

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

08 October 2017

Sunday

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

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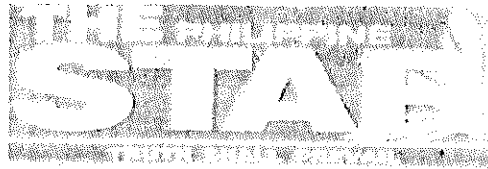
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OZPI NEWS
MONDAY - FRIDAY
11AM & 5PM

PILIPINAS TV
WEEKDAYS
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WEEKENDS
6AM

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

AIR 21
ERDUT AL. PARALANAO

Panahon TV
7.54 AM

RISING	SUNSET	NOON	MOONSET
6:46 AM	5:41 PM	7:58 PM	7:54 AM
LOW TIDE	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE	HIGH TIDE
2.8% Moon	58% Moon	8.4% Moon	12.2% Moon

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | OCTOBER 08, 2017 | SUNDAY

LOW PRESSURE AREA
\$25 KM EAST SOUTHEAST OF 29AC, CATANDUANE

LAGUNA CITY 24 - 32 °C	MANILA 24 - 32 °C
BAGUIO CITY 18 - 24 °C	DAVAO CITY 24 - 31 °C
CEBU CITY 24 - 32 °C	SMARagdAR CITY 25 - 32 °C
MANILA CITY 19 - 28 °C	METRO CEBU 25 - 32 °C
MANILA CITY 25 - 32 °C	METRO DAVAO 25 - 33 °C
MANILA CITY 24 - 33 °C	

EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	OCT 9 MON	OCT 10 TUE	OCT 11 WED	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	OCT 9 MON	OCT 10 TUE	OCT 11 WED
METRO MANILA	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	HOLO/ BACOLOD	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
LADAG	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	24 °C 31 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 24 °C	16 °C 24 °C	16 °C 24 °C	TACLOBAN	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
SGAM/ CLARK	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	18 °C 28 °C	19 °C 29 °C	19 °C 29 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 33 °C
LIGAYAN	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	ZAMBUANGA	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 33 °C

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PINOY, TWO OTHERS IN NY TERROR RAPS

NEW YORK—Three people, including Filipino jihadist Russel Salic, have been charged with involvement in a planned attack in New York City in 2016 during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, authorities here said.

The other two are Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, a 19-year-old Canadian citizen; and Talha Haroon, a 19-year-old US citizen residing in Pakistan.

The 2015 attack on the Bataclan concert hall in Paris and another on the metro in Belgium the following year served as inspiration for the planned killings in New York.

Those attacks were both claimed by IS, a brutal militant group that seized swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria and has inspired a series of deadly attacks abroad.

In Manila, the United States embassy in Manila confirmed that Salic was arrested in April 2017 in the Philippines after he and two other nationalities allegedly plotted attacks on New York City during the summer of 2016 in support of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham.

"All three men have been arrested, and one has pleaded guilty," the United States Department of Justice said on Saturday, which was shared by the US embassy in Manila.

On May 21, 2016, El Bahnasawy was arrested in New Jersey, after

traveling to the United States from Canada in preparation for carrying out the NYC attacks.

Bahnasawy, a 19-year-old Canadian who purchased bomb-making materials and was arrested after traveling to the US, has pleaded guilty to "terrorism offenses," the statement said.

Haroon, a 19-year-old American citizen living in Pakistan, allegedly planned to take part in the attacks, while Salic of the Philippines, 37, allegedly provided funds for the operation.

Haroon was arrested in Pakistan in or about September 2016, and Salic was arrested in the Philippines in or about April 2017.

"Bahnasawy, who has been in custody since he was arrested by the FBI in May 2016, pleaded guilty to terrorism offenses and is awaiting sentencing," it added.

"Haroon and Salic have been

arrested in foreign countries by foreign authorities in connection with these charges and it is the hope and expectation of this Office and US law enforcement that they will be extradited to the United States to face justice in a United States court," it added.

Bahnasawy pleaded guilty on Oct. 13, 2016 to a seven-count Superseding Information before US District Judge Richard Berman.

The attacks were thwarted with the help of an undercover FBI agent posing as an IS supporter who communicated with the three plotters.

Haroon and Salic have been arrested abroad, and their extradition to the US is pending.

"Bahnasawy and Haroon identified multiple locations and events in and around New York City as targets of the planned attacks,

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PINOY
From A1

including the New York City subway system, Times Square and certain concert venues," the statement said.

Bahnasawy sent the undercover FBI agent an image of Times Square, saying "we seriously need a car bomb" to attack it and that he wanted to "shoot up concerts cuz they kill a lot of people."

Haroon, meanwhile, told the agent that the subway would make a "perfect" target, and that suicide vests could be detonated after the attackers expended their ammunition.

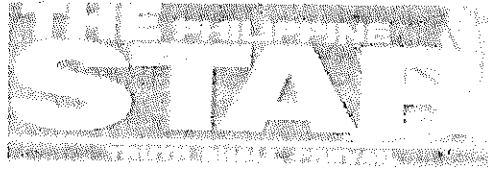
Salic also began communicating with the FBI agent, eventually sending "approximately \$423" to fund the attacks and promising to send more, according to prosecutors.

New York was the target of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people and led the US to launch an open-ended "war on terror" that included invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and military operations in a number of other countries.

These operations led, directly and indirectly, to tens of thousands of deaths, and cost the US hundreds of billions of dollars.

The most recent attack in New York occurred in September 2016, when a pressure cooker bomb exploded in the Chelsea neighborhood, wounding 29 people. **AFP, Sara Susanne Fabunan**

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A soldier takes cover as government troops advance to the frontline where the military has been battling Maute terrorists in Marawi City since May. The terrorists are still holding more than 40 civilians as hostages, according to the military. Story on Page 4. AFP

AFP: 40 civilians still held captive in Marawi

By **JAIME LAUDE**

The Maute-Islamic State terrorists still fighting government forces in Marawi City are still holding more than 40 civilians as hostages, the military said yesterday.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao, said they obtained the information from 17 civilians who managed to escape the terrorists recently.

The remaining hostages are reportedly being kept by the terrorists in their well-secured positions in mosques and in makeshift bunkers.

Earlier, the military said there are only around 26 civilians being held by the terrorists.

As of yesterday, Brawner said fighting

is still continuing with two more soldiers killed in the continuing military assaults.

From 155, the number of soldiers killed in action in the more than four months of fighting increased last Friday to 157.

More than 750 terrorists have also been killed in the continuing conflict.

Top defense and military officials said the fighting is already nearing its conclusion. Ground commanders said the trapped terrorists are getting more desperate and more brutal.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said ground commanders are dictating the tempo of the ground assaults carefully so as not to force the terrorists into killing the hostages.

“If they went full blast, they could have killed everybody. The ground commanders do it slowly and carefully,” he said.

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6 SOLDIERS HURT IN LANDMINE BLAST

SIX members of the Philippine Army on Friday were wounded when a landmine planted by suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) exploded in Janiuay, Iloilo.

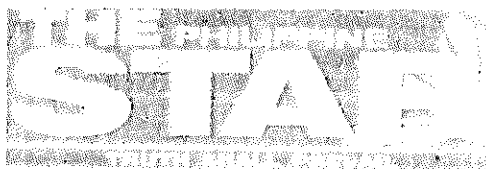
Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division spokesperson Capt. Eduardo Precioso said the identities of the wounded troopers were not yet available.

Members of the Philippine Army's 61st Infantry Battalion led by Lt. Col. Sisendando Magbalot Jr. were conducting community support program in Bgy. Pangilihan when they hit the landmine.

