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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

15 November 2017

Wednesday

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

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BALANCED NEWS + FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | NOVEMBER 15, 2017 | WEDNESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING EXTREME NORTHERN LUZON (As of 4:00 PM - November 14, 2017)

LAOAG CITY 24 - 31 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 23 - 32 °C
BAGUIO CITY 16 - 23 °C
SBMA/CLARK 25 - 33 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 20 - 28 °C
METRO MANILA 24 - 30 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 32 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 30 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU 25 - 32 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 23 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 34 °C
METRO DAVAO 23 - 33 °C

SUNRISE 5:57 AM
SUNSET 5:24 PM

MOONRISE 3:06 AM
MOONSET 3:24 PM

LAST QUARTER NOV 11 4:36 AM
NEW MOON NOV 16 7:42 PM

LOW TIDE 1:23 PM
HIGH TIDE 6:06 AM
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
D. 13 Meter 0.76 Meter

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

	NOV 14	NOV 17	NOV 16	NOV 17	NOV 18	NOV 17
METRO MANILA	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	20 - 27 °C	21 - 28 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	23 - 32 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	23 - 30 °C	22 - 29 °C
LAOAG	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 29 °C	23 - 33 °C	23 - 32 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 22 °C	16 - 23 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	23 - 33 °C	23 - 32 °C
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 32 °C	25 - 33 °C	23 - 31 °C	23 - 31 °C	<p>SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!</p>	

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

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


15 November 2017



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CHINA: SEA TALKS TO STABILIZE REGION

But critics say a final Asean-Beijing agreement on a code of conduct on the South China Sea is not likely anytime soon.

 China's agreement to begin discussions with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) on the fine print of a code of conduct framework for the disputed South China Sea will be a "stabilizer" for the region, Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang said on Monday.

"China's greatest hope is for peace and stability in the South China Sea," Li told Asean leaders in Manila.

Southeast Asia and China foreign ministers in August adopted a negotiating framework for a code of conduct in the South China Sea, a move they hailed as progress but seen by critics as a tactic to buy China time to consol-

idate its maritime power.

Li, addressing Asean leaders during a summit in Manila, said there was a consensus on moving forward and to try to peacefully resolve the thorny issue.

"We hope the talks on the code of conduct will bolster mutual understanding and trust. We will strive under the agreement to reach a consen-

sus on achieving early implementation of the code of conduct," Li said, according to a transcript of his speech released by China's foreign ministry on Tuesday.

Li didn't give a time frame, but said he hoped this move would be a "stabilizer" for the region.

Philippine presidential spokesper-

son Harry Roque said in a statement on Monday that Asean and China, at a summit presided over by President Duterte, had agreed to open negotiations on the code of conduct.

"One of the outcomes of the meetings is to commence the negotiations on a substantive and effective code of conduct in the South China **A10**

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FROM A1

Sea after concluding the framework agreement on the code of conduct," Roque said.

He said Mr. Duterte did not refer to the South China Sea disputes at the Asean leaders' meeting with US President Donald Trump on Monday, but Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak mentioned it in the bloc's common statement during the sitdown with the US leader.

Trump last week offered to mediate the maritime disputes. Asean was studying whether to accept the offer.

He also said Chinese President Xi Jinping assured President Duterte on Saturday that

China was "not ready to go to war with anyone" over the South China Sea.

Mr. Duterte's allies on Tuesday hailed the decision of Asean and China to begin talks on the code of conduct, calling it "one of the most significant achievements" of this year's Asean Summit.

Only an incremental move

"The fact that China agreed to sit down with Asean to draft the code of conduct for the South China Sea can already be considered a milestone for peace and development in the region," said Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone.

Critics say the agreement to talk on the details of the code of

conduct is only an incremental move, with a final agreement not likely anytime soon.

Gregory Poling, director of Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, believes it will take China and Asean years to conclude a code of conduct.

"Those negotiations, if they begin—and they haven't—would still take years," Poling told reporters on the sidelines of the Stratbase ADR Institute summit in Makati City on Nov. 8.

Can't be taken for granted

"What I expect is that the disappointments that [are] going to be obvious after this year might finally kick Asean states into gear, make them realize that they need to think of a different

venue to get this done," he said.

Despite a period of relative stability in the South China Sea, some countries at the summit said this shouldn't be taken for granted.

The framework seeks to advance a 2002 Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which has mostly been ignored by claimant states, particularly China.

China built seven artificial islands in disputed waters, three of which are equipped with runways, surface-to-air missiles and radars.

All parties say the framework is only an outline for how the code will be established but critics say the failure to outline as an initial objective the need

to make the code legally binding and enforceable, or have a dispute resolution mechanism, raises doubts about how effective the pact will be.

