

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



**TEAM ARMY**  
Serving the people. Securing the land.

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

13 April 2018

Friday

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

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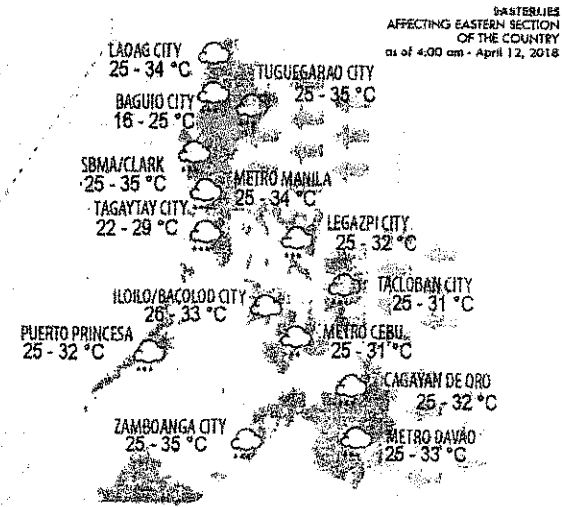
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 SAGIT NG PANDAIGSANG  
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 SUNRISE SUNSET MOONRISE MOONSET  
 5:44 AM 6:10 PM 3:44 AM 3:48 PM  
 LAST QUARTER NEW MOON  
 3:18 PM APR 8 9:57 AM APR 16  
 LOW TIDE HIGH TIDE  
 3:20 AM 0.04 Meter 8:37 PM 0.79 Meter

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST APRIL 13, 2018 | FRIDAY



EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 14 SAT	APR 15 SUN	APR 16 MON	EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST	APR 14 SAT	APR 15 SUN	APR 16 MON
METRO MANILA	26 °C 34 °C	25 °C 33 °C	25 °C 34 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	28 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C	25 °C 33 °C
TUGUEGARAO	25 °C 36 °C	25 °C 36 °C	25 °C 35 °C	ILOILO/BACOLOD	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 33 °C	25 °C 32 °C
LAOAG	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C	24 °C 33 °C	METRO CEBU	25 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C
BAGUIO	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	16 °C 25 °C	TACLOBAN	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	26 °C 36 °C	25 °C 35 °C	25 °C 35 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24 °C 32 °C	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 32 °C
TAGAYTAY	22 °C 29 °C	22 °C 30 °C	22 °C 30 °C	METRO DAVAO	25 °C 32 °C	24 °C 31 °C	25 °C 32 °C
LEGAZPI	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	26 °C 32 °C	ZAMBOANGA	25 °C 34 °C	24 °C 33 °C	24 °C 32 °C

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



B April 2018

The Manila Times

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US STATE DEPARTMENT:  
**Islamic State  
still recruiting  
in PH**

BY JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA

**A**N official of the US Department of State said the Islamic State (IS) continues to recruit new members in Southeast Asia, including in the Philippines, not to get them to join the fight in Syria and in Iraq but to launch acts of terrorism in their hometowns.

➤ RecruitingA2

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Irfan Saeed, director of the Department of State's Office of Countering Violent Extremism, said the US had destroyed so-called caliphates in Syria and Iraq, effectively stopping IS operations and travel, but that didn't stop the group from getting new recruits.

Saeed explained that terrorists have been looking for safe havens in which to operate unfettered. This was sparked by their recent defeat in Syria and Iraq.

They (terrorists) are looking at different parts of the world, and unfortunately I think Southeast Asia is in their radar. They are looking very clearly about how to establish safe havens across maybe the Southern Philippines and other parts of Southeast Asia," Saeed told members of the media in Southeast Asia in a teleconference Wednesday night.

The US Department of State official noted that IS and other terrorist groups

were no longer able to tell their members to come to Syria and Iraq.

"We have to recognize the great work that has been done by our partners across Southeast Asia to limit those foreign fighters going from Southeast Asia to Syria and Iraq," he added.

### Not just major cities

Saeed warned against the diffusion of the terrorist threat all over the world, pointing out that terrorists could launch attacks on areas that were never on the radar, instead of major cities.

"I think there is a greater chance that in places like Marawi and places outside of Jakarta, outside of Indonesia, or the Sumatra side, you're going to see groups like ISIS target wherever they are, wherever they are operating," the State Department official added, using another acronym for IS.

But Saeed noted that countries in Southeast Asia have done a very good job in fighting terrorism at the local and regional levels, and that their partnership with the US had been "very good."

The Philippines for instance has been successful in defeating the terrorists that occupied Marawi City and continues with efforts to find ways to prevent terrorist groups from launching similar attacks in other places, he said.

"I think the Philippines has done a good job of trying to address a very prevalent issue that has blown up very quickly and that they've been able to address it and then ... think long-term right after that," Saeed added.