The wounded troopers were rushed to the nearest hospital for treatment. **Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

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6 soldiers hurt in ambush

ILOILO CITY – Six soldiers and a bystander were wounded in an ambush by suspected New People's Army (NPA) which was preceded by a landmine explosion in Barangay Pangilihan, Janiuay, Iloilo on Friday.

The soldiers were in a military truck on their way to the headquarters of the 61st Infantry Battalion after a community program when they were waylaid.

"All six (soldiers) were brought to a hospital to make sure nothing serious happens to them," Capt. Eduardo Precioso, 3rd Infantry Division spokesman, said.

In Cagayan, around 50 NPA guerrillas attacked a quarry site and burned three heavy equipment in Sitio Karayatan, Barangay Dungeg, Sta. Teresita yesterday.

The rebels disarmed security guards Jhon Ryan Sobrera, 28, and Ferdiemar Bertudez, 50, at around 6:30

a.m. before setting on fire two backhoes and a dump truck owned by DDT Construction Co., Chief Superintendent Robert Quenery, Cagayan Valley police director, said.

In a statement sent to The STAR, Fernan Cagayan of the NPA Fortunato Camus Command said the attack was a punishment to the company for destroying the environment and affecting the livelihood of residents.

Cagayan said DDT's quarrying operations have destroyed the irrigation system of 300 hectares of rice fields in Barangays Dungeg, Masi and Mision.

Earlier yesterday, 50 NPA guerrillas disarmed village officials and watchmen in Barangay Villa Cielo, Buguey town.

The rebels reportedly took four shotguns. – **Jaime Laude, Jennifer Rendon, Raymund Catindig, Victor Martin**

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6 soldiers hurt in Iloilo bomb blast

ILCILO CITY — Six soldiers of the Philippine Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (61st IB) sustained minor injuries from a bomb attack staged by suspected New People's Army rebels Friday night in Barangay Pangilihan in Janiuay, Iloilo Province. Lt. Col. Sisenando Magbalot Jr., 61st IB Commanding Officer, on Saturday said five of the soldiers, who sustained minor cuts on their bodies, were already discharged from the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC). Only one of the soldiers is still confined for further treatment, but Magbalot stressed his wound is not life-threatening. Magbalot said the soldiers were on their way back to the mainland at around 10:45 p.m. after conducting Community Support Program in five mountainous barangays of Janiuay when they were hit by a blast from an improvised explosive device (IED). The troopers also encountered three to five alleged NPA rebels who immediately fled after the explosion and when the soldiers started to fire back. Magbalot said they were about three meters away from the area where the IED was planted by the suspected rebels. Recovered from the scene were several parts of the IED. Magbalot said none from the civilians in the community was hurt.

PNA

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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6 soldiers, 1 civilian wounded in NPA attack

ILOILO CITY — Six government soldiers and a civilian were wounded late Friday night after a surprise attack by communist rebels in Janiuay town, Iloilo. Lieutenant Col. Sisenando Magbalot Jr., commander of the Philippine Army's 61st Infantry Battalion (61-IB), said the six were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded while an army truck was passing along Pangilihan village. The wounded soldiers were identified as Corporal Ronald Peligro, Private First Class Joebert Porras, Private First Class Ariel Ea, Corporal Remu Lundo, Private First Class Peter Calugas, and Sergeant William Biado. The injured civilian was Daisy Acanto. She was slightly wounded when she was hit by a shrapnel on her back. The NPA has been stepping up its attack in Iloilo since June 18 when it raided the police station in neighboring Maasin town. That incident caused embarrassment to the Philippine National Police (PNP) after cops on duty were disarmed by the NPA rebels. (Tara Yap)

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Martial law implementors seize guns, arrest barangay captain

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City — A team from the Martial Law-Special Action Group (ML-SAG) on Friday seized several guns and ammunition and arrested a barangay chairman during an operation in Barangay Gango, Libona town, Bukidnon province, the Army's regional 4th ID spokesperson Capt. Joe Patrick A. Martinez on Saturday said.

The team is composed of soldiers from the Army's 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) and Police Regional Office 10 (PRO 10).

The ML-SAG team arrested Eliazar Ebona, barangay chairman of Gango, Libona town, the 4th ID spokesperson said.

The operation was launched by virtue of search warrant issued by a 43rd Branch of the Regional Trial Court Branch in Gingoog City for alleged illegal possession of firearms and ammunition in the possession of suspect Ebona, Capt. Martinez said.

Recovered during the operation were one M16 Armalite rifle with ammunition; one AK47 rifle with ammunition; three M22 rifle with ammunition; one caliber .45 pistol with ammo; one 9mm pistol with ammo; one Kevlar; one vest and an estimated five kilograms of suspected ammonium nitrate.

Ebona is now in the custody of CIDG 10.

Libona Mayor Leonardo Calingasan said he was surprised about Ebona's arrest, saying he could vouch that the barangay official has a clean record in his town.

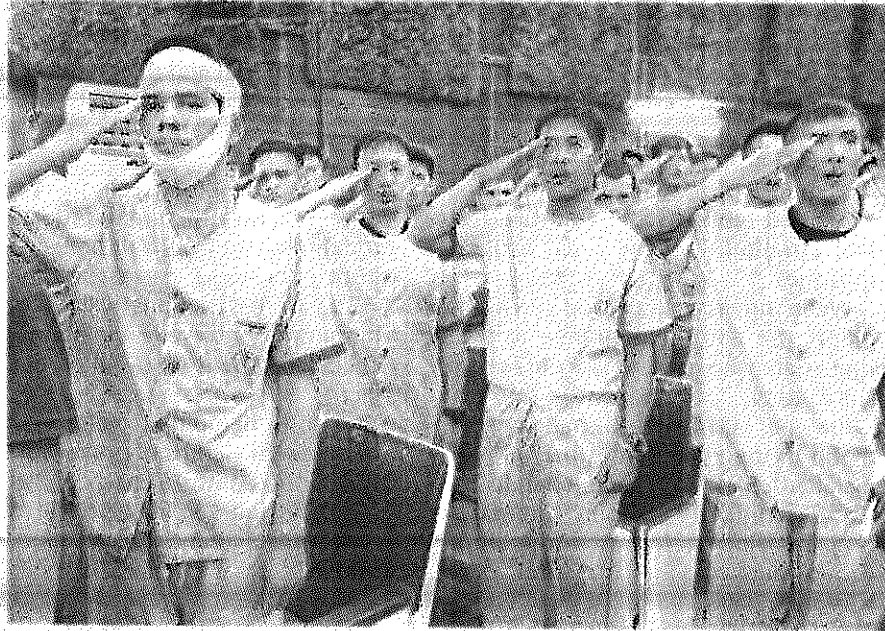
Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Ronald C. Villanueva, commanding general of the Army's Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th ID, commended the ML-SAG for properly implementing the search warrant issued to the suspect.

"It has been more than four months since the implementation of Martial Law here in Mindanao and all our operations here in 4th ID area of responsibility (AOR) has been very successful," he said.

