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NEWS CLIPPINGS 07 May 2017

Sunday

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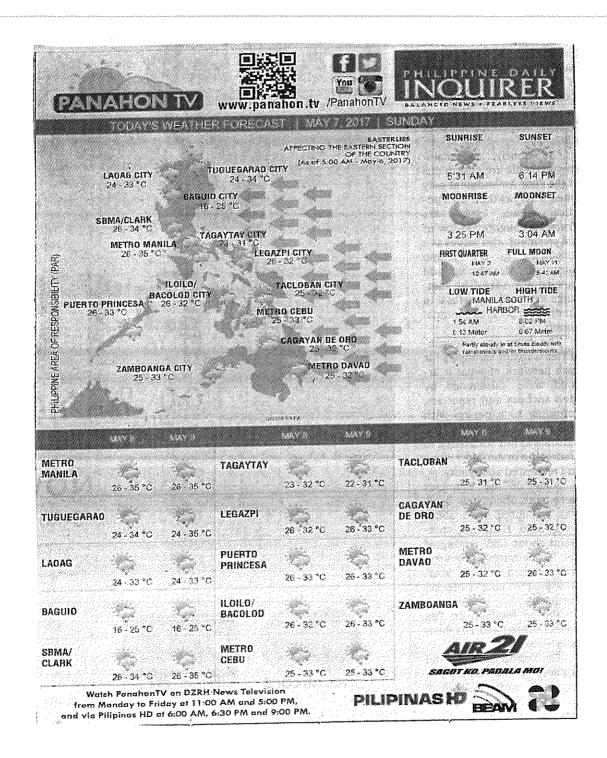
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2 EXPLOSIONS ROCK QUIAPO; 2 DEAD, 6 HURT

STORY BY JOVIC YEE

Two persons died after two separate blasts rocked Manila's Quiapo district on Saturday. The explosions also left six persons wounded, including two police officers who had responded to the first explosion. The explosions came just a week after an improvised bomb wounded 14 people, also in Quiapo.

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By Jovic Yee

@jovicyeeINQ

Two separate blasts in Manila's Quiapo district on Saturday killed two people and wounded six others, including two police officers who had responded to the first explosion.

The two men died on the spot and the four who were wounded in the first blast were taken to separate hospitals, according to Director Oscar Albayalde, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

The first explosion around 5:40 p.m was caused by a bomb of still unknown make that was placed inside a package delivered at the office of lawyer Nasser Abinal, president of the Imamate Islamic Center, Albayalde said.

The man who brought the package and the person who received it were killed, he said. The fatalities were not immediately identified.

The second explosion came around 8:30 p.m. at the corner of Norzagaray and Elizondo Streets in the same vicinity as the first blast, wounding Chief Insp. Elisa Reyes Arturo, chief chemist of the Manila police crime laboratory, and PO2

Aldrin Resos, of the K9 unit, police said.

The police identified those injured in the first blast as Jaber Gulam from Lanao del Sur, Datur Sohair Adapun from Marawi City and Hajhi Ali of Gunao Street in Quiapo.

The second explosion occurred as Albayalde and Manila Police District head, Chief Supt Joel Coronel, were wrapping up their press briefing close to the site

None of the journalists was reported injured in the second blast and the two police officials were quickly escorted out of the area

The blasts came just a week after an improvised bomb wounded 14 people also in Quiapo. The April 28 bombing happened on the same day the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was holding its 30th summit in Manila.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for that bombing, according to the Site Intelligence Group, which monitors global terrorist activities

The Philippine National Police and the Department of National Defense have insisted that the bombing was not terrorism-related and that it had stemmed from a "gang war." —with A REPORT FROM JOHN ROSON INQ



2 MORE BLASTS Police operatives inspect scene of first explosion near the Islamic center in Quiapo, Manila, on Saturday. - RICHARD REYES

子 May 2017



'Rody ICC cas dead, thanks o Callama

By JANVIC MATEO

"Dead as a door nail."

This is the fate of the complaint filed with the International Criminal Court (ICC) against President Duterte, according to Philippine ambassador to the United Nations Teodoro Locsin Jr.

The complaint was in connection with allegations of extrajudicial killings ordered or abetted by the Duterte administration in the pursuit of his war on drugs.

Thank you, Agnes. The ICC case is dead. Trust me on this Dead as a door nail," Locsin said in a Twitter post, referring to UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial executions Agnes Cal-

attend a drug policy conference.

Locsin did not offer an explanation for his claim but it was apparently a follow-up to his tweets criticizing Callamard. He accused her of abusing her position when she visited the country to attend a conference on drug policy.

"She says to attend an academic conference but she effectively disqualified

lamard, who is in the Philippines to herself from any further official role investigating the drug war," Locsin said

"She just abused her UN position and that disqualifies her from any further official role in a UN investigation," he added.

In another tweet, Locsin called the rapporteur a "conceited fool" ignorant of the drug situation in the Philippines.

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He said Callamard's role as

a UN rapporteur was affected

when she acknowledged hav-

ing informed the Philippine

Jose Rizal used his whole life

including his death to pull off.

give Filipinos a sense of their

man Rights Council (HRC)

said country representatives

from Kenya, Paraguay and

Switzerland were to serve as

rapporteurs for the Univer-

sal Period Review (UPR) of

the human rights record of

the Philippines tomorrow in

Callamard will not be part of

the review as it only involves

official delegates of governments sitting in the council.

tive secretary for legal affairs

Menardo Guevarra, Sen. Alan

Peter Cayetano and Undersec-

retary Severo Catura of the

Presidential Human Rights

tion's war against illegal drugs

and the alleged extrajudicial

killings in the country will be

among the issues that will be

Other issues to be raised include the proliferation of

private armies and vigilante

groups, combatting torture,

tackling impunity; addressing

cases of harassment, disap-

pearance, threats and killings

of human rights defenders and

members of the media; the age

of criminal responsibility, addressing prison overcrowding

The Philippine delegation

will also be asked about land

reform, mining-related human

rights violations, discrimination, human trafficking and

exploitation of children for sex

tourism and providing assist-

ance to migrant workers and

ered are matters involving the rights of indigenous peoples,

birth registration and the right

to nationality, access to education, child labor, prohibition

Also expected to be cov-

other Filipinos overseas.

and poverty reduction.

raised during the UPR.