Apart from preventing terrorist attacks, countries should give more focus on efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) or to prevent someone from becoming a terrorist, Saeed said.

Many countries have strong tools on counterterrorism and there is a need for standard knowledge and tools on CVE, including the ability to identify drivers for violent extremism and remove them, as well as engage in counter-messaging to combat terrorist ideology, he said.

"We have to ensure that groups like ISIS do not reconstitute, they don't strengthen, and they don't continue to inspire others to commit acts of violence," he added.

Asked if the IS and other terrorist groups were able to gain foothold in the region, Saeed replied that they were trying to gain foothold. He did not elaborate.

What is clear, he said, was that Southeast Asia was in the radar of IS and other groups like Al-Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah, which is trying to regroup.

"So we cannot lose sight of all the other terrorist groups out there that are trying to fill that void," he added.

(See related story, "MILF to disengage 1,869 child warriors," on A7.)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

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# DENR uncovers Mactan, Panglao 'cesspools'

**By Futch Anthony Inso**  
@inquirervisayas

CEBU CITY—Swimming is unsafe in the waters off Mactan Island in Cebu province, and Panglao Island in Bohol province —two of the top tourist destinations in the Visayas—as fecal coliform levels found in seawater exceed the standard set by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

William Cuñado, director of the EMB in Central Visayas, said the bureau's recent study found that fecal coliform reached 150 to 200 most probable number (MPN) in Panglao and 180 to 250 MPN in Mactan.

The figures exceed the acceptable concentration of 100 MPN per 100 milliliters, which is considered safe for swimming and water sports.

Levels above tolerable standards may lead to illnesses after contact with or ingestion of water.

The contamination may be due to poor or noncompliance with proper wastewater treatment and sewage disposal systems by hotels and resorts that have proliferated in Mactan and Panglao, Cuñado said.

He said more than 300 hotels and resorts in Panglao, crown jewel of Bohol's tourism, had been issued notices of violation of the Clean Water Act (Republic Act No. 9275).

#### **Boracay shutdown**

Notices of violation were sent out to 37 hotels and resorts in Mactan, he added.

Mactan and Panglao join Boracay as among the islands that have been found to have coliform levels unsafe for swimming.

The dumping of sewage into the sea has resulted in regular algal blooms in Boracay, which President Duterte has called a "cesspool."

The government is closing down Boracay for up to six

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months starting April 26 so it can be rehabilitated.

#### **El Nido, Puerto Galera**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is also cracking down on commercial establishments in El Nido, Palawan province, and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro province—tourist destinations also known for their beaches—for violating sewage and sanitation laws.

“On Panglao Island, we will be conducting a forum ... on wastewater-treatment facilities for locators in the area to enlighten them about their importance,” Cuñado said.

He said the EMB was also reconciling reports on compliance from the Central Visayas regional offices of the DENR-7, Department of Tourism and local government units (LGUs) before taking action.

Gilbert Gonzales, the DENR regional director, said his office had completed an inventory of the compliance or noncompli-

ance by resorts and hotels in Panglao on shoreline easement, forestland encroachment and intrusion in wetlands.

The inventory in Mactan has not been completed.

#### **Easement zone violators**

Some of the establishments that violated the 20-meter easement zone have been issued notices and asked to attend technical conferences to correct the deficiencies.

“After this, we will now demolish structures within the easement zone that we’ve established. Then after the demolition, we will require all establishments to apply the foreshore lease permits and comply with other requirements,” Gonzales said.

Based on the assessments by two teams that inspected the resorts and hotels in Panglao and Mactan, there is no need to close down violators but regular monitoring should be pushed to ensure compliance, he said.

The DENR earlier identified the lack of sewage treatment fa-

cilities and “bottomless” septic tanks as contributors to environmental problems in Panglao.

Up to 90 percent of the resorts in Panglao have no wastewater facilities, Panglao Councilor Rogelyn Clemeña-Degoma earlier said.

#### **Cooperate**

The Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants Association of Cebu (HRRAC) urged members to cooperate with LGUs and government agencies that were trying to correct environmental violations on Mactan Island.

HRRAC president Carlo Suarez said the group was supporting the move of Lapu-Lapu City to go after establishments that violate shoreline easement regulation and lack sewage discharge permits.

Mayor Paz Radaza of Lapu-Lapu City said on Wednesday that warnings had been sent to several establishments without a sewage discharge permit.

—WITH A REPORT FROM JOSE SANTINO BUNACHITA INQ

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## Army-Bicycology team donates wheelchairs to ailing soldiers

Members of the Philippine Army-Bicycology Shop who finished second overall in the recent Ronda Pilipinas donated 10 brand-new wheelchairs to their fellow soldiers confined at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in V. Luna, Quezon City.

