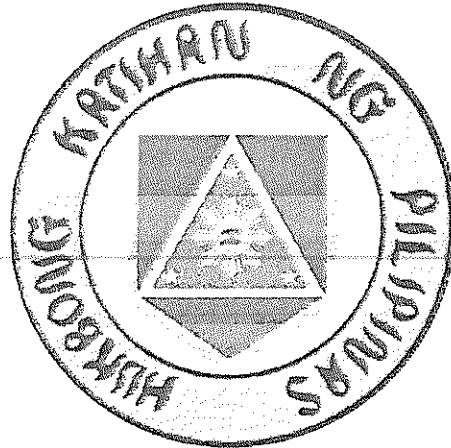


*Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride*



**TEAM ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 September 2017

**Wednesday**

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

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

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13 September 2017






# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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**PANAHON TV**

www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

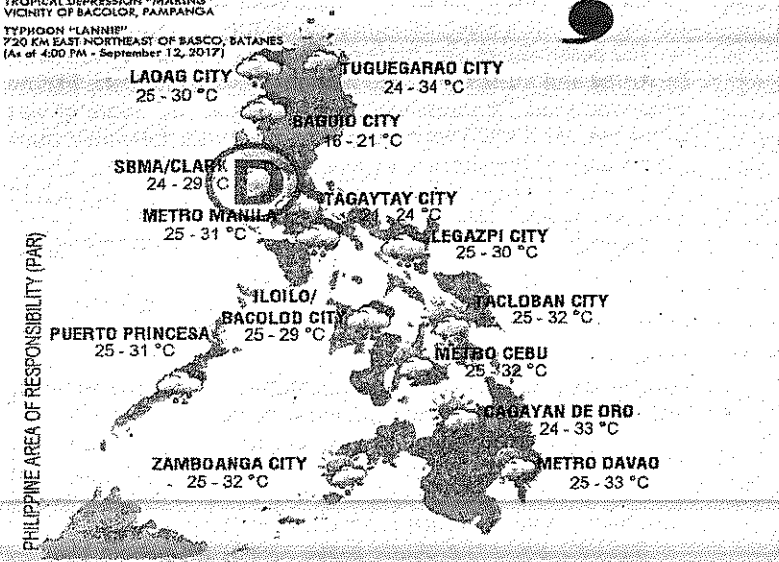
**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

**TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 | WEDNESDAY**







**TROPICAL DEPRESSION "MARING"**  
VICINITY OF BACOLOD, PAMPANGA






























**TYPHOON "LANNIE"**  
720 KM EAST-NORTHEAST OF BASCO, BATANES  
(As of 4:00 PM - September 12, 2017)



PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

CULIANG SEA

<b>SUNRISE</b>  5:45 AM	<b>SUNSET</b>  5:59 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>  11:49 PM	<b>MOONSET</b>  12:01 AM
<b>FULL MOON</b> SEP 6 3:03 PM	<b>LAST QUARTER</b> SEP 12 2:25 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> MANILA SOUTH HARBOR 10:27 AM 0.21 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 2:13 AM 1.04 Meter
 Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms  Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms	

	SEP 14	SEP 15	SEP 14	SEP 15	SEP 14	SEP 15		
<b>METRO MANILA</b>	 25 - 32 °C	 24 - 32 °C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	 21 - 25 °C	 21 - 26 °C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	 24 - 34 °C	 25 - 34 °C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	 26 - 32 °C	 26 - 32 °C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	 24 - 33 °C	 24 - 32 °C
<b>LAOAG</b>	 24 - 30 °C	 25 - 31 °C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	 25 - 31 °C	 26 - 32 °C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 33 °C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	 17 - 23 °C	 17 - 23 °C	<b>ILOILO/ BACOLOD</b>	 26 - 30 °C	 26 - 31 °C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	 25 - 33 °C	 25 - 32 °C
<b>SBMA/ CLARK</b>	 21 - 30 °C	 24 - 32 °C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	 25 - 32 °C	 25 - 32 °C	 <b>AIR 21</b> BAGOT RD. PADALA HIDI		

**DZRHNEWS TELEVISION**

MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM & 5PM

**PILIPINAS 10**

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

B September 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A1

# CBCP calls for prayers for drug war victims

FROM A1

By Julie M. Aurelio  
@JMAurelioINQ

Catholic bishops on Tuesday urged the faithful to offer prayers and light candles for 40 days for the victims of President Duterte's war on drugs and of violence in Marawi City.

In a pastoral statement titled, "Lord heal our land," the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) expressed horror at the deaths of three teenagers in recent weeks, all victims of the Duterte administration's campaign against illegal drugs and crime.

## 'Remorselessness'

"We are appalled by the remorselessness by which even the young are executed," the bishops said.

The statement was signed by the CBCP president, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas.

The prelates were referring to the killings of Kian Loyd delos Santos, 17, on Aug. 16; Carl Angelo Arnaiz, 19, on Aug. 18, and Reynaldo "Kulot" de Guzman,



**KULOT'S WAKE** Franciscan sisters pray for Reynaldo "Kulot" de Guzman, who was found dead in Gapan City in Nueva Ecija province, at his wake in Cainta, Rizal province. —JOAN BONDOC

14, Arnaiz's last known companion, probably also on Aug. 18.

Delos Santos was killed by policemen during a drug raid in Caloocan City.

The Caloocan police were also behind the death of Arnaiz. They said they killed the teenager in an exchange of gunfire after he robbed a taxi driver.

The taxi driver, 54-year-old Tomas Bagcal, said on Sunday that he and bystanders captured Arnaiz and that he turned him over to the police alive.

Thousands of people have been killed by police in drug raids and by suspected vigilantes since Mr. Duterte launched the crackdown on drugs after taking office in June last year.

International human rights groups and the United Nations have condemned the killings and the International Criminal Court has warned Philippine officials of possible prosecution for crimes against humanity.

Addressing the 36th session of the UN Human Rights Coun-

cil on Monday, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein slammed President Duterte's "open support for a shoot-to-kill policy" against criminal suspects.

Zeid said he found the impunity "appalling."

He mentioned the killing of Delos Santos, which Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II described as an "isolated case."

"Two days after hundreds of people turned out for the teenager's funeral, the President again told police they would not be punished for killing suspects who resist arrest. This lack of respect for the due process rights of all Filipinos is appalling," Zeid said.

#### **Stop killings**

"The relentless and bloody campaign against drugs that shows no sign of abating impels us your bishops to declare: In the name of God, stop the killings! May the justice of God come upon those responsible for the killings!" the CBCP said.

For some, the bishops said, it is easy to agree with the elimination of other members of society who are labeled "unsalvageable," "irremediable," "hopelessly per-

verse," or "irreparably damaged."

"We stand firmly against drugs and the death drugs have caused, but killing is not the solution [to] the problem," the bishops said, adding that the wounded need hands to help them up, not feet to trample on them.

The bishops stressed that the country's healing should begin by instilling the value of being concerned and caring for one another, and for the rule of law to prevail.

The prelates urged the Catholic faithful to offer prayers for 40 days for the victims of the war on drugs, all victims of violence, and the victims of the war in Marawi City.