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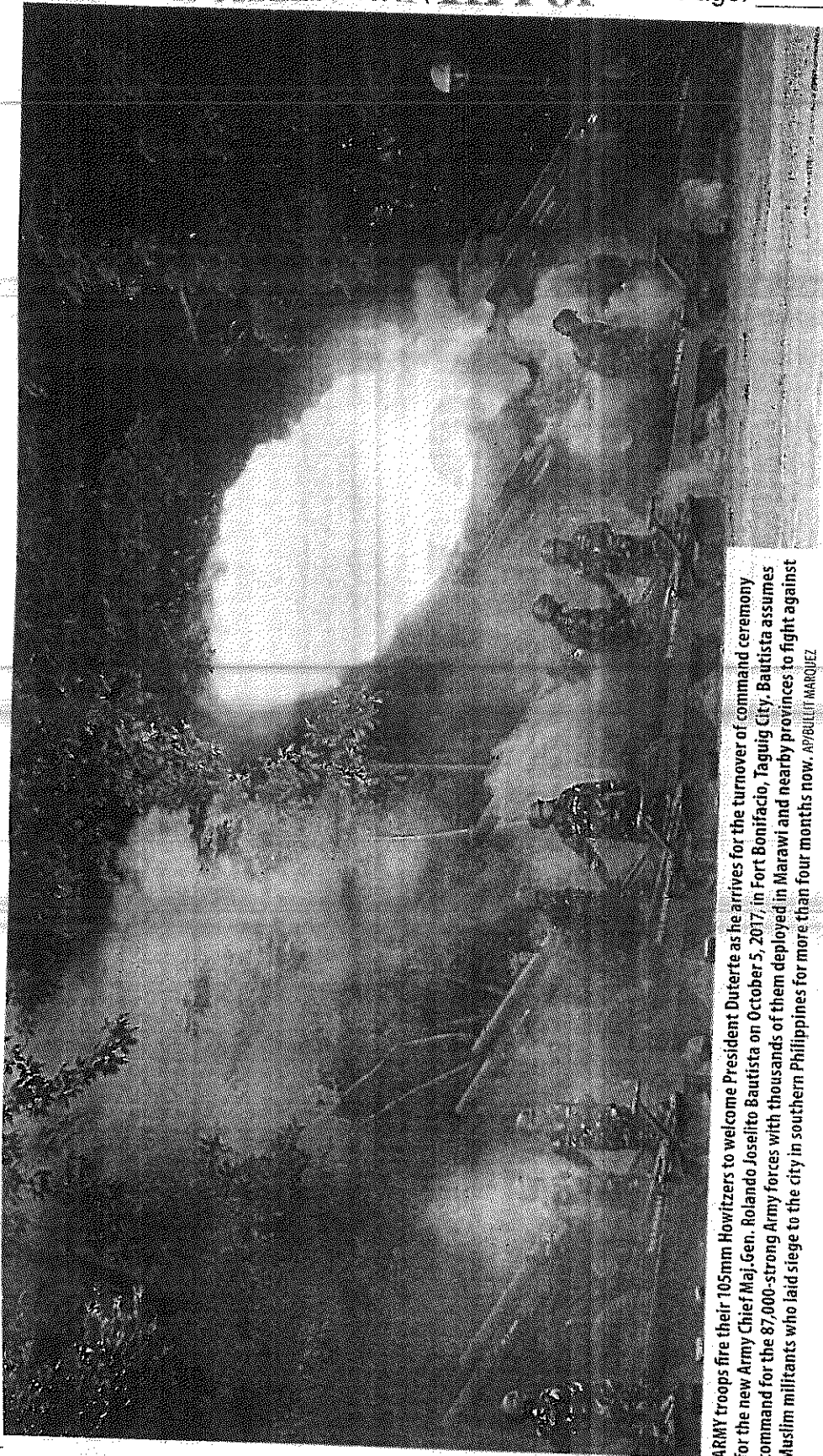


GOOD TUNE. Good samaritans launch a concert for a cause and gift giving for wounded government soldiers and victims in the Mindanao war against terrorists at the V. Luna Hospital theater in Quezon City, with the wounded soldiers executing a snappy salute as the National Anthem was sung. **Manny Palmero**

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BusinessMirror

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ARMY troops fire their 105mm Howitzers to welcome President Duterte as he arrives for the turnover of command ceremony for the new Army Chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista on October 5, 2017, in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Bautista assumes command for the 87,000-strong Army forces with thousands of them deployed in Marawi and nearby provinces to fight against Muslim militants who laid siege to the city in southern Philippines for more than four months now. AP/BULEY MARQUEZ

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Pahina. 2



Nagkaroon ng gift-giving at nagdaos pa ng libreng konsiyerto kahapon para sa mga sundalong nasugatan sa pakikipaglaban sa mga terorista sa Marawi at ngayon ay nakaratay sa AFP Medical Center sa Quezon City. Kabilang sa mga sundalong ginagamot sa naturang ospital ay iyong mga nawalan ng kamay at paa. (Mike Taboy)

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INQUIRER

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Soldiers told to shoot gun-toting hostages

MARAWI CITY—Soldiers had been given the go-signal to target hostages forced into carrying firearms by terrorists still holed up in this predominantly Muslim city to defend themselves, according to a ranking officer overseeing the military's fight to finish the terrorists off.

Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao, said hostages who were forced to shoot at soldiers were now considered combatants along with their captors.

"Some of the hostages were given firearms and were forced to fight," Brawner said.

"They are considered combatants and our government forces are allowed, in self-defense and in carrying out our

mandate, they are allowed to neutralize these combatants," said Brawner, using "neutralize" as a euphemism for kill.

Since the start of the war on May 23, a total of 157 soldiers and policemen had already been killed while over 1,600 others had suffered varying degrees of injuries.

The militants had suffered 770 deaths and more than 800 firearms had been recovered from the war zone, Brawner said.

'Force multipliers'

There are now between 38 to 48 gunmen remaining, according to Brawner.

He said hostages, who were recently rescued, had told the military that male captives were

being used as "force multipliers" by the Maute gunmen and their allies.

But Brawner clarified that none of the children, who were being held captive, were forced by the Islamic State (IS) followers to fight government forces.

"The child hostages were not being given firearms, though," Brawner said.

"But it has been proven that [militants] have child warriors," he said.

Brawner said the military continued to target the terrorists' "defensive positions."

But he said the military continued to make sure that airstrikes spared areas where hostages were being kept.

"We know where the hostages were being kept and

we are not targeting them," Brawner said.

He said the hostages were being kept in separate areas.

Recently, 17 hostages—nine of them males who were forced to fight soldiers—had emerged from the battle zone.

Brawner said based on the stories of the rescued hostages, between 40 to 60 captives still remained inside the main battle area.

No more supplies

He also reiterated his earlier claim that the terrorists were running out of food, bullets and medicine.

"This was also the revelation of the rescued hostages," Brawner added.

Brawner said the battle zone

continued to grow smaller—now just about 7 hectares—which was a sign that total victory against the terrorists was drawing near.

He said that as the area where they operated shrank, the terrorists became frantic in trying to escape.

The military, Brawner said, also closed all routes leading to the city to prevent terrorists from getting reinforcements.

He cited as an example of the cordon being successful the interception of armed men who tried to enter Marawi through Bacolod Kalawi, a town in Lanao del Sur.

The armed men, tagged as reinforcements for terrorists, had been isolated on Balt Island. 14

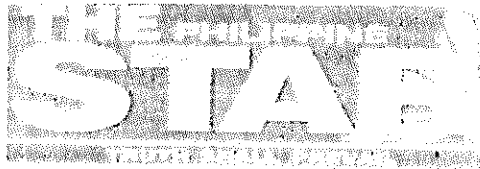
The military, Brawner said, was confident the gunmen in Balt would not be able to leave the island.

Mayor Mohaimin Dipatuan, of Bacolod Kalawi, told reporters that fishermen on Sept. 27 hurriedly sailed to the mainland after seeing the gunmen in four boats arriving in Balt.

Dipatuan said the men's identities were not known but they spoke in Maranao, quoting the fishermen.

