 15 mga jihadist at sugatan din si Isnilon Hapilon, ang lider ng Abu Sayyaf na kinukup-kop ng Maute group, sa operasyon mula pa noong nakaraang linggo.

Hindi naman ito makumpirma ngunit iginigiti ng militar na ito ay base sa intelligence report nila. (Al Jacinto)

31 January 2017



Pahina. 6

Basilan blast: 2 bata patay, 3 sugatan

Dalawang bata ang namatay habang tatlo ang nasugatan makara-ang sumabog ang bomba na sinasabing itinanim ng mga bandidong Abu Sayyaf Group sa bayan ng Al Barka, Basilan, noong Linggo ng umaga.

Sa ulat na nakarating kay AFP Western Mindanao Command Commander Major Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., kinilala ang mga namatay na sina Niyadz Pising, 2;

at Ombek Akbar, 5, habang ginagamot naman sa ospital ang mga sugatang sina Pahmiya Pising, Salmiya Akbar, kapwa 4-anyos, at si Suriama Akbar, 25.

Base sa ulat, naglalaro ang mga biktima sa gilid ng kalsada nang mata-pilok ang bomba kaya ito sumabog.

Agad namang isinugod sa pagamutan ang mga biktima pero dalawa ang namatay habang sugatan

naman ang tatlo

Naniniwala naman si Galvez na kagagawan ng mga bandido ang pagpapasabog bilang resbak sa opensiba ng militar upang durugin ang kanilang grupo.

Magugunita na noong Disyembre 2016 ay dalawang bata rin ang namatay at dalawa ang nasugatan sa pagpapasabog ng bomba ng mga bandido sa Brgy. Bohe Piyang sa bayan din ng Al Barka. **Joy Cantos**

31 January 2017

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Page: 17

TERRORIST GROUP

MILITARY OVERRUNS 3 MAUTE GROUP CAMPS IN LANAOS

By Cynthia D. Balana
@cynchdbINQ

Three camps of the local Maute terrorist group in Butig, Lanao del Sur, have been overrun by the military, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Monday.

Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla, AFP spokesperson, said the encampments were in the same areas hit by the air strike by the Philippine Air Force last week.

Padilla said these camps were harboring both local and foreign terrorists in Mindanao.

The pursuit and neutralization of Maute group members and the Abu Sayyaf Group within six months were ordered by President Duterte to put an end to Muslim terrorism in the South.

Padilla said 15 Maute members were killed and eight others were wounded, including its leader Isnilon Hapilon.

He said the military pursuit operations of high-value targets would continue until remnants of both groups were eliminated.

Padilla refused to reveal operational details so as not to distract the troops from what they are doing. INQ

31 January 2017

POLICE FILES

Page. 3

3 kampo ng Abu Sayyaf nawasak ng militar sa Lanao Sur

TATLONG maliliit na kampo ng bandidong Abu Sayyaf at Maute terror group ang nawasak ng militar sa isinagawang airstrike nito kamakailan sa Lanao del Sur.

Ayon kay AFP spokesperson BGen. Restituto Padilla na dalawang araw walang tigil ang sagupaan sa pagitan ng militar at teroristang grupo simula noong January 25 hanggang January 26.

Sa halos dalawang araw na ito, dito nawasak o nabomba ng militar ang tatlong mga kampo na pinagkukutaan ng mga bandidong grupo.

Sa ngayon nagpapatuloy pa rin ang operasyon ng militar sa mga bandido sa Lanao del Sur.

Batay sa monitoring ng militar nasa 100 hanggang 150 mga miyembro ng ASG, Maute group at Al khalifa Phil ang target ng kanilang operasyon.

Una nang naiulat ng militar na nasa 15 bandido ang napatay sa halos dalawang araw na labanan sa Butig, habang walo pa ang sugatan kasama si ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon.

Kabilang din sa nasawi ang isang Indonesian terrorist sa casualties ng teroristang grupo.

31 January 2017



Page. 13

AFP seizes terrorists' camps in Butig, Lanao del Sur

THREE camps of the terror Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Maute Group were recovered by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) during focused military operation in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

AFP spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla said government forces bombed the camps as part of the continuous military operations against the ASG and the Maute Group hiding in the province.

The air and ground strike operations were launched by the AFP based on the order of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Año.

The focused military operations against the terrorists started on Wednesday last week and resulted to the killing of 15 enemies and the wounding of eight others, including ASG leader Isnilon Hapilon, who was reported in critical condition and was needing blood transfusion from severe injuries he sustained during the fight.