The period of prayer will begin on Sept. 23 and end on Nov. 1.

The CBCP also called for the tolling of church bells at 8 p.m.—the tradition of "De Profundis"—during the same 40-day period in remembrance of those who were killed.

The bishops also urged the lighting of candles for 40 days in front of homes, in cemeteries, public places, and on the spots where the victims were killed.

—WITH A REPORT FROM DONA Z. PAZZ-  
IBUGAN INQ

September 2017

## INQUIRY

Page: 14

# Army captain, soldier killed in Marawi

By Nikko Dizon  
@NikkoDizonINQ

An Army captain and his buddy were the latest fatalities in the nearly four-month-old war in Marawi City, bringing to 147 the number of government troops killed in action.

Army Scout Ranger Capt. Rommel Sandoval was the company commander of the 11th Scout Ranger Company. Killed alongside him last Sunday while fighting it out with Islamic State-inspired terrorists was Private First Class (PFC) Sherwin Canapi.

Sandoval, whose call sign was "Daredevil," was the highest ranking military officer killed in the battle to retake Marawi City from the Maute-Abu Sayyaf terrorist groups.

The deaths of Sandoval and

Canapi brought to 44 the number of Scout Rangers killed in the war which President Duterte said could last until December this year.

"They both died fighting," a Facebook page dedicated to the Army Scout Rangers said in a tribute to the fallen soldiers.

Sandoval's remains were flown to Manila on Monday afternoon. His wake is at the Libingan ng mga Bayani mortuary. President Duterte was expected to visit at 7 p.m. Tuesday, according to a Malacañang advisory.

The Scout Ranger post paid tribute to the heroism of Sandoval and Canapi who were killed while trying to save one of their company's team leaders who was wounded and trapped in one of the buildings in the city.

"The IS still shot at the team



Capt. Rommel Sandoval —PHOTO FROM SCOUT RANGER FACEBOOK PAGE

leader even when he was already wounded. The late Rommel decided to rescue the soldier because he did not want to lose any of his men. A true leader, he and

his buddy led the assault as they went down to the first floor," the post said in Filipino.

Sandoval's command was simple: "I-cover fire n'yo ako

(Give me cover fire)!"

Sandoval reached his soldier and took his pulse. But there were already a number of IS waiting for him. Sandoval was first shot on his side.

Sandoval and Canapi were able to fire back at the terrorists. But Sandoval was shot in the cheek, which was fatal.

The post did not indicate where Canapi was shot. It described Canapi as "gifted, skilled and talented."

"He was an excellent painter. He wrote song lyrics. He also knew how to print T-shirts. He was into sports. And he can be relied on for making reports," the post read.

The Rangers, the post said, lost one of its "skilled and talented" soldiers with the death of Canapi. INQ



September 2017

The Manila Times

Page: A7

# Top Ranger rescuing soldier shot dead by Maute Group

BY DEMPSEY REYES

**T**HE commander of a Scout Ranger Company in Marawi City was killed while trying to rescue one of his team leaders in an establishment inside the main battle zone.

Capt. Rommel Sandoval, head of the 11th Scout Ranger Company, was the 44th Scout Ranger killed during more than three months of fighting between government forces and Maute Group terrorists.

It was posted on the social media post of "Scout Rangers

Book" that the captain went to an establishment, believed to be a Landbank building, to look into the condition of his wounded team leader.

"The [Islamic State terrorists] were still shooting at the team leader when he was already wounded. Sandoval decided to

rescue his comrade to save [him] from sustaining further wounds," the post said.

The Scout Rangers Book added that Sandoval was still able to check the pulse of his wounded team leader but was cornered by Maute terrorists and was shot on the side.

Sandoval was able to fire back at the terrorists but the next shot fired by the Maute bandits was "fatal," hitting him on the cheek.

Sandoval, described by Scout Rangers Book as a "skilled and talented" elite ranger, was accompanied in the rescue mission by Private First Class Sherwin

Canapi, who was also killed.

On Monday afternoon, a C130 aircraft brought Sandoval's remains to the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani mortuary in Taguig City.

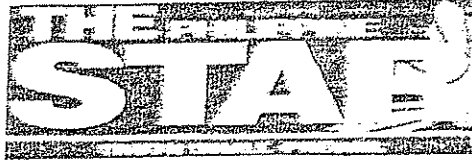
"For [this] officer, his last fight has just ended. For the Scout Rangers left in the war zone, the fight is not yet over for the nation," the Scout Rangers Book said.

Sandoval's remains were accompanied by one of the Scout Rangers going to Manila.

Sandoval's wake in the heroes' cemetery was expected to be visited by President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday night.



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## AFP to acquire P853.5 M worth of ammo

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is spending P853.5 million for ammunition of 105 mm howitzer.

The Philippine Army bids and awards committee set the pre-bid conference for 28,450 artillery rounds today.

Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, chief of the Army's public affairs office, said the procurement of ammunition is not because of the conflict in Marawi. He said the military

is not running low on ammunition due to the ongoing fighting with Maute militants.

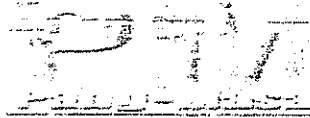
Tiongson said the procurement of ammunition is a regular operational requirement of troops in the field.

"We are advancing our procurement based on projected requirements,"

Tiongson said. "We have to maintain the basic loads of our artillery units as well as our reserve ammunition."

– Michael Punongbayan

B September 2017



Pahina. 8

## **Army Captain napatay ng Maute**

Isang Army Captain ang nasawi nang mabari ito ng Maute-ISIS nang tangkain nitong iligtas ang isa niyang tauhan sa patuloy na krisis sa Marawi City na nasa mahigit 100 araw na.

Kinumpirma kahapon ni Philippine Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson ang nasawing opisyal ay kinilalang si Capt. Rommel Sandoval, Commanding Officer ng Army's 11<sup>th</sup> Scout Ranger Company (SRC) na binawian ng buhay sa rescue operation sa kaniyang tauhan noong nakalipas na September 10.

Nasawi ito kasama ang isa nitong tauhan na si Private First Class Sherwin Canapi habang tinatang-kang iligtas ang mga sugatan nilang kasamahan.

Sinabi ng opisyal na naiwan sa isang palapag ng gusali ang sugatang team leader ng nasabing tropa ng SRC na pinamumunuan ni Sandoval kaya tinangka nilang iligtas ito pero sa kamalasan ay napuruhan sa pagpapaulan ng putok ng mga kalabang terorista

ang Army Captain at isa nitong tauhan.

Habang inililigtas ang isa niyang tauhan na nakunan pa ng opisyal ng pulso ay inabangan naman ito ng maraming mga armadong Maute -ISIS at pinagbabaril na bago binawian ng buhay ay napatumba pa ang ilan sa kaniyang mga kalaban.