Signing China up to a legally binding and enforceable code for the strategic waterway has long been a goal for claimant members of Asean, some of which have sparred for years over what they see as China's disregard for their sovereign rights and its blocking of fishermen and energy exploration efforts.

Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines all claim some or all of the South China Sea and its myriad shoals, reefs and islands. —REPORTS FROM REUTERS, PHILIP C. TUBEZA, DJ YAP AND NIKKO DIZON INQ

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Asean, US, EU vow to ensure sea rights

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

Ensuring maritime security in the South China Sea – with freedom of navigation and overflight guaranteed – is a commitment the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the United States and the European Union (EU) have agreed to uphold.

The ASEAN-US position was contained in a joint statement issued after their commemorative summit marking the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations.

The same position was issued jointly by the ASEAN and the EU.

In their joint statement, ASEAN and the US stressed their support for mutual respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality and political independence of all nations by firmly upholding the principles and purposes of the charters of the United Nations and the ASEAN, which emphasize the importance of international law and the right of every nation to lead its national existence free from

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Arm external interference, subversion or coercion.

ASEAN and the US, based on their statement, maintain a shared commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"We are dedicated to maintaining peace, security and stability in the region, and to ensuring maritime security and safety, including the rights of freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the seas, and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce as described in the 1982 UNCLOS as well as non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of activities," the statement said.

"We have a shared commitment to promote cooperation to address common challenges in the maritime domain," it read.

It was the White House which released the joint statement.

"They further underscored the need to continue pursuing confidence-building measures to increase mutual trust and confidence, and to refrain from actions that would escalate tensions, including militarization," the statement said.

The same message is highlighted in the joint ASEAN-EU statement.

"We underline the importance of the respect of the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, maritime security and safety, freedom of navigation and overflight, and peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the relevant standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)," the ASEAN-EU statement said.

ASEAN and China agreed

on Monday to start talks on the Code of Conduct (COC) on the South China Sea.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Robespierre Bolivar said leaders of ASEAN and China, in their statements delivered during the ASEAN-China Summit on Monday, agreed to start talks on the COC based on a framework approved in Manila last August.

On Friday, Trump called on

nations to deal "decisively" with issues on territorial expansion and threats to security.

In his speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Da Nang earlier this month, Trump stressed the importance of upholding the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight - a reference to China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea.

The region's future, he said, depends on the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight.

"We must also deal decisively with other threats to our security and the future of our children such as criminal cartels, human smug-

gling, drugs, corruption, cyber crime and territorial expansion," Trump said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito is urging the administration to continue pursuing the country's territorial claims in the South China Sea using the country's legal victory before an international arbitral tribunal in The Hague as its basis.

"We should still pursue the victory in The Hague and defend our territorial integrity at all costs. China obviously has been bullying us and the smaller ASEAN nations. The only way we can stand up against a superpower like China is for ASEAN nations to unite," Ejercito said.

Sen. Leila de Lima chided Duterte for not taking any action against China's pro-

vocative actions in the South China Sea, even calling him a "lapdog" of the Chinese.

"The AFP should take note that their commander-in-chief is fast becoming, if he is not yet, the proverbial Manchurian Candidate. Since when has the AFP taken orders conveyed from the generals of the People's Liberation Army?" De Lima said.

"To the officers and men of the AFP, you have a long history of heroes and patriots. You should know treason when it rears its ugly head in your motherland," she said.

"He is balancing between our national interest as well as the external conflicts that beset our country," Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, for his part, said.

- With Marvin Sy

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Troops, NPAs clash in Abra, Isabela; 1 dead

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

One soldier was killed and two more wounded in separate encounters with New People's Army (NPA) rebels in the northern provinces of Isabela and Abra last weekend.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines-Northern Luzon Command (AFP-NoLCom), said the first encounter took place at about 12:50 p.m. Sunday in Barangay Alangitan, Tubo, Abra, where two soldiers were wounded in battle against 10 rebels from the NPA's Kilusang Larangan Gerilya (KLG) Montes.

The two troopers from the 24th Infantry Battalion of the army's 5th Infantry Division were already recuperating at a hospital.

On the other hand the encounter that broke out at 2:07 p.m. Sunday in Sitio Minanga, Barangay San Carlos, Echague, Isabela, resulted in the death of a soldier from the army's 86th Infantry Battalion.

Troops are continuing its hot pursuit operation against the 30 rebels from NPA's Komiteng Rehiyon-Hilagang Silangang Luzon (KR-HSL) Central Front involved in the battle.