Brawner said it was clear the armed men were trying to enter Marawi via Lake Lanao to reinforce members of two home-grown terror groups—Maute and Abu Sayyaf—who were trying to set up an IS province. —ALLAN NAWAL, GEOFFREY MAITEM AND RICHEL UMELE INQ

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MILF stricken off UN list vs child recruitment

By PIA LEE-BRAGO

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has been removed from a United Nations list of armed groups that recruit child soldiers.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said the delisting of MILF marks a stride and a victory toward realizing children's rights in the Philippines.

The UN Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict, presented annually to the UN Security Council and containing information on the six grave violations against children and on the situation of children affected by armed conflict during the previous year, highlights trends and patterns of grave violations, progress made to protect children and further recommendations.

The recently released 2016 report revealed that UN engagement has led to the delisting of two parties in the Philippines and the Democratic Republic

of the Congo.

UNICEF, which facilitated the work with the UN-MILF Action Plan to end recruitment and use of children, congratulated the MILF and highlighted the work that still needs to be done to ensure that children affected by armed conflict enjoy their full rights.

The UN-MILF Action Plan was completed at the beginning of 2017 upon the fulfillment of a six-point roadmap, resulting in the disengagement of 1,869 children from the ranks of the MILF.

The disengagement of children will facilitate their access to appropriate support and services from government and development partners to enjoy all their rights to health, education and protection.

"The MILF's commitment to protect and promote the rights of children in their communities continues today, even as they are delisted from the UN report," said UNICEF Philippine Representative Lotta Sylwander.

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UN DELETES MILF FROM GROUPS USING WARRIOR-KIDS

THE removal of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from a UN list of armed groups recruiting and using children marks a stride and a victory toward realizing children's rights in the Philippines.

The UN Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict is presented annually to the UN Security Council and contains information on the six grave violations against children and on the situation of children affected by armed conflict during the previous year.

The report highlights trends and patterns of grave violations, progress made to protect children and further recommendations.

The recently released 2016 report revealed that UN engagement has led to the delisting of two parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the Philippines, according to a statement from the UN office in Manila.

UN children's agency Unicef, which facilitated the work with the UN-MILF Action Plan to end recruit-

ment and use of children, congratulates the MILF and highlights the work that still needs to be done to ensure that children affected by armed conflict enjoy their full rights, the statement said.

The UN-MILF Action Plan was completed at the beginning of 2017 upon the fulfillment of a six point roadmap, resulting in the disengagement of 1,869 children from the ranks of the MILF.

The disengagement of children will facilitate their access to appropriate support and services from government and development partners to enjoy all their rights to health, education and protection.

Unicef Philippines Representative Lotta Sylwander said, "The MILF's commitment to protect and promote the rights of children in their communities continues today, even as they are delisted from the UN report.

"Fostering lasting peace for children involves continued vigilance by all concerned, including the

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UN...
From A1

government, civil society, elders, parents and children themselves to ensure they are not involved in or used in armed conflict."

The program of support to disengaged/at-risk children and their families through Unicef is being supported by the governments of Japan and Canada, among others.

The MILF instituted safeguards through its command structure to regularly monitor and screen troops to prevent children from associating or re-associating.

The United Nations will continue the monitoring of grave violations against children committed by all parties to conflict.

In the Philippines, children continue to be direct victims of grave violations in the context of the armed conflict, affecting their rights to life, survival, development, protection and education, among others.

Most common grave violations are recruitment and use of children, occupation of and attacks on schools, killing and maiming and detention for alleged association with armed groups.

Thousands of children and families have been displaced in recent years by armed conflict, mainly in Mindanao. In 2017, the Marawi crisis displaced approximately 359,000 individuals, 205,000 of them being children.

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Manila
Standard

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MAUTE HOLDS 60 HOSTAGES, SAYS MILITARY

MORE hostages than earlier thought remain in the hands of terrorists in Marawi City, the military said Saturday, citing information from rescued captives.

Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Group Ranao, told a weekend news conference 17 hostages rescued from the Islamic State-linked Maute group earlier this week disclosed the information.

"There are estimated to be between 40 and 60 hostages. The Maute is [estimated to number around] 38 to 48," said Brawner.

The military had earlier estimated that 20 hostages were in the hands of terrorists.

"We believe we were not able to see everybody. There were many others hiding in basements," Brawner said.

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MAUTE...
From A1

Brawner said the remaining hostages were scattered and hidden in different mosques and buildings in the battlefield, estimated to have shrunk to between five and seven hectares.

"Some of the hostages were given fire-arms and forced to fight with Maute/ISIS. They are considered combatants. Our government forces are allowed, for self-defense, to neutralize these combatants" he added.

He said terrorists still controlled several structures in the area, including mosques.

While running out of food and ammunition, the terrorists continue to fortify their defensive positions in areas they still occupy.

Brawner said despite a change of command in the Philippine Army, its newly installed chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Bautista, 1st Infantry Division commander Brig. Gen. Roselior Morillo, and Joint Task Group Marawi leader Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag have said there would not be any tactical changes in the offensives.

Instead, there would be "renewed operations" aimed at finishing the fighting, which has been going on for nearly five months now.

On Wednesday, the military rescued 17 hostages—nine men and eight women, including teachers who had been held captive since the start of the siege on May 23.

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40 unidentified bodies buried in Marawi City

By **ALI G. MACABALANG**

COTABATO CITY – Forty more unidentified cadavers were buried on Thursday at the new cemetery established in Barangay Papandayan in Marawi City.

Volunteers from the public and private sectors organized the mass burial, which was held under Islamic rites, at the Maqbarah Cemetery.

Police and military officials said Thursday's burial rites followed DNA tests conducted by forensic experts on the bodies, this, for possible cross-matching with specimens submitted by individuals looking for lost kin.

The 40 constitute the latest in four batches of unidentified bodies laid to rest en mass since rescue and retrieval operations

commenced in the war-torn city early June.

Before the Lanao del Sur provincial government established the Maqbarah cemetery, the first batch of unidentified fatalities numbering 11 were buried on June 15 at a public graveyard in Iligan City.

There were 27 similarly unidentified corpses were laid to rest under Islamic rites on July 24 at the Maqbarah cemetery, following post-mortem analysis by Scene Of the Crime Operatives (SOCO).

About 27 more cadavers were laid to rest at Maqbarah on Sept. 5.

Meanwhile, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-Lanao del Sur chapter yesterday reiterated their demand

for copies of the post-mortem reports on the buried cadavers, maintaining it will help ascertain specific instruments that caused the victims' deaths, lawyer Mino Macalandap, president of the IBP-Lanao del Sur chapter, said.

When sought by reporters to comment on the post-mortem report request, the regional police office for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) said in a text message "only the military spokesperson in Marawi is authorized to release info."

The IBP local chapter and the infant Bagsa Maranaw Congress have offered free legal assistance to civilians interested in obtaining indemnity for their losses in the ongoing crisis.

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40 unidentified fatalities in Marawi crisis buried

By ALI G. MACABALANG

COTABATO CITY — Forty more bodies of unidentified people slain in the protracted Marawi City fighting were buried on Thursday at a new cemetery established in the war-torn Maranao community.

Volunteers from various government entities and from the private sector attended the mass burial under Islamic rites at the Maqbarah Cemetery in Marawi City's barangay Papandayan.

Civilian, police and military officials said Thursday's burial rites followed DNA tests by forensic experts on the corpses required for cross-matching with specimen of relatives who may someday seek accounting.

The burial of the 40 cadavers constituted the latest of four batches of fatalities laid to rest en mass since rescue and retrieval operations came in full swing in Marawi City in early June.

