

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



TEAM ARMY
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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

28 September 2017

Thursday

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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www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEW

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST - SEPTEMBER 28, 2017 THURSDAY

INTERTROPICAL CONVERGENCE ZONE AFFECTING SOUTHERN MINDANAO (As of 4:00 PM - September 27, 2017)

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

SUNRISE	SUNSET
5:45 AM	5:48 PM
MOONRISE	MOONSET
12:14 AM	11:53 PM
NEW MOON <small>SEP 28 1:30 PM</small>	FIRST QUARTER <small>SEP 25 12:54 AM</small>
LOW TIDE <small>11:13 AM</small>	HIGH TIDE <small>2:15 AM</small>
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR <small>0.22 Meter 0.96 Meter</small>	

Partly cloudy in at times cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms.

CITY	TEMP. (C)	TEMP. (F)	TEMP. (C)	TEMP. (F)	CITY	TEMP. (C)	TEMP. (F)
METRO MANILA	25 - 33 °C	77 - 91 °F	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F	TAGAYTAY	20 - 28 °C	68 - 82 °F
TUGUEGARAO	25 - 34 °C	77 - 93 °F	25 - 33 °C	77 - 91 °F	LEGAZPI	25 - 33 °C	77 - 91 °F
LADAG	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F	PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	77 - 88 °F
BAGUIO	17 - 24 °C	63 - 75 °F	17 - 22 °C	63 - 72 °F	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F
SBMA/CLARK	25 - 33 °C	77 - 91 °F	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F	METRO CEBU	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F
					TACLOBAN	25 - 32 °C	77 - 90 °F
					CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 32 °C	73 - 90 °F
					METRO DAVAO	25 - 33 °C	77 - 91 °F
					ZAMBOANGA	24 - 32 °C	75 - 90 °F

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

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

SAGOT KO, PAGALA MO!

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THE
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

PH seeks US help vs drugs

China unaware of Chinese drug syndicates operating in Manila

By ROY C. MABASA, DENALYN D. KABILING, and REUTERS

President Duterte has urged the United States to help control drugs smuggling, blaming Taiwan and Hong Kong-based criminal gangs for using the Philippines as a transshipment point.

The President, in a speech at the anniversary rites of the Department of Justice last Tuesday, claimed that the

Taiwan-based Bamboo Triad and the Hong Kong-based 14K Triad were running the drug trade in Southeast Asia.

Faced with this threat, Duterte pushed for closer cooperation between the Philippines and the United States to combat the organized crime syndicates behind drug trafficking. ▶6

PH seeks US help vs drugs ◀1

Washington has said it supports the Philippines' anti-drug efforts but has also urged Manila to respect human rights and the rule of law in its operations.

"We are in trouble and this is the first time that I would reveal it because we're talking about the Constitution and the interest of the country and, of course, the Bill of Rights and due process," the President said during the 56th anniversary of the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) at the Manila Hotel.

"The Philippines today is a client state of the Bamboo Triad. They have taken over the operations, sad to say, Chinese but I do not mean the country and the people. (In a) sense that they are, most of them are really into this kind of business," he said.

"Itong drugs ngayon, it's been operated by the 14K, Bamboo Triad. They have taken over. They are cooking the shabu on the high seas. Tapos itatapon. Nakita mo sa Region 1, mga bins na empty na may Chinese character. It's actually from Taiwan at lahat na," Duterte said.

He claimed those cooking illegal drugs were given a "franchise in distribution."

China backs PH drug war

The Chinese government said it is unaware of any Chinese drug rings such as the Bamboo Triad currently operating in the Philippines.

Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua stressed this Tuesday night after President Duterte bared that the "Bamboo" and the "14K" triads

have taken over local drug operations, turning the Philippines as a transshipment point of the illegal substance to the United States.

Still, Ambassador Zhao gave his assurance that China will not protect their nationals who will be caught committing crimes in the Philippines.

"We do not know much (about) the syndicates or the drug rings that are operating in the Philippines," Zhao told reporters in an interview at the sidelines of the reception celebrating the 68th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC) held in Makati City. "China will not protect its nationals who have committed crimes in the Philippines. They need to be punished in accordance with the Filipino law."

Zhao said that while China is not aware of any Chinese drug rings operating in the country, Beijing fully supports Duterte's earlier remarks that "there are really some bad Chinese who are doing illegal drugs."

He assured the Philippines that China will continue to support its campaign against illegal drugs.

"Both China and the Philippines and the international community are faced with this drug problem. Illicit drugs and drug-related criminal acts are our common enemies. We need to work together to fight against it," the Chinese envoy said.

'Not from Taiwan'

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in the Philippines, meanwhile, said Taiwan has never been the source of illegal drugs enter-

ing the Philippines.

Dr. Gary Song-Huann Lin, Taiwan's representative to the Philippines, said Taiwan fully supports the Philippines government's combat against transnational drug syndicates.

Dr. Lin stressed that both countries have been working together for years to fight illegal drugs and Taiwan will continue to join hands with the relevant Philippine authorities to enhance cooperation in order to eliminate transnational drug trafficking.

He noted that Taiwan and the Philippines have established cooperation mechanisms and systems for the two countries to fight drug trafficking.

No need for martial law

As this developed, President Duterte said that there is no need for him to declare martial law to advance his all-out war against illegal drugs.

Duterte gave this assurance as he reiterated his vow to solve the country's illegal drug problem within his six-year term even if it means putting his life at stake.

Duterte, in his speech at the Philconsa anniversary celebration, said all he has to do is enforce the law.

"No need for a martial law in this game of drugs. Pero basta kapag nahuli kita isang tonelada [ng droga], ah p***** i** 'wag mo akong [subukan] (But if I catch you with a ton of illegal drugs - don't even try me)," Duterte said Tuesday night.

"All I [will] do is that I will enforce the law. If I have enemies numbering 1,000, then I will prepare my police and army for 1,000," he added.

"I've told you before in my presidency, I'm staking my honor, my life

and the Presidency itself, period. Wala nang istorya tayo diyan (There's nothing else more to that, anymore)," he continued.

