

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



ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

16 March 2017

Thursday

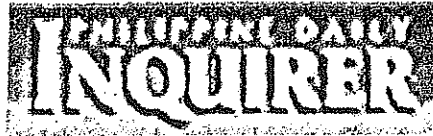
Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST MARCH 16, 2017 | THURSDAY

TAIL-END OF A COLD FRONT AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON
NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
 (As of 6:00 PM - Mar. 15, 2017)

SUNRISE 6:03 AM	SUNSET 6:06 PM
MOONRISE 9:11 PM	MOONSET 8:27 AM
FULL MOON MAR 12 10:54 PM	LAST QUARTER MAR 20 11:58 PM
LOW TIDE 6:50 PM 0.06 Meter	HIGH TIDE 12:23 AM 0.66 Meter

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

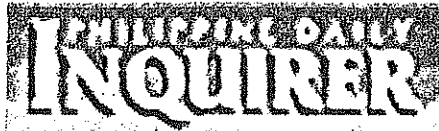
	MAR 17	MAR 18	MAR 17	MAR 18	MAR 17	MAR 18		
METRO MANILA	23 - 33 °C	23 - 33 °C	TAGAYTAY	21 - 31 °C	22 - 31 °C	TACLOBAN	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO	22 - 30 °C	23 - 31 °C	LEGAZPI	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C
LAOAG	23 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26 - 32 °C	26 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO	24 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C
BAGUID	14 - 23 °C	15 - 24 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	23 - 33 °C	24 - 34 °C	METRO CEBU	25 - 30 °C	25 - 29 °C	<p>SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!</p>		

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PILIPINAS HD

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10 March 2017



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Leni brings fight against Du30 to UN

FROM A1

By Nikko Dizon
@NikkoDizonINQ

Through a video message, Vice President Leni Robredo brings to the world's attention the troubles in President Duterte's war against drugs, primarily the thousands of deaths that have resulted from the bloody seven-month campaign and flagrant human rights violations.

Robredo's nearly six-minute video is scheduled to be shown on Thursday at the 60th United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs annual meeting in Vienna.

"We are heartened that the issue of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines today is being discussed in an event such as this. To know that the international community's eyes are on us and to feel that human rights advocates are watching over our country gives us comfort, courage and hope," she said.

"We are now looking at some very grim statistics: since July last year, more than 7,000 people have been killed in summary executions," Robredo said.

"We agree that our people deserve nothing less than a safe environment, so that anyone can walk the streets safely, whether in daylight or at nighttime. But drug abuse should not be treated as one that can be solved with bullets alone. It must be regarded as it truly is: a complex public health issue, linked intimately with poverty and social inequality," Robredo said.

Hostage-taking

Robredo denounced what she called "palit-ulo," or literally, exchange heads, where another family member would be taken if the drug suspect could not be found.

"Some of those who have told us that when there's a crime, they normally go to the police. Now, they don't know where to turn. Our people feel both hopeless and helpless—a state of mind that we must all take seriously," she said.

"You cannot kill addicts and declare the problem solved. The solution is to design the proper



You cannot kill addicts and declare the problem solved. The solution is to design the proper health, education and psychosocial interventions to prevent further drug use, and help them transition into a productive member of society

Leni Robredo
Vice President

health, education and psychosocial interventions to prevent further drug use, and help them transition into a productive member of society," she added.

Robredo took note of the need now for people who have been traumatized by the war on drugs that need legal and psychological support.

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Greater transparency

The Vice President reiterated her earlier call for “greater transparency” in the war against drugs.

“What, exactly, is the scope of the drug problem? Why do numbers about the extent of the problem change as officially reported to the nation by our President inconsistent?” she asked.

“We believe that any campaign against illegal drugs must be founded on integrity. The public must ask why no one is being held accountable. The public must be watchful,” she stressed.

Robredo said the Commission on Human Rights had received 500 complaints stemming from the war on drugs and had recommended that the Department of Justice file charges

against those responsible.

“But until now, seven months into the administration’s drug war, no information has been filed,” she said.

Huge mistake

Robredo described as a “brewing problem” and a “huge mistake” the imminent return of the death penalty and the lowering of the age of criminal liability to 9 years old.

She said she had called on Mr. Duterte to focus on the war on poverty, as well, a “war that really matters.”

“In a public statement, we asked him to direct the nation toward respect for rule of law, instead of blatant disregard for it. We ask him to uphold basic human rights enshrined in our Constitution, instead of encouraging its abuse,” Robredo said.

“We asked him to be the leader he promised to be, and evoke in our people hope and inspiration, instead of fear. We told him: Do not allow the lies to distort the truth,” she added.

‘They’re crazy’

On Tuesday, Mr. Duterte said the threat to file charges against him would not stop him from carrying out his crackdown on illegal drugs.

“You cannot make me back out of it even if you file a case against me wherever. No way,” he said in a meeting with municipal mayors.