Last July 24, 27 similarly unidentified corpses constituting the second batch were laid to rest under Islamic rites at the Maqbarah cemetery, following reported conduct of post-mortem analysis on the corpses by scene of crime operatives (SOCO).

Twenty-seven more cadavers tagged as third batch were laid to rest also according to Islamic rites at the same Marawi City public cemetery.

Meanwhile, inquisitive quarters including the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-Lanao del Sur chapter yesterday reiterated their demand for copies of the post-mortem reports relative to the four batches of buried cadavers.

Post-mortem tests should have ascertained the specific instruments that caused the victims' deaths, such as bullets or bombs, said lawyer Mino Macalandap, president of the IBP-Lanao del Sur chapter.

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Substantial financial support for Marawi, Sen. Legarda assures

By MARIO B. CASAYURAN

Sen. Loren Legarda, chairwoman of the Senate finance committee, ensured yesterday that war-torn Marawi City would get substantial financial support from the proposed 2018 ₱3.76-trillion national budget.

President Duterte assured the nation the other day that the war in Marawi city would soon be over as military operations against the extremist Maute Group that began in late May are winding down.

In defending the proposed national budget during the Senate floor debate on the national budget, Legarda said her committee sided with the decision of the House of Representatives leadership to provide for the rehabilitation of the city.

Thus, both Houses set aside ₱10 billion of the 2018 National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Fund for the city's quick recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

"This amount is on top of the ₱5 billion given this year from the Contingent Fund and funds of different government agencies," she said.

"We are also making available a ₱500-million subsidy for a loan facility for Marawi residents, under the auspices of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), to enable

them to reconstruct their damaged houses," she added.

Legarda explained that, under a special provision in the 2018 General Appropriations Bill (GAB), it is specified that such loans would be free of interest, but the loanable amount should not exceed ₱2 million per household and the LBP might charge the borrower the administrative cost incurred in processing the loan.

Legarda also said that, as the Senate restored the ₱1-billion budget of the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project, ₱50 million of the fund would be allocated for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) affected by the war in Marawi.

She said her committee also provided additional ₱5 million for the cultural mapping that would be done by the Mindanao State University (MSU) to preserve the intangible and tangible heritage left amid the war in the city.

"We need immediate intervention so that the next generations would not be deprived of knowledge about this rich heritage. The process itself and the output of the cultural mapping can help in the psychological healing of the affected populace and in strengthening our cultural bonds with our fellow Muslim Filipinos," she added.

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• **NPA harassment**

New People's Army (NPA) rebels swooped down on two towns in Cagayan province on Saturday, disarming village watchmen and guards of a mayor and torching construction equipment, sketchy reports reaching police said. But contrary to the claim of the NPA that it seized the firearms of eight bodyguards of Buguey Mayor Lloyd Antiporda and village watchmen in Barangays Tabbak and Villauselo, the mayor denied such incident over radio. Meanwhile in Barangay Dungeg, Sta. Teresita town, rebels reportedly torched equipment owned by a private contractor.
(Lizlie Basa Inigo)

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PINOY IN NY TERROR PLOT

Authorities thwarted planned 2016 attacks on New York

NEW YORK – An undercover FBI agent helped thwart a jihadist plot to attack targets including New York's subway and Times Square, authorities announced in unsealing the charges Friday.

Three people have been charged with involvement in the planned attacks, which were to be carried out in the name of the Islamic State group during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan in 2016.

The 2015 attack on the Bataclan concert hall in Paris and another on the metro in Belgium the following year served as inspiration for the planned killings in New York.

Those attacks were both claimed by IS, a brutal militant group that seized swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria and has inspired a series of deadly attacks abroad.

Abdulrahman El Bahnasawy, a 19-year-old Canadian who purchased bombmaking materials and was arrested after traveling to the US, has pled guilty to "terrorism offenses," the statement said.

Talha Haroon, a 19-year-old American citizen living in Pakistan, allegedly planned to take part in the attacks, while Russell Salic of the Philippines, 37, allegedly provided funds for the operation.

The attacks were thwarted with the help of an undercover FBI agent posing as an IS supporter who communicated with the three plotters.

Haroon and Salic have been arrested abroad, and their extradition to the US is pending.

"El Bahnasawy and Haroon identified multiple locations and events in and around New York City as targets of the planned attacks, including the New York City subway system, Times Square and certain concert venues," the statement said.

El Bahnasawy sent the undercover FBI agent an image of Times Square, saying that "we seriously need a car bomb" to attack it and that he wanted to "shoot up concerts cuz they kill a lot of people."

Haroon, meanwhile, told the agent that the subway would make a "perfect" target, and that suicide vests could be detonated after the attackers expended their ammunition.

Salic also began communicating with the FBI agent, eventually sending "approximately \$423" to fund the attacks and promising to send more, according to prosecutors.

New York was the target of the September 11, 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people and led the US to launch an open-ended "war on terror" that included invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and military operations in a number of other countries.

These operations led, directly and indirectly, to tens of thousands of deaths, and cost the US hundreds of billions of dollars.

The most recent attack in New York occurred in September 2016, when a pressure cooker bomb exploded in the Chelsea neighborhood, wounding 29 people.

AFP

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Pinoy among 3 charged with plotting NY attacks in name of IS

From page 1

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AFP

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The Manila Times

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NPA disarms Cagayan mayor's security, burns equipment

MEMBERS of the communist New People's Army (NPA) disarmed the security personnel of a Cagayan town's chief executive and burned a construction company's heavy equipment in a neighboring town on Saturday.

Ester Falcon, spokesman of the Henry Abraham Command-NPA East Cagayan, said the NPA rebels disarmed the security personnel of Buguey town Mayor Lloyd Antiporda in the villages of Tabbak and Villasuelo.

In a statement distributed to different radio stations in Tuguegarao City,

Falcon said village council members Sergio Tinasa and Jose Mallabo of Tabbak village as well as barangay (village) officials of Villasuelo who serve as Antiporda's private security personnel, were divested of their firearms.

The rebels confiscated five long assault rifles, a carbine with sniper telescope and three .38-caliber revolvers including ammunition in bulk, the statement said.

The statement said Buguey residents for quite some time now have been

complaining of and asking authorities to disarm the mayor's alleged "private army" in every barangay for their safety and peace of mind.

According to Falcon, these private security personnel have been causing terror and harassing residents who have been accusing the mayor of corruption, killings and other criminal activities.

The Antipordas, who have been in control of Buguey's political leadership for decades, have denied all allegations against them saying these are

"pure lies and politically motivated."

Meanwhile, in the neighboring town of Santa Teresita, the rebels also on Saturday burned a dump truck and two backhoes owned by Manila-based DDT Konstract, Inc.

DDT Konstract, Inc., owned by Danilo Tamayo who hails from Santa Teresita, is the contractor of mega structures and high rise buildings in the country such as SM, Robinsons, Ayala, Globe and Hanjin.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO

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08 October 2017



Pahina. 2

OCTOBER 15, END OF WAR SA MARAWI — AFP-PNP

PANININDIGAN na ng puwersa ng militar at pulisya na matapos bago ang Oktubre 15 ang mahigit apat na buwan nang giyera sa Marawi City kasunod ng pag-atake ng Maute-ISIS.

Ayon kay Colonel Romeo Brawner, ang deputy commander ng Joint Task Group Ranao, hindi na kailangan pang palawigin ang deadline at mapalalaya rin ang Marawi City sa lalong madaling panahon.

"Tuluy-tuloy pa rin 'yung ating taktika na ginagamit, pero we will try our best na

matapos na agad ito kaya nagpa-meeting po ang mga bagong leaders natin. Mayroon tayong renewed efforts na tapusin ito nang mas maaga," ani Brawner.

