

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



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)  
OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 November 2017

**Monday**

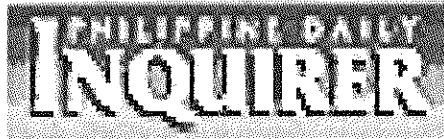
*Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**13 NOVEMBER 2017**


PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather forecast	-	PDI p.A3-2
<b>HEADLINE NEWS</b>			
1-2	Duterte promises a better Philippines	Bill Casas	Mla Standard p.1
3	ASEAN Summit opens today	Roy Mabasa	Mla Bulletin p.1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
4	New Mindanao Army commanders named	Francis T Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.15
5	Eastmincom, Wescom get new commanders	PNA	DTribune p.3
6	Military commands get new chiefs	Victor Reyes	Mlaya p.B1
7	4 Soldier nabbed in PDEA drug op	PNA	Tempo p.4
8	Abu Sayyaf men surrender in Sulu	Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca	PJournal p.13
9	Abu Sayyaf bandit killed,2 other nabbed in Sulu	--	Mla Standard p.A3
10	8 Abu Sayyaf men surrender in Sulu	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
11	8 Abu bandits surrender in Sulu	Roel Pareño	Phil Star p.20
12	8 ASG member surrender to Task Force Sulu	Francis T Wakefield	Mla Bulletin p.15
13	Soldier killed in NPA ambush in Iligan	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B2
14	Men of 5Mech thankful they made it out of Marawi alive	Bonita L Ermac	Mla Bulletin p.15
15	521 NPA naq ang sumuko mula pebrero	--	Police files p.2
16	Engkwentro sa Cotabato: 1patay ,1sugatan	--	Police files p.3
17	NPA Ambush sa Iligan: Sundalo todas	--	Police files p.4
18	2 AGS todas sa sulu	Jeff Gallos	Remate p.3
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
19	2 Bagong Kumander ng AFP, itinalaga	Gemma Garcia	Ngayon p.14
20	Best force from AFP to secure ASEAN event	Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca	PJournal p.3
21	7 in 10 Pinoys satisfied with Maute's Defeat	Helen Flores	Phil Star p.20
22	Bangkay nagkalat pa sa Marawi	Betchai Julian	Abante p.3
23-24	Xi to Rody on SCS military buildup: Its nothing	Alexis Romero	Phil Star p.15
25	Resqued Vietnamese sailors turned over to consulate officials	AL Jacinto	Mla Times p.A7
26	Marawi siege prompts need to modernize AFP- Lorenzana	PNA	DTribune p.3
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
27	Eastmincom, Wescom get new commanders	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
28	Specialized military units secure ASEAN delegates	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com – Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295


13 November 2017




Page: A3-2



**PANAHON TV**  
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

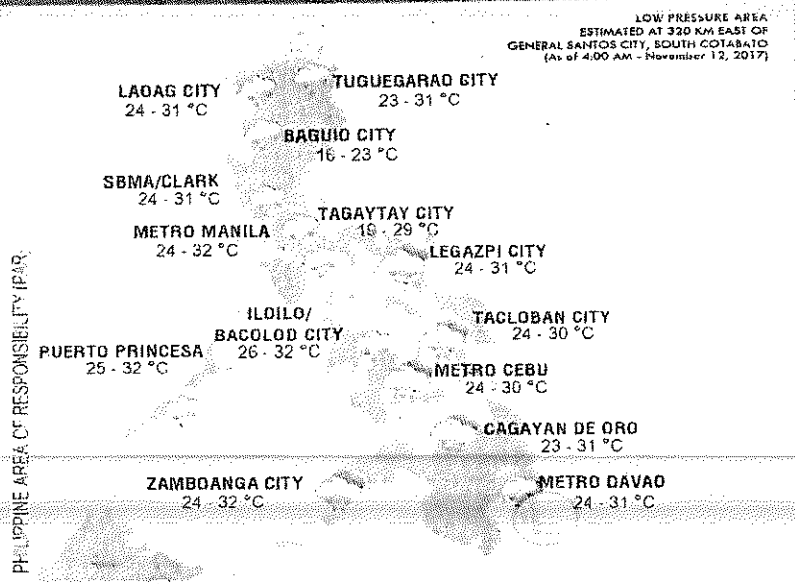




BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 13, 2017 | MONDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA  
ESTIMATED AT 320 KM EAST OF  
GENERAL SANTOS CITY, SOUTH COTABATO  
(As of 4:00 AM - November 12, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

**SUNRISE** 5:56 AM

**SUNSET** 5:25 PM

**MOONRISE** 1:23 PM

**MOONSET** 2:01 PM

**LAST QUARTER** NOV 11 4:35 AM

**NEW MOON** NOV 16 7:42 PM

**LOW TIDE** 11:13 AM

**HIGH TIDE** 2:01 AM

MANILA SOUTH HARBOUR


-0.08 Meter 1.13 Meter

Partly cloudy, in a times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms


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


Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	NOV 14	NOV 15	NOV 16	NOV 17	NOV 18	NOV 19
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	20 - 29 °C	21 - 29 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
<b>LADAG</b>	24 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	16 - 23 °C	15 - 23 °C	25 - 31 °C	26 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C




MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11 AM & 5 PM





SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!



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

13 November 2017

Manila  
**Standard**

Page. 15

# Duterte promises a better Philippines

By Bill Casas

**O**N HIS last day at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vietnam, President Rodrigo Duterte promised to make the country even more competitive in the region.

"Together with other Apec Economic Leaders, we agreed to work tirelessly for free and open market and investment towards quality and innovative growth in the 21st century," Duterte said.

"Connectivity, the internet and digital economy, public-private partnerships, and the inclusion of MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) in global value chains were some of the salient points and shared priorities of economies in the Asia-Pacific region," he added.

The President said he had an opportunity to discuss with his fellow leaders the importance of inclusive growth

and the need to provide MSMEs with the opportunities to grow and become catalysts for national development.

For small and medium businesses to grow, Duterte said, the country must focus on stamping out corruption and red tape as well as address illegal drugs and security.

"I need peace in my country and I need to get rid of corruption. We have come up with the gamut of so many things," the President said.

Eliminating corruption, criminality and illegal drugs were among the main campaign pledges of President Duterte when he ran for office.

Next page

The government will also focus on education, with the President suggesting that Filipino school children should learn the basics about cyberspace and digital communications.

"And I will make that mandatory," he said.

Duterte said the government will also increase infrastructure spending to "realize the 'Golden Age of Infrastructure' that will enhance mobility and connectivity."

There must be an improvement in food security, he said, noting that while the country allocates vast tracts of land for commercial cultivation of crops for the export market, ensuring enough local supply of food must be given priority.