“So the drug campaign will continue ... When will my term end? That will be the day. If you say, you will scare me with the extrajudicial accusation? It’s a good thing that’s only now. When I was mayor, they kept on saying they will have me jailed. You son of a bitch. Just try it,” he added.

“Now, these human rights [groups] want to sue me,” he said. “Mga buang (They’re crazy).”

He lamented anew that his critics are trying to make the slain drug suspects look like sainted victims.

“And then you will have this drama that someone died like the Pieta ... And so? You will exhibit something like that? That is nothing to me,” he said. —WITH A REPORT FROM LEILA B. SALAVERRIA INQ

16 March 2017



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Army invites Mocha to ‘intellectual discourse,’ 2 weeks from April Fools’

By Cynthia D. Balana
@cynchdbINQ

Detractors might say that the Philippine Army was off by two weeks to April Fools’ Day when it asked a controversial blogger and singer known for lewd performances onstage to join an “intellectual discourse” as a resource speaker.

But Mocha (Margaux Uson in real life) apparently took the invitation to heart and proudly described it in her blog as proof that she was a credible writer and not a purveyor of fake news as critics have claimed.

In his letter to Uson, Army acting chief Lt. Col. Glorioso Miranda asked the recently ap-

pointed member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to be one of three resource persons during the 10th Senior Leaders Conference (SLC) on March 20. Also invited to speak about social media on the theme, “Embracing Diversity, Building a Strong Army” were Pompee La Vina and Abe Olandres.

The conference, Miranda said, will be the highlight of the Army’s 120th anniversary celebration at its headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The SLC has 10 different topics meant to “promote awareness on security challenges through intellectual discourse with experts in various disciplines that

impact on national security.”

Among the topics to be tackled during the SLC are concerns on strategic security landscape, internal security, military capability and information domain. About 180 Army senior leaders and special guests are expected to attend the event.

In her blog, Uson lashed out at bashers, including those from mainstream media, for underestimating her and accusing her of bringing “fake news” to the public.

“Let me show you one of the many invites (that I receive) proving my credibility on social media. *Ayaw ko na sana ilabas ito pero gusto ko lang isampal sa*

inyo na for once mapahiya kayo diyan sa fake news issue ninyo (I didn’t want to show it off, but let this be a slap on your face to shame you for your fake news claims),” Uson wrote.

The event will be “attended by commanders and top generals in the entire Philippines,” she added. “I will be their guest speaker. Do you think I’d be given such opportunity if I were a fake news blogger? Sorry, fellow DDS (Diehard Duterte Supporters), I have to answer back the Yellow camp (referring to former President Aquino’s allies). They’re the ones spreading fake cheques (sic), and they had the gall to say I peddle fake news?” INQ

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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How can Army go wrong with blogger Mocha?

ARMY chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda has invited rabid President Duterte supporter Mocha Uson to speak during a gathering of senior Army officers meant to promote awareness on security issues.

Uson will be one of the resource speakers during the 10th Senior Leaders Conference to be held at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on March 20 and 21.

The SLC is being held as part of the celebration of the 120th founding anniversary of the Army on March 22. The SLC is expected to be attended by 180

participants, mostly Army senior officers.

Army spokesman Col. Benjamin Hao said Uson was to be a resource person on “social media” which will be discussed on March 20. Hao said two other resource persons – Pompee La Vina and Abe Olandres – were also invited.

“The Philippine Army asked Ms. Uson to discuss relevant information and her experiences as a blogger who has 4.8 million likers on her account,” said Hao.

Uson, now a board member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, initially

announced the Army invitation and her acceptance of the invitation on her blog.

Uson said the Army would not invite her to be a speaker if she is spreading “fake news.” She said accusations that she is spreading “fake news” are the handiwork of trolls identified with the previous administration.

“Ayaw so sana ilabas ito pero gusto ko lang isampal sa inyo na for once mapahiya kayo dyan sa fake news issue niyo,” said Uson, who posted a copy of Miranda’s invitation.

“Sa tingin nyo ang tulad ko

bibigyan ng opportunity magsalita sa ganyan kung fake news blogger ako? So next time you call me fake news, make sure you have something to back it up or else ipapakain ko sa inyo itong invitation,” added Uson.

Uson apologized to fellow Duterte supporters but said she has to answer the accusations against her. “Hindi na kasi tama ‘yang mga Dilaw na ‘yan,’ she said, adding her detractors are the ones spreading “fake information” and yet they have the guts to accuse of spreading fake news. -- *Victor Reyes*



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www.dwdd.com.ph

Government troops encounters five NPA in Camarines Norte

By **Reporter Lui Claudio** | **March 15, 2017, 12:00 PM**

On March 15, 2017, at around 5:30 AM today troops of 9th Infantry Division encountered five NPA members at Sitio Public, Brgy Itok, Capalonga, Camarines Norte.

The firefight lasted for five minutes.

The encounter resulted to the recovery of 1 M16 A4 rifle, 3 magazines with ammunitions, personal belongings and one (1) unidentified cadaver.