Determinado aniya ang militar na malipol na ang bandidong grupo upang tuluy-tuloy nang maisakatuparan ng gobyerno ang muling pagbangon at rehabilitasyon sa lungsod.

"Tuluy-tuloy ang paghusob sa defensive positions ng Maute-ISIS dahil pilit nating tinatapos nang maaga ang bakbakan," dagdag pa ng opisyal. *(Vyne Reyes)*

08 October 2017

Pahina. 2

ARMM

'Di nagamit sa 'Yolanda'

P5 BILYON IBIGAY SA MARAWI

AABOT sa P5 billion na pondo na hindi nagamit para sa mga biktima ng Bagyong Yolanda noong 2013 ang gagamitin para sa rehabilitasyon ng Marawi City.

Ayon kay Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman, maaaring mai-realign ang pondo at ang malaking bahagi nito ay ibibigay sa Department of Social Welfare and Development

(DSWD).

Nakikipag-ugnayan na umano ang ARMM sa World Food Program at International Committee of the Red Cross para sa inisyal na paghahanda sa rehabilitasyon ng Marawi City.

Samantala, hindi pa nasimulan ang rehabilitasyon ng lungsod dahil umaabot pa umano sa 50 Maute ang patuloy na nagkukuta sa Marawi City. **(BRT)**

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PULIVER FILES

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3 heavy equipment sinunog ng NPA sa Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY – Nagsasagawa na ng pursuit operation ang AFP sa umano'y New People's Army (NPA) na nanunog ng dalawang backhoe at dumptruck sa bayan ng Santa Teresita, Cagayan kahapon ng umaga.

Sa panayam ng Bombo Radyo Lt. Col. Camilo Saddam, commanding officer ng 17th Infantry Battalion, nasa 20 hanggang 30 na miyembro umano ng Henry Abraham Command East Cagayan ang nagtungo sa quarry site sa Barangay Dungeg at sinunog ang mga heavy equipment.

Sinabi ni Saddam na kinuha rin ng armadong grupo ang baril ng isang gwardiya sa quarry site.

Nabatid na pagmamay-ari ng isang pribadong construction company ni Engineer Dante Tamayo ang nasabing mga heavy equipment.

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The Manila Times

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What will US-PH military exercises look like in 2018?

BY PRASHANTH PARAMESWARAN

LAST week, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) disclosed to reporters in Manila that the United States and the Philippines had decided to boost the level of exercises and engagement between them for 2018 following a recent meeting between the two sides.

His remarks, which came weeks before an expected encounter between US President Donald Trump and President Rodrigo Duterte, are interesting when viewed from the broader perspective of the future outlook for US-Philippine defense ties next year (See: "The US-Philippine Alliance in the Duterte Era: A Path to Recalibration").

As I've repeatedly pointed out, for all the headlines Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte had initially generated about a "separation" from the United States, his bark has proven to be much worse than his bite. That applies to the US-Philippine defense relationship too, where we had initially seen more of a downgrading rather than some kind of full-blown severing. A case in point – though, to be clear, just one manifestation of broader defense ties – is what we had seen with respect to military exercises and engagements so far.

In November last year, the then-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Gen. Ricardo Visaya had said that the Philippines had proposed to reduce the number of exchanges and exercises between the two countries from 263 to 258. That had followed a discussion among defense officials and the Duterte administration about what this picture should look like given the Philippines' priorities.

And indeed, following the meeting of the Mutual Defense Board-Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) – the body which deliberates on these interac-

tions – in November, which was co-chaired by Visaya and Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of the US Pacific Command (PACOM), we had indeed seen some cancellations as well as downgrading of exercises, with the more notable cases including Philbex, a marine amphibious landing exercise, and Carat, a naval exercise, both held annually.

But as I warned then, in spite of some of the sensationalist headlines that followed, US and Philippine defense officials had indicated at the time that despite some cuts and scaling down, there were efforts underway to refocus or rebrand these drills to account for changing political. And given that we were then still in Duterte's first year in office and set for a new US administration in Washington, there was always a likelihood that any kind of perceived downgrading might change over time.

Since then, through 2017 we have seen a number of indicators that have suggested that any kind of perceived downgrade on the defense side might not only be slowing, but beginning to reverse as we get to 2018. Some of these are tied to dynamics within the broader relationship, such as the fact that the new US administration under President Donald Trump, coupled with a fresh US ambassador in the Philippines Sung Kim, has helped remove some of the baggage that the Duterte administration had associated – rightly or wrongly – with the Obama administration.

Others are tied to the defense relationship more specifically. Particularly notable is the fact that the ongoing battle between the AFP and the Islamic

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State-linked militants in the southern city of Marawi has reinforced to Philippine officials – including Duterte himself, as he has publicly admitted – the indispensability of the United States, particularly given the AFP's own limited capabilities.

The picture on exercises has also begun to look less dim than the headlines had initially suggested last year. Some of the canceled exercises have nonetheless not stopped functional cooperation from deepening. For instance, the nixing of Carat was followed by a maritime training activity called "Sama-Sama" that included a coordinated patrol in the Sulu Sea, which was significant in the context of ongoing minilateral cooperation underway.

Apart from the fact that perceived 'losses' on the exercise side have not been nearly as great as the naysayers had contended, there have also been some notable 'gains' as well. A case in point here is Exercise Tempest Wind, a new counterterrorism drill approved last year that is quite complex in nature, involving not just exercises themselves with various agencies, but also additional military assessments, national level engagement, and subject matter exchanges. The first iteration of this was held last month.

What does all of this add up to as we get to 2018? Quantitatively, AFP chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Año provided one indicator in terms of the overall picture when he told reporters in Manila this week in the wake of the MDB-SED annual meeting in Hawaii that the number of exercises and engagements, which had gone down from 263 in 2016 to 258 in 2017, would now go up to 261. That suggests a picture of a slow reversal of the earlier downgrading we saw.

Of course, just as we ought to be wary of sensationalist headlines around the fact that the US-Philippine alliance is falling off a cliff, we should be equally cautious about suggestions that the alliance is now rising from the ashes. At the most

basic level, we'll need more than a year to see how the exercise picture plays out, both quantitatively as well as qualitatively, since defense officials on both sides would be quick to remind you that any discussion of 'scaling down' or 'refocusing' needs to focus substantively on what that means rather than the trend line itself.

And then there are developments beyond the military exercises and engagements themselves. Trump and Duterte are still forging their relationship, and given the unpredictable nature of both leaders, it is difficult to forecast how the alliance will play out without getting a sense for how they will interact. One key indicator in this regard will be the meeting they may have during Trump's trip to Manila next month.

Events also have a way of throwing a spanner in the works, as the Marawi crisis demonstrated in 2017. Past experience with respect to the alliance would suggest that developments, ranging from a major humanitarian crisis in the Philippines to the worsening of the South China Sea picture to rising domestic opposition to a particular aspect of US involvement in the country, can quickly and at times significantly alter the shape of US-Philippine defense cooperation. That should reinforce a broader point: that we ought to have some humility when trying to forecast the evolution of US defense relationships with key countries in the Asia-Pacific. **TNS**

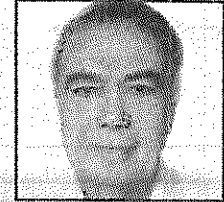
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NEVER ON A SUNDAY

Armaments factory for the AFP



By **ATTY. RENE ESPINA**
FORMER SENATOR

THE current news in our media is about the donation by China of 3,000 M-4 rifles, 3 million rounds of assorted ammunition, and 30 sniper scopes. Several times before, I had written about the manufacturing of the weapons that our AFP needs. As I recall this essential industry for our self defense capability was part of our overall industrial effort to bring our nation into a fully developed country.