Arriving Sunday from Vietnam, Duterte said he had "most productive" meetings with the leaders of China and Russia, who were also at the Apec summit.

"I took the opportunity to meet my counterparts from many economies. I renewed my friendship with President Vladimir Putin of Russia and with President Xi Jinping of China," Duterte said upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

Duterte first met with Putin on the sidelines of the Apec Economic Leaders Meeting where the Russian president vowed to support the country's fight against terrorism, which is a common challenge for both countries.

Duterte thanked Putin for Russia's "timely assistance" in putting an end to the five-month long Marawi crisis.

Before he returned to Manila, Duterte met with President Xi Jinping, lauding him also for China's assistance in resolving the Marawi siege.

"I see a very bright future for our relationship. Nothing to do with military. I have stated before and I was not lying, I would not entertain talks about military or anything except that I had to

thank Mr. Xi Jinping for the timely and crucial help that he extended to our country when we were fighting the siege of Marawi," he said.

China donated firearms and committed financial support for the rehabilitation of Marawi and for state troops who fought Islamic State-inspired terrorists.

Russia also gave the Philippines firearms and other military equipment.

Duterte said the issue on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea was discussed noting that the Chinese President expressed willingness to hold a summit or a multilateral dialogue to tackle the matter.

"President Xi Jinping mentioned about a summit or a meeting, multilateral only to talk about the rules of conduct. It has nothing to do with sovereignty," he said.

He added that China made the assurance that it would not impede the freedom of navigation in the disputed sea.

He said he believed that the tensions in the South China Sea would not escalate into war, saying that China also could not afford to put the lives of its people in danger.

"He knows that if he goes to war, everything will blow up. He acknowledged that war cannot be promoted by anybody, but it would only mean destruction for all of us," he said.

The two leaders also discussed North Korea.

"At this time when everybody has in his pocket a large number of nuclear arms, China, America, Russia, Iran, North Korea, it is not a good time to talk about a quarrel," Duterte said.

Duterte said he assured Xi that his friendship with him would remain "warm and robust."

On Sunday, Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles said the country would receive even bigger investments after an independent pollster said he was the most trusted Philippine president in the last 20 years. **With Rio N. Araja**



13 November 2017

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

Page: 1

# ASEAN Summit opens today

BY ROY C. MABASA  
AND GENALYN D. MARILING

**T**he 31st Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit will officially begin today in Manila with the 10 leaders from the region expected to focus their discussions on political, security, economic, and socio-cultural issues.

President Duterte, who chairs this year's ASEAN Summit, will lead the opening ceremony at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) in Pasay City. The 31st ASEAN Summit also coincides with ASEAN's 50th anniversary.

Afterwards, the leaders will proceed to the Philippine International Convention Center

► 6

(PICC) to participate in the following engagements: the 31st ASEAN Summit Plenary; the ASEAN-US Commemorative Summit; the 20th ASEAN-China Summit; the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit; the 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit; and the 9th ASEAN-United Nations Summit.

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Spokesman Robespierre Bolivar said the leaders will discuss a whole range of issues of common concern, including trade and investment facilitation, innovation, addressing cybercrime, conquering radicalization, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, connectivity, cooperation against

trafficking in persons, protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, persons with disability and other vulnerable groups, and strengthening the ASEAN community at the model of regional integrations.

President Duterte on Friday declared that ASEAN could serve as the "pathfinder" and "hub" for the Asia-Pacific region in line with efforts of promoting regional economic integration.

### Green light for COC

The leaders of ASEAN and China are also poised to give a green light to start the negotiation for a binding Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea when they meet in Manila

on Tuesday.

"We expect the leaders to announce the negotiations but the actual start of the negotiations will probably happen sometime next year," Bolivar said.

The DFA spokesman said the leaders are expected to take note of the adoption and to announce the formal start of the negotiations of the actual COC that was adopted last August 6 during a meeting of foreign ministers in Manila.

He explained that the framework is the outline of the actual Code and basis for the negotiation.

Bolivar said the Philippines will play a lead role since it will take over as country coordinator of ASEAN-China relations starting next year when the negotiations are starting up

3

13 November 2017



Page: 15

# New Mindanao Army commanders named

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has new commanders for its two area commands in Mindanao.

AFP Public Affairs chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal will be the new Commander of Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM) based in Davao City, while Lieutenant General Rozzano Briguez will command the Western Command (WESCOM) stationed in Palawan.

The position of Acting Commander of EASTMINCOM was occupied by Brig. Gen. Perfecto Rimando Jr. when the post was vacated by Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero on October 26 when the latter was appointed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as the 49th AFP Chief of Staff.

Madrigal is the current Commander of the Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM). He is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985.

Arevalo said Madrigal is regarded as "an achiever, mission-focused and able to balance the welfare of the men."

Besides being hardworking, he is a visionary leader and skilful manager, Arevalo said of Madrigal.

Prior to his appointment as SOLCOM Commander, Madrigal held key positions in the Philippine Army. He was Commander of the Fourth Infantry

Division in Cagayan de Oro, Assistant Division Commander and later Acting Division Commander of the 10th Infantry Division in Compostela Valley before becoming the Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army.

He also held major positions in the AFP General Headquarters as Chief of War Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, OJ5; Secretary Joint Staff, AFP; and Head Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff.

Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Rozzano D. Briguez will head the country's western frontier as he relinquished his post as Vice Commander of the Philippine Air Force (PAF). He will assume the position left by Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar who became the 35th PAF Commanding General.

A member of PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986, Briguez joined the PAF and graduated as class topnotcher from the PAF Flying School in 1988.

All his assignments and scholastic achievements were marked with distinction.

Briguez held various positions in the PAF prior to his stint as its Vice Commander. He was former Chief of Air Staff, PAF; Commandant of Cadets, PMA; Deputy Wing Commander, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Operations, A-3, Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Education and Training, A-8, and Commander, Tactical Operations Group 11.

## Madrigal, Briguez get third star

Lieutenant Generals Madrigal and Briguez will officially don their third star on Monday, November 13, 2017 following the approval of their promotion to the next higher rank as Lieutenant General.

A Donning of Ranks Ceremony will be conducted for the newly promoted generals at the Hall of Flags, GHQ Building in Camp Aguinaldo.

General Guerrero is expected to attend as the presiding officer.

The newly promoted generals will be rendered military honors at the GHQ Canopy Area immediately after the ceremony.

Also promoted to the next higher rank is Brigadier General Rizaldo B. Limoso who will wear his second star as Major General.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines congratulates MGen Madrigal and MGen Briguez for their promotion to the next higher rank, and appointment to key positions in the military," Arevalo said.