The Duterte administra-

The Philippine delegation is composed of deputy execu-

Special rapporteurs such as

Geneva

Committee

Meanwhile, the UN Hu-

country," said Locsin.

"(She) did in one day what

government about her trip.

OFFICE OFT

the protection of children in armed conflict. The Philippines will under-

go the third cycle of the UPR before the UN Human Rights Comission. It was reviewed in 2008 and 2012.

> Defense of war on drugs

During the UPR, governments are expected to spell out steps they have taken to implement recommendations posed during previous reviews as well as highlight recent human rights developments in their respective countries.

The delegation is expected to defend the Duterte administration from criticisms that thousands had been killed in the conduct of his war on

drugs.

The government earlier disputed the alleged "bloated" reporting of the casualties in police operations, saying only 2,692 suspected drug offenders died in more than 52,000 operations since

Official data said the more than 9,000 deaths are considered as homicides under investigation. Of the number, 1,847 were found to be drugrelated, while 1,894 are nondrug related. The rest are still under investigation.

The Philippines had submitted its advance report on the human rights situation in

the country

The 23-page document, uploaded on the UN HRC website, contained the government's actions with regard to recommendations made in the previous review

This report demonstrates the progress (the government) has proudly made since the last review. While much has been achieved, (the government) acknowledges that there is still much to be done," it read.

The new administration desires to replicate the successes of Davao City and its multi-awarded programs on governance, peace and order, gender-sensitivity and women's and children's rights," the report said, adding that the government "welcomes the scrutiny of its record in an open and constructive dialogue offered by the UPR

process." Also cited in the report was of corporal minishment and the commitment of President

and fulfill the rights of the citizens, especially the poor, the marginalized and the vul-

"This administration shall implement a rights-based approach to development and governance, as we improve 5295 our people's welfare in the areas of health, education, adequate food and water, housing, environmental preservation and respect for culture," read the report.

It defended the campaign against illegal drugs, noting that the government is determined to prioritize human security to prevent anarchy and the destruction of the

Filipino family.

"Data shows that since the inception of the law enforcement campaign against illegal drugs on 1 July 2016, 30 percent of total focused crimes went down, showing a correlation between drug use and crime rate," it added.

CHR execs to Geneva

Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chairman Chito Gascon also flew to Geneva to lead the delegation that will monitor the UPR.

Joining him are commissioners Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana and Roberto Cadiz.

Gascon earlier said that their team would not be a part of the official Philippine delegation that would defend the country's human rights record before the UN body.

"(The members of the delegation) must be responsible officials with direct mandate from the government of President Duterte," the CHR chief

Although not part of the Philippine delegation, Gascon said the CHR has submitted to the HRC a parallel report of its observations of the Philippines' human rights record since the last periodic review during the administration of former president Benigno Aquino Π

Other human rights groups have also submitted their respective positions to the human rights body regarding the situation in the Philippines:

Meanwhile, President Duterte said he would pardon. himself if found guilty by the courts of ordering or tolerating extrajudicial killings.

He also assured law enforcers of absolute pardon with promotions in case they are

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5295

dragged to court for following his orders to kill drug users who resist arrest

"After conviction, all has been done legally, it is mine to do my legal thing. Why? Well, there is a residual power of the President. What is it? Pardon," he said in recent remarks in

Davao City

"It does not even say, 'can
pardon a criminal except himself.' There is no exception.
Does not. If it's indicated
'except to himself,' then I cannot pardon myself But since
it's a blanket authority before
I leave Malacañan, pardon
is hereby given to Rodrigo
Duterte Signed, Rodrigo Duterte," he said, eliciting laughter from the audience.

Duterte, a lawyer, said he just needed to use the powers vested upon him under the

Constitution.

"Idon't need to tinker with the law Hindi na kailangang bastusin 'yung batas. Wala na 'yan (Idon't need to mess with the law Noneed). Follow your dream. Convict if you want. Don't make it hard for everybody," he said.

As president, Duterte is immune from suits during his six-year term.

He maintained he had not killed any drug suspect or directly ordered the killing of one

He stressed the drug problem has been put under control since he assumed office some 10 months ago.

"Drugs are a little bit controlled now. Many died along the way because they refused to give up," the President said. He said people should not

believe stories about his supposedly having killed people even when they were begging for their lives.

"How can you kill a person kneeling down?" he said.
"There were deaths caused by encounters because my message to the police and military is very simple. 'Arrest them if it is possible, still if it's no longer possible, then if they confront you with a violent resistance and you feel that you'd lose your life in the process, kill them'," Duterte said

"Iyon lang ang inutos ko
(That's my only order), which
is really the rule, the criminal
law of all lands. That when
your life is in danger, especially if you are a peace officer,
that's self-preservation. Selfdefense," he said.

-With Christina Mendez

子 May 2017



Pahina. 2

SUNDALO BINIHAG, SECURITY AGENCY NIRANSAK

apatindi pa ang paghahasik ng terorismo ng mga Army (NPA) matapos magsagawa ng panibagong pag- bandang alas-6 30 ng gabi ang salakay ng bihagin ang isang Dasia Security Agency Office sundalo at ransakin ang isang security agency na natangayan ng mga armas sa magkakahiwalay na insidente sa Valencia City, Bukidnon kamakalawa ng gabi.

Ayon kay Captain Joe Patrick Martinez, Spokesman ng Army's 4th Infantry

Division (ID) ang pagbihag sa isang sundalo ay naganap rebeldeng New People's ilang minuto matapos naman salakayın ng mga rebelde sa Purok 17, Hindangon, Poblacion ng lungsod.