I do remember when I was the SSS administrator (president) way back in 1961, President Diosdado Macapagal gave me instructions that the government corporation, together with the GSIS should invest in the Jacinto Steel Mill (JSM) in Iligan City, which was the first to be established in our country. If I remember right, the Development Bank of the Philippines was also given the government's instruction to lend JSM the money to build the mill. President Macapagal was conscious of the fact that there can be no industrialization of our country unless we have a steel plant and cement factories. Of course, it goes without elaborating further, that there must be sufficient electric power plants in order to provide the other factories with electric power. Then again we have to have sufficient water for all universal needs.

Unfortunately for reasons that need not be discussed further, the Jacinto Steel Plant which was supposed

to blossom into an integrated steel mill never reached its full objective development. The last thing I was told was that it was sold to a Malaysian company-which eventually decided to close the plant. On the other hand, the Malaysians proceeded with the construction of their own integrated steel mill.

President Ferdinand E. Marcos (PFM) was not only interested in building our infrastructures - highways, bridges, LRTs, dams for power and water; he was also focused on building heavy industries like steel mills, copper smelters, fertilizer factories like the formerly government owned facilities in Ormoc Bay, Leyte. PFM was also interested in setting up an oil refinery and gas facilities. That is why the government-owned PNOC bought Mobil and Esso companies in the Philippines and established Petron. PNOC also signed an agreement with Shell to develop the Malampaya gas in Palawan. Marcos also established the ammunition plant (if memory serves) in Bataan. In addition he encouraged Manda Elizalde to get a license from the patent owner of the well known M-16 Colt Rifle which is used by the US Armed Forces. All the baby Armaletes at that time used by the AFP were manufactured by Elizco (Elizalde Iron and Steel Company). I am glad to mention this because I used to be a director of that company when the SSS lent that corporation the money as a start-up capital.

At that time, PFM started assem-

bling helicopters. I understand they were made in Germany. In fact the Marcos government was studying how to design and manufacture missiles which, of course, was subjected to some kind of ridicule by those who did not like either the President or thought our capability as Filipinos was only good to make "kalesas" (horse-drawn carriage). I still remember vividly how the late Alex Melchor tried his best to make a success of our program to make missiles and assemble helicopters for self-defense. I salute Alex for his efforts.

From a very close Marcos official I was told in confidence years ago the reason why our government built a nuclear power plant in Bataan. The reason, of course, was obvious and that was to have an electric power plant run by nuclear power. At the same time our scientists would learn how to operate, deal with, and study about nuclear energy and its other strategic and useful technology. The bottom line was that eventually when our scientists became familiar with the technology of the atom, our country could eventually make a nuclear bomb. To me it is crystal clear why Alex Melchor was making serious programs to make a rocket.

As everyone knows North Korea very much later had a program to make rockets and atomic bombs. For lack of space I cannot mention more. I leave the matter for further discussion by my readers.

rene.g.espina@gmail.com

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The Manila Times

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What's in the new China military aid to the PH?

BY PRASHANTH PARAMESWARAN

ON October 5, China delivered a second batch of arms to the Philippines in a handover ceremony attended by officials on both sides. The development was yet another sign of Beijing's growing security ties with Manila, a longtime US treaty ally.

As I have noted previously, though the Philippines has traditionally not had much in the way of a defense relationship with China, Beijing's deepening security ties with Manila in the Duterte era has become a familiar story in recent months. Even though the progress has been much slower than the rhetoric might suggest, the fact is that we have seen forms of cooperation that were previously unthinkable, from closer coast guard cooperation to law enforcement assistance.

A key development came on June 28, when China delivered its first round of military assistance to Manila. As I noted then, Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua presided over a high-profile ceremonial turnover at Clark Air Base in Pampanga attended by President Duterte, with assistance worth P370 million (\$7.3 million)

comprising around 3,000 rifles and six million pieces of ammunition.

On October 5, Beijing delivered a second batch of equipment in a handover ceremony held in Camp Aguinaldo and attended by Zhao as well as Philippine defense officials including Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año. The assistance included 3,000 units of rifles, 3,000,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 30 sniper cones. Most of the rifles will be turned over to the Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), while the scopes will remain with the AFP.

In his remarks, Zhao cast the assistance as part of China's firm support for the Philippines' campaign against the terror threat posed by the Islamic State, which has been made clear by the battle being waged by the Philippine military against IS-linked militants in the southern city of Marawi since May.

Though that assistance – which also includes other aid for the Marawi crisis more specifically – remains quite limited compared to that of Manila's traditional partners like the United States, it is significant

because, as Lorenzana himself noted, Philippine attempts to get these guns from the United States had earlier been complicated by concerns by Congress about human rights abuses.

China's growing security role in the Philippines is a storyline that we will likely continue to see in the coming months. Zhao was keen to point out that the Chinese government was already preparing to transfer a third batch of military assistance to Manila. And China, Philippine defense officials say, has also been pushing for more robust forms of security cooperation that have yet to be realized.

Yet, as I have noted before, the limits of Sino-Philippine cooperation also need to be kept in mind, including the low level at which it is beginning relative to Manila's traditional partners as well as lingering distrust by the two countries due to differences such as on the South China Sea.

It is also worth noting that after an initially rough start under Duterte, the outlook for US-Philippine defense ties now looks more promising, contrary to the doomsday scenario that some in Beijing would like to paint about undermining American alliances in the region.

TNS

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Pahina. 4



PONDO SA 'YOLANDA' VICTIMS, PANG-'YOLANDA' LANG AT PONDO SA MARAWI VICTIMS, PANG-MARAWI LANG! — Hindi katanggap-tanggap sa mga “Yolanda” victim ang hirit ni Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Gov. Mujiv Hataman na ang P5 bilyon pondo na hindi pa nagagamit para sa mga biktima ng Bagyong Yolanda sa Tacloban City ay gamitin na raw para sa rehabilitasyon sa nadurog na Marawi City, dulot ng digmaan sa pagitan ng AFP-PNP at Maute-ISIS.

Dapat daw ay isalpak ni Gov. Hataman sa kanyang kukote na libu-libong “Yolanda” victims pa rin ang hindi nakaahon sa buhay at kailangan ng mga taga-Tacloban ang P5-B pondo na ito.

Sa ngayon ay bumuhos na rin ang suporta ng international community sa mga taga-Marawi City, kaya dapat na ang pondo para sa mga Marawi victim, ay pang-Marawi lang at ang pondo para sa mga “Yolanda” victim ay dapat para lang sa mga nasalanta ni ‘Yolanda’ period!

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

ONLINE NEWS

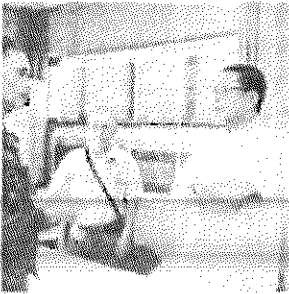
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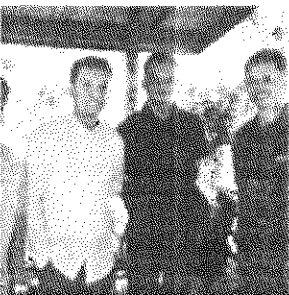
EMC conducts 2nd Leg of Multi-Sectoral Forum on Countering Violent Extremism

Ateneo de Manila University

The AFP – Eastern Mindanao Command conducts the 2nd Leg of Multi-Sectoral Forum on Countering Violent Extremism at San Lorenzo Ruiz Formation Center, Butuan City.