Brigadier General Rolando Manalo, Commander, 902nd Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army said the encounter happened after information received from the community that a group of armed men was sighted in the area.

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MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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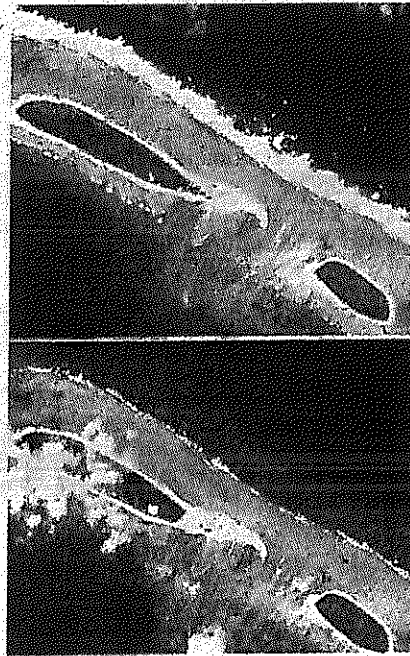
China begins new work on disputed South China Sea island

HONG KONG (Reuters) – China has started fresh construction work in the disputed South China Sea, new satellite images show, a sign that Beijing is continuing to strengthen its military reach across the vital trade waterway.

Regional military attaches and experts believe the work shows China's determination to build up its network of reefs and islets, even if it is seeking to avoid a fresh confrontation with the new administration of US President Donald Trump.

An image of North Island in the Paracels group taken on March 6 shows recent work including land clearing and possible preparation for a harbor to support what experts believe may be eventual military installations. Initial work was damaged in a typhoon last year.

The pictures, provided by private satellite firm Planet Labs, follow reports in January showing work undertaken on nearby Tree Island and



Combination of satellite photos shows Chinese-controlled North Island, part of the Paracel Islands group in the South China Sea, on February 15, 2017 (top) and on March 6, 2017. (Planet Labs/Handout via Reuters)

other features in the Paracels, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

Diplomats briefed on latest Western intelligence assessments say Beijing is pursuing efforts to dominate its maritime "backyard," even if it tweaks the timing of moves to avoid being overtly provocative.

China's Defense Ministry said it was "not familiar" with any work at North Island.

"What needs to be stressed is that the Xisha Islands are China's inherent territory," it said, using the Chinese name for the Paracels. China fully occupied the Paracels in 1974 after forcing the navy of the-then South Vietnam off its holdings.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said a draft code of conduct for behavior in the South China Sea had now been completed and that tensions had "distinctly dropped."

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Air Force's new fighter jets conduct overflight missions over Mindanao

AFTER their successful familiarization overflight and tour in the Visayas, the Air Force's brand-new FA-50PH "Golden Eagle" jet fighters started the Mindanao leg of their overflight in Mindanao on Wednesday morning.

The overflights took place at 10 a.m. over the airspace of Cagayan de Oro, Butuan and Surigao cities, said Col. Antonio Francisco, Air Force spokesman.

The FA-50PHs earlier undertook overflight missions over Mactan, Catbalogan, Calbayog, Kalibo, Iloilo, Bacolod and San Carlos, all in the Visayas, last week.

"The overflight missions will also serve as a great avenue to train pilots and allow them to be acquainted with various aspect of flight missions, such as the country's different terrains, weather and possible areas of interest," Francisco earlier said.

Overflights will also demonstrate the Air Force's combat capability to the public.

At least six FA-50PHs are now in service, with another six awaiting delivery. The 12-plane order from



GOLDEN Eagle

Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) is worth P18.9 billion.

The FA-50PH has a top speed of Mach 1.5, or one-and-a-half times the speed of sound, and is capable of being fitted with air-to-air missiles, including the AIM-9 "Sidewinder" air-to-air and heat-seeking missiles, aside from light automatic cannons.

The FA-50PH will act as the country's interim fighter until the Philippines gets enough experience of operating fast jet assets and money to fund the acquisition of more ca-

pable fighter aircraft.

The FA-50PH design is largely derived from the F-16 "Fighting Falcon" and they have many similarities: use of a single engine, speed, size, cost and the range of weapons.

KAI's previous engineering experience in license-producing the F-16K was a starting point for the development of the FA-50PHs.

The aircraft can carry two pilots in tandem seating. The high-mounted canopy developed by Hankuk Fiber is applied with stretched acrylic, providing the pilots with good vis-

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NPA WAITING FOR TRUCE ORDER

BY MARVYN N. BENANING

Correspondent

THE New People's Army (NPA) is still waiting for instructions from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on how to reinstate its unilateral cease-fire.

NPA Spokesman Jorge Madlos, in a statement issued late on Tuesday, said the NPA National Operations Command (NOC) "welcomes and supports the March 12, 2017, joint statement issued by the negotiating panels of the National Democratic Front and the government."