Nakatakdang ihatid sa kaniyang huling hantungan sa Libingan ng mga Bayani sa Taguig City ang labi ni Sandoval. - *Joy Cantos* -

B September 2017

Manila  
**Standard**

Page:   A1  



**FOURTH VISIT.** President Rodrigo Duterte makes his fourth visit to Marawi City Monday, this time to the Grand Mosque which has recently been retaken by government troops from terrorists of the Maute group after three months of relentless fighting. Joining the President are Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Special Assistant Christopher "Bong" Go, Presidential Adviser on Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero, and AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año. **Malacañang Photo**

13 September 2017

MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1



**GROUND COMMANDER** — President Duterte sports a camouflage shirt as he visits last Monday army troops still battling the last remaining forces of the Maute Group in Marawi City. (Presidential photo)

13 September 2017

INQUIRER

Page: A18

# 5 terrorists killed in Marawi clash

By Divina Suson,  
Jeoffrey Maitem  
and Philip C. Tubeza  
@Team\_Inquirer

MARAWI CITY—At least five gunmen belonging to the Maute terror group and their allies were killed after a firefight with government forces broke out here on Tuesday, military reports said.

The military's Joint Task Force (JTF) Marawi said the clash, which erupted less than 12 hours after President Duterte visited soldiers in the main battle area, started at 1:19 a.m. between Marine soldiers, under the Joint Task Group Tiger, and gunmen holed out in a section of this Lanao del Sur provincial capital.

A statement from the JTF Marawi said five suspected gunmen were killed in the clash but soldiers had accounted for only four bodies.

"[Only] two bodies were retrieved while the other two were left in the [clash] site because of dangerous circumstances," it said.

## Technology use

Soldiers also recovered several firearms, including two high-powered guns, and a pair of night vision goggles.

Lt. Col. Jo-ar Herrera of the 1st Infantry Division's public affairs office said the recovery of the night vision goggles showed that the Maute gunmen and their allies had access to technol-



President Duterte and military officials inspect the Grand Islamic Mosque in Marawi City, which government troops recovered from militants. —MALACAÑANG PHOTO

ogy in fighting the government.

The use of such technology, he said, enabled extremists to engage soldiers even if it was dark.

He said the government had yet to determine where the night vision goggles came from.

"We still don't know if they got this from slain soldiers or they had this already when the fighting started [on May 23]," Herrera said.

Brig. Gen. Rolando Bautista, JTF Marawi commander, said Mr. Duterte's encouragement during his visit here on Monday "boosted" the "fighting spirit" of soldiers battling the Maute gunmen and their allies.

"The President's recent

presence in the main battle area left a mark on our troops, [on] their strong desire to end the crisis in Marawi," Bautista said.

Maj. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident, said the "heightened morale [of soldiers] in fighting the enemy has resulted in the quick and deliberate assault of enemy positions."

"This accomplishment shows that the enemy's hold in Marawi City is decreasing day by day. It is only a matter of time that the crisis will end," he added.

The government has suffered 145 fatalities since the fighting erupted in May.

Records showed at least 650 militants were killed.

The fighting killed at least 45 civilians and displaced more than 400,000 people.

On Monday, Mr. Duterte made his fourth visit to soldiers fighting Islamic State-inspired militants here.

The President went to the Grand Islamic Mosque, which soldiers recovered from the Maute group on Aug. 24. He also went to the Baloi Bridge in Barangay Mapandi and to the main battle area, where he joined soldiers in group pictures.

"Saludo ako sa inyo (I salute all of you)," a Malacañang press

statement quoted Mr. Duterte as telling the soldiers during his speech.

The President attended a command conference with the JTF Marawi, where he was briefed on the developments of the nearly four months of efforts by government troops to retake the city from the Maute group.

He distributed packs of grocery items and wristwatches to soldiers. He also offered cigarettes to soldiers who wanted these.

"I will not stop you [from smoking] because I know you are under [a lot of] stress," said Mr. Duterte, who detests cigarettes and whose administration has implemented a nationwide smoking ban.

The President promised all women soldiers assigned here a trip to Hong Kong after the crisis.

#### Thanking China

Mr. Duterte also took the opportunity to thank the Chinese government for the sniper rifles it donated to soldiers fighting militants here.

He said the P370-million worth of firearms and ammunition that China sent the Philippines in June were of "good quality."

"Let's thank them because everything that they gave us is of good quality, like the [sniper rifles]. Was it good? At the very least, let's all be thankful," the President told the soldiers.

"China has been very good to us, so I am grateful to them.

In behalf of the ... let's give them a round of applause," he added.

The President then told Special Assistant to the President Christopher "Bong" Go to take video footage of the troops applauding, adding in jest that it meant "that what we want next is an airplane."

"But the pilot has to learn a little Chinese because if everything is written in Chinese, then he won't have any idea where his plane is going," Mr. Duterte joked.

The President said he would no longer buy "second hand" military aircraft from the United States.

"I will no longer buy second hand helicopters from the Americans because the two ... one of the two crashed. What's happening to these Americans? And we paid for that," he said.

"So for me, everything has to be brand new. All the planes and helicopters will have to be brand new," he added.

The President first visited Marawi on July 20, after the military seized the Baloi Bridge from the Maute group's control. He returned on Aug. 4 and Aug. 24 to check on the troops.

As in his previous visits, Mr. Duterte, who arrived at 2 p.m. on Monday, was accompanied by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Año, and Presidential Communications Assistant Secretary Mocha Uson. INQ

B September 2017



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## 'Trip to HK for female soldiers in Marawi'

By ALEXIS ROMERO

For getting the job done, President Duterte promised women soldiers deployed in Marawi City an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong.

The President made the promise as he visited the frontlines in Marawi City for the fourth time Monday to boost the morale and check the situation of soldiers involved in combat operations against Maute terrorists.

During his previous visit to the frontlines last month, Duterte egged on the troops to stay alive and promised them an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong and

other perks as soon as they win the war.

He said the trip to Hong Kong would be a family treat.

And if anyone does not want to avail himself of the all-expense paid trip, Duterte joked they could choose to spend time with an actress.

Wearing a camouflage top and gray corduroy pants, Duterte set foot in Marawi City to give away goods including Casio G-Shock watches and cigarettes to the troops.

"I will not stop you (from smoking) because you are under stress," Duterte

Turn to Page 3

remarked.

Duterte also promised that on his next visit, he would bring some celebrities to perk up the atmosphere in the battle area. He said the soldiers can "gently touch" the entertainers.

Duterte told his special assistant, Secretary Bong Go, and Communications Assistant Secretary Mocha Uson that they should bring along entertainers during his next visit.

Duterte proceeded to the Grand Mosque, which used to be the command and control center of the terrorists until it was recaptured by government troops last month.

He also visited Mapandi Bridge, the point dividing the frontlines between the government troops and the terrorists until it was recaptured by security forces.

The President visited the main battle area where he granted photo opportunities to soldiers as an expression of moral support.

He gave a snappy salute to soldiers before leaving the city.

"*Saludo ako sa inyo* (I salute you all)," Duterte told soldiers during the visit.

Duterte told the soldiers that he would reward them and give them time to rest once the situation in Marawi returns to normal.

"We have to finish this then you can take a vacation," he told the troops.