"The appointments of MGen Madrigal and MGen Briguez signify the progressive nature of the career we chose as soldiers in the military organization. The AFP leadership believes that it has put the right men for the job and that the momentum of each area command will be continued to support our overall mission towards just and lasting peace," General Guerrero said.

November 2017



Page: 3

## Eastmincom, Wescom get new commanders

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday named new commanders of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) and Western Command (Wescom).

In a statement, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo announced the appointment of Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal and Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez as the new heads of the Eastmincom and Wescom, respectively.

"Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal is the new commander of Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) based in Davao City. Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez will command the Western Command (Wescom) stationed in Palawan," Arevalo said.

Madrigal and Briguez will be officially promoted to the rank of lieutenant general in a ceremony today at the AFP Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City that will be led by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Madrigal will replace Brig. Gen. Perfecto Rimando Jr. who

served as Eastmincom acting commander following the appointment of then Commander Guerrero to the AFP's top post.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, Madrigal is currently the Commander of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom).

Prior to his appointment as Solcom commander, Madrigal held key positions in the Philippine Army such as commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro; assistant division commander and later acting division commander of the 10th Infantry Division in Compostela Valley before becoming the chief of staff of the Philippine Army.

He also held major positions in the AFP General Headquarters as chief of War Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, OJ5; secretary Joint Staff, AFP; and head executive assistant to the chief of staff.

Briguez, meanwhile, is then vice commander of the

Philippine Air Force (PAF). He will succeed Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar who became PAF's 35th commanding general.

A member of PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986, Briguez joined PAF and graduated at the top of his class from the PAF Flying School in 1988.

Prior to his stint as PAF vice commander, Briguez was former chief of air staff, PAF; commandant of Cadets, PMA; deputy wing commander, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing; assistant chief of air staff for Operations, A-8, assistant chief of Air Staff for Education and Training, A-8, and commander, Tactical Operations Group II.

"The appointments of Madrigal and Briguez signify the progressive nature of the career we chose as soldiers in the military organization. The AFP leadership believes that it has put the right men for the job and that the momentum of each area command will be continued to support our overall mission toward just and lasting peace," Guerrero noted.

PNA



13 November 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: B1

## Military commands get new chiefs

**BY VICTOR REYES**

PRESIDENT Duterte has designated the new commanders of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) in Davao City and Western Command (Wescom) in Puerto Princesa City.

Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985, will assume the post of Eastmincom commander on Wednesday, said AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo.

The top Eastmincom post was vacated by Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero (PMA Class 1984) who assumed the top military post on October 26, replacing now Interior

Undersecretary Eduardo Año.

There is yet no announcement as to who will replace Madrigal as commander of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Lucena City. Madrigal became Solcom commander last August. Before that, he was commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City. He also served as the Army's chief of staff.

Arevalo said Air Force Maj. Gen. Rozzano Briguez is the new Wescom commander. He replaces vice Lt. Gen. Galileo Kintanar (PMA Class 1985) who assumed the post of Air Force chief last month.

Arevalo could not immediately say when Briguez, the outgoing vice commander of the Air Force,

will occupy his new post. Briguez is the outgoing vice commander of the Air Force. His replacement has yet to be announced.

Briguez has served as the Chief of Air Staff, commandant of Cadets at the PMA, deputy commander of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Operations, among others.

Briguez is a classmate of PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa at the PMA Class 1986. He graduated as class topper of the PAF Flying School in 1988.

Arevalo said President Duterte has also approved the promotion of Madrigal and Briguez to the next higher rank of lieutenant general.

6

13 November 2017



Page. 4

## 4 soldiers nabbed in PDEA drug op

DAVAO CITY (PNA) – Operatives of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency 11 (PDEA 11) arrested four soldiers and a suspected gun-for-hire after a brief firefight in Tagum City, Davao del Norte on Saturday.

PDEA 11 officer-in-charge Naravy Duquiatan identified the suspects as Cpl. Cristiuto G. Macagubang Jr. who is assigned to the 3rd Infantry Battalion and detailed at Barangay Malagos in Baguio District; Cpl. John Louie Segovia and Sgt. Albin Binondo, both assigned to the 10th Infantry Division; John Rey Mission, a member of Task Force Davao; and Regie Impas, an alleged gun-for-hire.

Duquiatan said PDEA operatives with assistance from Task Force Davao, Task Force Tagum, Tagum City Police Station and 46th IB, conducted a buy-bust operation at Purok Talisay, Seminary Drive in Barangay West Magugpo.

"Napalitan ni sila, nagkasinabot no sila (There were illegal drugs bought from them, and they colluded with each other)," Duquiatan said.

A brief firefight ensued as the arrested suspects tried to resist arrest prompting law enforcers to fight back and wounded in the process.

Impas was immediately brought to Davao Regional Medical Center. After treatment, he and his cohorts were brought to PDEA 11 detention facility in Davao City.

7

13 November 2017



Page. 13

# 8 Abu Sayyaf men surrender in Sulu

By Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca

**EIGHT members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) surrendered to in Talipao, Sulu on Saturday.**

Joint Task Force Sulu commander Brig. Gen. Carlito Sobejana identified them as Rakib Usman Mujakkul, 35; Saadhikal Sabi Asnon, 38; Jarrain Elii, 52; Wahab Buklaw 47, Anggan Ali

Sahaw, 43; Bandi Ahadjula, 56; Adih Manis Juhairi, 25 and Alden Bannan, 30.

Sobejana said they were remnants of the group led slain ASG leader Alhabsy Misaya.

They surrendered to Lt Colonel Jessie R. Montoya, commanding officer of 2nd Special Forces Battalion based in Sitio

Bayug, Barangay Samak, Talipao, Sulu around 7.30 a.m.

Sobejana said the bandits surrendered due to the relentless military operations by members of the Intelligence and Civil Military Operation.

The Abu men also surrendered eight high-powered firearms including two M16 rifles, one M14 rifle and five M1 garand rifles as gesture of their

genuine intention to return to the folds of the law.

They will also undergo medical examination and will be subjected to custodial debriefing.

"We are thankful to the LGUs, other stakeholders and all the peace-loving Tausugs who rally behind us in our campaign to end terrorism in Sulu," Sobejana said.

"We really appreciate your effort of generating social pressure against the remaining ASG members. Indeed, you have greatly contributed in the overall conduct of our military operations causing them to voluntarily surrender," he added.

13 November 2017



Page.     A 3    

## Abu Sayyaf bandit killed, 2 others nabbed in Sulu

AN ABU Sayyaf Group bandit was killed, two others were captured, and eight others surrendered in separate operations over the weekend, the military reported Sunday.

Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana, commander of

Joint Task Force Sulu, said the operations were "another significant setback on the part of the ASG."

Sobejana said an unidentified ASG fighter was killed in an operation in Sitio Tubig Gantang, Ba-

rangay Lagasan-Higad at around 1:30 a.m. on Friday.

Government troops also arrested Delson Kansiong, 27, and Nadzfar Abdulla, 19, and recovered two high-powered firearms and other assorted ammunition.

Along with the slain fighter, the three bandits are members of the ASG under sub-leader Idang Susukan, Sobejana said. Kansiong and Abdulla have been brought to Sulu Provincial Police Office for detention.

13 November 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

## 8 Abu Sayyaf men surrender in Sulu

EIGHT members of the Abu Sayyaf, a kidnap-for-ransom group notorious for beheading its captives, surrendered to the military in Sulu on Saturday and brought with them eight Garand, M14, and M16 rifles.

Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the military's Joint Task Force Sulu, said the eight surrendered to the Army's 2nd Special Forces Battalion, under Lt. Col. Jessie Montoya, at the unit's headquarters in Sitio Bayug, Barangay Samak in Talipao town.

He named the eight as Rakib Usman Mujakkil, 35; Sathikal Sabi Asnon, 38, Jarrain Elil, 52;

Wahab Buklaw, 47; Anggan Ali Sahaw, 43; Bandi Ahadjula, 56; Adih Manis Juhaini, 25; and Alden Banon, 30.

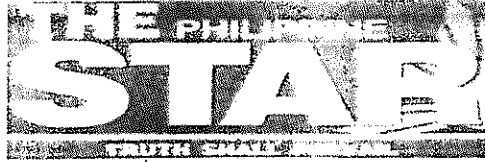
Sobejana said the eight decided to surrender "due to relentless, focused military operation complemented by intelligence and civil military operations." He said local government officials also helped in the surrender.

Sobejana said the eight are remnants of the group of sub-leader Alhabsy Misaya who is blamed for numerous kidnapping cases in Sulu and who was killed by government forces in a firefight in the province last April. – *Victor Reyes*

10



13 November 2017



Page: 20

## 8 Abu bandits surrender in Sulu

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Eight suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits have surrendered to the military in Sulu, officials said yesterday.

The bandits, all followers of slain Abu Sayyaf leader Al-habsy Misaya, surrendered to

Lt Col Jessie Montoya, chief of the 2nd Special Forces Battalion, at around 7:30 a.m. on Saturday in Barangay Samak, Talipao town.

The surrenderees, identified as Rakib Usman Mujakil, 35, Sathikal Sabi Asnon, 38, Jarrain Eliil, 52, Wahab Buklaw, 47, Anggan Ali Sa-

haw, 43; Bandi Ahadjula, 56; Adih Manis Juhaini, 25, and Alden Banon also yielded their rifles, according to Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana, commander of the Joint Task Force Sulu.

Sobejana said the military will continue accepting those who are willing to sur-

render and hunt those who keep engaging in unlawful activities.

“We thank the local government units and other stakeholders as well as the peace-loving Tausugs who support our campaign to end terrorism in Sulu,” Sobejana said.

11

13 November 2017



Page: 15

## 8 ASG members surrender to Task Force Sulu

Eight Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) fighters surrendered with their high-powered firearms to forces under the military's Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu on Saturday.

The eight bandits, remnants of the group of slain ASG leader Alhabsy Misaya, surrendered to Lt. Col. Jessie R. Montoya, Commanding Officer of Second Special Forces Battalion at its headquarters in Sitio Bayug, Brgy. Samak, Talipao, Sulu, at about 7:35 a.m.

The military said the ASG fighters turned themselves in due to the relentless Focused Military Operations (FMO) complemented by intelligence and civil-military Operations.

The ASG members who surrendered were identified as Rakib Usman Mujakkil, 35 and Sadhikal Sabi Asnon,

38, both from Sitio Taluk-Taluk, Barangay Capual, Jarrain Elil, 52 from Barangay Sacuban all of Omar, Sulu; Wahab Buklaw, 47 and Anggan Ali Sahaw, 43, both from Barangay Timudas, Pata, Sulu; Bandi Ahadjula, 56 and Adih Manis Juhaini, 25, both from Barangay Tukay, Parang, Sulu; and Alden Banon, 30, a resident of Barangay Kabungkol, Talipao, Sulu.

They also turned over eight high-powered firearms – two M16 rifles, an M14 rifle, and five M1 Garand rifles – as a gesture of their genuine intention to return to the fold of the law and live peacefully with the community where they came from.

The former ASG bandits will undergo medical examination before undergoing custodial debriefing.

The JTF Sulu said it shall continue to receive surrenderers as part of its commitment in pursuing peace initiatives in the Joint Area of Operations for the betterment of all the people whom we serve and bound to protect.

"We are very thankful to the LGUs, other stakeholders, and all the peace-loving Tausugs who rally behind us in our campaign to end terrorism in Sulu. We really appreciate your effort of generating social pressure against the remaining ASG members," said JTF Sulu commander Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana.

"Indeed, you have greatly contributed in the overall conduct of our military operations causing them to voluntarily surrender," he added. (Francis T. Wakefield)

November 2017

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: B2

## Soldier killed in NPA ambush in Iligan

A SOLDIER was killed while another was wounded in an ambush staged by New People's Army rebels in Iligan City yesterday morning, police said.  
Killed was T/Sgt. Edgar Andal.

who was assigned to a military patrol base in the city, said Supt. Lemuel Gonda, chief of the Northern Mindanao regional police office.

Gonda said a military team, led by Andal, was conducting security

patrol in Sitio Libandayan, Barangay Rogongon when they were waylaid by undetermined number of rebels around 8:30 a.m. led by a "Commander Kiram" of the NPA's Guerilla Front 68.

Gonda said another soldier, identified only as Cpl. Pamplona, was injured and was later able to return to the Dungoan patrol base where he and Andal are assigned.  
– *Victor Reyes*

November 2017

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

Page: 15

# Men of 5Mech thankful they made it out of Marawi alive

By **BONITA L. ERMAC**

**MAIGO, Lanao del Norte** – Tales of harrowing experiences in the main battle area in Marawi City filled the air as the men of the Fifth Mechanized Infantry (5Mech) Battalion held a thanksgiving fellowship at the Granderos Beach Resort in Barangay Segapod here.

Corporal Ferdie Marcial D. Valencia, assistant squad leader and team medic, recalled how they engaged 30 Maute terrorists last May 23.