The joint statement reaffirmed the commitment of the two parties to continue the peace negotiations that had been suspended after President Duterte ordered the government panel to go home, after scrapping his unilateral cease-fire and declaring the termination of the peace talks.

Duterte also declared the scrapping of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) after the NPA informed the government panel on February 1 that it was lifting its unilateral cease-fire effective on February 10.

Madlos said the NPA announcement was triggered by the failure of the government to stop the deployment of soldiers as Peace and Development Teams of Internal Peace and Security Plan Kapayapaan in more than 500 villages nationwide.

Moreover, Duterte failed to release more than 400 political prisoners as he had promised, while the NPA was releasing six soldiers, policemen and paramilitary men under its custody, he added.

Until the orders for the reinstatement of the unilateral cease-fire is made, Madlos reiterated, "the NPA is ready to confront and counter the offensives of the Armed Forces in order to defend the people, especially the peasant masses and minority groups, from the abuses being perpetrated by the military."

Madlos also disclosed that "since President Duterte's order on March 9 to 'flatten the hills', the military has become even more frenzied in its war against the NPA."

Last Saturday the Air Force conducted aerial strikes against rebel positions in Cabuyuan, Mabini, Compostela Valley, using at least three MG-520 helicopter gunships as ground troops raked the barangay with automatic fire.

At least 75 families, comprised of 200 individuals, were forced to evacuate owing to the attack, Madlos said.

"For two days now, the Air Force has been conducting bombing runs in Barangays Gawang, Tee and Andavit in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao, using FA-50 jet-fighters and MG-520 helicopter gunships. At least 3,000 families have been forced to evacuate their homes to escape the bombings and militarization of their communities," Madlos added.

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ibility, and has been tested to offer the canopy with ballistic protection against four-pound objects impacting at 400 knots.

The altitude limit is 14,600 meters (48,000 feet), and the airframe is designed to last 8,000 hours of service.

There are seven internal fuel tanks with capacity of 2,655 liters (701 US gallons), five in the fuselage and two in the wings.

An additional 1,710 liters (452 US gallons) of fuel can be carried in the three external fuel tanks.

Trainer variants have a paint scheme of white and red, and aerobatic variants white, black and yellow.

The FA-50PHs use a single General Electric F404-102 turbofan engine license-produced by Samsung Techwin, upgraded with a full authority digital engine control system jointly developed by General Electric and KAI.

The engine consists of three-staged fans, seven axial stage arrangement and an afterburner.

Its engine produces a maximum of 78.7 kN (17,700 lbf) of thrust with afterburner. PNA

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A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

Duterte wants written cease-fire pact with NPA

BY CIELITO M. REGANIT

Philippines News Agency

PRESIDENT Duterte late on Tuesday said the government is again engaged in dialogues with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), but stressed that parameters for a cease-fire would be clearly set.

In his speech before the first general assembly of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), the President said back that is written... and the parameters clearly shown where we are going and what should be done in case of failure," the President said.

"We have to play fair for everything, but it is still a little vague until now. I cannot expound on it further. But we have some must-do in order to achieve peace," Duterte said.

The President made the statement a day after the government panel, led by Secretary Jesus Dureza, and NDF leaders agreed to resume negotiations by the first week of April.

Negotiations were stalled after both sides lifted their respective

channel talks have been revived despite sporadic clashes between government forces and communists rebels.

"We are talking to the communists, I'm still biding my time. There's a backchanneling. I'm not supposed to talk about it because it's backchanneling. But I have certain conditions or demands that we have to agree upon," Duterte said.

However, he said parameters for a cease-fire should be clearly set in a document that would bind both parties.

"I want a cease-fire [agreement] unilateral cease-fires in early February, with the NPA making the first move.

Last week Duterte ordered government forces to use all its assets in an all-out war against the rebels following the ambush-killing of four policemen by suspected NPA members in Bansalan, Davao del Sur.

On Monday Dureza announced that the government is expected to meet with the communist panel in April after successful backchannel talks held on March 10 and 11.

16 March 2017

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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NPA shot 4 cops at close range —SOCO

By F. Pearl A. Gajunera

DAVAO CITY—Scene-of-the-crime investigators said three of the four policemen who were killed last week in Bansalan, Davao del Sur were executed and not ambushed as the New People's Army claimed.

One of the three police was kneeling when he was shot, indicating that they pleaded for their lives before they were shot at close range with M16 and M14 rifles, the Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) report said.

Other signs that they were shot at close range were the empty shells near the victims' bodies and power burns on their wounds.

The report added that PO1 Joe Narvaza was killed in the initial salvo of fire while PO1 Saro

Next page

Mangutara was dragged from the back portion of the mobile patrol car where he was seated to the right side of the front seat where his body was found along with PO1 Rolly Benelayo and PO3 Jayden May Rabor.

Paraffin tests showed the policemen did not fire their guns. Near the scene of the crime, police found an unexploded bomb.

The lone survivor, PO3 Allen Arnado, said when he saw their windshield shattered by a gunshot, he immediately jumped off the vehicle and hid himself 50 meters away.