In an impromptu speech delivered before the troops, Duterte thanked China for donating rifles to soldiers.

"Let's thank them because everything that they gave us are of good quality, like the snipers (rifles). Was it good? At the very least, let's all be thankful for that," he said.

Duterte told the troops that the administration is taking the Armed Forces' modernization seriously, which is why he wants to procure more equipment from Beijing.

"So for me, everything has to be brand new. All the planes and helicopters will have to be brand new. Your guns, I want just one source for it. I'm not going to mention what country it is but it's just two - two countries," he said.

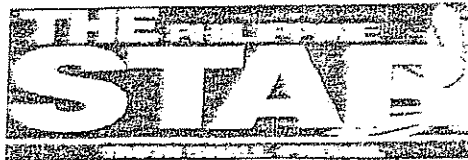
Duterte said he would no longer allow the procurement of secondhand or refurbished helicopters from the US.

"I will no longer buy secondhand helicopters from the Americans because the two - the three - one of the two crashed.

- With Edith Regalado, Michael Punongbayan, Jess Diaz, Christina Mendez



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## Another Sayyaf man faces rebellion raps

Another suspected member of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf has been charged with rebellion before the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Milham Saham, 24, was brought to the DOJ on Monday for inquest on charges of rebellion and illegal possession of explosives filed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command.

Saham was apprehended at a checkpoint in Barangay Buhanginan in Patikul, Sulu last week.

The military said they recovered from Saham an improvised explosive device and bomb-making components.

According to the AFP, Saham was identified by informants as a member of the Abu Sayyaf under Radullan Sahiron, a senior leader of the terrorist group.

The DOJ provided Saham with a public lawyer. He was made to sign a waiver for an

extended period of detention as he opted to answer the charges in a preliminary investigation.

Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Clarisa Kuong set the preliminary hearing at 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 15.

Saham was brought back to his detention cell at the AFP Custodial Center at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City after the hearing.

Last month, the AFP filed charges of rebellion before the DOJ against three suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits arrested during an encounter with Philippine Marines in Sulu.

The suspects were identified as Salip Ismael Abdulla, Isa Ukang and a minor.

Mindanao remains under martial law until December following attacks by the Maute terrorist group in Marawi City on May 23.

Hundreds of Maute and Abu Sayyaf bandits have since been arrested and charged.

– Edu Punay

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

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## President prefers brand-new planes, weapons for military

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

President Duterte is no longer interested in acquiring refurbished military equipment from the United States (US)

sniper rifles recently donated to the country's Armed Forces.

"I will no longer buy second hand helicopters from the Americans because ... one of the two crashed. What's happening to these Americans? And we paid for that," Duterte said in the Visayan dialect during his visit to government troops in Marawi City last Monday.

The President said he prefers to buy brand new equipment for the military to boost their counter-terrorism capability. He said the military goods will be sourced from two countries, without identifying them.

"For me, everything has to be brand new. All the planes and helicopters will have to be brand new. Your guns, I want just one source for it. I'm not going to mention what country it is but it's just two — two countries," he added.

The President, meantime, extended anew his gratitude to China for donating weapons to the troops in the battle against Islamic State-inspired militants holed up in Marawi City.

The shipment of assault and sniper rifles was delivered by China to the country last June.

"China has been very good to us, so I am grateful to them... let's give them a round of applause," Duterte said.

following the crash of one of the helicopters bought by the government.

The President claimed that China appears to produce more quality weaponry, citing the efficiency of the ▶ 4

"Let's thank them because everything that they gave us are of good quality, like the sniper's (rifles)," he added.

Duterte then teased about a possible aircraft donation from China.

He told the troops in jest to clap hard so the video of the event would show their gratitude to China and possibly convince Beijing to donate an airplane next.

"But the pilot has to learn a little Chinese because if everything is written in Chinese, then he won't have any idea where his plane is going," the commander-in-chief said, eliciting laughter from the soldiers.

Government troops have battled to drive the rebels out of Marawi for more than three months. More than 800 people have been killed, including 655 militants and 145 troops, according to military figures.

The President, in his visit to the battle zone last Monday, reiterated that no quarter will be given to the enemies of the state in Marawi. He said it will be fighting to the death.

Duterte, who declared martial law in Mindanao due to the Marawi siege, earlier said he would not lift it until the defense and military authorities declare the conditions are safe.

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BusinessMirror

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# Duterte warns communists: You're next

**T**HE communist-led New People's Army (NPA) was warned to brace for military offensives by President Duterte on Monday night, saying the rebels will be the next target of the government once the conflict in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, has ended.

In his third visit to government troops in Marawi City, Duterte told soldiers to prepare for another war after they finish their duty in the municipality, as the government will target next

NPA rebels, which he accused of insincerity in the peace table.

"Our next project will be the Left. There will be no more talks with them, because I don't want to any-

more," the President said.

Duterte added he will no longer engage the communists in the peace table, unless they declare a cease-fire. The National Democratic Front (NDF), the negotiating arm of the communists, has insisted reforms must be agreed upon and signed first before a cease-fire is declared.

"No more cease-fire with the communists. If they want to negotiate, they must declare a cease-fire first," the Chief Executive said.

"But, I say, if NPA rebels kill a soldier or a police, I will delay the peace talks for one month. If they kill another one, I will delay it for another month, and so on and so on," he added.

Peace negotiations with the NDF collapsed in May after the Communist Party of the Philippines ordered

its armed wing, the NPA, to heighten offensives and accelerate recruitment in response to the martial-law declaration in Mindanao.

Government chief negotiator and Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III held backchannel talks with NDF chief negotiator Fidel V. Agcaoili in an attempt to resume peace negotiations. It was decided that the fifth round of peace talks be conducted in August.

However, the government panel was forced to withdraw again after the NPA in early-August attacked and killed government troops, which saw the death of at least five of Duterte's security men. Angered, the President directed the government panel to abandon peace negotiations with the NDF until the environment is once more conducive for peace talks.

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

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## Duterte vows to fight modern-day slavery

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

President Duterte has sounded the alarm about a modern-day slave trade still prevailing in some parts of the

country and promised to put a stop to the illegal activity.

The President revealed that many children have been kidnapped and trafficked into slavery in the ► 4

conflict-torn city and other parts of the country.

"Pero nag-warning ako kasi alam ko at nachì-check na namin ng mga social workers 'yan. Marami kasing bata sa Pilipinas, kini-kidnap [I am issuing a warning because I know and we checked with the social workers that many children in the Philippines are being kidnapped]," Duterte said during his visit to government troops in Marawi City last Monday.

"Ang problema niyang karamihan, dito ipinagbibili [The problem is many of them are sold here]. Slavery is prevalent here. It has to stop," he said.

Concerned about child trafficking, the President promised to pour the government's resources to bring the traffickers to justice after the troops have resolved the rebel siege in Marawi City.

"Pagkatapos niyang siege diyan sabihin ko talaga, prangkahan tayo, magkadugo man tayo I will not allow that [Once the siege is over, I will really say, let's be frank, I will not allow that

even it leads to bloodshed]," he said.