Among the fatalities were alias "Mohisen," an Indonesian terrorist; Sahl Num and alias "Sadat."

Padilla said there were 150 ASG and Maute members hiding in the province.

Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

31 January 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

3 killed in Basilan blast; 9 held for jihadist links

BY AL JACINTO

ZAMBOANGA CITY: A homemade bomb explosion killed three children and injured two others in the town of Al-Barka, a known stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Basilan.

Security officials were quick to blame the Abu Sayyaf for the weekend blast, saying the improvised explosive was planted in the village of Danapah.

The victims – who were playing in the area – had accidentally triggered the bomb to explode.

It was unknown how the bomb had been planted in the village undetected by security forces.

Last month, an improvised bomb explosion also killed two children in Al-Barka's Bohe Piyang village.

Military forces are battling Abu Sayyaf rebels and foreign jihadists in Basilan, just several nautical miles

from Zamboanga City.

Meanwhile, at least nine people suspected of having links with the local jihadists were detained after a raid on the compound of Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City on Monday.

The policemen, backed by soldiers, also seized two improvised explosives at an apartment unit at the MSU compound.

It was unknown whether the men are members of the jihadist group led by the Maute brothers, or their supporters.

Police were investigating all the suspects while military operations continue against the jihadists in Lanao del Sur.

The military has announced that at least 15 jihadists had been killed over the weekend and that a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf – Isnilon Hapilon – being coddled by the Maute group was also wounded in the assault in Butig town.

But the military's claim cannot be independently confirmed, although security officials insisted the reports came from intelligence sources and civilians themselves.

Just recently, the military said a Malaysian and an Indonesian jihadist were also slain in the operations but troops failed to retrieve the bodies of the fighters.

Troops were sent to the province to hunt down Hapilon, who managed to escape a massive military operation in Basilan only to link up with the Maute group, whose leaders are brothers Otto, Abdullah and Omar Maute.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Hapilon, who is also the local chief

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of the Islamic State in the Philippines, was believed to have arrived in Lanao del Sur in December last year in an effort to further strengthen the unity of various jihadist groups fighting for the establishment of a strict Islamic state.

The MILF, currently negotiating peace with Philippine government, also ordered its forces to help authorities hunt down Hapilon and the Maute brothers.

President Duterte has appealed to the MILF and its rival group Moro National Liberation Front not to provide shelter to the jihadists and warned their leaders he would order the police and military to pursue the fighters inside their territories in Mindanao.

Security forces are also fighting the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, Ansarul Khilafah, Khilafah Islamiyah Movement and Al-Khobar Group, including so-called rogue MILF rebels, among other smaller groups sympathizing with the Islamic State.

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31 January 2017

The Standard

Page: A1

'Bomb civilians, ASG told'

By Florante S. Solmerin and John Paolo Bencito

THE Abu Sayyaf sub-leader Furuji Indama has ordered his followers to bomb and kill civilians who do not cooperate with them, the military said Monday after two children were killed and three others were wounded in a blast in Al Barka, Basilan on Sunday.

Lt. Col. Franco Alano, spokes-

man for the Western Mindanao Command, said the explosion went off at around 11 a.m. in Barangay Danapah killing Niyadz Pising, 2, and Ombek Akbar, 5.

Alano also identified the three wounded as Pamiya Pising and Salmiya Akbar, both 4 years old, and Sunama Akbar, 25.

The wounded were airlifted to Zamboanga City for medical
Next page

Bomb...

From A1

treatment. We're praying for their safety," Alano said in a phone interview.

The commander of the Western Mindanao Command, Maj. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. vowed to hunt down the perpetrators.

"This savagery and killing innocent civilians, including children is unacceptable," Galvez said.

He said the ASG is killing civilians with their bombs especially "those who are not sympathetic to them" and refused sanctuary to them.

Alano said that last year, a similar attack was staged on Dec. 2 in Barangay Bohe, where two children perished.

On Monday, President Rodrigo Duterte said Isnilon Hapilon, the number two man in the Abu Sayyaf, is not the head of the terror group representing the Islamic State (ISIS) in the Philippines, which granted him the title of "Emir of Southeast Asia."

"The greatest danger now that mankind is facing is really extremism," Duterte said in a midnight press briefing.

"And [Hapilon] was already given the blessing to be the leader of ISIS. I don't know if it covers Malaysia and Indonesia. But he is now the top honcho of the ISIS here. He is somewhere in Lanao and we have a full time military operation there," he added.

Earlier, the military said Hapilon was gravely wounded and in need of a blood transfusion.