"After I jumped off the car, I don't have any idea what happened to them, I crawled to save my life, all I can hear was gunshots," Arnado said.

Police Regional Office 11 Director Chief Supt. Manuel Gaerlan said Arnado's statement and the SOCO report confirm that the cops were executed.

"This only shows how barbaric the actions of the rebels. They even dragged PO1 Mangutara who was seated at the back side of the car," Gaerlan said.

He said that they already have some of the rebels' names and will be filing murder charges against them soon.

The Commission of Human Rights here also condemned the incident and vowed to continue working with the authorities.

The NPA said Wednesday there would be more attacks against the military and police amid its continued offensive against the communist rebels.

In a statement, Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, NPA spokesman, said that while the NPA has yet to receive instructions from the Communist Party of the Philippines leadership based in Utrecht for a possible ceasefire, the NPA rebels will continue to engage with security forces over President Rodrigo Duterte's March 9 order to "flatten the hills" in efforts to crush communist rebels.

"Until then, the NPA is ready to confront and counter the offensives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] in order to defend the people, especially the peasant masses and minority groups, from the abuses being perpetrated by the AFP," Madlos said.

The armed group condemned the aerial bombings in NPA-controlled areas and the alleged killing of at least 15 peasants in different parts of the country.

"As such, it is the obligation of the NPA to counter the AFP's frenzied war against the people," Madlos said.

The killing of the four police officers in Bansalan prompted President Duterte to order the military and police to use all their assets in the war against communist rebels.

Despite an announcement that peace talks have been revived, attacks continued. This week, the rebels burned a bus in Makilala, North Cotabato, and wounded five policemen in an ambush in Abra.

With John Paolo Bencito

16 March 2017

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Sayyaf sub-leader eludes Marines

A NOTORIOUS sub-leader of the lawless Abu Sayyaf group eluded Marine soldiers during a firefight in Tongkil town in Sulu on Tuesday.

Col. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, said time will come when elusive sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya would eventually fall into the hands of the operating troops.

Sobejana said the fighting, involving forces of the Marine Special Operations Group, left one of Misaya's followers dead and another wounded. It also led to the recovery of an M14 rifle.

Sobejana said the Marine soldiers clashed with Misaya and about 25 of his men during a combat operation in Bangalao island at around 4:35 a.m., leading

to a 20-minute firefight.

"Misaya was there but he ran so fast to escape. There will be time when we'll get him," said Sobejana.

Misaya and his group are holding several of the 31 foreign and Filipinos kidnap victims still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

Misaya is linked to several kidnapping-for-ransom activities,

including that of the abduction of Indonesian and Malaysian crewmembers in the high seas of Sulu, Malaysia and Indonesia a few months ago.

The military leadership is aiming to defeat the Abu Sayyaf within the first six months of the year. The Abu Sayyaf is composed of around 300 to 400 men, most of them based in Sulu. -- *Victor Reyes*

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NPA tells Rody: Order 125,000 AFP troops to stop 'terrorist' acts

By Mario J. Mallari

The communist New People's Army (NPA) that has been committing atrocities on government dropers, yet it has called for President Duterte to order the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to stop "terrorism acts" to prepare the ground for a binding ceasefire.

NPA spokesman Jorge Madlos, aka Oris, accused the AFP of abuses against ordinary people that motivate the communist armed group to conduct counter actions.

"The NPA calls on the AFP Commander-in-Chief Duterte to restrain the AFP and command it to stop its acts of state terrorism against the people in order to prepare the ground for a meaningful ceasefire in line with the continuation of peace talks," said Madlos.

On Tuesday, the AFP vowed continued massive and focused combat operations against the NPA until a formal order is given by higher headquarters.

Last Saturday, the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) peace panels agreed to hold fourth round of talks next month.

Madlos said that the NPA supports the resumption of the peace negotiation.

He said the NPA National Operations Command awaits instructions from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) central committee on the matter of the reinstatement of the unilateral ceasefire with the Duterte government.

"Until then, the NPA is ready to confront and counter the

offensives of the AFP in order to defend the people, especially the peasant masses and minority groups, from the abuses being perpetrated by the AFP," said Madlos.

But according to Madlos, since Duterte ordered the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to use all available resources against the NPAs last March, the military has become even more frenzied in its crazed war against the people.

Last Saturday, Madlos said that the AFP conducted aerial strikes against Barangay Cabuyuan in Mabinini, Compostela Valley. It employed at least three MG-520 helicopter gunships to drop no less than 10 bombs, even as ground troops fired their machine guns. At least 75 families or 200 individuals were forced to evacuate.

Since February, the AFP has been conducting aerial bombings against peasant communities including those in Laak, Compostela Valley; in Bansalan, Davao del Sur; in Asuncion, Davao del Norte; in Fatima, Davao City; in Alabel, Sarangani and elsewhere.