> Kinilala ang binihag na sundalo na si Technical Sergeant Joseph Paredes, miyembro ng 81st Infantry Battalion (IB)

Kasalukuyang bumabagtas. sa national highway ng Poblacion, Valencia City ang motor-

NI JOY CANTOS

siklong sinasakyan ng sundalo kaangkas ang kaniyang misis nang harangin ng mga rebelde na nagsasagawa ng pekeng checkpoint at nagpanggap pa umanong magto-tokhang sa national highway ng Poblacion ng lungsod

"Hunong sa kay naa mi ginatokhang diri sa unahan" (Stop, we are conducting tokhang along this area)" pahayag umano ng isa sa mga rebelde, ayon sa opisyal matapos

dukutin ang nasabing sundalo sa harapan ng kaniyang natulalang misis. Natikoy na miyembro ng AFP ang biktima dahilan sa nakitang identification card mula dito

Tinangka naman ng misis ng nasabing sundalo na pigilan ang mga rebelde pero itinulak

ito sa putikan saka mabilis na nakaisyung cal 9 MM nagsitakas sa lugar tangay ang kaniyang mister

Iniulat naman ni Supt Lemuel Gonda, Spokesman ng Police Regional Office (PRO) 10 na hinarang rin ng mga rebelde si PO1 Emilio Traya, mivembro ng Maramag Police na dinisarmahan ng mga ito ng

Samantalang nagawa ring matangayan ng sari-saring mga armas ng mga rebelde ang niransak ng mga itong security agency Kabilang sa mga natangay na armas ay dalawang AK 47 rifles, isang M16 rifle. tatlong shotgun, tatlong cal 38 revolver at iba pa

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NPA rebels attack security firm in Bukidnon

By JAIME LAUDE

Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels attacked a private security firm and seized several firearms and two armored vans in Bukidnon on Friday

The regional police reported 15 heavily armed men dressed in police uniforms barged into the office of Dasia Security Agency in Hindangon, Barangay Poblacion, Valencia City.

The rebels kidnapped an off duty Army trooper and disarmed a policeman during the raid, mitial reports said.

The rebels, posing as policemen, reportedly barged in

with a fake warrant to search the place

They seized two AK-47 rifles, two M16s, two shotguns and three 38 revolvers. They also took off with the security agency's two armored vans, officials said

Meanwhile, another group of rebels who were setting up a roadblock nearby kidnapped the still unidentified off duty Army trooper at gunpoint

The trooper was riding a motorcycle with his wife when he was forced to alight at gunpoint and dragged into the armored van

The rebels spared the soldier's wife who was forced down on the ground.

The rebels, however, spared PO1 Emilio Traya of the Maramag police station.

He was passing through the roadblock when the rebels took his service firearm.

"After establishing the true identity of the soldier, the NPAs dragged him, in the presence of his wife, off his motorcycle and hurled him inside one of the armored vehicles," said Capt Joe Patrick Martinez, spokesman of the Army's 4th Infantry Division

Officials said the two armored vans were later found abandoned in Barangay Poblacion in Quezon town

A certain Luvimin Rosos was arrested by the police after several items belonging to the Dasia Security firm were found inside his rented room in Quezon.

Among the items found were surveillance cameras, flash card containing footages of Dasia, which investigators believe was part of the NPA's surveillance and planning before they attacked the security agency

Rosos was suspected to have acted as one of the lookouts during the attack.

doubt the NPAs' sincerity in achieving the peace that the high-powered firearms. entire Filipino nation desires and deserves. While their colleagues are negotiating with the government, these terrorists-cum-extortionists are dealing death, destruction riight vision goggles, sniper's and chaos in our peaceful comveil, camouflage raincoat and a munities," Defense spokesman Arsenio Andolong said.

Last week, some 100 NPA rebels based in Davao region staged simultaneous attacks in Davao City, inflicting huge damage to a ranch and two factories in the city.

"These acts really put to in Quirino province, killing a Ben Serrano

policeman and taking off with

On Thursday, the rebels again struck a police detachment in Ambulung, Cagayan and took away tour M16 rifles and two 9mm pistols. The rebels also torched the stationissued.Mahindra patrol car.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the government peace panel, has registered its protest against the NPA for the attacks.

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año said he wanted the series of NPA attacks to be discussed The rebels also attacked in the next round of peace the police station of Madela talks - With Gerry Lee-Gorit,

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Balikatan builds School-evacuation center in E. Samar

GUIUAN, Eastern Samar - Residents of Surok village in this town are looking forward to having a new school building which will also serve as an evacuation center.

The United States Armed Forces Engineers and members of the Philippine Army through its Humanitarian Assistance Program of military exercise Balikatan 33-2017 is now constructing a two-classroom school building here

Mayor Christopher Sheen Gonzales said yesterday the building was also designed to be an evacuation center during emergencies

"We have so many reasons to be thankful to the US Armed Forces here and the Philippine Army The school project in Surok is more than just providing better learning environment for our students here but rather ensuring the safety of the children and the community itself in times of disasters," Gonzales said.

Surok village chief Gloria Ecleo talked about the value of education and what it means for their children's future.

"Education of our children here is the only thing we have," she said. "And today was different because we knew that somebody thought we were that important."

"We are so grateful for this project this will be of great help to us here in our village and this will really improve the lives of our children and also those from nearby villages," Ecleo said

Surok village has a population of 1, 487 persons with 368 households.

Meanwhile, 1st Lt. Martin Meehan, commanding officer of the US Marines Engineering. Alfa Company said that constructing schools is part of the PHL-US Balikatan 33-2017 Humanitarian Mission's commitment to help restore the village structures destroyed by typhoon 'Yolanda' in 2013.

m – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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Kabacan, N. Cotabato

GENERAL SANTOS CITY-Authorities arrested on Friday at least 10 drug ring members moluding three alleged members. of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) during separate raids in Kabacan, North Cotabato, Cesario Gil Castro, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency 12 regional director. said combined elements of PDEA, Cotabato Provincial Police Office and 7th Infantry Battation swooped down on suspected drug dens in Barangay Poblacion. and Barangay Kayaga in Kabacan. The arrested suspects were identified as Edgardo Bacana, Murphy Bacana, Mayet Bagana, said to be MNLF members; Nealsa Magoncia, Naning Magoncia, Jimuel Magoncia, Mary Grace Guerrero, Perla Guerrero, Roel lyas and Toto Pedtaman. The raiding team seized from the suspects several grams of shabu, one 45 calber pistol, one .22 caliber rifle one 38 caliber revolver and three motorcycles. (Joseph Jubelag)

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POLICE FILES

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Habal-habal drayber tinodas ng NPA sa Bukidnon

CAGAYAN DE ORÒ CITY – Kalunus-lunos ang naging kamatayan ng isang habal-habal drayber nang marekober ng mga sundalo ang bangkay mito sa liblib na bahagi ng Sitio Salumayag Halanilan San Fernando, Bukidnon

Halapitan San Fernando, Bukidnon Ayon kay 8th IB Civil Military officer 1Lt, Erwin Bugarin, nakilala ang biktima na si Aldrich Luther Agbayani, 19, binata, residente sa nasabing lugar.