The President also reiterated that drug personalities should not even attempt to destroy the country and its youth or face the consequences.

"Either we follow the civilized way or we follow the brutalized methods of - just do not destroy my country. Do not destroy our young people because they are our valued assets," Duterte said.

No data fabrication

Meanwhile, Duterte said that the government is not inventing the number of casualties in the administration's drug war to deceive the public.

The President said this to address his local and international critics' claims that he has been ordering the authorities to kill criminals.

"Now, there are some countries which are insulting us to open our records to them, everything. Who are you to do that to my country?" Duterte said.

"If you don't believe our records, then go out and find something else to do. We do not fabricate," he added.

Duterte challenged his critics to prove their claims as he cited data that more than 200 police and soldiers were killed in action during the over 70,000 anti-illegal drugs operations nationwide.

"And you say that we are killing our own countrymen? For what reason? You enjoy slaughtering your own countrymen?" Duterte said.

"Find me one, even one officer or a patrolman, find me one that would say that I ordered them to execute criminals and you will have my resignation

tomorrow. I'm only asking for one -patrolman or a police officer," he added.

Gov't not remiss

Malacañang insisted that the government has not been remiss in investigating killings associated with the war on illegal drugs.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) are prepared to respond to a petition filed before the Supreme Court seeking to resolve the drug-related deaths.

"Concerned agencies, such as the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police, welcome the petition and would respond to the petition filed at the Supreme Court," Abella said.

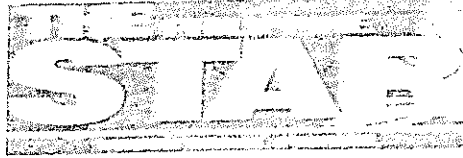
He said authorities follow "protocols and procedures" during police operations and conduct investigations in the event of drug-related killings.

"Drug-related killings form part of cases under investigation by the police, alongside murder and homicide cases," he said.

He also assured that the public is given access to the results of the investigation. Some details however are only released when such information would not compromise the investigation and follow-up operations. Abella said.

A group of lawyers recently called on the Supreme Court to direct the PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, and Commission on Human Rights Chairman Chito Gascon to investigate the cases of alleged summary killings associated with the President's anti-drug campaign. (With a report from Argyll Cyrus B. Geducos)

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AFP bracing for NPA attacks in Negros

By GILBERT BAYORAN

BACOLOD CITY – The military in Negros Occidental is ready to thwart attacks by New People's Army guerrillas on sugar mills and other establishments that reject the NPA's extortion demands.

The Army's 62nd Infantry Battalion has received reports that the NPA is also planning to attack police stations and other vital installations in the province, Lt. Col. Darrell Bañez, 62nd IB commander said yesterday.

Army troopers have been working with the local police to intensify their combat capabilities and operations, and prevent attacks by the NPA.

Meanwhile, the 303rd Infantry Brigade reiterated its invitation for the rebels to return to the fold of the law and avail themselves of the cash and livelihood assistance being offered by the

government.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) is offering P15,000 and P50,000 in financial and livelihood assistance, respectively, to rebels who will surrender.

The provincial government of Negros Occidental will also give at least P300,000 for every firearm surrendered by the rebels, according to Capt. Lance Medina, acting civil military operations officer of the 303rd IB.

Rebels who surrender without firearms may receive P165,000 in cash and livelihood assistance.

The OPAPP said it would also give P50,000 to surrenderees who will yield their firearms.

Residents of Negros have pledged to give P100,000 to troopers who can effect the surrender, capture or kill in a gun battle an NPA rebel, according to Maj. Gen. Jon Aying, 3rd Infantry Division commander.

The NPA earlier denounced the military's bounty hunting in Negros, saying it will worsen cases of human rights violations.

1 nabbed, 9 surrender

In Quezon, an alleged former NPA leader in Southern Tagalog was arrested by a joint team of the police and military on Tuesday night.

Rolando Carandang, alias Ka Michael, was collared

in his hideout in Barangay Talisan, San Andres at around 11:30 p.m., according to Senior Superintendent Rhoderick Armamento, Quezon police director.

Carandang, who had been hiding for three years, was tagged in several killings in the region.

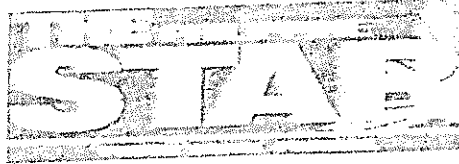
Meanwhile, in Maguindanao, nine NPA guerrillas including an alleged bomb expert have surrendered to the military in Senator Ninoy Aquino town.

The surrenderees belong to the Guerrilla Front 73 of the NPA, according to Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, chief of the 33rd IB.

The Army said the rebels yielded six improvised explosive devices and medical equipment. – With Michael Punongbayan, Ed Amoroso, Roel Pareño, Artemio Dumlao

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Army captures NPA camp near Batangas City

By JAIME LAUDE

Government troops captured a suspected training camp of communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels near Batangas city following last Sunday's fighting that left one insurgent dead and scores wounded.

Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Parayno, commander of the Army's 2nd Infantry Brigade, said troops are pursuing the NPA rebels that occupied the camp.

Parayno said the security situation in Barangay Talumpok and the villages nearby where the camp is located has normalized since Tuesday.

At the height of the fighting that resulted in the evacuation of residents and the disruption of classes, the military deployed a helicopter to provide close air support to the troops.

Parayno said all the rockets fired by the helicopter hit their targets, contrary to claims that

some of them hit residential houses.

"There's no truth to that. It's all propoganda by the left," he said.

Col. Arnulfo Burgos, commander of the Army's 202nd Brigade, said military and police checkpoints as well as seaborne patrols by the Philippine Coast Guard are now pursuing the NPA rebels.

Government troops encountered more than 30 NPA rebels in Barangay Talumpok on Sunday, with the fighting lasting until Monday.

Troops were initially dispatched to the area to validate reports of heavily armed men in the area.

The military identified the slain rebel as John Ryan Makatigbak.