"Thousands have been forced to evacuate as a result. The AFP has also threatened to conduct aerial bombing in Assipulo, Ifugao and Maddela, Quirino forcing hundreds of families to evacuate," said Madlos.

Over the past few weeks, no less than 15 peasants have been killed by AFP troops and other state agents in Antipolo, Rizal; San Andres, Quezon; Maayon, Capiz; in Compostela and Maragusan in Compostela Vally; Arakan, North Cotabato; in Davao City and other places.

16 March 2017



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Kagawad dinukot ng NPA sa DavOcc

Isang barangay kagawad ang dinukot ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa bayan ng Malita sa Davao Occidental, inulat ng pulisya kahapon.

Kaagad kumilos ang crisis committee ng pamahalaan upang mailigtas si Luis Angos, kagawad ng Barangay Little Baguio sa Malita.

Ayon kay Chief Insp. Samson

Kimayong, hepe ng Malita Municipal Police, binihag si Angos ng mga rebelde sa Sitio Paglidong sa nabanggit na barangay.

Nabatid sa inisyal na imbestigasyon ng pulisya na biglang pumasok ang mga rebelde sa bahay ni Angos at sapilitan itong tinangay.

Sinabi pa sa report na hindi pa matiyak ng pulisya kung ano ang

motibo sa pagbihag kay Angos ng mga pinaniniwalaang miyembro ng Committee Front 72, sa pangunguna ng isang Kumander Cocoy.

Kaagad namang nakipagpulong si Davao Occidental Gov. Claude Bautista mga miyembro ng crisis committee para magsagawa ng negosasyon sa NPA upang ligtas na mapalaya ang kagawad.

Fer Taboy

16 March 2017



Pahina. 2

Asset ng militar, nilikida ng NPA

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay - Tadtad ng bala ang katawan ng 58-anyos na magsasaka na sinasabing asset ng militar matapos itong pagbabarilin ng mga rebeldeng New People's Army sa Barangay Calumpang sa bayan ng Cawayan, Masbate noong Martes ng hapon. Kirilala ang biktima na si Gracemero Bandol na hindi na nagawa pang isugod sa ospital ng mga kabarangay makaraang mamatay agad sa mismong crime scene. Sa ulat na nakarating sa Camp Simeon Ola, dakong alas-2 ng hapon habang nasa harap ng kanyang bahay ang biktima nang lapitan at ratratin. Narekober sa crime scene ang mga basyo ng bala ng M16 Armalite rifle at M14 rifle. Pinaniniwalaang asset ng militar at pulisya ang biktima na nagbibigay ng impormasyon sa ikinikilos ng mga rebelde sa nasabing lugar. **Jorge Hallare**

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**MANILA BULLETIN**
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 10

Peace talks resuming after breakdown

PEACE talks between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (NDF-CPP-NPA) broke down early last February over a demand of the NDF-CPP-NPA for the release of some 400 political prisoners.

When President Duterte refused, saying he had already released several prisoners needed to serve the NDF-CPP-NPA panel as consultants, panel chairman Fidel Agcaoili told the leaders of the fighting forces – the NPA – that they were free to decide whether they would continue with their unilateral ceasefire, based on their appreciation of field conditions. The NPA proceeded to carry out attacks in various parts of the country.

President Duterte immediately replied in kind. The peace talks were set aside and fighting resumed. But many officials continued to hope for peace. Some 100 congressmen called for a revival of the talks, as so much had already been accomplished in the three meetings held in Oslo, Norway, and in Rome, Italy. They were to hold their fourth meeting in Utrecht, Switzerland, when the peace talks were cancelled.

The immediate cause of the breakdown was the demand for the release of 400 more political prisoners, which President Duterte refused. He pointed out that while there had been preliminary agreement on many issues – socio-economic and legal-political – the

two sides could not even agree on a common ceasefire. Each side was only operating on its own unilateral ceasefire.

The NPA claimed that AFP community operations – moving into remote mountain villages with civic action programs with youth volunteers – were a violation of the ceasefire. That was why they picked up and detained a soldier working with one youth group. It was at this point that the NDF panel chairman Agcaoili told the NPA commanders that they were no longer bound by their ceasefire.

Were these incidents sufficient basis for the breakdown in talks? Both sides have had sufficient time to consider these incidents in the last six weeks and they must have realized that with so much at stake, they should be less demanding and be more understanding, more open to compromise agreements.

Last Friday and Saturday, the two sides met in informal talks in the Netherlands and decided to resume formal negotiations in the first week of April. They will have had four months to think things over, see where and how the breakdown came, and take steps to ensure that the peace talks will now proceed on the truly basic issues related to social and economic reforms, justice, and legal, political, and constitutional changes in the life of our nation.

And they should be able to work out a common ceasefire agreement.