Sinabi ni Bugarin sa Bombo Radyo na posibleng pinatay ang biktima sa pamamagitan ng pag-torture at paghila ng kanyang katawan sa mataas na bahagi ng bundok dahil sa nalwang pisi sa kanyang leeg.

Mariing kinondena ng AFP ang pambababoy ng mga kasapi ng NPA terror group sa mga mamamayan ng nasabing komunidad. Una rito, ini-report ng mga residente na nangingikil sa kanila ang

mga NPA.

Tinakot din umano ng mga rebelde ang mga residente na papatayin oras na hindi maibibigay ang kanilang hinininging bagay

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BusinessMirror

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'GREAT LEAP' IN PHL'S

ANTITERROR DRIVE

By Rene Acosta

and best commanders of the military leading the operations on the ground, the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and other terrorist groups in Mindanao is making a decisive gain as shown by the recent killings of two of the ASG's most active, elusive and dreaded leaders.

While the Armed Forces usually measures the results of its campaign on the number of enemy casualties, which is not necessarily the yardstick for the overall success of any operation, the deaths of ASG subleaders Muamar Askali alias Abu Rami and Alhabsy Misaya were a "great leap" in the antiterrorism campaign.

After all, the two terrorist leaders, who have managed to elude the massive and continuing operations of the military until their deaths, have taken the notoriety of the ASG to new heights by perfecting the bloody and lucrative art of kidnapping and resurrecting

it for their group, which, in the process, have enriched the ASG by way of ransom money.

Misaya and Askali were notoriously feared since they have the habit of decapitating their captives once their demand for ransom is not met. Both belonged to the second and third generations, respectively, of leaders of Mindanao's most notorious group.

'Experts'

VARIOUS reports from the military have tagged Misaya and his group as responsible for some of the daring kidnappings that were perpetrated at sea by the ASG, with

most of the cases carried out on Mindanao's border waters with Malaysia and Indonesia, by intercepting and boarding transiting vessels.

Misaya and his followers even traveled to Sabah to take captives, whom they would later move to Sulu where they negotiate for their victims' freedom by way of ransom money.

The military said that in March last year, Misaya and his group kidnapped 10 Indonesians aboard a tugboat and a barge in the waters of Sulu, while the sailors were bringing in coal to the

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country from Borneo. A ransom of P50 million was demanded for the release of the foreigners.

The kidnapping, which followed the same pattern of cases against a number of Malaysian sailors, temporarily jostled the country into an energy crisis as Jakarta briefly halted its coal exports to Manila in protest

The series of kidnappings at sea, for which the government has struggled to find solutions, has prompted the Department of National Defense to seal a joint air and sea patrols agreement with Malaysia and Indonesia.

Before his killing on April 28 at Barangay Silangkan, Indanan, Sulu, by Marine forces, Misaya, a bomb expert and a native of Barangay Bunot in the same town, has logged a number of cases

Further reports on the terrorist subleader showed he was involved in other high-profile cases, such as the October 2002 Malagutay bombing that killed US serviceman Sgt. Mark Jackson and wounded 23 others that included another US serviceman.

He was also involved in the January 2009 bombing of the Salaam Bridge at Barangay, Bato-Bato, Indanan, Sulu, and the March 2011 bombing of the Dennis Coffee Shop at Barangay San Raymundo, Jolo, Sulu, which killed four civilians and wounded 11 others

On the other hand, Askali and his group were responsible for the beheading of Canadians Robert Hall and John Ridsdel last year and German Jurgen Gustav Kantner in February this year.

The two Canadians were snatched, along with Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipino Marites Flor, from a resort on Samal Island, Davao Oriental, which was the Askali's group first recorded foray outside Mindanao for its kidnapping activities.

Sekkingstad and Flor were later released after Askali received P50 million in ransom as he had admitted in some reports

Askali, also the spokesman of the ASG, had also claimed he received P250 million for the freedom of German couple Stefan Viktor Okonek and Henrike Dielen.

On April 11 Askali and three of his men were killed after they sauntered into Bohol, apparently for kidnapping activities, while Asean officials were meeting in the province.

Four other terrorists were also killed in subsequent operations.

While fears heightened that Askali's foray in Bohol was to initialize the ASG's presence in the province, military officials, however, maintained he was there purely for kidnapping activities and to cool off from the continuing military operations in Sulu.

The plan for an atrocity by Askali's group in Bohol while the Asean meeting was ongoing, had it been carried out, could have been reminiscent of the ASG's act of beheading Malaysian Bernard Then while Apec leaders were meeting in Manila in November 2015.

Battle-tested commanders

THE killing of Misaya heralded positive developments to the shift in tactics taken by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzama by putting the once-sputtering Mindanao antiterrorism campaign in the hands of topnotch ground commanders such as Brig. Gens. Cirilito Sobejana and Custodio Parcon.

Sobejana, head of the Joint Task Force Sulu, and Parcon, who steers the Joint Task Force Tawitawi, are battle-hardened soldiers

and dyed-in-the-wool commanders. They belonged to the crop of the "finest warriors" in the Armed Forces, being both recipients of the Medal for Valor, the highest award in the military.

The two commanders, who were hunting terrorists in their OFI operational areas "like rats", were veterans of the early campaign against the ASG in Mindanao. wherein they also got their awards.

Sobejana got his Medal of Valor award for leading his men, then as a company commander. of the Army's First Scout Ranger Regiment, in four hours of firefight against more than 150 ASG bandits in January 1995 in Basilan, which left 30 terrorists dead.

The story on Sobejana's exploits has it that during the firefight, bullets from the ASG have nearly cut off his right arm, but he held it from falling by biting his right thumb while using his left arm to continuously fire at the enemy as he gave battle orders to his men.

On the other hand, Parcon. then a captain and the commander of the 61st Marine Company, led his men in the assault of Camp Al Madinah, ASG's fortified camp in Basilan

With Tawi-tawi now under Parcon, the province has stopped from being used as a launching pad for ASG's kidnapping activities in Sabah, by continuously neutraliz-

ing the remnants of the terrorist group in the island province.