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Pahina. 14

MNLF vs MILF: 1 Patay, 4 sugatan

Patay ang isang tao habang apat pa ang nasugatan makaraang sumiklab ang bakbakan sa pagitan ng magkabalang puwersa ng Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) at Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) sa Sitio Ambel, Brgy. Marbel, Matalam, Cotabato, ayon sa opisyal kahapon.

Kinilala ang nasawi na si Tony Polalong, tinatayang nasa 40-an-yos, miyembro ng MILF 108 Base Command at residente ng Brgy. Ilian,

Matalam ng lalawigan.

Sa report ni Chief Inspector Sunny Rubas, hepe ng Matalam Police, tinukoy nito na ang mga suspek ay pinamumunuan ni Abdul Karim Unsil, 38-anyos ng MNLF 15th Council, residente naman ng Brgy. Marbel ng nasabing munisipalidad.

Bandang alas-2:30 ng hapon nitong linggo nang magsimulang magkagirian na nauwi sa bakbakan ang magkabilang panig.

Sa palitan ng putok

matapos sumugod sa lugar ang grupo ng MNLF ay nasapul ng tama ng bala sa tiyan si Polalong na siya nitong ikinamatay habang isinugod naman sa pagamutan ang mga nasugatang biktima.

Ang dalawa sa mga nasugatan ay mula naman sa hanay ng mga sibilyan na nakilala namang sina Jocelyn Tan, 35; Anisa Iman, pawang mga residente sa lugar.

Samantalang ang dalawa pa sa mga nasugatan ay sina Francis Im-

bong Abas at Rasel Naga pawang kasapi ng MILF.

Napayapa lamang ang dalawang grupo matapos na kontakin ng security forces ang kanilang mga Commander kung saan nahinto ang sagupaan dakong alas-6:30 ng gabi.

Nagbunsod din ang insidente sa paglikas ng mga sibilyang naninirahan sa nasabing lugar sa takot na maipit sa bakbakan. (Joy Cantos)

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Pahina. 2

Kasapi ng Cafgu dinukot at pinaslang ng NPA rebels

Isang miyembro ng Cafgu ang pinagbabaril ng mga miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) matapos ito ay dukutin sa Brgy. Talalak, Sta Catalina, Negros Oriental, kamakalawa.

Ang napatay na biktima ay si Cafgu Active Auxiliary (CAA) Gelino Vailoces, 52, nakatalaga sa Cuadra Detachment sa

ilalim ng Alpha Company ng Army's 12th Infantry Battalion na nakabase sa Siaton, Negros Oriental.

Batay sa ulat, dinukot ang biktima dakong alas-8:00 ng umaga ng nasa 30 armadong rebelde sa kanilang bahay at dakong alas-3:00 ng hapon ay narekober ang bangkay nito na nasa 1.5 kilometro mula sa Cuadra detach-

ment na binabantayan nito.

Kinondena ni Col. Eliezer Lozafies, Commander ng Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade ang pamamaslang sa biktima na off duty status at hindi armado nang dukutin, iginapos at hilahin ng mga rebelde patungo sa masakal na lugar kung saan ito pinatay. - *Joy Cantos* -

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Pahina. 4

JOINT TASK FORCE BASILAN COMMANDER RECEIVES 1ST STAR

Charlie Galvez and Rolly Bautista, has endeared himself to the people of Basilan.

He was quick to say, though, that his promotion was not much about himself. "My promotion is not about me. It symbolizes collective perseverance and years of hard work."

Thus, he said that he is dedicating his promotion to all the officers and soldiers under his command in Basilan "who continue to sustain the gains of the efforts in aggressively pursuing the Abu Sayyaf Group and other lawless elements" in his area of responsibility.

"We are able to manage, control and counter-terrorism and violent extremism in partnership

with the local government units in the area—from the local chief executives down to the barangay level—and the Ulama," he said. He cited such strong coordinative mechanism with the local government units who lead the fight against the Abu Sayyaf Group as primarily responsible for such gains.

During the siege of Marawi, where many of the battalions under the Joint Task Force Basilan were sent, General Uy's forces, thru offensive and focused military operations, were able to prevent the Abu Sayyaf Group from sowing terror and from providing refuge to ASG fighters who have reportedly fled fighting in Marawi.

With ASG emir, Basi-

lan-born Isnilon Hapilon gone and out of the way, the military in Basilan is now confronted primarily with Abu Sayyaf sub-leaders Furuji Indama and Radzmil Janatul and their followers.

Since his installation as the topmost military commander in Basilan in January 2016, General Uy has been instrumental in the surrender of 124 ASG members, recovery of various high-powered and low-powered firearms, seizure of enemy encampments, and rescue of kidnap victims. Likewise, IED and similar bombings in the province have altogether stopped.

Congratulations and more power to you, Brigadier General Juvymay Uy!