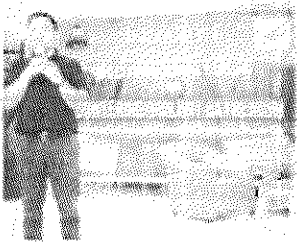


Col. Glenn Jun Calambuhay talks with the Executive Director of Caraga Conference for Peace and Development Fr. Cariito L. Clase. Fr. Clase gave the Welcome Remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the Multi-Sectoral Forum on Countering Violent Extremism here at the San Lorenzo Ruiz Formation Center, Butuan City. Caraga Conference for Peace and Development is the major partner of Eastern Mindanao Command in organizing the forum here in Butuan City.

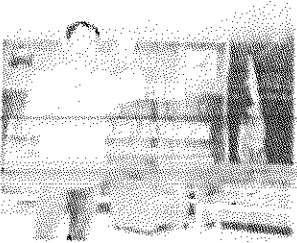


Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

Dr. Mark Anthony Torres, Director of Institute for Peace and Development of MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology and Prof. Mussolina Sinsuat Lidasan, Director of Al Qalam Institute of Ateneo de Davao and Commissioner of Bangsamoro Transition Committee presented their insights and programs on Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism



Dr. Mark Anthony J. Torres, Director of Institute for Peace and Development of MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology touched on the Violent Extremism in the Philippines.

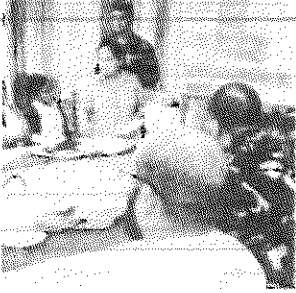


Prof. Mussolini Sinsuat Lidasan, Director of Al Qalam Institute of the Ateneo de Davao University and Commissioner of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission discussed Al Qalam's Programs on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

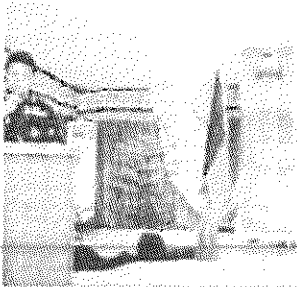


Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

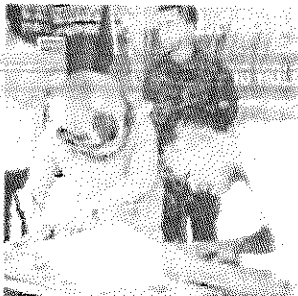
Mr. Ednar G. Dayanghirang, Chief of Staff/Executive Assistant V of Davao Oriental Provincial Government talked on Countering Violent Extremism on the Local Perspective.



The participants conducted brainstorming sessions to identify solutions in preventing violent extremism in Caraga Region.



Col Franco Nemesio M Gacai, Commander of 402nd Infantry Brigade delivers the closing message of Lt Gen Rey Leonardo B Guerrero, Commander of Eastern Mindanao Command for the participants of the Multi-Sectoral Forum on Countering Violent Extremism.



The participants of the Forum committed to help prevent terrorism in Caraga Region by affixing their signature on a manifesto to counter violent extremism. Afterwards, they presented plans and activities in support of the manifesto. EMC/MCAG

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OFFICIAL VISIT | Com NOLCOM at 580th ACWW

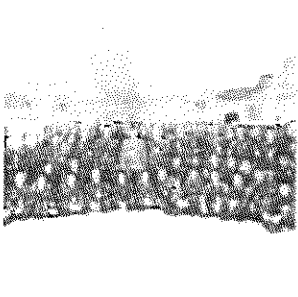
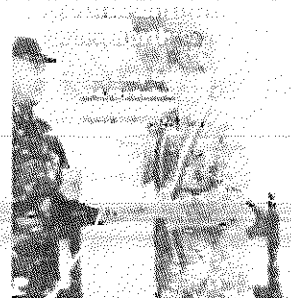
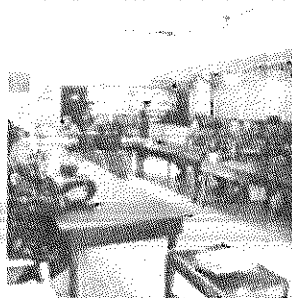
Alins. 2017/10/04



WALLACE AIR STATION, San Fernando City, La Union (DWDD) – Troops of the 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing, Air Defense Command, Philippine Air Force headed by Col Agustine S Malinit, Wing Commander welcomed MGen Emmanuel B Salamat, Commander AFP Northern Luzon Command during his command visit last October 4, 2017.

The reorganization and reactivation of the Unit into a Wing is an integral part of its breakthrough goal for PAF Flight Plan 2028, to restructure the air defense organization for subsequent integration into a Command. The move is also in line with the present thrust and vision of the PAF to be a professional and competent air force responsive to national security and development. The occasion was also made more significant with the imminent arrival of a new set of radar equipment, opening up new defense capabilities and weapons systems.

The reactivation of 580th ACWW was accompanied by the reactivation of its two aircraft control and warning groups, with its three subordinate squadrons; along with one support group with seven support squadrons, an infirmary and dental dispensary. **AES/MCAG**



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

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INSPIRING LEADER | Lt Gen Galileo Gerard R Kintanar



PUERTO PRINSESA, Palawan (DWDD) – Western Command tendered arrival honors to Lt Gen Galileo Gerard R Kintanar Jr, Commander, WESCOM last October 4, 2017 in connection with his well-deserved promotion!

"This 3rd star is with you and for you," said LTGen Kintanar as he addressed the strong contingent of *WESCOM/MCAG*.

"In doing good and serving God, country and people, let us TAG it — Tell the truth, Anticipate and Get the job done," he added. **WESCOM/MCAG**



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Civilians turn over BIFF bombs to Army

By Noel Punzalan October 7, 2017, 5:49 pm

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao -- Civilians in a conflict-affected area in Maguindanao are helping government forces clear their communities of improvised bombs from an ISIS-inspired group, the Army here said.

Lt. Colonel Gerry Besana, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (6ID) Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion, said civilians surrendered some five kilos of unexploded ordnance they found in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao, on Friday.

The Army and its ally, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), have been fighting for over two months now against the faction of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) under Commander Esmael Abdulmalik in the area.

The clashes that started in late July left at least 50 fatalities from both the MILF and BIFF. Fighting erupted when the BIFF tried to hoist ISIS black flags in MILF-identified communities in Barangays Andavit and Tee in Datu Salibo, Maguindanao.

The MILF sent Task Force Ittihad (Unity) to the two villages to convince the outlawed group not to hoist ISIS flags.

Instead, the BIFF set off bombs that left 10 MILF injured and triggered sporadic gun battles.

This developed as Besana expressed elation at the gesture of civilians in turning over components of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to authorities, citing it has also saved the lives of civilians from unnecessary explosions that might occur in their communities.

Approximately five kilograms of assorted improvised explosive devices believed to be made by followers of Abu Toraypi were surrendered by civilians to the personnel of the CMO Battalion in Sitio Gadong, Barangay Pagalin 2, Datu Salibo, Maguindanao," Besana said.

He said it was not clear where the IEDs were discovered, mentioning that what is important is that the IEDs are now in the safe hands of military bomb experts.

He said civilian cooperation was the result of the massive information campaign being conducted in support to the Army's 601st Infantry Brigade and 6th ID's campaign against the terror group in the area.

"IEDs pose great hazards and threats to the civilians in the area. It is being used by the BIFF to inflict casualties to pursuing AFP soldiers and MILF fighters and to protect their strongholds which were recently cleared after fierce clashes for more than two months now," Besana said. (PNA)