"B\*\*\*\*\* na magnakaw kayo ng bata tapos palakihin ninyong slave [It's b\*\*\*\*\*t to kidnap children and turn them into slaves]," he said.

The President said nobody could fool him about the slavery prevalent in the south since he is a Maranao, too. He noted that his cousins have also reported incidents of child trafficking in the area.

Duterte traveled to Marawi City last Monday under heavy security to boost the morale of troops battling remnants of the Maute terror group. It was his fourth trip to Marawi since the rebels attacked the city last May 23.

The commander-in-chief, armed with a weapon and clad in a camouflage uniform, went to the grand mosque retaken by the soldiers from the Maute terrorists, followed by stopovers to the Mapandi bridge and main battle area.

He also distributed grocery items, watches and cigarettes to the soldiers, and even offered free Hong Kong vacation to the female soldiers.

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The Manila Times

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## MILF task force vows to crush terrorist faction

**SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao:** Task Force Ittihad of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has vowed to crush the so-called Third Force of the terrorist group, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), which has rejected calls to return to the fold of Islam.

The MILF task force has been running after this third faction of the BIFF since August 2 after its failed attempts to hoist the flag of the Islamic State (IS) or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in three towns in Maguindanao.

Mohagher Iqbal, chairman of the implementing panel of the MILF, said their campaign against the bandit group is meant to prevent the spread of violent religious extremism in potential conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

Iqbal noted that the religious extremism being espoused by the group, led by Esmal Abdulmalik, is a turnaround from Islamic principles on tolerance, fraternalism and respect for people regardless of religions and races.

Abdulmalik, also known as Abu Toraife, was the former right-hand man of slain Malaysian bomb-maker Zulkifli bin Hir, who trained him on fabrication of powerful improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Sheik Abu Huraira Udasan, the grand mufti of the central Mindanao Darul Iftah (House of Opinions), earlier declared "haram," which means forbidden in Arabic, the activities of Abdulmalik's group.

Hostilities between the MILF's

Task Force Ittihad and the group of Abdulmalik started last month when his men killed using an IED five of some 20 MILF guerrillas sent to convince him to renounce his links to his IS-inspired benefactors in the Middle East.

Iqbal said the Darul Iftah ruling obliges the MILF, which has an ongoing peace process with the Philippine government to help neutralize Abdulmalik and his followers, who are now hiding in swampy areas in Maguindanao's adjoining Salibo, Datu Piang and Sharif Saidona towns.

Abdulmalik has reportedly been receiving money from his contacts in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Lebanon remitted to his group in small amounts to avoid suspicions through dozens of conduits who are overseas Filipino workers from central Mindanao.

The MILF already lost more than 10 members in hostilities with Abdulmalik's group in the past five weeks.

Reports reaching the Maguindanao provincial police office and the headquarters of the Army's 603rd Brigade and the 6th Infantry Division indicated that 27 followers of Abdulmalik have also been killed since the fighting began.

Iqbal is optimistic that the enactment into law of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law, crafted jointly by the government and the MILF, is one concrete step toward preventing the spread of religious extremism in southern Philippines.

JULMUNIR I. JANNARAL

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## Rody slams US aid, praises China's help in Marawi battle

By Ted Tuvera

Visiting war-torn Marawi City for the fourth time on the supposed last stages of the siege, President Duterte last Monday took swipe at American assistance for Philippine security forces, saying that the equipment they provide seem to be somewhat ineffective.

Talking to troops in the Islamic City, the fatigue-wearing Commander in Chief compared American-provided armaments to Chinese products, opining that the latter proves to be more worthy of appreciation.

Duterte lamented the quality of fighter jets purchased by the government from the Americans, adding that he is not bent on acquiring anymore from them.

"I will no longer buy second hand helicopters from the Americans because three two — the three — one of the two crashed," Duterte said.

"What's happening to these Americans? And we paid for that. So for me, everything has to be brand new. All the planes and helicopters will have to be brand new," he added.

But the President expressed his gratitude to the quality and quantity of armaments committed by China.

"China has been very good to

us, so I am grateful to them," Duterte said, urging the troops to applaud the Asian political and military giant.

"Let's thank them because everything that they gave us are of good quality, like the snipers."

The Commander in Chief even hinted that he might soon order warships and fighter planes from China.

He also pledged to provide the military and the police with all the equipment they need from guns to helicopters and medical equipment needed by wounded soldiers.

Meanwhile, boosting the troops' morale, Duterte promised to pamper soldiers and their families with all-expenses paid vacations abroad after the war.

"Once this is finished, Allah have mercy, you're all going to Hong Kong," he said.

"I will have a raffle, where many could win. If you're lucky, you can bring your spouse and children. You won't enjoy your vacation if your loved ones are left behind. So for those who win, bring your spouse and children, with matching allowance," he added.

"For the women, I'll set up a lottery for you, and it will have plenty, around P100,000. For every group, P100,000 can be won."

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## Marawi gets \$3-m China donation

By Julito G. Rada

THE Chinese government will soon turn over a donation of about \$3 million to the Philippine government for the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in war-torn Marawi City in Mindanao, the Finance Department said Tuesday.

China earlier sent \$1 million in cash for Surigao's earthquake victims.

The department said the \$3-million donation would be in the form of heavy equipment to help Marawi's reconstruction efforts.

Philippine officials met at the weekend with a visiting Chinese delegation led by China's Commerce Minister Zhong Shan.

They met to review the progress of their respective governments in the first batch of infrastructure projects planned for the war-torn city and to discuss the second batch of projects that the Philippines plans to implement also in cooperation with China.

The members of the Philippine delegation were Secretaries Carlos Dominguez III of the Department of Finance; Ernesto Pernia of the National Economic and Development Authority; Mark Villar of the Department of Public Works and Highways; Benjamin Diokno of the Department of Budget and Management; and Arthur Tugade of the Department of Transportation; and Vivencio Dizon, president of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

Zhong said China would like to support the Philippines in its post-conflict reconstruction of Marawi City. Dominguez expressed the Philippines' appreciation to China for being the first country to offer its assistance for Marawi and Surigao. China will be sending excavators, bulldozers and other heavy equipment to Mindanao to help the Philippine government's reconstruction efforts in Marawi.

Dominguez and Zhong also acknowledged the efforts of the two sides to streamline government processes to speed up the preparations for, and implementation of, the first "basket" of infra projects presented for Chinese financing.



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Mauna  
**Standard**

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# Troops kill 5 Maute holdouts

By Francisco Tuyay

**F**IVE local Maute terrorists were killed in fresh fighting with security forces who continue to press on in a bid to retake enemy positions and decimate the remaining terrorists holed out in a number of structures inside the main battle zone in Marawi City.

The killing of the five terrorists came after government troops recaptured two enemy held buildings previously occupied by the terrorists.

The military said the Maute group could still be holding up to 100 civilian hostages.

The firefight, however, resulted in the death of Army Captain

Rommel Sandoval, Company Commander of the 11th Scout Ranger Company.

Marine Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP's Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief, said that Sandoval was killed while trying to rescue one of his wounded men.