16 March 2017

BusinessMirror

Page. A10

A10 Thursday, March 16, 2017 • Editor: Angel R. Calso

editorial

Benham Rise is ours

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana's disclosure that Chinese survey ships lingered for months in Benham Rise last year has set off alarm bells that call for immediate action to prevent further incursion by our giant neighbor into the country's territorial waters. This resource-rich underwater plateau off the coast of Aurora is ours. There's no point arguing about this fact. And it does not need a genius to figure out that China's survey ships are there to spy on our natural resources, which is alarming.

Benham Rise officially became part of the Philippines in 2012 after the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ruled that, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), this 13-million-hectare undersea landmass was contiguous with the country's continental shelf and, hence, fell under its exclusive economic zone.

The ruling that awarded Benham Rise to the Philippines as part of its exclusive economic zone and extended continental shelf means the country has the exclusive rights to explore and use the resources in this undersea landmass. Of course, other countries can exercise innocent passage and territorial navigation, but they can't stay or establish any structure in the area. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Philippine government to oversee ships of other countries sailing in this area to protect our territorial interests.

What is worrying, however, was Beijing's reaction to Lorenzana's disclosure. A statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the Philippines couldn't claim Benham Rise as its own territory despite it being part of the country's 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone. The statement acknowledged that in 2012 the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf approved the submission of the Philippines in 2009 with respect to the limits of its continental shelf in the Benham Rise region. This enables the Philippines to carry out exploration and development of natural resources in the area. "But it does not mean that the Philippines can take it as its own territory."

Technically, China's statement is correct because no country can own the high seas in the same sense as land. But the government must assert the country's sovereignty over Benham Rise, which is undisputedly part of Philippine territory.

In light of China's incursion into our territory, the government must scale up scientific study and exploration of the undersea region. As we have exclusive rights to explore and exploit its natural resources, we need to determine its economic potential.

For example, studies conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources indicated that Benham Rise has large deposits of methane in solid form. Huge methane hydrate or methane ice deposits in Benham Rise could turn the Philippines into a natural-gas exporter. Natural gas is a fossil fuel used as a source of energy for heating, cooking and electricity generation. It is also used as fuel for vehicles and as a chemical feedstock in the manufacture of plastics.

We agree with the clamor that the government must protect Benham Rise from foreign intruders. But the more important question remains: How can the Philippines establish its presence over Benham Rise? The sooner the Duterte administration can come up with an effective strategy, the better we can protect and develop Benham Rise as a rich source of alternative energy, marine resources, and possibly, a tourism destination.

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ONLINE NEWS

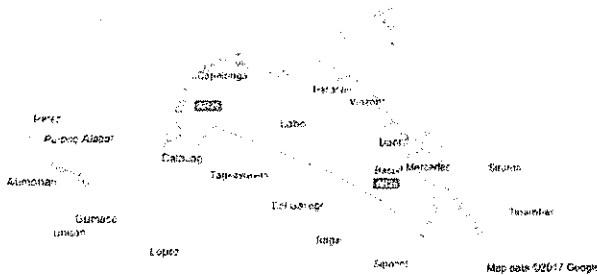
16 MARCH 2017

www.inquirer.net

Suspected NPA rebel killed in Camarines Norte clash

By: Mar S. Arguelles - Correspondent / @msarguellesINQ

Inquirer Southern Luzon / 09:22 PM March 15, 2017



Capalonga is a coastal town of Camarines Norte (Google maps)

LEGAZPI CITY — A suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebel was slain on Wednesday in a clash with Army troopers in a hinterland village of Capalonga town in Camarines Norte province, a report reaching the Army's 9th Infantry Division (9ID) said.

The still unidentified communist rebel was killed in a five-minute gun battle between Army soldiers who were on combat operation in the vicinity of Sitio (sub-village) Public, in Barangay (village) Itok around 5:30 a.m., Capt. Joash Pramis, 9th ID spokesperson, said.

Pramis said soldiers recovered from the slain rebel his M16 rifle, three magazines and a backpack with personal belongings.

Pramis said that the slain NPA was the second communist insurgent killed in a week in Camarines provinces. The first one was slain in an encounter in Barangay Pinamihagan in Lagonoy town in Camarines Sur last March 12. **SFM**

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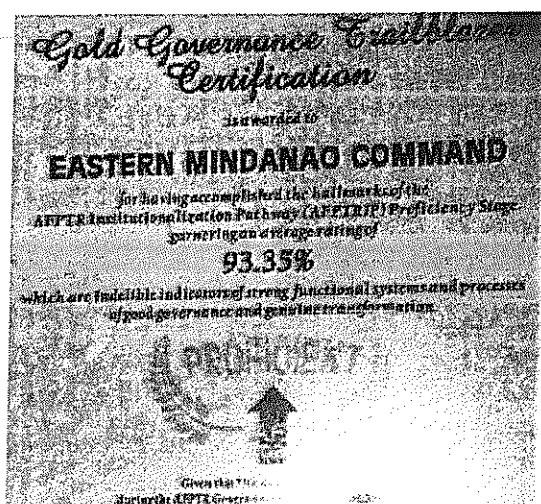
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www.dwdd.com.ph

EMC Heightens Transformation, Bags Gold Anahaw Leaf

Presented by: Lui Claudio



NSFA, Panacan, Davao City – Eastern Mindanao Command (EMC) achieves another milestone as it was recently conferred Proficient, the third level in AFPTR Institutionalization Pathway, during the AFPTR Governance Forum-Lecture Series 01-17 and AFPTRIP Awarding on March 13, 2017.