It was under Parcon's watch that also saw the surrender of more terrorists in the province. Parcon is also a 1994 Ten Outstanding Young Men awardee.

ASG leadership vacuum

WHILE military officials believed that the killings of Misaya and Askali may lead to a leadership vacuum and a demoralization among the ranks of the terrorists, Sobejana also disclosed of the infighting among the existing leaders of the ASG

The military commander said this was confirmed by ASG subleader Udon Hashim and Haidal Kimar, who yielded to him on Mon-

day at Barangay Jinggan, Panglima Estino, Sulu.

Sobejana said Hashim, who operates in Panglima Estino and Pata Island under senior leader Berham Lutian, and closely associated with Misaya, has been involved in the delivery of fake ransom money for the release of three Malaysian kidnap victims.

"On March 26 the groups of Lutian and Jamir Sawadjaan planned to attack the group of Alhabsy Misaya and Udon Hashim, who were then consolidating at Barangay Jinggan, Panglima Estino, due to the fake ransom money for the release of the three Malaysian kidnap victims that was delivered by [the] latter," said Sobejana.

However, Misaya reportedly appealed to Radulan Sahiron, the emir of the ASG, to mediate for the settlement of fake ransom money. Sahiron called Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan to pacify his nephew Jamir Sawadjaan

Sobejana said Sahiron, who is past his prime, has also been sending surrender feelers.

Maute on the run

IN Lanao del Sur at least 38 members of the Maute Group, including three Indonesians and a Malaysian, were also killed late last month as the military continued its operations against the ISIS-affiliated group

The three-day operation in the town of Piagapo was also carried out as troops continued to search for Isnilon Hapilon, a commander of the ASG and the recognized leader of the ISIS in Southeast Asia.

The military said Hapilon has nail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295 been ambulatory as a result of the wounds he sustained in an earlier 3. Securing the land. operation by the military, also in the province.

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Gov't urged to boost military capability

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamon

Sen. Richard Gordon hs pressed the need for the government to strengthen te country's military capability in bid to more effectively address to decades long insurgency problen and terrorism, as well as defed the country from foreign threas. The lawmaker said the Duterte administration must allocate funds for the purchase of equipment, supplies and other logistical requirements to fortify the capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force.

"We have two major insurgencies

in the country - the New People's Army and in Mindanae," Gordon, yesterday, stressed.

He also cited the activities of local extremist group Abu Sayyaf, which is known for kidnapping-forransom business,

"We must go after them more swiftly and effectively. How can we

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Gov't urged to boost military capability

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defend our territory from foreign threats when we apparently cannot completely stop the insurgents?" he asked.

Gordon warned of the possibility that countries like Indonesia and Malaysia, among other countries, would enter Philippine territory to rescue their abducted citizens should the Philippine government's intelligence gathering capability fail to end the terror groups' activities.

"Because our military's capability is lacking in terms of type and number of equipment including enhanced training, the manner we are addressing the problems has to be improved." he pointed out.

Gordon again stressed that beefing up the country's intelligence efforts and conducting more advanced training for its personnel should be part of the building up of the country's military assets.

"Even if people see hundreds of soldiers roaming thecities and the provinces, they still would not feel safe if they do not believe that the military has the capability to defend them and their communities," the lawmaker said

Gordon also believes that the removal of the Reserve Officers' Training Gorps (ROTC) has also been a bad move on the government part.

"The past, back in the World War II, all ROTC from UP (University of the Philippines) and Ateneo fought in Batain along with the soldiers," he said.

Airing similar sentiment that it is now time to mobilize the youth in the service given the growing calamities and security threats in the Philippines, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said he supports the reintroduction of the defunct ROTC.

The senator has already filed Senate Bill 1322 to institute a Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC), establishing a Citizen Service Corps (CSC) and creating a Citizen Service Mobilization Commission (CSMC).

The proposed measure is designed to establish a comprehensive framework for the

training and mobilization of the youth in order to instill a sense of patriotism and develop their love for country.

When approved, "the law would draw the youth into the mainstream of national life by providing avenues for their participation in public and civic affairs through the establishment of the CSTC," said Pimentel.

The CSTC mandates a Basic Crizzen. Training Course for all tertiary-level students enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses in all public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions.

This would also retain external and territorial defense training as a foundation, akin to the envisioned goal on the creation of the ROTC under Republic Act 7077, as amended: 1

Pimentel said the course would be expanded to include trainings in internal security, law and order and disaster risk reduction and management similar to the NSIP under RA 9163.

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US-Phl military exercises on; focus on disaster response

By JAIME LAUDE

It's all systems go for the official opening of this year's Balikatan joint military exercises between the Philippine and US armed forces.

Maj. Frank Sayson, Balikatan spokesman on the Philippine side, said the kickoff would be held at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) main headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo tomorrow.

This year's Balikatan would

be the Single Scenario Concept (SSC) with top defense and military officials from both countries aftending the ceremonies, he said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año will be the guests of honor at the opening, with acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo and US Ambassador Sung Kim also expected

Scores of foreign and local journalists, including more than

a dozen media from China and Taiwan, would be witnessing this year's Balikatan as it shifts towards Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) from previous purely military drills.

Sayson said the planners of this year's Balikatan (Shoulder to Shoulder) agreed that both Filipino and US forces must harness not only their fighting skills but also their disaster response capabilities.

President Duterte has or-

dered this year's Balikatan to focus more on HADR activities instead of the usual war games.

This year's exercise directors, Lt. Gen. Oscar Lactao, commander of the Cebu-based Central Command (CentCom), and US Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces, will be overseeing the eritire drill that would also include anti-terror joint exercises from Luzon to Sámar, Sayson said.

As against the previously

beachhead landings to recover lost territories from enemies, this year's HADR joint military exercises will focus more on the transport of military rescuers and relief goods as well as supplies to remote and isolated

Key areas where this year's simultaneous HADR joint military exercise would be held include Casiguran, Aurora; in Maconacon, Isabela; Sabtang in Batanes; Calayan Island town of Cagayan province and Guian,

Samar in Eastern Visayas.