"Grabe po iyong five days namin na nangyari doon, dinikitan na po kami nila, pader na lang pagitan ng bahay pati sila, at sinunog kami sa loob (We had a tough time for five days. The en-

emy came near us, only a wall divided us. They then set the house on fire with us inside)," Valencia said.

For five days, they couldn't sleep, there was nothing to eat. They could only drink water and pray.

"Iyang pagkasunog matatag lang talaga loob namin, kaya namin mabuhay, kailangan namin mabuhay para sa pamilya naming (When they set us on fire, we just remained steadfast, believing we could live through it for our families)," Valencia added.

He also recalled how he tried to keep Private Roel M. Cabonita Jr conscious after he lost his feet in a bomb attack by the Maute Group.

Valencia said he kept on telling Cabonita to stay firm and assured him

that they would get out soon. Unfortunately, the soldier died a day later.

Sixteen soldiers from 5Mech were wounded in Marawi, and awarded with Wounded Personnel Medals, while four others were killed.

Lt Colonel Galileo R. Goyena, Commanding Officer of the 5Mech Battalion, said that he and his men had a lot to be thankful for.

"Because on Day One of the Marawi Crisis, we were already hit, with two of my vehicles hit, and 20 of my men trapped. We were able to rescue 16 while four gave the ultimate sacrifice. The reasons why we're here is we want to thank God for life, let us have our fellowship and let us enjoy life," Goyena said.

13 November 2017

Page. 2

## 521 NPA na ang sumuko mula Pebrero

**UMABOT** na sa 521 miyembro ng New People's Army ang sumuko sa pamahalaan simula noong Pebrero ng taon.

Ayon kay Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Chief Col. Edgard Arevalo, ang patuloy na pagbababa ng armas ng mga miyembro ng NPA ay patunay ng paghina ng nasabing rebeldeng grupo.

Malinaw rin arya na matagumpay ang mas pinaigting na combat at intelligence operations ng militar partikular sa mga lugar sa hilagang silangang Mindanao.

Batay sa tala ng AFP, nasa 18 mga miyembro ng NPA na ang sumuko sa mga military units ngayong Nobyembre kabilang ang isang Joel Embos alias Jojo at isang miyembro ng NPA's militia sa Surigao del Sur noong Nobyembre 3.

Tiniyak naman ni AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero na nakanda ang hukbong sandatahan ng Pilipinas na tanggapin at magbigay ng tulong sa mga susukong rebelde alinsunod narin integration program ng administrasyon.

15



13 November 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 3

### **Engkwentro sa Cotabato: 1 patay, 1 sugatan**

**COTABATO CITY** – Isa ang patay at isa ang sugatan sa engkwentro ng dalawang armadong grupo sa sitio ambel Barangay Marbel Matalam.

Sa pinakahuling impormasyon mula sa Kidapawan City Police Office, isa pa ang patay at isang sibilyan naman ang sugatan sa nangyaring barilan kahapon ng hapon.

Kinilala ang namatay na si Tony Polalong, isang kasapi ng 108 base command ng Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) at ang namaril naman na si Abdul Karim Unsil ng 15 council Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Dahil sa barilan ng dalawang panig ay may tinamaan na isang sibilyan at kinilalang si Jocelyn Tan na kasalukuyan ng nagpapagamot sa isang hospital.

Agaran din naman namagitan ang 7 IB ng Philippine Army at Matalam PNP.

Sinasabing rido ang dahilan ng pamamaril ng suspek sa biktima.

16

13 November 2017

**POLICE FILES**

Page. 8

## **NPA AMBUSH SA ILIGAN: SUNDALO TODAS**

**NASAWI** ang isang sundalo isa pa ang nasugatan sa pananambang ng New People's Army sa Iligan City, Linggo ng umaga.

Nagpakalat na ng mga sundalo t pulis para tugisin ang mga rebelde, na umatake ilang araw lang matapos ang magkasunod na ambush sa

Bukidnon nitong Huwebes at Biyernes, sabi ni Supt. Lemuel Gonda, tagapagsalita ng Northern Mindanao regional police.

Isinagawa ng di mabatid na bilang ng rebelde ang pinakahuling pananambang laban sa isang team ng mga sundalong pinamunuan ni Tsgt. Edgar Andal sa Malagsum, Sitio Liban-

dayan, Brgy. Rogon-gon, Iligan, dakong 8:30.

Nagpapatrolya at nagsasagawa ng route security operations ang mga kawal sa Iligan-Bukidnon road nang sila'y salakayin, ani Gonda.

Napaulat na nasawi si Andal, na nasa am-

bush site pa habang isinusulat ang istoryang ito, habang isang Cpl. Pamplona ang bahagyang nasugatan at nakabalik sa patrol base, aniya.

Pinaniniwalaang mga kasapi ng Guerrilla Front 68, na pinamumunuan ni commander "Kiram," ang nagsagawa ng ambush, ani Gonda.

17

13 November 2017



Pahina. 3

## 2 ASG todas sa Sulu

UTAS sa engkuwentro sa militar ang dalawang hinihinalang miyembro ng Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) habang dalawa ang nadakip sa Parang, Sulu kamakalawa.

Hindi pa tinukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng mga napatay na bandido habang ang mga naaresto ay nakilalang sina Delson Kansiong, 27-anyos at Nadzfar Abdulla, 19 taong gulang, na dinala na sa pulisya para sa detensyon.

Ayon kay Brigadier General Cirilito Sobejana, commander ng Joint Task Force Sulu, inilunsad ang operasyon sa Sitio Tubig Gantang, Barangay Lagasan-Higad dakong ala-

1:30 ng madaling araw.

Ang mga bandido ay mga miyembro umano ni ASG sub-leader Idang Susukan at namsam sa kanila ang dalawang matataas na kalibre ng baril at iba't ibang bala.

Itinuturing na panibagong dagok sa ASG ang pagkamatay ng dalawa nilang kasamahan.

**JEFF GALLOS**

13 November 2017



Pahina. i4

## 2 bagong kumander ng AFP, itinalaga

Mayroon nang bagong commanders ang Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) para sa dalawang area sa bansa.

Ayon kay Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief ng Public Affairs Office ng AFP na si Lt. General Benjamin Madrigal ang bagong commander ng Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM) na nakabase sa Davao City habang si Lt. General Rozzano Briguez naman ang itinalaga sa Western Command (WESCOM) sa Palawan.

Nagsilbi namang acting commander ng EASTMINCOM si B/Gen Perfecto Rimando Jr. nang bakantehin ni General Rey Leonardo

Guerrero noong Oktubre 26 ang nasabing puwesto nang maitalaga bilang 49<sup>th</sup> AFP Chief of Staff.