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2 Surigao cops taken by NPA rebels

Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels snatched two police officers in Surigao del Norte on Monday.

Police Officers 2 Alfredo Degamon Jr. and John Paul Doverde of the Placer police station were patrolling the highway in Barangay Bad-asat about 1:40 p.m. when they were taken by an undetermined number of rebels.

The police officers were forced into a van that sped off toward the mountains in Barangay Mabini.

The two Starex vans used by the rebels for their getaway were recovered in Sitio Alimatok.

A crisis committee was created to negotiate for the release of the two policemen.

Maj. Ezra Balagtey, Eastern Mindanao Command spokes-

man, said soldiers of the 30th Infantry Battalion (IB) and their police counterparts are conducting search and rescue operations.

The NPA has yet to issue a statement on the kidnapping.

5 rebels nabbed

Meanwhile, NPA rebels Ariel Aggabao, 23; Daryll Villareal and John Paul San Carlos were arrested at a police checkpoint in Sitio Mapangal, Barangay Sanguit, Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya on Monday.

A caliber .45 and 9mm pistols, three rifle grenades and various types of ammunition were recovered from the rebels, Chief Superintendent

Robert Quenery, Cagayan Valley police director, said.

Jerwin Floria, 20, a resident of Barangay Hagupit, Santiago, Agusan del Norte, was resting in a nipa hut in Barangay Malinao, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija when he was nabbed on Sunday.

Floria initially told police that he was lost, but admitted when questioned by soldiers belonging to the 56th IB that he is an NPA rebel based in Mindanao.

In Misamis Occidental, Antonio Anding, alias Commander Brix, former secretary of the NPA's Front Committee Joji in Western Mindanao, was collared at his hideout in Barangay National, Jimenez.

The arrest was based on warrants for murder, rebellion,

frustrated murder, attempted murder and robbery.

2 trucks burned

In Agusan del Norte, around 30 communist guerrillas set up a road blockade in Sitio Banga, Barangay Cuyago, Jabonga and burned two trucks yesterday.

The 10-wheeler truck and a delivery truck packed with cigarettes that were set on fire are owned by JJBA Enterprises and PMFTC Enterprises, respectively.

The rebels reportedly ordered the drivers of the trucks to pull over while traveling from Surigao City to Butuan. – Emmanuel Tupas, Ben Serrano, Jaime Laude, Raymund Catindig, Ric Sapnu, Victor Martin, Roel Pareño

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On summit sidelines, PH wins support for Marawi rehab



By Leila B. Salaverria
@LeilasINQ

President Duterte secured commitments to help rebuild Marawi and counterterrorism, as well as loans and cooperation agreements from several countries during talks with their leaders on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit this week.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev told Mr. Duterte his country was willing to help the Philippines fight terrorism and provide weapons to Filipino troops.

"We'll keep standing by your side. We'll keep assisting you," Medvedev promised during their meeting on Monday.

Russia has already donated 5,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles, one million rounds of ammunition and 20 army trucks to the Philippines and Mr. Duterte thanked Medvedev for the help during a "crucial moment" in the fight against pro-Islamic State militants in Marawi.

Medvedev said Moscow was ready to expand political, cultural, trade and economic cooperation with Manila.

Manila and Moscow also signed a treaty on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters and another on extradition. They also sealed an understanding on energy, mass communications, transport education, higher education, intellectual property and audit.

From Japan, the Philippines obtained a 114 billion yen (\$1 billion) loan to finance part of the Metro Manila Subway Project and a bypass road in Bulacan and a 2.5 billion yen (\$22 million) grant for the reconstruction of Marawi and counterterrorism operations.

It also got a 15.928 billion yen (\$140 million) loan for the Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project. A TC-90 trainer aircraft would be donated by Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force.

Mr. Duterte on Monday assured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of the Philippines' support for its opposition to North Korea's missile launches, which he condemned.

"We have said it several times already in the past that it

is not to the interest of North Korea to swagger around and threaten the world, of keeping us hostage with the atomic weapons," he said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "should realize that he'd be responsible for ending life in this planet if his mind goes out of control," he added.

During their Monday meeting, Mr. Duterte told Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Philippines wanted Indian investors to produce cheaper medicines here "because we are a poor country."

He told Modi he might send a trade, finance and agriculture mission to India to increase bilateral trade.

Also on Monday, Mr. Duterte told South Korean President Moon Jae-in that the Philippines was seeking South Korean investments in manufacturing, automotive, food production and processing, agribusiness, electronics and energy.

Moon called the Philippines "our longtime friend" that was visited by 1.5 million Koreans yearly. He sought assurances for his countrymen's safety and comfort while in the Philippines and promised the

same for Filipinos visiting Korea. He invited Filipinos to the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang in February.