The Batanes-Cagayan-Isabela-Aurora area was considered a challenge to the participants due to its rough and difficult terrain. The participants would be delivering relief goods and medicine to disaster-stricken residents during typhoons and earthquakes.

Sayson said the AFP and US forces are also deploying various types of naval and air transport assets to this year's

joint military event.

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The Manila Times

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AFP weapons chief to retire after 37 years

AFTER 37 years of service, Brig. Gen. Gerry Amante will compulsorily retire from his post as Commander of the AFP Munitions Control Center (AFPMCC) during a ceremony to be held on Monday.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP Public Affairs Office, said that a retirement ceremony befitting Amante will be held in the afternoon of May 8 with AFP Vice Chief-of staff Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Misor Ir. presiding the ceremonial rites.

Amante has served the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines since 2014 and also represented the Department of National Defense and the AFP in meetings of the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

AFPMCC is a division inside the military that ensures reliability and adequacy of the AFP's munitions and development of its defense capabilities against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats

"We in the AFPMCC created a core philosophy as creative team of dedicated professionals who will see to it that munitions of soldiers are reliable adequate and accounted for," Amante said. The outgoing AFPMCC chief added that developing the

CBRN capability, "slowly but surely," has been one of the priorities of his division during his stint as commander.

According to Amante, the AF-PMCC under his command created a CBRN unit in the AFP that is "one of the standards in the whole region."

"The CBRN platoon is already doing headway and it is being deployed in national events, even being recognized as one of the best in the country," he said.

Besides heading the AFPMCC. Amante held key positions where he made contributions to the modernization, logistics and transformation initiatives of the AFP.

In year 2012, Amante was tasked to organize and lead the newly-formed Army Governance and Strategy Management Office, which was tasked to implement the Army Transformation Roadmap

AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año described Amante as a "dedicated military officer that has worked tirelessly" in the military's goal of becoming a more credible and modern military force.

Brig. Gen. Noel Albano, the Deputy Commander of Northern Luzon Command, is set replace Amante in the AFPMCC.

DEMPSEY REYES

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Many factors being considered in Tanay chopper crash — PAF

Investigators are looking into mechanical failure, bird strike and other factors in the UH-1D helicopter crash in Tanay, Rizal last Thursday that killed three Air Force personnel and wounded another.

""" all cannot give you any detail but

""" Trannot give you any detail but (the crash) will pass through a very thorough investigation. We still have to consider lots of things, like the environment and what other features the crash site has—if it has obstacles, bird strike and (whether) mechanical factors are also involved," Philippine Air Force (PAF) spokesman Col. Antonio Francisco has said

Following the crash, the Air Force grounded the other five UH-1Ds in service for inspection, based on standard procedures

The UH-1D with tail number number 8469, piloted by Capt. Christian Paul Titan and co-piloted by 1st Lt. Ceazar Rimas, was executing landing procedures when it crash-landed and went up in flames, killing Titan; helicopter gunner, Airman 1st Class Joseph de Leon, and Air Force crew chief, Sgt. Byron Tolosa.

Rimas survived the crash and is on stable but guarded condition at the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Medical Center (AFP-MC) in V. Luna, Quezon City.

Meanwhile, the Department of

Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is providing additional burial assistance to the three members of Philippine Air, Force who died in helicopter crash.

DSWI Secretary Judy Taguiwalo said yesterday that the agency was also providing medical assistance to the lone survivor, who is now confined in V. Luna Hospital in Quezon City.

Taguiwalo expressed her deep sympathy to the families of three fatalities.

"The entire DSWD leadership and staff salute the three PAF members and mourn their deaths as it happened in the conduct of their duty," Taguiwalo said!"

The DSWD chief added that RAF had always been a strong and supportive partner of the DSWD in its disaster response actions and campaigns.

She described the value of PAF men and women in their role and commitment in assisting them on the undertakings and efforts to provide immediate assistance to Filipinos caught in emergency situations and affected by calamities.

"We salute PAP officers Christian Paul, Byron and Joseph and thank them for their contributions to our government's efforts to help those in immediate need of disaster relief," she said.

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Zambo mayor slams Navy over coral reef damage

NONOY E LACSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY - An infuriated Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco sought sanctions against two Philippine Navy personnel and called the attention of regional Navy officials after a patrol ship damaged protected coral reefs off Sta. Cruz Island last weekend.

It was reported that the Philippine Navy patrol craft BRP Tausug, skippered by Lt. Darwin Guilliarte and a certain Melad, was laoded with beachgoers and dropped anchor at the coral sanctuary.

Sta. Cruz Island Protected Area Managemenet Unit (PAMU) biologists anmd representatives said the Navy officers were arrogant when they were told not to drop anchor in the area to preserve the underwater marine resources.

A PAMU report said that the incident damaged 100 square feet of corals in the area.

Climaco, who was fuming mad after learning of the incident, formally brought the matter to the attention of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NAVFORWEM) Commander Rear Admiral Rene Medina and former Navy Flag Officer in Command (FOIC) Rear Admiral Alexander Pama.

She stressed and pointed out that the incident was a clear violation of the Republic Act 7586 otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992

The BRP Tausug should be renamed BRP Destroyer, Climaco said.

"We are not pleased with the violation and the destruction of coral reefs and disrespect by officials Guilliarte and Melad," Climaco said, stressing that those concerned should be sanctioned, given a reorientation and even be assigned to undertake an environmental rehabilitation program in the area.

Climaco on Friday convened the Protected Area and Eco-tourism Area Management Board (PAEMB) to discuss the issue

She likewise endorsed the written report of PAMU operations chief Richard Aliangan to the City Legal Office and City Administration Office for appropriate action.

As this developed, Medina, in a text message to Climaco, expressed regrets about the incident but said that the case is now under investigation to determine the exact details of the incident.

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Pahina. 3

Sundalo patay sa asawa ng ka-live-in

PATAY ang isang sundalo na dating kasapi ng Philippine Marines makaraan pagsasaksakin ito ng dating asawa ng kanyang kinakasama, inlulat kahapon sa Dagupan City

Dead-on-arrival sa pagamutan ang biktimang si Diomedes Cadlaon, 52 at residente ng Barangay Poblacion, sa bayan ng Anda, Pangasinan.

Tugis naman ng pulisya ang suspek na nakilalang si Rufo Canta, 40, at residente ng Barangay Cabungan, ng nasabing lalawigan.