Si Major General Madrigal ay kasalukuyang commander ng Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) na miyembro ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" class of 1985, at dati rin commander ng 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division sa Cagayan de Oro City.

Naging assistant division commander at acting division commander din siya ng 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division sa Compostela Valley bago naging Chief of Staff ng Philippine Army.

Hinawakan din niya ang AFP General Headquarters bilang Chief of

War Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, OJ5; Secretary Joint Staff, AFP, at head executive assistant to the Chief of Staff.

Habang si Major General Briguez naman ay miyembro ng PMA "Sinagtala" class of 1986 at miyembro ng Philippine Air Force (PAF) at nag-graduate bilang top notcher at naging vice commander din ng PAF, deputy wing commander ng 250<sup>th</sup> Presidential Airlift Wing, assistant

Chief of Air Staff for operations, A-3, assistant Chief of Air Staff for education and training, A-8, at commander, tactical operations group 11.

Opisyal namang maging 3-star general ang dalawa simula ngayong araw matapos aprubahan ang kanilang promosyon sa susunod na ranggo bilang Lieutenant General at inaasahan nang dadalo sa flag raising ceremony ngayong sa GHQ building sa Camp Aguinaldo. (*Gemma Garcia*)

13 November 2017



Page. 3

## Best forces from AFP to secure ASEAN event

THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) yesterday said specialized land, air and sea forces will help secure delegates of the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit 2017.

"The AFP through the Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTF NCR) has deployed the best among its forces to work with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other government agencies concerned in ensuring the safe and secured conduct of the ASEAN Meetings in the Philippines," AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said.

He said five joint task groups were deployed to perform security and emergency response operation to support the concerned government agencies during the summit from November 10 to 14.

The deployment is part of the Task Force's Oplan ASEAN Leaders' Summit (ALS).

Under Oplan ALS, JTF NCR provides augmentation forces to the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO)

and Presidential Security Group (PSG).

It also provides Emergency Response Units such as Search, Rescue, and Retrieval Units (SRR) and Ambu-Medic Units to provide rescue and health support to delegates and all deployed forces.

"The AFP has long been planning and preparing for contingency measures to address any worse case scenarios during the ASEAN Meetings. This is in line with our task of providing security coverage for the venues as well as the safety of the people and all our visitors," Arevalo said.

As the Metro Sentinel of the National Seat of Government, the JTF NCR is leading the security unit of the AFP in working closely with concerned agencies. This is to ensure the safety of the participants and the peaceful conduct of the 31st ASEAN Leader's Summit and Related Meetings.

The JTF NCR is currently led by its Commander, Brigadier General Jesus Manangquil Jr.

**Zaida Delos Reyes-Palanca**

20



13 November 2017



Page: 20

# 7 in 10 Pinoys satisfied with Mautes' defeat

By HELEN FLORES

**Seven in every 10 Filipinos have expressed satisfaction with the way the Duterte administration quelled terrorism in Marawi City, according to a survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).**

More than half of the figure believed the military could defeat the Maute terrorists even without martial law.

The SWS poll, conducted from Sept. 23 to 27, showed 66 percent of Filipino adults were satisfied with the government's action in suppressing the Mautes, while 18 percent were dissatisfied and 16 percent undecided.

The result yielded a net satisfaction rating of +48, which the SWS classified as "good." Duterte declared the libera-

tion of Marawi on Oct. 17, or after four months of battling Mautes.

Net satisfaction with the government's anti-terror efforts remained "very good" in Metro Manila at +54 in September, although it was down from +68 in June.

It was also "very good" in Mindanao at +54, despite dropping four points from +58 in June.

In the Visayas, satisfaction rating remained good at +49, or up by three points from +46 in June. It also stayed good in

balance Luzon at +42, barely up from +41 in June.

Net satisfaction with the government's anti-terror action was also "very good" among members of the Iglesia ni Cristo at +57 as well as in other religious groups at +65, except for the Roman Catholics and Muslims – which were good at +48 and a neutral +3, respectively.

Meanwhile, 54 percent of Filipinos agreed that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) could defeat the Mautes even without the martial law declaration, while 25 percent disagreed and 22 percent were undecided.

This resulted in a net agreement rating of +29, which the SWS classified as moderately strong, below the very

strong +32 in June.

Net satisfaction in the AFP's capability to defeat the Mautes and Abu Sayyaf bandit group was highest in the Visayas at +36, up by 17 points from the moderately strong +19 in June.

It fell by one grade from a very strong +36 to moderately strong +24 in Metro Manila as well as in Mindanao from +34 to +29.

It also dropped from a very strong +34 to moderately strong +27 in balance Luzon.

The non-commissioned survey used face-to-face interviews of 1,500 adults aged 18 years and above nationwide.

It has a sampling error margin of plus or minus three points for national percentages.

21

13 November 2017



Pahina. 3

## Bangkay nagkalat pa sa Marawi

Tinatayang may 200 assessors ang kokolekta sa mga patay at magsasagawa ng inspeksyon sa mga impraestrakturang nasira sa may 24 barangay sa loob ng Marawi City.

Ayon kay Office of the Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Kristoffer James Purisima, ang nasabing mga assessors mula sa gobyerno ang siyang susuri sa damage sa main battle area matapos tapusin ng military ang

kanilang combat operation laban sa mga miyembro ng teroristang Maute-ISIS.

Pagkatapos ng mopping up operations ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa nasabing lugar ay binigyan na umano ng clearance ang mga assessors na simulan na ang post-conflict assessment sa main battle area.

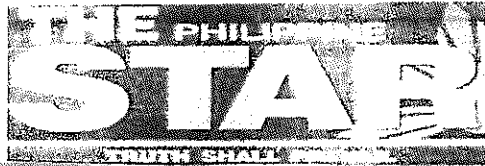
Paliwanag ni Purisima, ang findings ng mga assessors sa loob ng dalawang linggong pagsusuri

ang gagamitin na basehan para sa rehabilitation plans para sa naturang siyudad.

Tinataya umanong 95 porsiyento ng mga gusali sa main battle area ang halos napulbos sa limang buwang giyera sa lungsod.

Bagama't nakauwi na rin sa kani-kanilang mga bahay ang may 350,000 bakwit ay pinagbabawalan pa rin makabalik ang iba sa main battle area. **(Betchai Julian)**

13 November 2017



Page: 15

# Xi to Rody on SCS military buildup: It's nothing

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Chinese President Xi Jinping has downplayed Beijing's buildup in the South China Sea and has dismissed the possibility of war breaking out over the maritime dispute, President Duterte said yesterday.

Duterte said he mentioned the military buildup in disputed areas during his bilateral meeting with Xi in Vietnam last Saturday.