Aside from one body, the troops seized two M16 assault rifles, a bandolier, printer, 26 kilos of rice, portable generator, a red bag containing three

magazines for M16s and 10 pieces ammunition for M203 grenade launcher at the site.

"The training camp has a stock room, training ground, mess hall, 12 tents and subversive documents," Burgos said.

He said the camp had more than 30 NPA recruits as well as their trainers led by a certain Mario Macaraeg, alias Ka Jethro.

The military said Macaraeg is the NPA's Secretary of Guerrilla Front Honda of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee.

Burgos belied reports by cause-oriented groups that soldiers have been harassing civilians in the area.

"That's not true. Our troops are in the area to protect the civilians from these lawless elements and not to harm them," he said.

- With Elizabeth Marcelo

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NPA says 2 Reds arrested by gov't forces not their own

By **MIKE U. CRISMUNDO**

BUTUAN CITY – The New People's Army (NPA), on Tuesday, clarified that two alleged ranking leaders of the rebel group, who were arrested by the military and police in Claver, Surigao Del Norte on Friday last week, were not their comrades.

A certain "Ka Oto," who claims to be the spokesperson of the guerrilla-Front Committee 16 of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee, said Benjamin Catong, or "Ka Kulata," and his wife Melody were no longer in their roster.

The couple was arrested by elements of the Claver Municipal Police Station (MPS) and the regional police headquarters, together with personnel of the 30th Infantry Battalion (30th IB) last Friday in Barangay Ladgaron, Claver town.

The spokesperson claimed both Benjamin and Melody slipped under the radar in 2013, and had since lived a normal life as "ordinary farmers."

The two were suspected by the military and police as political officers of Front Committee 16 operating in Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Norte provinces.

However, the military on Wednesday maintained that the suspects were, indeed, members of the NPA.

The suspects were nabbed at their residence in Ladgaron area on the strength of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Dan Calderon of Branch 32 Regional Trial Court, Surigao City for multiple attempted murder.

The raiding team confiscated a .9-mm revolver, and some ammunition from the suspects, military and police report said.

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2 Explosions rock Magindanao town, injure 3

Two explosions rocked a town in Maguindanao province on Wednesday resulting in the wounding of three people, including a policeman and a barangay official.

Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID), said the twin explosion happened near the junction of Barangay Upper Semba, Datu Odin Sinsuat.

The first explosion erupted at around 7:20 a.m., the second blast followed 20 minutes later.

As a result, PO2 Bobby

Pendililang, Datu Pendatun P. Sinsuat, who is the barangay chairman of Barangay Semba, and a soldier initially identified as Sgt. Cane, were wounded.

Encinas said that the three wounded responded to the first explosion.

The second blast happened just about five meters away from the scene of the first blast, wounding the three victims.

Encinas said the explosions could have been the handiwork of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), whose members

are being pursued in the different areas of Maguindanao under the ongoing operations against terrorists in Mindanao.

The local Army spokesman said the twin blasts could have been perpetrated by the BIFF as a "diversionary tactic" against the military operations.

Soldiers and even members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) were pursuing IS-aligned BIFF factions in several towns of Maguindanao following President Duterte's claims that terrorists were also seen regrouping in the province.

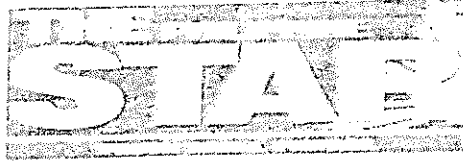
The BIFF factions aligned with the IS have recently attempted to hoist IS flags in at least seven areas in Maguindanao, but they were thwarted by soldiers and the MILF.

Police reports said that the three were subsequently brought to a military hospital for treatment.

"PO2 Pendililang was brought to Camp Siongco Hospital due to shrapnel wounds, while Brgy Chairman Sinsuat and SSGT Cane, who sustained minor wounds, are still under observation," the report said.

Mario J. Mallari

22 September 2017



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7 hurt in Basilan, Maguindanao blasts

Seven persons were injured in three separate explosions that occurred in the provinces of Basilan and Maguindanao in the past two days.

Four of the victims were injured in twin blasts that hit the municipality of Datu Sinsuat in Maguindanao yesterday morning.

The victims were responding to an explosion in Barangay Semba when another blast rang out five meters away from the site.

Injured were barangay chairman Pendatun Sinsuat councilman Sinaribo Lalaog, Army Sgt. Eddie Cane and Police Officer 2 Bobby Guilani Pendililang.

The blasts occurred within a 20-minute interval, according to Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman for the Army's 6th Infantry Division (ID).

No one was injured in the first explosion that occurred at around 7:30 a.m.

Two improvised explosive devices were planted along a road leading to a training school of the Army's 6th ID.

Pendililang suffered shrapnel injuries and was taken to an Army hospital at Camp Siongco in Barangay Awang.

The three others suffered minor injuries and were discharged after treatment.

Police are still investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, in Basilan, a businessman and two minors were injured in another explosion that occurred on the island-municipality of Hadji Mutammad on Tuesday.

Murabbi Appotoh Jalali, 35, and the minors were rushed to a hospital for treatment.

Police said Jalali was making dynamite in his store in Barangay Tausan while the minors were playing outside when the blast occurred at around 6 p.m. - John Unson, Jaime Laude, Roel Pareño

Army braces for rebel atrocities

From the Visayan Daily Star (Sep 27): Army braces for rebel atrocities

BRGY, DIAN-AY, Escalante City - The Philippine Army in northern Negros is bracing for more atrocities by the New People's Army on sugar mills and others who refuse to comply with their extortion demands, among their possible targets.

Lt. Col. Darrell Bañez, 62nd Infantry Battalion commander, yesterday said they also received reports on threats of the NPA to attack police stations, and other vital installations in northern Negros.

But Bañez said their combat operations, in coordination with the Philippine National Police public safety forces, are going on without let-up, to prevent whatever terroristic plans the NPA estimated to have 70 armed fighters may have in northern Negros.