Sa ulat, bigla na lang pumasok ang suspek sa loob ng bahay ng biklima na armado ng patalim at nang makita si Cadlaon, agad niya itong wanasiwas ng sakasak sa iba'i ibang bahagi ng katawan

Matapos ang insidente mabilis na tumakas ang suspek habang agad namang dinala sa pagamutan ang biktima subalit hindi na rin ito umabot nang buhay

Nabatid, na ang kinakasama rii Cadlaon na si Emy Caballa. 45-taon gulang ay dating asawa ng suspek MARY SAPICO

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Abu tipster gets P1-M reward

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY - A civilian who tipped Marines on the hideout of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu has received a sub-leader notorious for kidreward of P1 million.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, handed the money to the informant at Camp Navarro in this city on Friday afternoon

Galvez said local officials of Sulu, who refused to be identified for security reasons, raised the reward.

provided by the civilian Sulu to launch an offensive abanga, Bohol.

targeting the hideout of Abu Sayyaf leader Alhabsy Misaya in Barangay Silangkan, Indanan on April 29.

Misaya, an Abu Sayyaf napping crewmembers of ships that sail past the border of Malaysia, Indonesia and Mindanao, was killed in the operation.

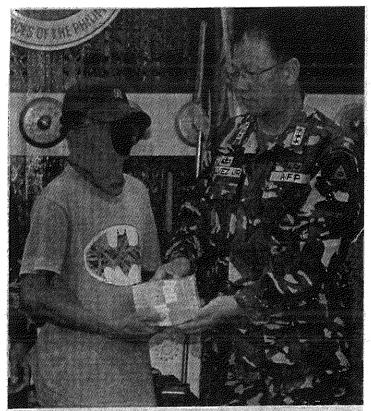
"Misaya was among the targets the police and military had worked on in past years, Galvez said as he commended the informant for his bravery.

Misaya was reportedly Galvez said information groomed to head a group of Abu Sayyaf bandits after subprompted soldiers of the leader Muamar Asklai, alias Marine Special Operations Abu Rami was killed in an Group under Joint Task Force encounter with soldiers in In-

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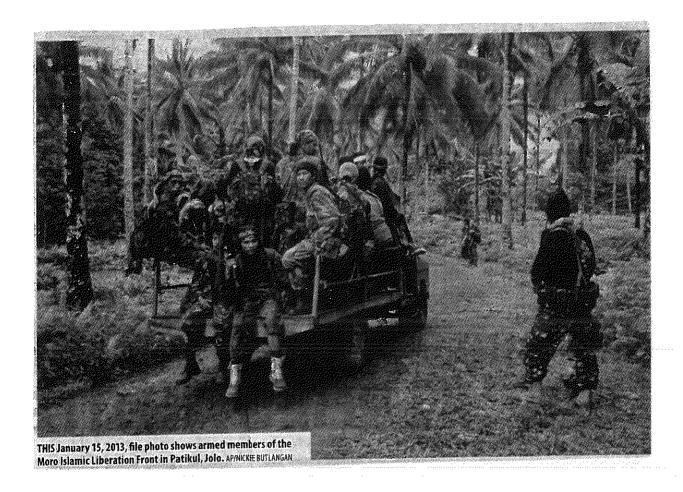


Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. (right) hands over the P1 million reward to the informant. PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTERN MINDANAO COMMAND

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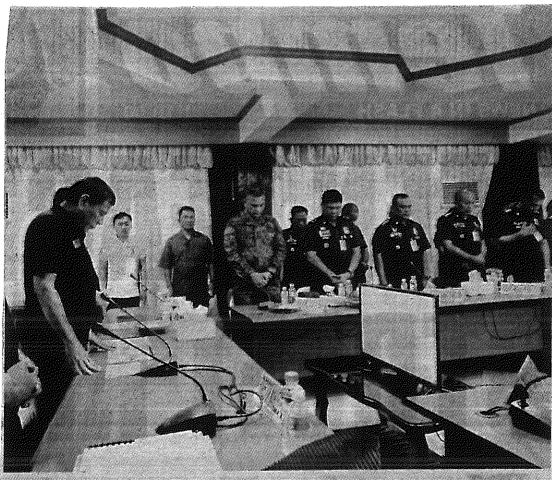
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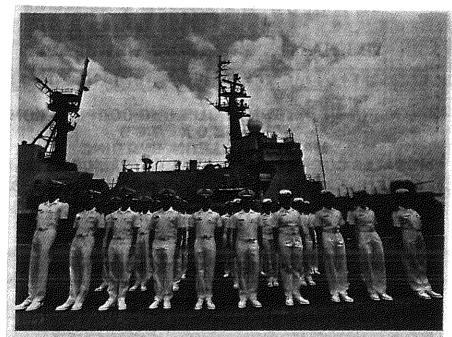


PRESIDENT Duterte presides over a meeting with police and Army officers at the Police Regional Office-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao headquarters in Camp Brig, Gen. Salipada K. Pendatun in Parang, Maguindanao. (Presidential photo)

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HERE WE GO! – Members of the Philippine Navy prepare to board the BRP Gregorio Del Pilar (FF15) for a voyage to Singapore to participate in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX) on May 16 to 18. (Ali Vicoy)

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DSWD gives additional aids to PAF men killed in action in Tanay

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is providing additional burial assistance to the three members of Philippine Air Force who died in helicopter crash in Sitio Hilltop, Sampaloc, Tanay, rizal during a disaster preparedness and response exercise last Thursday.

DSWD Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo said Saturday that the agency was also providing medical assistance to the lone survivor, who is now confined in V. Luna Hospital in Quezon City.

Taguiwalo expressed her deep sympathy to the families of three fatalities.

"The entire DSWD leadership and staff salute the three PAF members and mourn their deaths as it happened in the conduct of their duty," said Taguiwalo.

The Welfare Chief added that PAF had always been a strong and supportive partner of the DSWD in its disaster response actions and campaigns.

She described the value of PAF men and women in their role and commitment in assisting them on the undertakings and efforts to provide immediate assistance to Filipinos caught in emergency situations and affected by calamities.

Killed in action were Cpt. Christian Paul T. Litan PAF (Pilot); SSg Byron Tolosa PAF; and A1C Joseph De Leon PAF.