"I was talking about the military buildup. He says, 'no, it's nothing,'" Duterte told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday.

"He knows that if he goes to war, everything will blow up. He acknowledged that war cannot be promoted by anybody, but it would only mean destruction for all of us," he said.

Duterte is convinced that Xi would not sow conflict in the South China Sea because the Chinese leader is preoccupied with domestic issues.

"And I believe him because like me, he's worried about the health and the problem of his countrymen. We have the same problem. We share the same problem actually, governance," he said.

Duterte stressed that it is not the right time to confront China over the South China Sea row.

"Are we prepared to go to war? We never surrendered anything. Just say, I do not want to talk about this for the moment. It is not time for aggression, it is not time for violence," Duterte said.

"We have so many problems domestic to take care of before we start to venture on some sort of an aggressive stand."

During the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Business and Investment Summit also yesterday, Duterte said the South China Sea issue is "better left untouched."

"China is the number one economic power and we have to be friends with them. Nobody can afford to go to war," he added.

China claims more than 90 percent of the resource-rich South China Sea but this is being disputed by the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and

Taiwan. China has built artificial islands on areas located off the western province of Palawan that are also being claimed by the Philippines.

Satellite photos revealed China has installed radar systems and barracks and has built airstrips in the disputed areas, fueling suspicions that the Asian superpower will use the islands to control the South China Sea.

China has allayed fears that it is militarizing the disputed areas and claimed that it is one with all claimants in maintaining stability in the region.

Duterte has expressed readiness to temporarily set aside the maritime dispute to improve the Philippines' ties with China. But he vowed to bring up the issue before Chinese leaders within his term.

Critics have accused Duterte of being too cozy with China and disregarding the Philippines' maritime claim in exchange for assistance from the Chinese government. Duterte has denied this, saying he would not turn his back on the Philippines' maritime interests.

Duterte said Xi was surprised about his strong statement that he would be frank about the maritime dispute.

"I said I am not raising any sovereign issue. Do not worry... I had to do it because the Philippines chairs the ASEAN now," he added.

"I cannot escape that from my duty. We are the – so I have every right to ask him. But I explained it to him in a very nice way that it was all – that was all the rest of it."

Duterte said Xi has given him assurance that the Philippines would have "all the rights of safe passage."

Duterte believes the arbitration ruling does not mean anything to anybody except China and the Philippines.

"These contesting parties or countries are not parties of interest in the case. They do not care about it. It's about you and China. Do not drag us down with your claim and expand the jurisdiction because we are not bound by it," Duterte said.

"If you want, you can file another arbitration between us and what country do

22

The Chief Executive declared the predominantly Muslim city liberated from terrorism last month but has not lifted military rule because of the presence of Islamists in other provinces.

Officials said Duterte has not closed his doors to resuming talks with the communists but demanded that the rebels prove their sincerity in the pursuit of peace.

Duterte said the rebels' atrocities prove that they are no longer adhering to an ideology.

"If you are guilty of a crime, that's no longer rebellion to me. There is no more ideology so I do not recognize the crime of rebellion," he said.

"If you're just a member, you can post bail. And when you want, you simply go back to the mountains and fight (with) the soldiers," he added.

Duterte said he has promised something to the communists but stressed that he is "not bound by any commitment" with them.

"I will do what is to the best interest of the Filipino people and my country. If you think that... all of us in government are corrupt and killers, then do not talk to us. Period. We can end the talks right here. I really do not care," Duterte said.

"There's always a time for everything. So there's always a time to talk about peace if it's needed. If it is not, then we will fight. But I would not subserve any other interest except (that of) the Filipino people."

## *Pinoy hospitality showcased at gala dinner*

By HELEN FLORES

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and dialogue partners looked elegant in their Philippine formal attire as the government pulled out all stops in showcasing Filipino hospitality at the special gala dinner for the heads of state and delegates of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings.

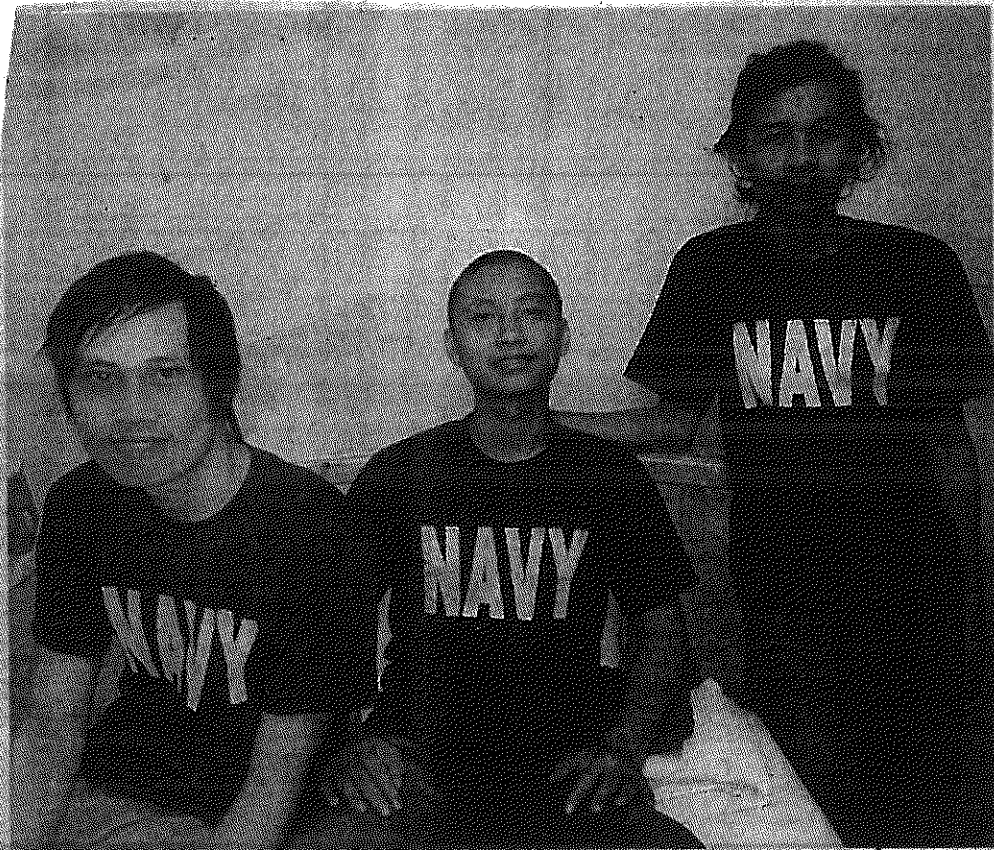
Eighteen heads of state, including US President Donald Trump, donned barong tagalog and modern Filipiniana by top Filipino designers Rajo Laurel, Albert Andrada and Randy Ortiz in the event



13 November 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7



**RESCUED** This photo released by the Philippine Military shows rescued Vietnamese sailors Buy Xuan Vien, Bui Trung Duc and Nguten Quang Huy while waiting for their turnover to Vietnam consulate officials who went to Zamboanga on Sunday.