The Philippine Army earlier condemned the latest atrocities committed by suspected NPA rebels, who recently attacked and inflicted damage on the biggest solar farm in Southeast Asia in Brgy. Tinampa-an, Cadiz City, Negros Occidental.

Police investigations showed that about 17 armed men armed with hand grenades and M203 grenade launchers fired at the solar power farm owned by the Helios Solar Energy Corp. in Barangay Tinampa-an, Cadiz City, for about four minutes.

Damaged were 90 imported solar power panels situated at the southern portion of the solar farm and a CCTV camera. But no one was hurt during the attack. The estimated damage has been placed at P3.1 million.

Bañez admitted that they, and even the security forces guarding the solar power farm, were surprised by the harassment, as they have not monitored any presence of armed men in the area, before the incident.

Their investigations showed, Bañez said, that the armed men came from other places and were shuttled into the area in vehicles.

"Extortion was the main motive of the harassment," Bañez, who led the multi-service peace caravan of the Provincial Peace Integration and Development Unit of Negros Occidental, with this barangay as the venue, said

Since 2015, the extortionists have been demanding a certain amount from the owner of the solar farm, who ignored them, he added.

The Philippine Army lauded the solar company for rejecting the NPA's demand, although its refusal led to the destruction of their solar farm panels.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Castil, provincial police director of Negros Occidental, who attended the activity,

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said they are maximizing patrols in the area, in coordination with the 621B, to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident.

<http://www.vivevandaliystar.com/2017/September/27/topstory4.htm>

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SNIPERS PICKING OFF FLEEING TERRORISTS

MAUTE SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES; MARAWI SIEGE WON'T LAST LONG—AFP

MARAWI CITY—Islamic State (IS) gunmen fleeing government forces had become easy targets for military snipers, which a ranking Army official said was the reason for an increase in the terrorists' casualty figure.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner, deputy commander of Joint Task Force Ranao, said 711 IS gunmen had already been killed since homegrown IS affiliates Maute Group and Abu Sayyaf tried to set up an IS province here about four months ago.

Armed targets

The terrorists' casualty figure was 680 just four days ago.

Brawner said in their haste to flee, the IS gunmen "cannot help but expose themselves to government sniper fire."

"That's the reason their fatality figure went up," said the colonel.

The numbers, though, were not body counts but reports of

military snipers hitting their targets. "They are visible from even afar," said Brawner of the fleeing IS gunmen. "Our snipers saw them and they were armed, that's why the only option remaining is for our snipers to neutralize them," he said.

Brawner said as the end of the fighting drew near—"10-15 days more"—the area controlled by the terrorists had grown smaller.

"The siege will not last long," said Brawner. "But our troops are trying their best to finish the siege earlier than that," he said.

While there were still up to 60 hostages in the main battle zone, Brawner said the military was certain those killed by Army snipers were not civilians fleeing the fighting.

The terrorists, said Brawner, had split into smaller groups and divided the hostages.

The additional casualties among the terrorists left only up

to 70 IS gunmen still alive, he said.

"Most of them are hiding inside foxholes so we cannot really see them all at the same time," Brawner said.

Government casualty

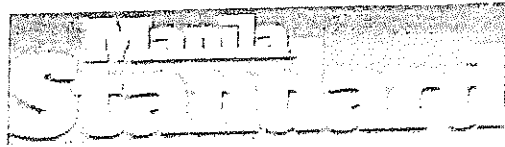
The government, he said, had lost 152 soldiers and policemen, including those killed in so-called friendly fire.

He said the military was limited to using ground troops in its final assault on the terrorists because "we cannot bombard" areas where hostages were still being kept.

The assault, Brawner added, had been slowed down by booby traps set up by the terrorists. "The enemy has laid a lot of bombs," he said.

Aside from laying siege to terrorist positions, soldiers had also been helping recover dead bodies in areas already cleared by the military, Brawner said. —JEFFREY MAITEM AND RICHEL UJEL INQ

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Defense chief sees Marawi crisis end, preps for rehab

By Maricel V. Cruz

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, martial law administrator in Mindanao, has said the military is eyeing to end the Marawi crisis by end of September.

Lorenzana said Wednesday they would conduct the "post conflict needs assessment" of the situation in the entire Mindanao beginning October and it would take them "a couple of weeks."

"After that, we will get

a good idea how much we need to rehabilitate Marawi, how long, and how much money we need to rehabilitate," Lorenzana told reporters at the sidelines of the DND briefing on the Marawi conflict with lawmakers.

Meanwhile, reports from Maguindanao said four local officials were injured after they were hit by two succeeding explosion at the outskirts of Datu Sinsuat town Wednesday morning. *Next page*

Defense...

From A1

The injured officials were identified as barangay chairman Datu Pendatun Sinsuat kagawad Smaribom Lalalog, Army Staff Sergeant Eddie Cane and PO2 Bobby Gulalani Pendililang.

The twin blasts occurred within a 20-minute interval at Upper Sema junction in Barangay Sembain Datu Sinsuat town, said Capt. Arvin Encinas, spokesman of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Awang, Maguindanao.

Encinas said the first explosion took place at about 7:30 a.m. but left no injuries. The second blast occurred at around 7:50 a.m. injuring the four officials.

Elsewhere in Mindanao, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has offered security to Christian groups who will extend assistance for internally displaced persons in the Marawi conflict, according to Marawi Bishop Edwin dela Peña.

The bishop said MILF chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim assured them of help in the Church's rehabilitation pro-

gram that focuses on healing and peace building efforts.

Dela Peña, together with Cotabato Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, talked with Murad in Rome for a meeting convened by the Community of Sant'Egidio, a global movement of lay people known for its work with the poor and refugees.

The dialogue was attended by other Muslim and Christian leaders as well as representatives of civil society from Mindanao.

"Murad gave us assurance that they will provide us security," Dela Peña said.

Lorenzana said they would get inputs from the people of Marawi and Lanao if martial law was still needed while rebuilding and rehabilitating the conflict-stricken areas.

"Now, if they say our area can do without martial law, we will also consider that. But, the final determination whether to continue martial law or not rests with the President," Lorenzana said.