On Friday, Duterte threatened to call off the ongoing peace talks with Moro rebel groups should they provide refuge to ISIS terrorists in their territories.

Hapilon has been the figurehead of a handful of ISIS followers from different groups such as the Abu Sayyaf based in Basilan and Sulu, the Maute Group based in Butig, Lanao del Sur; the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters based in Central Mindanao, and Ansar al-Khilafa Philippines.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who was with Duterte in the joint command conference of the AFP and PNP, said Hapilon serves as the conduit to the ISIS "to find out if Central Mindanao is conducive to the establishment of an organization [provincial caliphate]."

Duterte said that he will engage in an all-out war against these terrorist groups, as he worked to contain the threat in Lanao del Sur, the stronghold of the Maute group.

"I have ordered a full-press military operation. I said to the military and the police, you embargo the place, you contain them in that area alone, Lanao," the President said.

"I have also asked the Armed Forces to use all available assets and all the weaponry that's at our disposal." With PNA

31 January 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

Page: 61

All-out war vs Abu Sayyaf, Maute in Lanao del Norte

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR
AND VICTOR REYES

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said he has ordered a "full-press military operation" in Lanao del Norte against the Maute and Abu Sayyaf groups which have pledged allegiance to international terror group Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Government forces last week conducted air strikes in Butig, Lanao del Norte, and later seized three camps of the Maute Group. The surgical air strikes

wounded several terrorists, including Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

The Abu Sayyaf operates mainly in Sulu and Basilan but recently, Hapilon was reported to have moved to Lanao del Norte supposedly to see if an ISIS caliphate can be established there.

Duterte said Hapilon is now a "top honcho" of the ISIS in the Philippines. He said he is not sure if Hapilon's turf covers

See ALL-OUT > Page B6

ALL-OUT

Malaysia and Indonesia

"I have ordered a full-press military operation... I said to the military and the police... you embargo the place, you contain them in that area alone, Lanao. Sana huwag nang lumabas sa ibang lugar. Diyan na lang tayo magbakkakan," Duterte said in a press conference in Malacñang from late Sunday night to pre-dawn of Monday.

The President, prior to the media briefing, convened a joint command conference of the Armed Forces and the PNP in Malacñang.

Duterte said he directed the Armed Forces to use all assets and weaponry at its disposal to address the peace and order situation in parts of Mindanao.

He said he is also sending a message to China to help the Philippines in its campaign against terrorism, particularly by loaning the country loan some precision-guided arms.

"The Armed Forces and the Navy at this time can cope. Sabi ko sa kanila, we will end the problem sa Lanao para wala na tayong problema. I'm declaring war," he added as he apologized in advance for those who might

be affected or even killed in the operations.

The President expressed concern over the involvement of some Philippine-based armed groups with ISIS which he said has been known to kill without compassion, and indiscriminately.

"As you know, the greatest danger now that mankind is facing is really extremism... Takot ako sa kanila because historically they use bombs, IED (improvised explosive device) and they did it several times in my city. The latest one iyung sa flea market 'yung vending doon sa harap ng Ateneo.

So that to me would be the more dangerous thing for us," he said.

The President, however, said despite this, the situation in Lanao does not warrant the imposition of the martial law. He said he is content with measures available to him to address the peace and order situation in Mindanao.

Duterte said if Filipinos will ask him to impose martial law, he will think about it first.

"Remember this, Philippines, kung kayo na ang maghingì, magsabi kayo, 'Mr. President, declare tayo ng martial law,' sabihin ko, 'Mag-isip muna ako,'" he said.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said the air strikes and artillery bombardment conducted Wednesday and Thursday in Butig town involved FA-50s fighter jets which dropped bombs on the Maute lairs.

The air strike and the artillery bombardment resulted in the killing of 15 terrorists, including an Indonesian identified only as Mohisen, based on intelligence information gathered by the military.

The air strikes were part of the renewed campaign against the Maute and the Abu Sayyaf.

The military targets to defeat the Abu Sayyaf, the Maute Group, and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters within the first half of this year.

Padilla said there is yet no new word on Hapilon. "We continue to receive information that he was wounded and he needs medical attention. As to whether is he already dead or still alive, we have yet to determine that," he said.

Padilla said government troops are hot on trail of some 150 Maute and Abu Sayyaf members in Butig but declined to say if the terrorists have been cornered, saying he might divulge "operational details."

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31 January 2017



Pahina. 3

PDU30 versus terror groups

Inatasan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang puwersa ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na gamitin ang lahat ng available assets at weaponry ng sa gayon ay madurog ang mga terror group sa bansa.