## Rescued Vietnamese sailors turned over to consulate officials

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** The Philippine military on Sunday handed over to Vietnam ministry officials three of its kidnapped citizens rescued by troops in Tawi-Tawi on Friday.

Another kidnapped Vietnamese sailor, Nguyen Huu Trong, allegedly died in captivity from a lingering illness.

The three – Buy Xuan Vien, Bui Trung Duc and Nguten Quang Huy – were presented to Nguyen Duc Bien of the Consular Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who flew to Zamboanga to receive the rescued sailors.

The victims were crew of the cargo ship *MV Giang Hai 5* abducted by Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits along with over a dozen others last February 25 while sailing off the Sulu Archipelago.

They were expected to be presented to Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuân Phúc, who is in Manila for the Asean Summit.

Journalists were not invited to the handover of the sailors at the Western Mindanao Command and security officials also did not provide details of so-called special operations launched by the military last Friday on Languyan Island that resulted in the recovery of the Vietnamese.

Brigadier General Custodio Parcon Jr., commander of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, said Marines and Navy forces were involved in the operations.

"Through the operations conducted by our Marines and Navy, we successfully recovered the Vietnamese hostages off Tawi-Tawi waters, and we mean to intensify our offensives to pressure the bandits to yield," he said in a statement released on the same day the hostages were freed.

Two of the crew were also killed by the bandits while attempting to escape during the abduction while the rest had been recovered by soldiers.

**AL JACINTO**



13 November 2017



Page: 3

## Marawi siege prompts need to modernize AFP – Lorenzana

Marawi City combat operations saw the need to invest more in the modernization of the military.

“The Marawi siege indeed serves as a reminder that guarding our nation from the perils of terrorism is a shared responsibility and that all of us must be vigilant. It also reminds us of the importance of our mandate, and a wake-up call that we must invest more on improving our capabilities and modernizing our equipment,” Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

Fighting in Marawi City started last May 23 when government forces tried to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon

Hapilon and his cohorts.

It was declared over on Oct. 23 after Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and Maute group co-founder Omar Maute were killed in one of the last encounters of the five-month military operations.

An estimated 923 terrorists were killed while 165 troopers and police officers were killed in the campaign.

Fighting proved difficult as Filipino soldiers are not equipped and lack training for urban warfare scenarios.

“In relation to this, our department ensured the completion of Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Project to achieve a stronger and more credible national

defense system,” he said.

“From July 1, 2016 to October 20, 2017, 20 projects were delivered which are expected to improve the capability of the AFP in terms of internal security, territorial defense and humanitarian assistance and disaster response,” Lorenzana added.

Delivered were the South Korean-made FA-50PH, of which 12 were ordered from Korea Aerospace Industries; the second strategic sealift vessel, the *BRP Davao del Sur*, which was ordered from PT PAL Persero, an Indonesia shipbuilder; and three additional multi-purpose assault craft from local shipbuilder Propmech. **PNA**

26

## **ONLINE NEWS**

### **13 NOVEMBER 2017**

www.pna.gov.ph

## **Eastmincom, Wescom get new commanders**

November 12, 2017, 2:55 pm

**MANILA** -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday named new commanders of the Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) and Western Command (Wescom).

In a statement, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo announced the appointment of Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal and Lt. Gen. Rozzano Briguez as the new heads of the Eastmincom and Wescom, respectively.

"Lieutenant General Benjamin Madrigal is the new Commander of Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) based in Davao City. Lieutenant General Rozzano Briguez will command the Western Command (Wescom) stationed in Palawan," Arevalo said.

Madrigal and Briguez will be officially promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in a ceremony on Monday at the AFP Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City that will be led by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Madrigal will replace Brig. Gen. Perfecto Rimando Jr., who served as Eastmincom Acting Commander following the appointment of then Commander Guerrero to the AFP's top post.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, Madrigal is currently the Commander of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom). Prior to his appointment as SOLCOM Commander, Madrigal held key positions in the Philippine Army such as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan De Oro; Assistant Division Commander and later Acting Division Commander of the 10th Infantry Division in Compostela Valley before becoming the Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army.

He also held major positions in the AFP General Headquarters as Chief of War Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, OJ5; Secretary Joint Staff, AFP; and Head Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff. Briguez, meanwhile, is then Vice Commander of the Philippine Air Force (PAF). He will succeed Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar who became PAF's 35th Commanding General.

A member of PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986, Briguez joined PAF and graduated at the top of his class from the PAF Flying School in 1988.

Prior to his stint as PAF Vice Commander, Briguez was former Chief of Air Staff, PAF; Commandant of Cadets, PMA; Deputy Wing Commander, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Operations, A-3, Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Education and Training, A-8, and Commander, Tactical Operations Group 11.

"The appointments of MGen Madrigal and MGen Briguez signify the progressive nature of the career we chose as soldiers in the military organization. The AFP leadership believes that it has put the right men for the job and that the momentum of each area command will be continued to support our overall mission towards just and lasting peace," Guerrero noted.

www.pna.gov.ph

## Specialized military units secure ASEAN delegates

By Priam Nepomuceno November 12, 2017, 1:46 pm

**MANILA** -- The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced that specialized land, air and sea units are deployed to secure all delegates of the ongoing ASEAN Summit 2017.

This is aside from augmenting regular units deployed to secure these persons, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said Sunday.

"The AFP through the Joint Task Force National Capital Region has deployed the best among its forces to work with the Philippine National Police and other government agencies concerned in ensuring the safe and secured conduct of the ASEAN Meetings in the Philippines," he added.

Five joint task groups were deployed to perform security and emergency response operations to support the concerned government agencies from November 10 to 14.

Arevalo said this deployment is part of the Task Force's Oplan ASEAN Leaders' Summit (ALS).

Under Oplan ALS, Joint Task Force NCR provides augmentation forces to the National Capital Region Police Office and Presidential Security Group.

It also provided emergency response units such as search, rescue, and retrieval units and ambu-medics units to provide rescue and health support to delegates and all deployed forces.

"The AFP has long been planning and preparing for contingency measures to address any worse case scenarios during the ASEAN Meetings. This is in line with our task of providing security coverage for the venues as well as the safety of the people and all our visitors," he added. **(PNA)**