Mr. Duterte on Sunday thanked Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah for helping the Philippines whenever the country was hit by a disaster.

During their talks on Sunday, Mr. Duterte told Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull that the Philippines was concerned about the continued military buildup in the South China Sea.

The two leaders discussed the crafting of a binding Code of Conduct in the strategic waterway, extremism, illegal drugs and trade.

Turnbull commended Mr. Duterte for crushing the extremists who had rampaged through Marawi.

On Monday, Turnbull told journalists the two countries were "in the same fight—the fight for freedom," referring to their counterterrorism cooperation in Marawi.

"It is a global fight," Malcolm said during a visit to the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo. —WITH A REPORT FROM JAYMEET. GAMIL INQ

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Leila courts sedition raps, tells AFP not to obey Rody

By Angie M. Rosales

Detained Sen. Leila de Lima in her latest handwritten dispatch from her detention cell in Camp Crame released yesterday to media, is dangerously courting sedition charges which may keep her in detention much longer than anticipated, as she may be found to be inciting to sedition, and perhaps even rebellion.

De Lima called on the officers of the Armed

Forces of the Philippines (AFP) not to obey their commander in chief, President Duterte, as that would be a betrayal of the Filipino people and the country, she said.

“Do not betray your people and your country in this watershed moment of our sovereignty and independence. Do not follow Duterte down his traitor’s path,” de Lima said, as she called out the AFP officials.

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From page 1

The elements of sedition and even rebellion appear to be present in her call for to the military not to obey the orders of their commander in chief President Duterte, telling the military officers that Duterte is a Manchurian Candidate or an agent who is servile to China.

She added that the military officials and soldiers should “know treason when it rears its ugly head in their motherland.”

“There is no more treasonous conduct and act of betrayal than relinquishing our Spratlys territories in the midst of an international decision saying we have every right to hold on to and defend those islands and atolls as part of our Exclusive Economic Zone, to the exclusion of China,” she wrote.

The detained senator’s months-long name calling of President Duterte appears to be endless, the latest of which had the Chief Executive being branded by her as the proverbial “Manchurian Candidate”, a person believed to be brainwashed into becoming a subversive agent, in this case, she intimates that Duterte is an agent of China.

In her latest tirade against Duterte, the senator slammed the President’s decision to order to the military to stop the construction of shelters for Filipino fishermen on sandbars off the coast of Manila-claimed island in the West Philippine Sea which she said was treason.

Such construction of structures could be perceived as a violation of an earlier agreement with China to maintain the status quo in the disputed area, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said.

“Since when has the AFP taken orders conveyed from the generals of the People’s Liberation Army? Since when has our military become a mere sub-unit of the PLA, with our generals forced to swallow and follow treasonous orders that practically ask them to abandon their posts and betray the national interest?” she asked.

While China keeps on building structures in disputed territories, including those being contested by the government, “our President behaves like a good lapdog to his Chinese masters and orders his own military to stop building sheds for troops defending the country’s sovereignty,” she said.

“The AFP should take note that their Commander-in-Chief is fast becoming, if he is not yet one, the proverbial Manchurian Candidate,” de Lima stressed.

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The upcoming Asean-China talks on a so-called Code of Conduct in the Spratlys will only reinforce the Philippines' disadvantaged status quo position, *vis-a-vis* China's unmitigated island-building and deployment of blue-water assets and Coast Guard in the area, the senator said.

De Lima urged the AFP to defy Duterte's orders saying that such directive is treasonous.

"To the officers and men of the AFP, you have a long history of heroes and patriots. You should know treason when it rears its ugly head in your motherland. There is no more treasonous conduct and act of betrayal than relinquishing our Spratlys territories in the midst of an international decision saying we have every right to hold on to and defend those islands and atolls as part of our exclusive economic zone, to the exclusion of China," she said in statement.

"Do not betray your people and your country in this watershed moment of our sovereignty and independence. Do not follow Duterte down his traitor's path," De Lima said.

Such positioning by the Philippines is backed up not only by international law, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), by even by the UN Arbitral Tribunal, an unprecedented victory in an international case and the support of the world's largest democracies, the senator said.

"We have already won our claims at the International Arbitral Tribunal of the UNCLoS. That victory should serve as our framework insofar as bilateral and multilateral talks on the Spratlys is concerned," she said.

"Only our Chinese lackey of a President continues to betray us and our victory, dragging with him

the whole Armed Forces who still think they are following orders from a Filipino commander-in-chief, instead of a Chinese lapdog," De Lima added.

The AFP, she said, should be aware that there might be no turning back from the policy of subservience or defeatism by observed by the President.

Reports quote Defense Secretary Deflin Lorezana saying that the President followed the advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs that such construction of structures could be perceived as a violation of an earlier agreement with China to maintain status quo in the disputed area.