Present during the awarding ceremony was EMC Commander LTGEN REY LEONARDO B GUERRERO AFP who personally witnessed the pinning and received the Gold Governance Trailblazer Certification award of the Command for garnering 93.35% average rating.

Prior to the awarding, EMC has undergone validation and inspection.

It could be recalled that EMC was visited by the OSSSM Audit last February 23, 2017, during their on-site audit for Proficiency Stage at the Command. The Audit team checked the functionality of the governance and strategy mechanism of EMC.

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Further, it had undergone scrutiny during the revalidation on March 2, 2017, at Headquarters Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Congratulations Team EastMinCom.

Source: Public Information Office, Eastern Mindanao Command, AFP

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www.inquirer.net

'Indonesian bomber,' BIFF commander escape Army air strikes

By: Edwin O. Fernandez, Jeffrey Maitem - @inquirerdotnet

Inquirer Mindanao / 03:10 PM March 15, 2017



AP FILE PHOTO

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – An Indonesian bomber and his Filipino companion, a leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), managed to escape the military's air strikes in Maguindanao on Monday. Capt. Ervin Encinas, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that their air strikes were carried out to take down two targets – Commander Bungos of the BIFF and Indonesian bomber Abu Torayte, also known as Mohammad Ali.

Encinas said their operation was concentrated in the villages of Andavit and Tee in Datu Salibo town but the strikes did not result in the capture of Bungos and Torayte, nor in their deaths or wounding.

"We got no concrete reports from the field if they were killed or wounded. But some residents told our men they had seen some dead on the side of the rebels," Encinas said.

Ali, who has been working as a bomb maker of the BIFF, carries a \$500,000 reward on his head.

The military earlier claimed four Indonesians and an Arab, identified as a chemist, have been hiding in the so-called SPMS complex also known as the towns of Shariff Aguak, Pagatin (now Datu Saudi Ampatuan), Mamasapano and Datu Salibo.

More than 300 families were displaced in the latest military operation. **SFM**

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www.inquirer.net

Herbert Bautista, 43 other AFP officers get CA nod

By: [Maila Ager - Reporter / @MAgerINQ](#)
INQUIRER.net / 03:06 PM March 15, 2017



Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista faces the confirmation hearing of his appointment as an Army reservist. Tarra Quismundo/INQUIRER

The Commission on Appointments has confirmed the ad interim appointments of 44 general/flag and senior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including that of Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista.

Bautista's appointment to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army (reservist) was unanimously approved by the Commission on Wednesday along with the following military officers:

1. Arnold Fernandez to the rank of Brigadier General
2. Donato San Juan to the rank of Lieutenant General
3. Ronald Villanueva to the rank of Major General
4. Bonifacio Cebrian Jr. to the rank of Brigadier General
5. Noel Clement to the rank of Major General
6. William Alunday to the rank of Brigadier General
7. Noel Buan to the rank of Brigadier General
8. Mario Lacurom to the rank of Brigadier General
9. Manuel Trece Robles to the rank of Brigadier General
10. Yegor Rey Barroquillo Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army (Reserve)
11. George Tagle to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force

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12. Raul Farnacio to the rank of Major General
13. Romero Bautista III to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
14. Leonardo Dacumos to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
15. Francisco Godoy Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
16. Jose Johnson Grayda Jr. to the rank of Colonel Philippine Air Force
17. Joel Inacay to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
18. Noel Mapili to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
19. Dennis Francis Pastor to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
20. Leonardo Peña to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
21. Joel Rebullar to the rank of Colonel Philippine Air Force (Reserve)
22. Edna Renejane to the rank of Colonel, Medical Corps
23. Celso Resurrection, to the rank of Colonel Philippine Air Force
24. Eliglen Villaflor to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
25. Carlomagno Tabo to the rank of Brigadier General
- 26 Erwin De Asis to the rank of Brigadier General
27. Joseph Archog to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
28. Richard David to the rank of Captain, Philippine Navy
29. Enriqueto Deocadez Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
30. Federico Enriquez to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
31. Teodoro Epres to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force (Reserve)
32. Edmon Gupit to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
33. Ulyses Marquez to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
34. Alexei Musngi to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army
35. Vicente Naldoza Jr. to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force
36. Lizander Oliveros to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force (Reserve)
37. Nathaniel Casem to the rank of Brigadier General
38. Amado dela Paz to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Air Force

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39 Arvin Lagamon to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

40. Edmundo Peralta, to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

41. Ariel Reyes to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

42. Macairog Alberto to the rank of Brigadier General

43. Rey Alemania to the rank of Colonel, Philippine Army

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