Nagpasaklolo rin si PDU30 sa China para sa mga kakailanganing sandata sa paglaban sa mga terorista.

“I have also asked the Armed Forces to use all available assets and all the weaponry that’s at our disposal. At I have an urgent message to China to help us kung meron silang mga precision-guided arms, they can give us a loan or...,” sabi ni Duterte sa press conference sa Malacañang kahapon ng madaling-araw.

Sa pagtalakay ni

PDU30 sa ongoing military campaign sa Mindanao laban sa Abu Sayyaf Group at Maute group, sinabi ni to na si Isnilon Hapilon ng Basilan ang kinikilalang lider ng ISIS-backed organization sa Pilipinas.

“...And (Hapilon) was already given the blessing to be the leader ng ISIS. I don’t know if it covers Malaysia and Indonesia. But he is now the top honcho of the ISIS dito. He is billeted somewhere in Lanao and we have a full time military operation there,” ani Duterte.

Nagpahayag din ng pangamba ang Pangulo sa mga terror group dahil lubhang mapanganib aniya ang mga ito.

“Takot ako sa kanila because historically they use bombs, IED and they did it several times in my

city. The latest one was vending doon sa harap ng Ateneo. So that to me would be the more dangerous thing for us. And I have ordered a full press military operation kasi ulit iyan, ulit iyan. And if they are desperate enough they would resume bombing,” sabi ni Duterte.

Kaya naman aniya kanyang ipinag-utos ang full military operation lalo na sa Lanao para mapigilan ang pambobomba ng mga terorista.

“That is why I said to the military and the police, you embargo the place, you contain them in that area alone, Lanao. Sana huwag nang lumabas sa ibang lugar. Diyan na lang tayo magbakbakan,” pagdiditin pa nito. (Aries Cano)

31 January 2017



Pahina. 2

Hapilon bagong ISIS leader sa PH

Ibinunyag kahapon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ang Abu Sayyaf Group leader na si Isnilon Hapilon ay ginawang 'top honcho' ng Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) sa Pilipinas.

"As you know the greatest danger that mankind is facing is extremism. It's a mass insanity and Hapilon was already given blessing to be the leader of the ISIS. He is now the top honcho of the ISIS dito," dagdag pa ni Duterte sa media conference nito kahapon ng madaling araw sa Malacanang.

Inilalat ng AFP na kabilang si Hapilon sa nasugatan sa ginawang military artillery sa suspected hideouts nito sa Butig, Lanao Del Sur.

Nag-aalala si Pangulong Duterte dahil sa bantang ito ng extremists sa Pilipinas lalo't kinilala ng ISIS na kanilang lider dito ang ASG leader na si Hapilon.

"Takot ako sa kanila because historically they use bomb -- IED -- they did it several times in my city," wika pa ng Pangulo lalo't 14 katao ang nasawi sa pambobomba noong Setyembre sa Davao City.

Samantala, iginiit nito na hindi niya nakikita ang pangangailangan para magdeklara ng martial law sa gitna ng sitwasyon sa Mindanao at ilalagay lamang niya ang bansa sa ilalim ng military rule kung ang tao mismo ang hihingi nito.

"Kung kayo na maghingi, sabihin ko mag-iisip muna ako. But when the time comes na tao na ang maghingi, ibibigay ko," wika pa ni Pangulong Duterte sa ipinatawag nitong press conference kahapon ng madaling araw sa Malacanang.

Wika pa ng Pangulo, hindi kallangan na magdeklara ng martial law sa ngayon, dahil kayang-kaya ng mga law enforcement agencies na gawin ang kanilang trabaho kahit walang military rule.

"Tatal nakakagalaw naman sila, they're doing their duty," dagdag pa ng Pangulo sa biglaang press conference nito kahapon ng madaling araw. (Rudy Andal)

31 January 2017



Page: 1

Weapons depots put PH-US defense alliance in peril

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**
and **ROY C. MABASA**

The country's defense alliance with the United States is in peril after President Duterte slammed American troops for building permanent weapons depots in the country.

The President accused the United

States of placing the country in danger by unloading arsenal into the country and threatened anew to cancel a security pact with its long-time strategic ally.

"They are unloading arms in the Philippines now. Dito sa Palawan, Cagayan de Oro, pali Pampanga. I am serving notice to the

►6

Weapons depots put...

Armed Forces of the United States: Do not do it. I will not allow it," the President said in a press conference after a meeting with top military and police officials in Malacañang.

The President reminded Washington that building permanent military facility is prohibited under the Philippines-US visiting forces agreement (VFA).