"It could be that the status quo of Chinese dominance and the Philippines' defaulting in the Spratlys is firmly irreversible," she said.

In the future, de Lima said, the AFP will only have itself to blame for this most unfortunate state of affairs where the Filipinos' own defenders has allowed itself to become a mere annex of China's People's Liberation Army as led by China's Manchurian Candidate in the Philippines - who is the President himself.

The embattled senator, who is detained over drug-related charges, also accused Duterte of behaving like a "good lapdog to his Chinese masters" when he issued the said order.

China, for its part, has continued reclamation activities and militarization in the area, raising concern from countries such as the US, Japan, and Australia.

The Philippines, however, has been tagged as "soft-pedaling" in the territorial dispute as it seemingly cozies up to Beijing.

Still, Duterte said he brought up the Asean's worry over the supposed militarization in the area out of his duty as the economic bloc's chair this year, but also added that the territorial dispute is "better left untouched" for now.

2 Palace allies take contrary stance

Two Palace allies in the Senate expressed conflicting positions on decision of President Duterte to put off the issue on the South China Sea or the West Philippine Sea with China.

Sen. Win Gatchalian would not dare question the President's decision not to touch on the issue during a bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping but his colleague in the majority bloc, Sen. JV Ejercito disagreed.

"We should still pursue the victory in (The) Hague and defend our territorial integrity at all costs," Ejercito said, referring to the United Nations (UN) Arbitral Tribunal's ruling in July last year dismissing any legal basis for China to claim historic rights within the sea areas falling within the "nine-dash line" which include the West Philippine sea.

The same tribunal declared the Philippines having exclusive sovereign rights over the West Philippine Sea.

"China obviously has been bullying us and the smaller Asean nations. The only way we can stand up against a super power like China is for ASeam nations to unite," Ejercito said.

Shortly before leaving for Vietnam last Wednesday to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, the President promised to bring up the issue with the Chinese leader either in a bilateral meeting or during a plenary session.

But last Sunday, the President said the matter which concerns not only China but five other claimants that include the Philippines was better left untouched.

"The South China Sea is better left untouched. Nobody can afford to go to war," he was quoted saying.

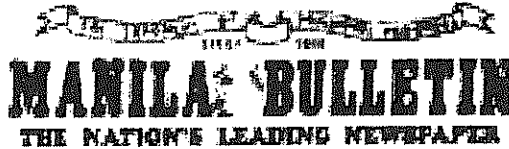
Gatchalian, chair of the Senate economic affairs and energy committees, said the presidency, in relation to global politics, is a very tough balancing act.

"He is balancing between our national interests as well as the external conflicts the beset our country," he said, adding that Duterte's apparent focus right now is to attract as much investments without disrupting the status quo that he interested.

"It is too early to tell whether this strategy has yielded the much needed investments to grow our country out of poverty," Gatchalian said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - T

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AFP eyes more training with Australia

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday it is eyeing more joint military trainings with Australia which has been helping the country in its fight against terrorism.

AFP Public Affairs Office chief Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo said they expect more trainings to happen with their counterparts from Australia to take place in the coming years.

However, how big or what will be the extent of the said trainings still need to be discussed by the two countries. "Yes,

sa (on) training. More on training," Arevalo said.

"(But on the extent) wala pa sa ngayon (there is still none). But pag-uusapan iyan dahil meron naman tayong (that will be talk about because we have) status of forces agreement I think diba sa (with) Australia? Meron naman tayo so pag-aaralan natin (We have so we will study it)," he added.

Arevalo said one of the trainings with Australia being eyed by the AFP is the MOUT or Military Operations in Urban Terrain.

He said this is quite important given

to what happened in Marawi when members of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group terrorists occupied the city for five long months.

Arevalo said no less than AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero wants to step up military trainings with Australia.

Guerrero earlier said they are truly honored to have hosted Prime Minister Malcolm Bligh Turnbull visit to Camp Agunaldo on Monday despite his busy schedule.

Turnbull reiterated that Australia and the Philippines are in the same fight against terrorism.

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The National Inquirer

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AFP eyes more exercises with Australian military

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Armed Forces is eyeing higher-intensity training exercises with the Australian Defense Force which is currently training Filipino soldiers on urban warfare at a military camp in the Philippines.

AFP public affairs chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said AFP chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero wants stepped-up exercises with Australian military, focusing on urban terrain.

“What we have now is the pioneering training and we want, as the chief of staff said, to step that up,” said Arevalo, adding the “magnitude and extent” of these training will have to be ironed out in future discussions with the Australians.