Wounded in action was 1LT Cesar Rimas PAF (co-Pilot). 1Lt. Rimas was air lifted to the AFP Medical Center.

"We salute PAF officers Christian Paul, Byron, and Joseph and thank them for their contributions to our government's efforts to help those in immediate need of disaster relief, " the Welfare head said.(Leilani S. Junio/PNA)

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Head of AFP's munition control center to retire Monday

Brig. Gen. Gerry Amante, the military officer responsible for developing the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) capability to deal with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats, will retire from service on Monday.

He will step down after 37 years in the AFP, public affairs office chief, Col. Edgard Arevalo, has said.

Amante's retirement ceremony will take place at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club.

"A retirement ceremony befitting a dedicated military officer will be held on Monday afternoon in honor of Brig. Gen. Amante. Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor Mison Jr., the AFP vice chief of staff, will preside over the ceremony," he added.

Amante has been the head of the AFP Munitions Control Center (AFPMCC) since 2014.

He also represented the Department of National Defense (DND) and the AFP in the meetings of the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The AFPMCC is charged with ensuring the reliability and adequacy of the AFP's munitions, and the development of the military's defense capabilities against CBRN threats.

"We in the AFPMCC created a core philosophy as a creative team of dedicated professionals who will see to it that munitions of soldiers are reliable adequate and accounted for," Amante said.

He also said that developing the AFP's CBRN capability, slowly but surely, has been one of the priorities of the AFPMCC during his stint as commander.

"We already created a CBRN unit in the AFP that is one of the standards in our region. The CBRN platoon is already doing headway and it is being deployed in national events, even being recognized as one of the best in the country," Amante stated.

Prior to commanding the AFPMCC, Amante held key positions that contributed to the AFP modernization, logistics and transformation initiatives.

In 2012, then a colonel, Amante was tasked to organize and lead the newly created Army Governance and Strategy Management Office, which was tasked to pursue the implementation of the Army Transformation Roadmap.

"Brig. Gen. Amante is a dedicated military officer who has worked tirelessly in contributing to the AFP's goal of becoming a more credible and modern military force. His dedication to his duty is worth emulating by our men and women in the Armed Forces," AFP Chief of Staff Eduardo Año said.

Brig. Gen. Noelito Albano, Northern Luzon Command deputy commander, is set to assume headship of the AFPMCC. (PFN/PNA)

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Many factors being considered in UH-1D chopper crash: PAF

Investigators are looking into mechanical failure, bird strike and other factors in the UH-1D helicopter crash in Tanay, Rizal last Thursday that killed three Air Force personnel and wounded another.

"I cannot give you any detail but (the crash) will pass through a very thorough investigation. We still have to consider lots of things, like the environment and what other features the crash site has – if it has obstacles, bird strike and (whether) mechanical factors are also involved," Philippine Air Force (PAF) spokesperson Col. Antonio Francisco has said.

Following the crash, the Air Force grounded the other five UH-1Ds in service for inspection, based on standard procedures.

The UH-1D with tail number number 8469, piloted by Capt. Christian Paul Titan and co-piloted by 1st Lt. Ceazar Rimas, was executing landing procedures when it crash-landed and went up in flames, killing Titan; helicopter gunner, Airman 1st Class Joseph de Leon; and Air Force crew chief, Sgt. Byron Tolosa.

Rimas survived the crash and is on stable but guarded condition at the Armed Forces of the Philippines-Medical Center (AFP-MC) in V. Luna, Quezon City. (PFN/PNA)

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Suspected NPA guerillas raid security agency in Valencia City, Bukidnon

By Erwin M. Mascariñas



Police handout photograph from PRO10 shows uniforms and other items found inside a getaway vehicle used by suspected NPA guerrillas in raiding a security agency in Valencia City, Bukidnon.

Butuan City – Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) conducted a daring raid Friday evening into the office of a security agency in Valencia City, Bukidnon province, taking with them assorted high- and low-powered firearms.

"An estimated 15 men garbed in police uniforms ransacked the office of Davao Security & Investigation Agency, Inc. (DASIA) in Purok 17, Barangay Hindangon, at around 6:00 o'clock, claiming that they have a search warrant against the security agency. We believe that the raiding group belonged to the NPA's Front Committee 86 sub-region guerrilla unit," said Superintendent Lemuel Gonda, spokesperson of the Police Regional Office 10 (PRO10).

According to the initial police report, the suspected rebels carted away two AK47 assault rifles, one M-16 assault rifle, three shotguns and three caliber .38 revolvers.

Gonda said that, while the raid was taking place inside the DASIA office, another group of suspected rebels manned a checkpoint near the vicinity.

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30

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"The checkpoint group wore olive camouflage police uniforms and accosted motorists. PO1 Emilio Limbaga Traya of the Maramag Municipal Police Station was flagged and disarmed of his 9mm Glock pistol, and then released unharmed. We also received a report that a soldier identified as TSGT Joseph T. Paredes of the 8th Infantry Battalion was held at the check point," said Gonda.

Capt_Jo_Patrick_Martinez, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, confirmed that a soldier was taken by the rebel group.

"One off-duty soldier, who was unarmed and in civilian attire, together with his wife on board a motorcycle, was flagged down by the bandit group. He was identified because of his identification card. The NPAs immediately dragged him off his motorcycle and threw him inside one of the armored vehicles. The soldier's wife, who was in shock at the moment, was pushed down to a muddy area," said Martinez.

According to the PNP, the NPA took off from the area on board a black Toyota Hilux pick-up, two motorcycles and two-armored vans of the security agency. Later that evening, the armored vans were recovered abandoned at an area.

An immediate follow up and pursuit operation led to the arrest of a suspected NPA lookout identified as 18-year old Luvimin Rosos, also known as Tiyal, a resident of Balangay 1A, Poblacion, Quezon town in the province of Bukidnon.

"The suspect was caught in the follow-up operation in his rented room at Juanilla Village, Purok 17, Valencia City. The Valencia City police personnel confiscated from the room of Rosos surveillance cameras, night vision scope, sniper's veil, camouflage raincoat, hammock and other items. A memory card from the surveillance camera showed DASIA Security agency video clips taken as part of their surveillance and planning," said Gonda.