"First of all, merong provision diyan sa Visiting Forces Agreement that there shall be no permanent facilities. A depot by any other name

is a depot. It's a permanent structure to house arms," he said.

"And I do not even know if there is a nuclear tip (missile) now that they are unloading because bawal eh sa atin," he added.

If the US pushes ahead with the permanent military structure in the country, Duterte warned: "I will consider a review and maybe ultimately abrogate since it is an executive order, abrogate the treaty altogether."

Duterte was referring to the agreement that allows the rotating

deployment of US troops and equipment to the Philippines. The VFA, on the other hand, governs the conduct of the troops while staying in the country.

The President said Washington's latest actions were endangering the security of the country and the region, especially amid a territorial dispute with China over the South China Sea.

He also claimed that the US was "egging" on the Philippines to force the arbitration ruling that upheld the country's rights in the West Philippine Sea despite China's claims.

"The missiles of China are pointed at the American expeditions," he said,

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adding the US arms depot would serve as a “supply line.”

“You place us all in danger. You do that and I will be there when you start building,” he said about the planned US depot, which he claimed would be worse than the bases because it will be filled with weapons.

If a war erupts in the region, Duterte said the first to be hit would be Cagayan, Palawan, and nearby places.

Duterte maintained that he prefers to talk instead of wage war in resolving the territorial dispute. “I would not allow my people to needlessly die. At the end of the day, I will be the worst president if I do that,” he added.

He affirmed his commitment to Chinese President Xi Jinping that “we will talk about this arbitral award during my term.” He maintained that the government will assert the country’s territorial claims in the disputed area.

But for now, Duterte said, the country prefers to focus on building economic ties with China.

Modus vivendi

President Duterte’s announcement that he has asked the United States not to use Philippine military bases as depot for US war material is a “negotiating strategy,” a form of posturing to extract concessions from the American government.

This was pointed out by Prof. Richard Heydarian of the De La Salle University in Manila Political Science Department in reaction to President Duterte’s declaration that he would consider abrogating a 2014 defense pact that allows US forces to temporarily station in designated Philippine camps if the Americans build weapon depots in those encampments.

According to Prof. Heydarian, Duterte is seeking “a new modus vivendi whereby the Trump administration will desist from criticizing his war on drugs in exchange for normalized military cooperation and return to the status quo ante in the bilateral alliance.”

“The negotiations are on,” he said, “and the recent statements are part of setting the terms for a reset after months of diplomatic tussle with the Obama administration.”

Heydarian said President Duterte’s whole foreign policy has been a gamble from the very beginning and that so far, it has paid off.

“But we don’t know if the same will hold in the future,” he stressed. “It is a high-stakes diplomatic poker game.”

University of the Philippines Prof. Jay Batongbacal, however, pointed out that the provisions of the US-Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement actually allow the prepositioning of “defense equipment, supplies, and material.”

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71 January 2017



Page: 12

US not unloading weapons in Phl - AFP

By MICHAEL PUNONGBAYAN

The United States is not bringing in or unloading weapons in the country, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday.

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen Restituto Padilla said President Duterte's announcement that the US was bringing in weapons might have been based on old information relating to last year's joint military exercises.

"When we had the exercises last year, (the US) was authorized to bring in tanks in Subic Bay to be used in the exercises so it might have been borne out of those reports and we're still checking how it came to be," Padilla said.

The President on Sunday night cautioned the US not to unload arms

in the Philippines, particularly in the middle of the territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea.)

"Itong Amerika, they are unloading arms in the Philippines now. I'm serving notice to US Armed Forces, do not do it," he said in a late night press briefing at Malacanang.

Duterte said US troops appear to be building a depot in the Philippines and are unloading arms in Palawan, Cagayan de Oro and Pampanga.

"I am serving notice to the Armed Forces of the United States: do not do it. I will not allow it. First of all, there is a provision in the Visiting Forces Agreement that there shall be no permanent facilities," the

President said.

"A depot by any other name is a depot. It's a permanent structure to house arms. And I do not even know if there is a nuclear tip now that they are unloading because that is prohibited here, it is not allowed by the treaty. You do that and I will consider a review and maybe ultimately abrogate since it is an executive order, abrogate the treaty all together," Duterte added.

He accused the US of "egging the Philippines to force the issue of the arbitral judgment," which voided China's expansive maritime claim in the South China Sea.

The ruling, which was issued by a Hague-based arbitral court last July, stemmed from a complaint filed by

the Philippines in 2013. China has refused to recognize the ruling, calling it a "mere piece of paper" and "illegal since day one."