He said the defense department would do the necessary recommendation in October on whether martial law in Mindanao would be lifted soon or extended. **With Francisco Tuyay and Vito Barcelo**

28 September 2017

The Manila Times

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'MARAWI WAR OVER IN 3 DAYS' - LORENZANA

DEFENSE Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Wednesday the war in Marawi City would be over in three days.

Military commanders in Marawi, the Cabinet official said, had estimated

that there were only 100 terrorists left in the battleground since the Islamic State-linked Maute group attacked the city on May 23.

►OverA8

■ OVER FROM A1

MARAWI WAR

The area covered by the terrorists is also down to a few hectares, he said.

"The area the terrorists are holding is shrinking, from 10 hectares a week ago to just about a couple of hectares now. Our ground commanders told us that they could finish the crisis by the end of the month. So we have three days to do the job. I am holding them responsible for fulfilling their promise," Lorenzana told reporters.

He admitted, however, that despite the dwindling number of Maute terrorists, there were still casualties on the side of the government.

"Yesterday we lost one soldier and had 15 wounded men. Our enemies are that dangerous. Even if they are having a hard time, they can still kill," Lorenzana said.

He said about 20 hostages held by the terrorists still have to be rescued.

Lifting of martial law uncertain

Despite the looming end of the Marawi crisis, Lorenzana said the lifting of martial law in Mindanao

remained uncertain because other terror groups were still active in other parts of the island.

"We have to finish the Marawi situation first and then we will assess the situation in the whole of Mindanao, especially in the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) area, if there are pockets of resistance from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Central Mindanao and the presence of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Jolo," Lorenzana said.

"We will be making the recommendation soon. Some time in October we will recommend, either the lifting or continuation [of martial law]," he added.

"I will consider the recommendation of the people in Marawi and in Lanao, which is if they want martial law to continue while rehabilitating their area... but the final determination whether to continue martial law or not rests with the President."

Earlier, Armed Forces Chief Eduardo Año said he expected to finish the Marawi war before his retirement on October 26. **RALPH VILLANUEVA**

20 September 2017

The Manila Times

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Islamic State threat cools outsourcing boom in PH

PROLONGED fighting by Filipino militants supporting the Islamic State group has put the brakes on the Philippines' \$10 billion outsourcing industry, one of its key growth drivers, industry leaders said Wednesday.

More than 900 people have been killed in the city of Marawi, where pro-IS militants have defied a months-long US-backed military campaign to flush them out, while the southern third of the country has been placed under martial law to contain the violence. Although the lucrative outsourcing industry is largely based in the northern and central regions, the bloody conflict has unnerved many potential investors, said officials of the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP).

"In the early part of the year, we had a lot of 'wait-and-see' attitude for the most part," said IBPAP president Rey Untal.

Approved investments in the information technology services sector, which includes the outsourcing industry, fell 31.3 percent from a year earlier in the three months to June, government data show.

"There is an element of [wait and see] still," Untal told report-

ers, though there were now signs that new players were coming in.

The outsourcing industry includes call centers and offices that carry out such functions for overseas companies like accounting, medical and legal transcription, software design, animation and even architecture.

It has become a major pillar of growth of the Philippine economy, bringing in \$23 billion in revenues last year and employing 1.15 million people according to industry officials.

When the Marawi violence broke out in May, the industry was bracing for the fallout of the protectionist threats issued by US President Donald Trump, who has vowed to bring back jobs outsourced abroad, Untal said.

"Then suddenly we had to deal with that (Marawi) also. In every conversation I had, that figured in," said Untal.

Industry leaders had to assure investors that work would continue with "business as usual," despite the fighting, he said.

Industry leaders also obtained government assurances that its employees would be exempt from martial law curfews in the south, IBPAP vice chairwoman Cathy Iletto said. **AFP**

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28 September 2017



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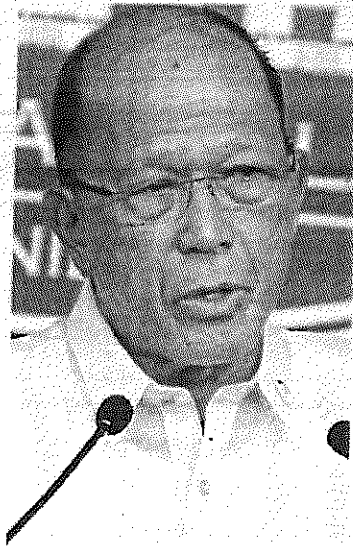
Digong ribs Delfin: 'You're CIA'

By Philip C. Tubeza
@pctubezaINQ

President Duterte on Tuesday night ribbed Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, saying the defense chief was a secret agent of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Speaking at the 120th anniversary of the Department of Justice, Mr. Duterte noted that Lorenzana lived in the United States for a long time.

Lorenzana served as the Philippines' defense and armed forces attaché and then as a special presidential representative for veterans affairs in Washington from 2002 to 2016.



Delfin Lorenzana

'That's OK'

"He stayed in America for a long time. I know he's a CIA agent," Mr. Duterte said in jest in his speech at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

"But that's OK. I—the two of us would joke [with] each other—this is what you tell them (the Americans)," he added.

Mr. Duterte's joke drew laughter not just from the audience but also from Lorenzana, Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, and Presidential Legislative Liaison Office Secretary Adelino Sitoy, who were seated on stage.

Since coming to power last year, Mr. Duterte has tried to steer the Philippines closer to China than to its traditional ally, the United States.

But despite the President's overtures to China, the military and defense establishments are still largely seen as bastions of pro-US sentiment in the government.

Asked about the President's ribbing, Lorenzana said: "That was meant to be just a joke—a supposed CIA agent. He started saying that as early as when we started last year."

"That was because I stayed in DC for 14 years from 2002 [to] 2016. But all those years I was working at our embassy as a diplomat: first as the defense attaché and, after retirement from the Army, as veterans attaché," he said.

Other US agents

Lorenzana said the President had also joked that Finance Secretary Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez III and former Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. were American agents.

"We [in] the Cabinet do not take those remarks by the President seriously and neither should you," he said.