Since last month, around 80 Australian soldiers have been training Filipino soldiers on urban warfare, which the Philippine military lacks as shown in the five-month Marawi City battle that started with an attack by the Islamic-State-inspired Maute Group on May 23.

The Armed Forces has admitted not all soldiers are trained on warfare in an urban setting like Marawi City, thus it wants to expose all its troops to such skills so they will be better prepared for situations similar to the Marawi siege.

Arevalo said the Armed Forces will look into the 2007 Status of Visiting Forces Agreement with Australia, which paved the way for the conduct of exercises between the two sides.

Arevalo also said engagements with Australia will not lead to Australians joining Filipino troops in actual combat operations.

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ALL FOR ONE — Filipino and Australian soldiers perform a security drill side-by-side before visiting Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Bligh Turnbull at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City last Monday. (Alvin Kasiban)

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SALUTE TO FALLEN HEROES – General Roy Leonardo Guerrero, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Chief of the Central Command (CENTCOM) Lt. Gen. Oscar Lactao on their way to honor the fallen soldiers of the war through a wreath-laying ceremony during the 16th Founding Anniversary of the AFP-CENTCOM at Camp Lapulapu in Cebu City yesterday. (Juan Carlo De Vela)

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

ONLINE NEWS

15 NOVEMBER 2017

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NEW LEADERSHIP | EASTMINCOM, WESCOM gets new Commanders

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#)

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has new commanders for its two area commands.

According to Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, the Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Public Affairs Office, Lieutenant General Benjamin Madrigal is 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 BGen Perfecto Rimando, Jr. when the post was vacated by General Rey Leonardo Guerrero in October 26 when the latter, the former Commander, assumed the post as the 49th AFP Chief of Staff.



Major General 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. General Madrigal is seen as an achiever. He is mission-focused yet able to balance the welfare of the men. Besides being hardworking, he is a visionary leader and skilful manager. Prior to his appointment as SOLCOM Commander, MGen Madrigal held key positions in the Philippine Army. He is the former Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan De Oro; He was 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.

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Meanwhile, MGen Rozzano D Briguez will Command the country's western frontier as he relinquished his post as Vice Commander of the Philippine Air Force. He will assume the position left by LtGen Galileo Gerard Kintanar who became the 35th Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force. A member of PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986, MGen Briguez joined the Philippine Air Force and graduated as class top-notch from the PAF Flying School in 1988. His every assignment and scholastic achievements were marked with distinction. He is an innovative and dynamic Air Force professional who enjoys a great deal of respect and admiration from among his seniors, peers, and subordinates-be it uniformed or non uniformed Air Force personnel. He held various positions in the Air Force prior to his stint as its Vice Commander. He is the 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 officially donned their third star on November 13, 2017 following the approval of their promotion to the next higher rank as Lieutenant General.

A Donning of Ranks Ceremony was conducted for the newly-promoted generals at the Hall of Flags, GHQ Building in Camp Aguinaldo. General Guerrero led the ceremony as the presiding officer. The newly-promoted generals was 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," Marine Colonel 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 **PAO AFP/MCAG**

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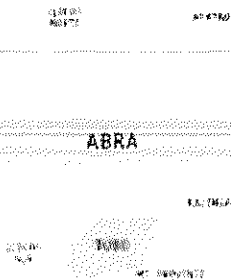
SEPARATE ENCOUNTERS | 5ID Troopers clash with NPAs in Isabela and Abra

By Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN SERVILLANO AQUINO, San Miguel, Tarlac (DWDD) – Two separate encounters between the Communist Terrorist Groups and Army units under the 5th Infantry Division transpired in the area of Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) on November 12, 2017.



At about 12:50 PM of November 12, 2017, Sunday, while conducting combat security operation in Brgy. Alangitan, Tubo, Abra, troops of 24th Infantry Battalion, 5th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army were fired upon by 10 (ten) New People's Army (NPAs) under Kilusang Larangan Gerilya (KLG) MONTES operating in the area of Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). A ten (10) minute firefight ensued resulting to the recovery of NPA personal belongings and wounding of 2 (two) government forces. The two soldiers, who were slightly wounded, were immediately evacuated to the nearest hospital for proper medication and treatment.



Another encounter took place at about 2:07 PM in So. Minanga, Brgy. San Carlos, Echague, Isabela killing of one (1) soldier of the 86th IB, 5ID, PA while conducting combat operation in the area when the troops engaged about thirty (30) NPAs from the Komiteng Rehiyon-Hilagang Silangang Luzon (KR-HSL) Central Front. The communist terrorists suffered undetermined number of casualties in both incidents.