Duterte said the US should not drag the Phil-

ippines into a conflict with China.

"The President's announcement, I think, was checked by the Armed Forces and it was found out that there was no confirmed incident of this nature," Padilla said.

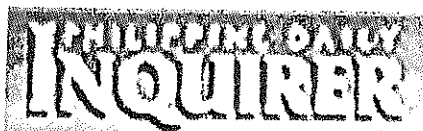
He noted that the military has not received any reports that weapons are being unloaded particularly in Palawan, Cagayan de Oro, and Pampanga.

The AFP clarified that while the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement will allow the construction of certain facilities by the US in the Philippines, equipment to be stored there will only be for disaster or calamity response for humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

Such equipment, Padilla said, include items like generators, vehicles, rubber boats, tents, water purifiers, and fuel storage facilities for vehicles that will be used in relief and rescue situations.

– With Alexis Romero

31 January 2017



Page: 14

Don't store weapons in PH, US warned

By Marlon Ramos
@MRamosINQ



President Rodrigo Duterte

President Duterte has accused the US military of constructing "permanent" arms depots in the country in violation of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) between the Philippines and the United States.

"They're unloading arms in the Philippines now ... I am serving notice to the Armed Forces of the United States: Do not do it. I will not allow it," the President told a press conference in Malacañang shortly before Sunday.

Mr. Duterte, who had openly lambasted America for allegedly interfering in the country's economic and political affairs, threatened to abro-

gate the Philippines' military agreement with the US if American forces would continue bringing in war armaments.

ping, that I will stand by my word," he said.

Mr. Duterte surmised that the US could be prepositioning its military weaponry in case America engaged China in a shooting war over the South China Sea dispute.

Regional stability at risk

"Am I a fool to agree with that? Yes, we're friends, but don't drag us ... China is claiming it. You are insisting it is now an international sea while the arbitral says that is ours," he said.

He said Washington was putting regional stability at risk and its actions could put the Philippines in "extreme danger" because of the posturing between the US

He said the VFA, which was ratified by the Senate in 1999, explicitly stated that US forces are not allowed to build permanent structures anywhere in the Philippines.

Not allowed

He claimed the US military was "unloading arms" in its temporary facilities in Palawan, Cagayan de Oro City and Pangasinana.

"A depot by any other name is a depot. It's a permanent structure to house arms. And I do not even know if there is a nuclear tip now that they are unloading because we don't allow that," he said.

"It's not allowed by the treaty. You do that and I will consider a review and maybe ul-

timately, abrogation, since it is an executive order. (I will) abrogate the treaty altogether," he warned.

He also chided the US for pressuring the Philippines to enforce a ruling last year by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that invalidated most of Beijing's claims to the South China Sea.

'Solemn commitment'

He said he had a "solemn commitment" to Chinese President Xi Jinping that he would raise the Philippines' victory in the international arbitral court which recognized the country's ownership claims in due time.

"And I would like to assure the President of China, Xi Jin-

and China.

"Don't drag the Philippines because I will not allow it. You will kill the Filipinos. How can we fight back? You place us all in danger."

His comments came after the Pentagon gave the green light to build warehouses, barracks and runways this year under a 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) between the two long-time allies.

Edca allows the expansion of rotational deployment of US ships, aircraft and troops at five bases in the Philippines as well as the storage of equipment for humanitarian and maritime security operations.

-WITH REPORTS FROM AP, REUTERS INQ

Arm

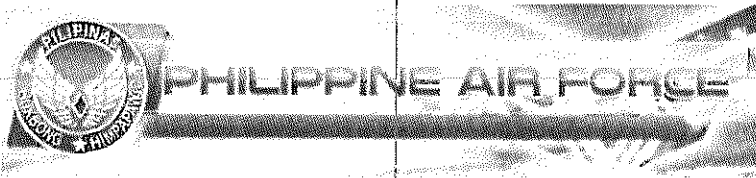
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ONLINE NEWS 31 JANUARY 2017

PAF 2nd Air Division on its 38 Years

From Defense News Daily (Jan 30): PAF 2nd Air Division on its 38 Years

2nd Air Division on its 38 years



The 2nd Air Division of the Philippine Air Force, based in Lapu-Lapu City, celebrated its 38th Founding Anniversary with the theme: "Working in Synergy Advancing Towards a Jointly Engaged and Transforming Force For Greater Peace and Security in the Visayas" on January 24, 2017 at the Base Theater Brigadier General Benito N Ebuena Air Base (BGBNEAB) with the PAF Commanding General, Lieutenant General Edgar R Fallorina AFP, as the Guest of Honor.