Mr. Duterte said he was mayor of Davao City when he first met Lorenzana.

"He brought in the Second (Scout) Ranger Battalion ... and after that we became friends. I was impressed with him. When I was shopping for my Cabinet, I remembered him. He's really honest and strict," Mr. Duterte said.

As special presidential representative for veterans affairs at the Philippine Embassy in Washington from 2004 to 2015, Lorenzana took up the cause of Filipino veterans, particularly Filipino soldiers who served in the US Army in World War II,

according to a profile of Lorenzana on the Department of Defense website.

Compensation law

His lobbying helped in the passage of the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Act of 2009, which provided US\$198 million to surviving Filipino veterans of World War II.

Lorenzana also helped secure from the US Department of Veterans Affairs a total of \$12 million worth of grants-in-aid for the Veterans Memorial Medical Center over a span of 12 years.

As defense and armed forces attaché from 2002 to 2004, he oversaw and monitored military relations between the Philippines and the United States on the Visiting Forces Agreement, military exercises, aid, training and foreign military sales.

In 2002, Lorenzana also helped develop the guidelines for the highly successful maneuvers between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US Pacific Command in Basilan.

The exercises supported military operations aimed to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the southern Philippines. INQ

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Duterte: Defense chief a US gov't spy

Is the country's Defense chief an alleged spy of the United States? President Duterte apparently thinks so.

The President said Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has become an "agent" of the US after taking military studies there years ago.

"Matagal na 'yan sa America siya. Alam ko siya eh, agent 'yan siya pero okay lang," Duterte said during the Department of Justice anniversary rites last Tuesday night while sharing how his friendship with Lorenzana started.

Aware of his Cabinet member's ties with Washington, the President even asked Lorenzana to send a message to the US that he has no disdain for them.

"Sabi ko kasi magbolahan naman kaming dalawa, eh 'di ito sabihin mo sa kanila. Ako, many – many issues ako diyan sa ano but I do not hate America. I mean, I don't. Wala akong dynamics sa mga tao," he told Lorenzana, who was present during the DoJ event at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

Duterte instead warned the United States about the involvement of two international crime syndicates –

Bamboo and 14K Triads – in large-scale drug trafficking in Southeast Asia.

He said the country has become a "transshipment" hub of illegal drugs to the US. He noted that the Americans are the "richest market" for illegal drugs, compared to the small market in the country.

"Kung maniwala ang America, mabuti. Kung hindi kayo maniwala, mabuti, basta sinabi ko sa inyo," he said.

Duterte said he became friends with Lorenzana shortly after their first meeting in Davao City several years ago. Lorenzana led a Scout Ranger battalion in Malagos District while Duterte was mayor of Davao City.

"Bumilib ako sa tao," he said. "When I was shopping for my Cabinet, I remembered him. Eh talagang honest, tapos istrikto," he added.

The country's ties with the United States have been strained after Duterte took offense at US President Barack Obama's human rights concerns over his brutal drug war.

The bilateral ties, however, later improved after newly-elected US President Donald Trump praised Duterte for his anti-drug campaign.

(Genalyn D. Kabling)

28 September 2017



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'ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE'

REDS DISMISS DUTERTE'S AMNESTY OFFER AS 'PSYWAR'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
[@dtmallarijr@INQ](mailto:dtmallarijr@inq.com)

LUCENA CITY—The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has scoffed at President Duterte's offer of general amnesty to communist rebels.

"Duterte's latest plan to grant general amnesty to NPA fighters who surrender is nothing but a psywar tool to create division within the revolutionary movement and to spread an illusion of magnanimity," the NDFP-national executive committee said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The NDFP, the political arm of communist insurgents, said the offer wouldn't fool anyone in the revolutionary movement.

The group told the head of the government peace panel, Silvestre H. Bello III, to explain to Mr. Duterte that his idea of amnesty was "absolutely unacceptable" as it violated the letter and spirit of the peace negotiations.

"It (amnesty) is conditional on the surrender of NPA fighters even before there is agreement between the two parties on how

to address the roots of the armed conflict," the NDFP said.

The President declared on Sept. 16 that he was again opening the door for the resumption of peace negotiations with the rebels, almost two months after ending it in July following a series of attacks by the New People's Army (NPA) on state security forces.

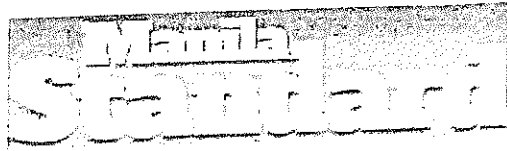
Mr. Duterte, however, reiterated that before peace talks could resume, there should be a cessation of armed hostilities or a bilateral ceasefire between government forces and the NPA rebels.

On Friday, he again called on the rebels to surrender and offered them general amnesty, jobs and free housing.

Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison welcomed Mr. Duterte's overture and had since softened his stand against the resumption of peace talks.

Sison had said in an earlier interview that it took two warring parties—the government and the NDFP—"to exist and agree mutually to negotiate peace." INQ

28 September 2017



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Reds cool to permanent ceasefire call, says Joma

By John Paolo Bencito

COMMUNIST Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison has said the communist rebels may not accept President Rodrigo Duterte's calls for a protracted and indefinite bilateral ceasefire, ahead of a return to peace talks.

Despite four successful rounds of peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels,

Sison said the Duterte administration must first commit to the social and economic reforms, which he said was at the heart of the communist insurgency.

"If the NDFP [National Democratic Front of the Philippines] agrees to that, that would be very bad. People will say, 'What about the social and economic reforms?' At least those must be taken up in advance

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Reds...

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of this ceasefire," Sison said in an interview with Minneapolis-based socialist newspaper FightBack! posted Tuesday, Sept. 26.

"In fact, properly, the permanent truce is a subject matter of the end—it's the fourth item under the rubric of 'end of hostilities and the disposition of forces.' So, this is a problem," the CPP founder added.

In related developments:

The Gabriela Women's Party on Wednesday voiced concern over the military's aerial bombardment and indiscriminate strafing on communities in Batangas following a supposed encounter with communist rebels in the area.