Arevalo said the five bandits succumbed to the overwhelming fire-

power from the 62nd Marine Company's Special Operations Group (SOG) which went deep into enemy lines early dawn on Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Commander of the Western Command, said that two terrorists were initially killed in the 30-minute firefight with the Marines who also recovered several high-powered firearms and a pair of night vision goggles.

As Marine troopers advanced, terrorists retreating from the scene of firefight were spotted carrying three dead bodies also believed killed in the firefight.

This brought to 600 the number of terrorists killed and 682 firearms seized in the continuing military operations to quell

the Marawi rebellion.

The latest Maute fatalities in the conflict-zone came at the heels of the recent two-and-half hour visit of AFP Chief of Staff, Gen. Eduardo Ano accompanying President Duterte in the main battle area for the fourth time.

Arevalo said Gen. Ano then flew to Camp Siongco in Awang, Maguindanao the other day to visit army troops of the 6th Infantry "Kampilan" Division and at the same time evaluate the military gains in Marawi City after three months of fighting.

"You have your units deployed in Marawi that contributes to the overall accomplishments of Task Force Marawi.

But more than that, your vigilant implementation of your Operation Plans 'Total Defense' and 'Iron Shield' has thus far effectively prevented the spill-over of terrorists to Cotabato City and other significant locations in your Area Of Responsibility (AOR)," Arevalo said.

In his talk to the key Division staff officers, Brigade, and Battalion Commanders in attendance, he stressed his aspiration of addressing insurgency and terrorism, and other security threats simultaneously. After the focus of men and materiel in Marawi, he vowed to turn to the New People's Army, the Abu Sayyaf, and other supporters and sympathizers.

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Suspected Abu Sayyaf member charged

A SUSPECTED member of the Abu Sayyaf group arrested by security forces in Sulu last week for transporting improvised explosive devices and bomb components was charged with rebellion and illegal possession of explosives before the Department of Justice late Monday.

Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Clarisa Kuong said Milham Saham underwent inquest proceeding on the complaints filed by the

Armed Forces' Western Mindanao Command.

Kuong said Saham was assisted by lawyers from the Public Attorneys' Office during the inquest as he asked that he be given the chance to answer the accusations during preliminary investigation of the case.

An inquest is done when a suspect is apprehended without the benefit of a court-issued warrant.

Kuong set the start of the preliminary investigation on September

15, when Saham is also expected to submit a counter-affidavit.

The complaint identified Saham as a ASG member who was nabbed by soldiers from the Army's 45th Infantry Battalion at a checkpoint in Barangay Buhanginan, Patikul town last September 7.

The checkpoint was set up by the Army after receiving intelligence reports on the reported movements of Abu Sayyaf members in the area. – *Ashzel Hachero*

September 2017



Page. 2

# Smoking kills Duterte warns soldiers

By GENALYN KABILING

He won't stop government troops from smoking but President Duterte has reminded them about the harmful effects of the nasty habit.

In his fourth visit to the Marawi battle zone, the President acknowledged that soldiers have turned to tobacco use to relieve stress but cautioned that smoking increases the risk to cancer and lung ailments.

Duterte made the remarks even as he brought packs of cigarettes for distribution to troops fighting terrorists in Marawi.

"Meron akong dalang ano ha, may dala akong sigarilyo kasi alam ko rin naninigarilyo kayo. I will not stop you from smoking pero may iwanan akong salita sa inyo, just think about it," the commander-in-chief told the troops gathered at the Marawi command post.

"Pagka naninigarilyo ka, automatic ang cancer. Yan talaga ang makuha mong sakit and it weakens the lungs, so pagkasundalo ka and then diyan ka sa – mobile ka, eh mas lalo kang humina, lalo na 'pag matanda ka na," he added.

The President said in jest that soldiers could quit smoking when they are already sick.

"I will not stop you now kasi under stress kayo [because you are under stress] so maybe you can stop it siguro kung mga fourth stage na. Balewala na rin," he said, drawing laughter from the soldiers.

Duterte was a heavy smoker but quit after being diagnosed with Buerger's disease, which causes blockages in the blood vessels.

He told the soldiers to watch out for symptoms of Buerger's disease, including having pain in hands or feet. "Nicotine is a vasoconstrictor," he said, referring to nicotine's impact on the narrowing of the blood vessels.

Duterte explained that public health was the main consideration behind the government's smoking ban imposed in the country.

"Kaya ko binawalan ang sigarilyo ang lahat, it's for a reason, to protect the health of the Filipino," he said.

He was referring to an executive order that banned smoking in public across the country. The smoking ban carries a maximum penalty of four months in jail and fine of ₱5,000.

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## Suspected ASG man charged with rebellion

A suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) arrested by government forces in Sulu last week has been charged with rebellion and illegal possession of explosives before the Department of Justice (DoJ).

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) filed the complaint against suspected ASG member Milham Saham, 24.

Saham was subjected to inquest

proceedings on Monday before Senior Assistant State Prosecutor Clarisa Kuong for rebellion and illegal possession of explosive and firearms.

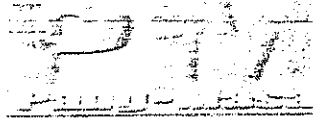
Public Attorney's Office (PAO) lawyer Jonalyn Barquez, who represented Saham, told the prosecutor that the suspect wanted a waiver of detention and undergo a preliminary investigation to charges. Because of this, Kuong set the start of the preliminary

investigation on September 15.

Saham was arrested last September 6 at a military checkpoint in Barangay Buhanginan in Patikul, Sulu.

Members of the 45th Infantry Battalion checkpoint found in his possession improvised explosive devices (IED), ammunition nitrate fuel with detonating cord, electrical wires, electrical tapes, and a circuit assembly. **(Jeffrey G. Damicog)**

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Pahina. 2

### **Sa ika-apat na pagkakataon.. DU30 dinalaw ang mga sundalo sa Marawi**

Sa ikaapat ay muling dinalaw ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga sundalong nakikipaglaban sa Maute-ISIS group sa Marawi City kamakalawa ng hapon at nangako ito ng libreng Hong Kong trip sa sandaling matapos na ang krisis na likha ng terorista.

Ginawa ni Pangulong Duterte ang pahayag nitong Lunes sa kanyang ikaapat na beses na pagbisita sa mga tropa ng pamahalaan sa Marawi City.

Sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte, maaaring daanin sa pa-raffe ang libreng biyaha sa Hong Kong sa mga sundalo kasama ang kanilang pamilya, maliban pa sa P100,000 na papremyo lalo sa mga kababaihang sundalo.

Ayon kay Pangulong Duterte, gusto niyang makabawi sa mga sundalong patuloy na lumalaban sa mga terorista at bigyan sila ng magandang bakasyon.

Kasabay nito, nagdala rin ang pangulo ng mga sigarilyo para sa mga sundalo na alam daw niyang nai-stress ngayon sa giyera at kailangan ng pamparelaax.