Highlighted during the activity was the presentation of awards to the following named personnel and units for their meritorious and valuable accomplishments to the division. Lt Gen Fallorina presented the awards together with the Division Commander, MGen Jose G Mirandilla Jr AFP, assisted by the Deputy Commander of the 2AD, Bgen Florentino S Rasco JR AFP.

Awardees:

Officer of the Year- 1Lt Jefferson Baniwas T Sannad PAF

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year- SSg Marte A Teruel PAF

Airman of the Year- Sgt Darwin C Cabanilla PAF

Civilian Employee of the Year- Mrs Matilda Socorro M Querubin RMT, AMT

Group of the Year- Tactical Operations Group 8

Squadron of the Year- BGBNEAB Hospital

Special Recognition was also given to the following:

560th Air Base Wing

205th Tactical Helicopter Wing

220th Airlift Wing

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7th FSSU, ASCOM, PA

Meanwhile, the CG, PAF personally greeted and expressed his deepest gratitude to all the admirable 2AD personnel and civilian employees for their passion, dedication and high sense of discipline towards work.

"Carry on 2nd Air Division Family! The "SYNERGY" you greatly underscored and exemplified is indeed commendable and inspiring," he said.

Happy, happy anniversary, 2nd Air Division!!!

<https://defensenewsdailyp.wordpress.com/2017/01/28/paf-2nd-air-division-on-its-38-years/>

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9 people linked to jihadists detained in Marawi City

From the Mindanao Examiner (Jan 30): 9 people linked to jihadists detained in Marawi City Security forces detained Monday at least 9 people suspected of having links with local jihadists during a raid at a school compound in Marawi City in southern Philippines, reports said.

It policemen, backed by soldiers, also seized two improvised explosives at an apartment unit inside the Mindanao State University. It was unknown whether the men are members of the jihadist group led by the Maute brothers, or supporters.

Police were investigating all the suspects while military operations continue against the jihadists in Lanao del Sur, one of 5 provinces under the Muslim autonomous region.

Latest military propaganda said at least 15 jihadists had been killed over the weekend and that a senior leader of the Abu Sayyaf, Isnion Hapilon, being coddled by the Maute group was also wounded in the government assault in Butig town.

But the military claim cannot be independently confirmed, although security officials insisted the reports came from intelligence sources and civilians themselves. Just recently, the military claimed that a Malaysian and an Indonesian jihadist were also slain in the operations, but troops failed to retrieve the bodies of the fighters.

Hapilon's group and other local jihadists have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and vowed to put up a caliphate in the mineral-rich, but restive region of Mindanao, which was once under the rule of sultanates.

Troops were sent to the province to hunt down Hapilon, who managed to escape a massive military operation in Basilan only to link up with the Maute group whose leaders are brothers Otto, Abdullah and Omar Maute. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Hapilon, who is also the local chieftain of the Islamic State in the Philippines, was believed to have arrived in Lanao del Sur in December last year in an effort to further strengthen the unity of various jihadist groups fighting for the establishment of a strict Islamic state.

The rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front which is currently negotiating peace with Manila also ordered its forces to help Philippine authorities hunt down Hapilon and the Maute brothers.

The MILF, which signed an interim peace deal with the government in 2014, had been previously accused by the military of providing sanctuary to Indonesian and Malaysian jihadists, especially members of the Jemaah Islamiya.

President Duterte has appealed to the MILF and its rival group Moro National Liberation Front not to provide shelter to the jihadists and warned their leaders that he would order the police and military to pursue the fighters inside their territories in Mindanao.

Security forces are also fighting the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, Ansarul Khilafah, Khilafah Islamiyah Movement, Al-Khobar Group, including so-called rogue MILF rebels, among other smaller groups sympathizing with Islamic State.

<http://mindanaoexaminer.com/9-people-linked-to-jihadists-detained-in-marawi-city/>
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Man lauded for alerting police on IED in Maguindanao

From the Philippine News Agency (Jan 30): Man lauded for alerting police on IED in Maguindanao

A police officer lauded on Monday a concerned citizen who quickly alerted the police about a suspected improvised bomb near a swimming resort here and prevented bloody Saturday.

"We need people like him to prevent violence and save lives." Chief inspector Achmad Alibonga, police chief of Datu Odin Sinsuat, said of the person who informed the police about the improvised explosive device.

Alibonga refused to name the person but gave his snappy salute to the guy. "Emulate the person because that simple action save lives," he told reporters.