Meanwhile, additional troops were inserted in the area purposely to conduct pursuit operations to the withdrawing dissidents. All Patrol Bases were also alerted for possible harassment establishing checkpoints in their respective areas, together with the PNP units. NOLCOM will continue to conduct Focused Military Operations (FMO) to address the Communist Terrorist threats against the people's right to live peacefully and their hostile activities hampering the development in the area. 5DPAO/MCAG

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SURRENDER | 8 ASG yielded with Firearms to JTF Sulu

By: Alvin Santiago

CAMP TEODULFO BAUTISTA, Jolo, Sulu (DWDD) – Due to relentless Focused Military Operations (FMO) complemented by Intelligence and Civil-Military Operations, eight more Abus surrendered with high-powered firearms surrendered to forces of JTF Sulu at 7:35 a.m., on November 11, 2017.



According to BGen Cirillito Sobejana, Commander, JTF Sulu, the eight bandits who are remnants of the slain ASG leader Alhabsy Misaya surrendered to Lt. Col. Jessie R. Montoya, Commanding Officer of 2nd Special Forces Battalion at its Headquarters in Sitio Bayug, Brgy. Samak, Talipao, Sulu.

The ASG members who voluntarily submitted themselves to the military authorities are: 1) Rakib Usman Mujakkil, 35 and 2) Sathikal Sabi Asnon, 38, both from Sitio Taluk-Taluk, Brgy. Capual; and 3) Jarrain Elii, 52 from Brgy. Sacuban all of Omar, Sulu; 4) Wahab Buklaw, 47 and 5) Anggan Ali Sahaw, 43, both from Brgy. Timudas, Pata, Sulu; 6) Bandi Ahadjula, 56 and 7) Adih Manis Juhaini, 25, both from Brgy. Tukay, Parang, Sulu; and, Alden Banon, 30, a resident of Brgy. Kabungkol, Talipao, Sulu.

The said surrenderors also brought with them a total of eight (8) high-powered firearms, as follows: two (2) M16 rifles, one (1) M14 rifle, and five (5) M1 Garand rifles as a gesture of their genuine intention to return to the folds of the law and live peacefully with the community where they came from.

Said surrenderors will undergo medical examination to check their physical condition. Thereafter, a custodial debriefing shall be conducted to know other important information that they may share which will guide us in our subsequent actions to bring genuine and lasting peace in the province of Sulu.

JTF Sulu shall continue to receive surrenderors as part of our 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. Indeed, you have greatly contributed in the over-all conduct of our military operations causing them to voluntarily surrender.' JTF Sulu IMCAG

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DWINDLING STRENGTH | NPA Surrenderees on the rise

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – Members of the New People's Army terrorist group who surrendered to the government folds have reached to 521 since the government terminated peace negotiations with the communist organization on 04 February 2017.

Marine Colonel Edgard Arevalo, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Public Affairs Chief said *"The continuous surrender of NPA members is indicative of the organization's dwindling strength. This is also a clear manifestation of our successful intensified combat, intelligence, and civil-military operations, particularly in North-eastern Mindanao which is the NPA's area of concentration."*

Since the start of November, there were 18 NPA members who voluntarily surrendered to AFP units, all of whom also turned in their firearms.

A certain Joel Embos using the alias "Jojo", and a member of NPA's Militia ng Bayan voluntarily surrendered with three (3) firearms to the Philippine Army's 36th Infantry Battalion in Surigao del Sur on November 3.

On the other hand, eight (8) members of the Guerilla Front 73 carrying high-powered firearms turned themselves in to the Army's 33IB in Sultan Kudarat on All Souls' Day.

Meanwhile, seven (7) NPA members surrendered on November 1. A certain Mark Banahid Talusan, squad leader of an NPA platoon surrendered to members of the 27IB along with his M16 rifle in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

Four others namely Camilo Dumanglay, Allan Jeva Asalan, Wehnie Sanchez, and Junrey Pinsahan yielded to the Army's 26IE in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur while one Aman Baclayon surrendered to the 1st Special Forces Battalion along with his M1 Garand rifle in Libona, Bukidnon.

A 16-year-old Ker-Ker Saling Bangon using the alias "Tarzan" and "Tikboy" voluntarily surrendered to the Army's 27th IB in T'boli, South Cotabato. The minor also turned in his 9mm Thomgram machine pistol.

Since 04 February 2017 to date, the AFP has neutralized 736 NPAs; 521 voluntarily surrendered, 121 were killed in combat operations; 94 were apprehended. It also gained 578 high-powered and low-powered firearms from the NPAs.

"It is becoming more apparent that hardships inside the NPA organization are now taking its toll on its members leading them to cross the line and return to the folds of the law. The AFP on its part welcomes these former rebels and is willing to offer them assistance in line with the administration's local integration programs." General Rey Leonardo Guerrero, AFP Chief of Staff said. **PAO AFP/MCAG**

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