Gabriela Party-List Rep. Arlene Brosas said military operations were "excessive" that these had displaced hundreds of

families from their homes and caused class suspensions.

"The women's party-list group will push for an investigation on the incident while gathering reports from the ground," she said.

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas also on Wednesday assailed the continuing military operations in Talumpok Silangan in Batangas City that included aerial strikes and strafing of civilian communities following a clash between government forces and the New People's Army, early morning of Sept. 24.

The KMP said they were holding accountable Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, for the air strikes.

"The military said the operations are in pursuit of the NPA but the air strikes targeted civilian communities, destroying houses and farms. How can farmers escape bombs dropped

by military planes?" said Gigi Bautista of Samahang Magbubukid ng Batangas.

"Bombing runs and indiscriminate firing are routine actions in the government's all-out war. Indiscriminate air strikes have worsened since Duterte's martial law in Mindanao. Batangas City is just a few hours away from Metro Manila. The all-out war is closing in on us. We must unite and fight this wanton violation of human rights," said Eriberto Pena of Tanggol Magsasaka, a watchdog monitoring human rights violations against farmers.

Sison said the NDFP demanded the administration must comply with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect For Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, "by releasing the political prisoners, either by one of two methods—one is by general amnesty, the other is by withdrawal of the charges."

Sison also feared the govern-

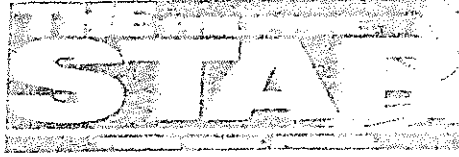
ment's bloody drug war might be used against revolutionary forces, as what happened in Colombia.

"This campaign popularizing the extrajudicial killings at first posed against this illegal drug trade can be shifted, can be used a method, against the revolutionary movement," Sison said, citing repercussions pointed out very early by Ka Oris, the spokesperson of the CPP and the NPA.

"And this could be something like 'Plan Colombia.' At first the paramilitaries units were formed supposedly against the illegal drugs, then then they could be shifted against the FARC and ELN," he added.

"The Communist Party and the rest of the revolutionary movement have been alerted, and so right now, even Duterte is making some offensives justifying the disengagement that the NDFP has to undertake." **With Maricel V. Cruz and Bill Casas**

22 September 2017



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Navy boat captain relieved over P'sinan sea collision

The captain and crew members of a Philippine Navy patrol boat that figured in a collision with a Vietnamese fishing vessel in Bolinao, Pangasinan on Sunday have been relieved from their posts.

Two Vietnamese fishermen were found dead after an exchange of gunfire reportedly occurred between the two vessels.

Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Eduardo and Navy chief Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado

ordered the relief of the captain of *BRP Miguel Malvar* to pave the way for an impartial investigation into the incident, according to Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP public affairs office chief.

"The rest of the patrol boat's crewmembers were restricted on the Navy ship to ensure their availability during the investigation," Arevalo said.

He refused to identify the Navy boat captain.

– Jaime Laude

September 2017

The Manila Times

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Navy sacks ship captain over Viet fishers' deaths

BY DEMPSEY REYES

THE Philippine Navy has ordered the removal of the ship captain of *Miguel Malvar Patrol Ship (PS) 19* with the rest of its crew under restrictive custody to give way to an investigation of the deaths of two Vietnamese fishermen over the weekend in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea), according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Col. Edgard Arevalo, chief of the AFP public affairs office, on Wednesday said the order was enforced against the ship captain by Vice Adm. Ronald Joseph Mercado, Navy flag officer-in-command.

Arevalo did not identify the ship captain.

In a statement, he said AFP chief Gen. Eduardo Año and Mercado also ordered a "thorough and impartial inquiry" into the ship's al-

leged ramming of a boat carrying the two Vietnamese fishermen and five others, all also Vietnamese.

On Saturday, the seven Vietnamese fishermen were caught poaching 34 nautical miles off Bolinao, Pangasinan, using a super light fish attractor within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

Arevalo said an internal investigation of the incident was initiated by the Philippine Navy.

To ensure that such kind of an inquiry will be attained, Vice Adm. Mercado ordered the relief of the ship captain of his command while the rest of the crew were on restrictive custody aboard the Navy ship to make them available for the duration of the investigation; and commissioned third party investigators like the Philippine

National Police and the Philippine Coast Guard to do an independent inquiry," he added.

Arevalo said there were six Vietnamese fishing vessels at the time but only one was allegedly rammed by the Philippine Navy patrol ship.

"All hitherto statements and issuances we are yielding to the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs that] will be furnished with appropriate reports. The updates shall be communicated to [the department's] counterpart in the Republic of Vietnam," he added.

Capt. Lued Lincuna, Navy spokesman, said in an earlier statement on Wednesday that the commanding officer and the crew of the patrol boat were removed to ensure impartiality of the inquiry.

28 September 2017



Pahina. 7

Housing units na 'di tinitirhan ng mga sundalo, pulis ipamimigay na

Binigyan na ng go signal ng Kamara ang pamamahagi ng Housing units na hindi na tinitirhan ng mga sundalo at pulis.

Ito'y matapos na aprubahan ng Kamara sa ikalawang pagbasa ang House Joint Resolution na naglalayong maipamahagi sa ibang benepisyaryo ang

libo-libong housing units para sa mga sundalo, pulis at iba pang uniformed personnel.

Sa ginanap na viva voce voting, walang tumutol sa resolution number 11 na nag-aatas sa National Housing Authority (NHA) na i-redistribute ang mga hindi inookupang pabahay

ng mga sundalo, pulis, bumbero at jailguards kabilang na dito ang mga units na ng grupong Kadamay sa Bulacan.

Kasama rin sa ipa-redistribute ang mga housing units na nakansela ang award sa orihinal na benepisyaryo dahil hindi na kapagbayad ng amortization.