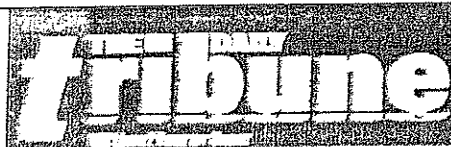
Pero nagbabala si Pangulong Duterte sa masamang epekto ng paninigarilyo sa kalusugan lalo kapag tumanda na sila.

Kaya bahala na daw ang mga sundalo kung gagamitin ang mga dala niyang sigarilyo sa kabila ng kanyang naging babala bilang dati ring naninigarilyo.

Muli namang ipinaabot ni Pangulong Duterte ang kanyang saludo at pasasalamat sa mga sundalong lumalaban sa gulo sa Marawi City.

Una rito, dinalaw ni Pangulong Duterte ang burol ni Army Scout Ranger Capt. Rommel Sandoval na kabilang sa pinakabagong nasawi sa giyera laban sa mga terorista. *-Rudy Andal-*

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# Marawi conflict in a bigger picture

**R**ody at the start of Marawi City crisis expressed his surprise at the endurance of the pro-Islamic State militants led by the Maute group while noting that the seemingly endless supply of ammunition and other logistics supplied the insurgents indicate a massive flow of money.

A think tank, Global Research, gave an intriguing answer to that question from Rody and other Filipinos who have wondered how the Maute group or even the global terror IS network can fund a seemingly endless war against state forces in Marawi City.

The think tank's report also associated the sudden emboldening of the Rohingyas in Myanmar to attack the police to the ongoing terrorism in Marawi City.

"It would appear that terrorism has spread into Southeast Asia with no signs of waning," it said.

It noted that the sudden wave of violence in the region comes at a time when America's so-called "pivot to Asia" has ground to a complete halt.

It stated that the surge in terrorist attacks in the region provided the United States with an "all-too-convenient pretext to reengage and establish itself across the region in a much more insidious manner."

The earlier pretext for the American pivot to Asia was the growing Chinese military might that it said poses a threat to the region.

Under the Trump administration, which is focused on the domestic concerns of the US, China is assuming a leadership role and with it clout in the region which makes it harder for the US to sell its made up need to contain the Asian powerhouse.

"The US has openly conspired to establish and expand a permanent military presence in Southeast Asia as a means to confront, encircle, and contain China for decades," according to the report.

It noted that as early as the Vietnam War, with the so-called "Pentagon Papers" released in 1969, it was revealed that the Vietnam conflict was simply one part of a greater strategy aimed at containing and controlling China.

It added that in the Philippines, attempts by the US to reestablish its "military presence and use the nation in its self-serving, elective conflict with Beijing has suffered many setbacks."

"Most recently Washington found its relationship with Manila unraveling irrevocably in favor of Manila's increasing ties with Beijing. This was until the fortuitous arrival of militants from the so-called "Islamic State" on the nation's shores, overwhelming an entire city in the nation's southern region," the report added.

It compared the situation in Myanmar, where "terrorists" have likewise suddenly appeared and are operating on unprecedented levels just in time for another push by the United States to establish a permanent military presence in the country to provide "technical assistance on counter-terrorism."

The report said such terrorists have not simply sprung from oblivion. "Such organizations conducting operations on the scale seen in the Philippines, southern Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Myanmar require immense sums of money, organizational capacity, logistical, and political support," it added.

"Not only does such support exist, it flows from a very logical and familiar source of state-sponsored terrorism, America's oldest and closest ally in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia," it added.

The foreign-baked terrorism sponsored by Saudi Arabia and literally directed from within its own borders all-too-conveniently creates a pretext for US military presence in Myanmar if otherwise could not justify or in any shape, form, or way pursue, the report said.

"A similar superhighway of cash and weapons flows from terrorists operating in the Philippines to Riyadh and its partners in Washington, resulting in a similar opportunity for the US to establish a permanent military presence there in reaction to a crisis of its own intentional engineering," it added.

The bigger picture, according to the report, is that the American government is setting the state for a confrontation with China to reestablish its dominance in the region.

The report said the increasingly rampant terrorism across Southeast Asia a result of intentional Washington policy and is being used as a pretext for setting the stage of a greater and potentially more devastating regional conflict with China.

The supposed terrorism crisis in Marawi City could be a US panic reaction to Rody's trysts with China.

## ONLINE NEWS

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

#### **5 Maute fighters 'killed' in firefight after Duterte visit – military**

From Rappler (Sep 12): **5 Maute fighters 'killed' in firefight after Duterte visit – military**

*Two high-powered firearms and a pair of night vision goggles are recovered from the enemies*  
**The military said 5 Maute fighters were killed in a heavy firefight here after midnight on Tuesday, September 12,** just hours after President Rodrigo Duterte visited for a 4th time this war-torn city.

**Two high-powered firearms and a pair of night vision goggles were also recovered from the enemies.**

**"The heavy firefight which ensued about 30 minutes yielded 5 'confirmed' killed on the enemy side with 4 enemy body counts. Two of the bodies were retrieved by the government forces while the other two were left on the site because of dangerous circumstances."** Colonel Romeo Brawner, Task Group Ranao deputy commander, said in a press briefing on Tuesday.

Though there were only 4 enemy body counts physically accounted for, the government used the term "confirmed kills" as verified by military snipers.

Brawner also added: "There were no casualties on the government side."

**The firefight involved troops of the Marines Special Operations Group (Marsog) under Task Group Tiger.**

The military said the morale of the troops in Marawi was boosted by the visit of Duterte on Tuesday.

"According to the commander of the JTF Marawi, Brigadier General Rolly Bautista, the troops' fighting spirit was further boosted because of the recent strong motivation and encouragement of the commander in chief," said Brawner.

"The President's recent presence in the main battle area has left a mark in our troops in their strong desire to end the crisis in Marawi," he added.

Lieutenant Colonel Jo-ar Herrera compared Duterte's visit to a father visiting his children to encourage them before a big challenge. The country's top security and defense officials also joined Duterte inside the battle area on Monday.

Herrera said the recovery of the high-powered firearms has a "strategic importance" as the military's assault intensifies.



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Herrera said the firearms will also be subjected to inquiry to determine where they came from and how the enemies got a hold of them.

The military said the battle area is about 20 hectares. The military said it has penetrated a major defensive position of the local terrorist groups after taking 23 buildings on Sunday including one that was at least 5 stories high.

The military has also been trying to convince the enemies to surrender or let the women and children out of the battle area.

"We are convincing them through our loudspeakers to allow women and children out of the main battle area. That is one of the efforts we are doing. If fighters do not want to surrender, we are telling them to allow the women and children to escape or to get out of the main battle area," said Brawner.

Brawner said there have been surrender feelers. He did not elaborate.

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www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

## **Philippines says some rebels ready to surrender as troops advance in Marawi**

From Reuters (Sep 11): **Philippines says some rebels ready to surrender as troops advance in Marawi**

Some Islamic State-linked militants besieging the southern Philippines city of Marawi have sent "feelers" they are prepared to surrender after three and a half months of fighting, the military said on Monday.

Philippine forces have used loudspeakers urging militants to give themselves up, telling the estimated 50 to 60 fighters left in the city their lives would be spared if they disarm, change out of their black clothes and walk to a designated location.