Upon receipt of the information at about 10:30 in the morning of Saturday, Chief Inspector Alibonga quickly rushed to the site where the IED was found beside the national highway in Barangay Awang, particularly in front of Granny's Swimming Resort.

Alibonga said the IED was live and capable of wounding or killing people had it exploded. Army and police bomb experts safely detonated the IED, described as similar to explosives manufactured by outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF).

No one has claimed responsibility in the plan to set off the IED.

The area where the IED was found was a kilometer away from the Army's 6th Infantry Division headquarters.

Police and soldiers remained on alert following the discovery of improvised bomb.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=959321>

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PCSO, nag-bigay ng 1M donasyon sa Children of Military Heroes

— [Luis Claudio](#) —

Idinaan ng Armed Forces of the Philippines sa isang seremonya ang kanilang pasasalamat sa Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office matapos nitong mag-donate ng isang milyong piso para sa educational assistance ng mga anak ng military heroes.

Ito ang siniguro ni AFP Public Affairs Office Chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo. Si AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año mismo ang tatanggap ng cheke mula sa PCSO.

Nilinaw naman ni Colonel Arevalo na kada taon, umaabot ng apat na raang sundalo ang napapatay sa mga operasyon kung saan sa ilang pagkakataon, hindi na nakakapag-patuloy sa pag-aaral ang kanilang mga anak dahil sa kanila lamang umaasa ang mga ito.

Dahil sa naturang donasyon, matutulungan nito ang isang daan at pitongpu't walong stipends ng AFP Educational Benefit System Office.

Isa lamang itong manipestasyon ng pagpapakita ng pasasalamat at pagpupugay ng AFP sa kanilang kasundaluhan na walang humpay na nagsasakripisyo upang makapag silibi sa bayan.

www.dwdd.com

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15 Killed 7 Wounded in the renewed AFP Offensives in Lanao Sur

Luis Claudio

"At least 15 were killed and 7 others wounded including a foreigner from groups comprised of ASG Leader Isnilon Hapilon and his cohorts from Basilan; the Brothers Abdullah, Omar, and Otto Maute; and other local and foreign terror personalities in airstrikes a little past midnight 26 January 2017 in the the municipality of Butig, Lanao Del Sur," according to Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, Chief of AFP Public Affairs Office.

Commander of Western Mindanao Command MGen Carlito Galvez, Jr. reports to AFP Chief General Eduardo Año that among the 15 reported killed is an Indonesian terror suspect identified only as Mohisen, and two other local terrorists identified as Sahl Num and one alias SADAT.

Two among the 7 wounded were identified as one Amirul and the other is the proclaimed "Emir" and ASG Leader Isnilon Hapilon from Basilan. The latter, according to reports, was severely wounded.

"Our focused military operations backed by intelligence from the community and available wherewithals of the AFP will be unrelenting.

"It is too early to rejoice but I consider this initial success a significant gain in the campaign to defeat the terror groups in Western Mindanao by the end of June 2017 as desired by the President and Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Duterte," declares General Eduardo Año, the AFP Chief of Staff.

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IED Explosion Hits 5 Persons in Albarka, Basilan

Reported by: Lui Claudio

Camp Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City- An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded in Albarka, Basilan killing two (2) children and wounding three others this morning.

The IED was reported to be laid by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) under Furuji Indama to sow fear on the people in the area especially those who are not sympathetic to their group. All the five (5) victims are from Bgy Danapan, Al Barka, Basilan the same place where the IED was triggered. Both fatalities are children, Niyadz Pising who is two (2) years old and Ombek Akbar who is five (5). The three (3) wounded are Pahmiya Pising and Salmiya Akbar who are both four (4) years old, and Suraima Akbar who is twenty-five (25).

The victims were reported to be playing outdoors when they accidentally triggered the IED which was placed in a trail frequented by the locals. Four of the victims were rushed to the nearest hospital however only the three (3) survived. Joint Task Force "Basilan" responded to the incident as soon as it came to their attention and is currently assessing the incident together with local authorities and come up with measure to avert the recurrence of such a tragic event.

Major General Carlito G. Galvez Jr., Commander of the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), AFP expressed that this horrendous act perpetrated by the ASG goes beyond savagery and stressed that victimizing innocent civilians, especially children, is simply unacceptable. He further committed to exhaust every available resource under his disposal to crush the ASG in the soonest possible time so that the people of Basilan will have the peace that they truly deserve.

Last December 2, 2016, two (2) children also perished while two (2) others were seriously injured during a similar incident in Bgy Bohe Piyang, Albarka last year where the victims also accidentally triggered an IED placed by the ASG along a trail frequented by the locals.

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