Praktikal umano ang nasabing hakbang para hindi masayang ang mga naitayo ng housing units. *(Gemma Garcia)*

28 September 2017



Pahina. 9

Military operations sa Batangas pinatitigil

Hiniling ng Gabriela Women's Party (GWP) ang agarang pagpapatigil ng pagbobomba at walang habas na pamamari sa ilang komunidad sa Batangas na ginagawa ng militar sa mga diumano'y miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA).

Dahil umano sa labis na operasyong militar apektado na ang pag-aaral ng mga bata sa madalas na suspensyon ng klase doon at maging mga pamilya nila ay nag-aalala sa maaring mangyari sa kanila.

Sa ulat ng Karapatan Southern Tagalog, sinabi ni Gabriela Rep. Emmi de Jesus na dalawa katao na ang namamatay kabilang ang isang bata sa umano'y military operations sa bayan ng Cumba at Talahib Pandayan sa Batangas City.

Sinabi ni de Jesus, na lubha silang nababahala sa ginagawang pagpapadala ng AFP ng mga bomber planes sa Batangas City, na ilang kilometro lamang ang layo sa southern Metro Manila, sa diumano'y pagkakaroon lamang ng higit sa isang dosenang mga rebelde.

Ayon kay de Jesus, itutulak nila sa Kamara ang isang imbestigasyon kapag nakuha na nila ang mga ulat tungkol sa mga ginagawa ng militar. *(Butch Quejada)*

ONLINE NEWS

28 SEPTEMBER 2017

SEND OFF CEREMONY | MTA MALPHI LAUT 20-17

By [Alvin Santiago](#) on September 27, 2017 at 1:47 PM

NAVAL STATION JOSE ANDRADA, Roxas Blvd, Manila (DWDD) – The Philippine Navy will conducting a Send-Off Ceremony for BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF17) that will be participating in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Sultanate of Brunei and to attend the MALPHI LAUT 20-17 in Malaysia.

The event is slated on September 29, 2017, Friday at 10 o'clock in the morning at Pier 13, South Harbor, Manila.

The ship and its crew will depart for Maura, Brunei Darussalam for the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Sultanate of Brunei and subsequent participation in the annual Maritime Training Activity (MTA) MALPHI LAUT 20-17 at Kuantan Naval Base, Malaysia.

The Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Adm. Allan Ferdinand V. Cusi, will preside over the ceremony for more or less 200 members of the Philippine Navy contingent to the abovementioned events.

MTA MALPHI LAUT is an annual bilateral exercise between PN and Royal Malaysian Navy that aims to enhance inter-operability, working relationship and camaraderie through the conduct of coordinated maritime patrol training focusing on common maritime threats and other illegal maritime activities in both countries. NPAO/MCAG

www.dwdd.com

SURRENDER INFLUX | NPA Bomber gives up in Sultan Kudarat

CAMP SIONGCO, Awang, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao (DWDD) – Nine members of the Guerilla Front 73 of the terrorist group New People's Army surrendered to Lt Col Harold M Cabunoc, Commanding Officer of the 33rd Infantry Battalion, in Malegdeg Village, Senator Ninoy Aquino town, Sultan Kudarat.

Among the surrenderees was the trained bomber of the communist armed group, who identified himself as Buloy. The surrenderees brought with them 6 large size improvised bombs, medical equipment, and subversive materials.

Cabunoc said that the influx of surrenderees is the outcome of an effective collaboration between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the civil authorities in addressing the social issues that lured the lumads to join the communist-terrorist group.

"The local government leaders of Sultan Kudarat have pushed the delivery of social services to the remotest areas of the province. The Army has taken the show of good governance as an excellent platform in winning the support of the people against the hard core communists." said Cabunoc.

At least 30 members of GF 73 have laid down their arms since May 2017, resulting in the waning influence of the CPP-NPA-NDF in the province. We will continue our efforts to influence the local terrorist to surrender through dialogues and coordination with the local government units and other stakeholders, Major General Arnel Dela Vega, Commander, 6ID said. AES/ALS

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

BALIKATAN | PH-US Joint Exercises to push thru

Alvin Sarmiento

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Philippine and US Armed Forces are now planning on conduct of the next joint exercises.

According to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, the top leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is now in Hawaii, including AFP Chief of Staff Gen Eduardo Ano, to meet with their counterparts to plan for next years' various joint military exercises.

Lorenzana added that the meeting has the blessing of President and AFP Commander in Chief Rodrigo Rodrigo.

It can be recalled that President Duterte previously threatened to cancel all joint exercises between the Philippines and the United States of America, including Balikatan, after the chief executive did not take lightly the criticism made by the Obama administration on the War on Drugs Campaign by the administration. **AES/ALS**

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

TEMPEST WIND | Anti-Terror exercise centered on hijacking

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The anti-terror exercise dubbed “Tempest Wind” had a successful run at Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

In a press briefing held at Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim laid out the details of the exercise that centered on the response of authorities on an airplane hijacking scenario.

According to DND spokesman Director Arsenio Andolong, they did not have media cover the event, which started September 20 and lasted for three (3) days, to prevent the enemy to get any information or tactics employed during the exercise.

Andolong added that a total of 1,200 participated in the exercise coming from different branches/agencies of the government like the Philippine National Police and Aviation Security Group.

The exercise aimed to create a realistic scenario and how authorities would resolve a plane jacking situation, where the lives of hostages are at stake. **AES/ALS**

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MARAWI EXPERIENCE | Gov't to increase Intelligence capability

Alan Santano

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The government is studying all possible scenarios on how hundreds of Daesh-Inspired Maute terrorist members from Mindanao and other countries were able to slip into Marawi.

According to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, they are still investigating how these Maute terrorist were able to enter Marawi unnoticed.

Initially, authorities thought the terror group only numbered around 250, but when the fighting raged on and the enemy did not seem to lessen in number, they came to concluded that they were fighting more terrorist than previously estimated.

Most of the Maute members came from Basilan, Sulu, Jolo, Indonesia and Malaysia

With this experience, Lorenzana assured the public that they would intensify their intelligence effort and technical capability to prevent a repeat of the Marawi incident on other parts of the country.

As of the latest count, the government has registered 700 killed on the side of the enemy. **AES/ALS**

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