"Hopefully, we will have surrenders within the next days." spokesman Colonel Romeo Brawner told a news conference.

"There are feelers. Definitely, there are feelers," he added, declining to elaborate.

The surrender offer came after a renewed, if short-lived, effort by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to start back-channel talks with militants, with a former Marawi mayor Omar Solitario Ali to have acted as an intermediary.

Duterte on Saturday ruled out the possibility of allowing rebels to flee in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages.

Two troops were killed at the weekend, taking to 147 the number of security forces killed in the Marawi conflict. Some 655 militants and 45 civilians have been killed, according to the army.

Troops were engaged in running battles with the militant alliance, led by Abdullah and Omarkhayam Maute of the Maute group, and Isnilon Hapilon, a factional head of the Abu Sayyaf group, and Islamic State's so-called "emir" in Southeast Asia.

More than 20 structures were captured, many laden with booby traps. Some were commercial high-rise buildings that have been used as sniper positions to thwart government forces.

Brawner described the operations as "a big accomplishment considering the enemy established very strong defensive positions".

While some areas of Marawi are seeing citizens return and shops and schools re-open, most of the city remains deserted. Its center is a wasteland, pummeled by daily air strikes and ground battles.

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The resistance of the militants has frustrated the more than 400,000 residents displaced from the area and raised questions about how relatively few Islamists took control of the lakeside town and held significant parts of it.

Slideshow (6 Images)

"We are receiving a lot of questions: why is it taking too long for the government to recover this area?" said Brawner.

"It is really difficult to do urban fighting."

The United States has been giving technical and logistics support to the Philippine military and on Monday announced it had deployed a Gray Eagle unmanned surveillance aircraft over Marawi.

Australia has also provided two P3-Orion surveillance planes and last week announced it would send more defense personnel to train Philippine troops.

For a graphic on how main Islamic militant groups in Mindanao evolved, click: [here](#)

For a graphic on Islamic militant strongholds in Mindanao, click: [here](#)

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants/philippines-says-some-rebels-ready-to-surrender-as-troops-advance-in-marawi-idUSKCN1BM0XO>

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## EARLY DAWN ASSAULT | JTF Marawi score anew vs Maute

Reported by [Alvin Santiago](#) on September 12, 2017 at 11:00 AM



### Headlines **MARAWI CITY, Lanao del Sur (DWDD)**

At early dawn today, September 12, 2017, around 1:19am, government troops from the Marines Special Operations Group under Joint Task Group Tiger engaged the Daesh-inspired Maute/Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the main battle area of Marawi City.

The heavy firefight, which lasted for 30 minutes, yielded five (5) confirmed killed on the enemy side with 4 enemy body counts. Two bodies were retrieved while the other two were left on the site because of dangerous circumstances. There was no casualty on the government side.

The recovered firearms from the enemy include 2 high-powered firearms and a Night Vision Goggle (NVG). *"The troops' fighting spirit is further boosted because of the recent strong motivation and encouragement of the Commander-in-Chief. The President's recent presence in the main battle area has left a mark in our troops in their strong desire to end the crisis in Marawi,"* Joint Task Force Marawi Commander Brigadier General Rolly Bautista said.

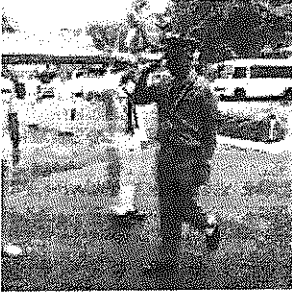
Major General Danilo Pamonag, Commander of Joint Special Operations Task Force Trident said: *"The seamless integration of troops' interoperability with their heightened morale in fighting the enemy has resulted to the quick and deliberate assault of enemy positions. This accomplishment shows that the enemy's hold in Marawi City is decreasing day-by-day. It is only a matter of time that the crisis will end."* **JTF MARAWI/MCAG**

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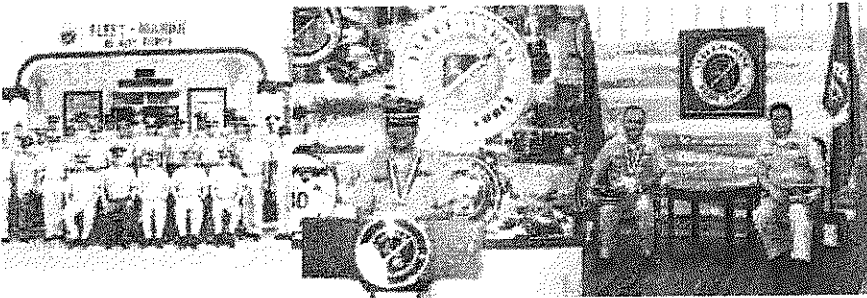
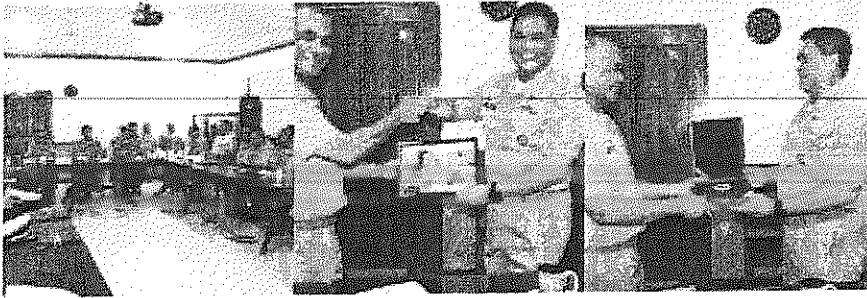
## **SIDEBOYS HONOR | Commander Naval Installation Command visits FMRF**

Report by Alvin Santiago on September 12, 2017 at 11:00 AM



**SANGLEY POINT, Cavite City (DWDD)** – The newly installed Commander, Naval Installation Command, Navy Captain Noel M De Vera PN(MNSA) along with his Key Staff visited Fleet-Marine Ready Force on September 8, 2017.

As part of Navy's Custom and Tradition, a Sideboys honors was rendered to Commander, NIC. Consequently, a Staff to staff talk was conducted with Commander, Fleet-Marine Ready Force Commodore Albert A Mogol AFP to discuss matters of common interest for both Commands to include matters related to security, safety and support operations. **NPAO/MCAG**



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## UPDATE | Stranded Bus Passenger in Pitogo rescued

Reported by [Alvin Santiago](#) | [View the original article on DWDD.com.ph](#)



### GUMACA, Quezon Province (DWDD)

Authorities were able to rescue twenty-two (22) bus passengers initially reported trapped in rising flood waters in Baranggay Biga, Pitogo, Quezon Province.

According to MGen Rhoderick Parayno, Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, joint elements of the Philippine National Police-Pitogo, 85<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, and personnel from the Pitogo Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (MDRRMC) rescued the passengers of DLTB Bus with plate number UYB 365 who were all forced to climb the roof of the vehicle.

Meanwhile, electric services in the area remains cut-off while the Maharlika Highway in Calauag, Quezon is still impassable to all vehicles. Clearing operations is still on-going. **AES / ALS**