Army-Bicycology Shop rider Sgt. Alfie Catalan, Sgt. Mercurio Ramos Jr., Sgt. Alvin Benosa, Sgt. Reynaldo Navarro, Cpl. Lord Anthony del Rosano, Pfc. Marvin Tapic, Pfc. Kenneth Solis, Pfc. Chris Joven, and coaches SSG Paterno Curtan and SSG Jhomilodin Lueman personally delivered the wheelchairs. Col. John Divinagracia, PA Director and Brigadier General Roy Devesa, Camp Commander Phil Army accompanied the group.

"Our victory is theirs, too," said

Army-Bicycology Shop team manager Eric Buhain. "I'm very proud of this team who agreed to share their winnings with their brothers-in-arms.

"It feels good seeing your comrade-in-arms happy. Our training is nothing compared with what they've gone through in Zamboanga and Marawi City," said Pfc. Joven, who topped Stage 3 of the 12-stage bike marathon.

"Even before the start of Ronda, we have all agreed to share our prizes with our fellow soldiers," he added. "Next year, we'll try to do better to be able to raise more funds."

For their part, Brigadier Gen. Devesa and Col. John Divinagracia commended the Army-Bicycology Shop cycling squad for their gesture and lauded them for anchoring Army's superb stint in Ronda.



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## Army cyclists turn good Samaritans

MEMBERS of the Philippine Army Bicycology Shop who finished strong second overall in the last Ronda Pilipinas donated 10 brand-new wheelchairs from their collective earnings to their fellow soldiers confined at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in V. Luna, Quezon City.

Army-Bicycology Shop rider Sgt. Alfie Catalan, Sgt. Mercurio Ramos Jr., Agt. Alvin Benosa, Sgt. Reynaldo Navarro, Cpl. Lord Anthony del Rosario, Pfc. Marvin Tapic, Pfc. Kenneth Solis, Pfc. Chris Joven, and coaches SSG Paterno Curtan and SSG Jhomilodin Lucman personally delivered the

wheelchairs, accompanied by Colonel John Divinagracia, PA Director and Brigadier General Roy T. Devesa, Camp Commander Phil Army.

"Our victory is theirs, too," said Philippine Army-Bicycology Shop team manager Eric Buhain.

"And I'm very proud of this team who agreed to share their winnings to their brothers-in arms. Indeed, this is the spirit of the Araw ng Kagitingan."

In a simple ceremony witnessed by fellow soldiers and officers of the AFPMC, Buhain's team made the event commemorating the heroics of Filipino soldiers more memorable with their

unselfish act and concern to their injured comrades.

"Ang sarap po ng pakiramdam 'yung makita mo 'yung kapwa mo sundalo na masaya ka-hit sa simpleng pamamaraan na naisip namin. Kumpara sa pinagdaanan nilang hirap sa mga bakbakan tulad sa Zamboanga at Marawi City, katiting lang kung ikukumpara 'yung hirap namin sa training," said Pfc. Joven, who topped Stage 3 of the gruelling 12-stage bike marathon considered as the country's premier bike race.

"Bago pa magsimula ang Ronda, nagkakaisa na kami na ibahagi ang aming makukuhang premyo sa aming mga

kapwa sundalo. Sa susunod pong Ronda, mas huhusayan namin para mas marami pa kaming matulungan," he added.

For their part, Brigadier Gen. Devesa and Col. John Divinagracia saluted the Army-Bicycology Shop cycling team

for their unselfish act and congratulated them for putting the Philippine Army at the forefront of sports excellence.

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The Manila Times

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## NPA accuses Army of 'summary execution'

THE New People's Army (NPA) in Camarines Sur (Tomas Pilapil Command) has accused the Philippine Army of "summary execution" of one of its members who was among those killed in a clash with government forces early this week in Lagonoy, Camarines Sur.

Baldomero Arcanghel, spokesman for NPA Camarines Sur said the Army's 9th Infantry Division (ID) and the 83rd Infantry Battalion (IB) mercilessly killed Jeric Gestone or "Kasamang Ems."

Gestone from Bulan, Sorsogon, was arrested by troops under the 83rd IB after an encounter on Monday between the military and at least five members of the NPA in

Barangay Gubat, Lagonoy, according to Arcanghel.

On Monday, the 9ID reported a firefight that resulted in the death of one NPA member in the area being referred to by Arcanghel.

According to the 9ID, there were two encounters that broke out in one day.

Arcanghel said at about 9 a.m. on April 9, Gestone was shot in the knee and managed to escape but was later found by the military and was shot in the head.

The NPA Camarines Sur commended Gestone, 20, for sacrificing his life in "serving the Filipino people."

**DEMPSEY REYES**

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**AFP, NPA clash in CamSur; landmine seized**

LEGAZPI CITY - A landmine was among those recovered from New People's Army rebels following an encounter with government troopers in Camarines Sur on Wednesday.

Capt. Joas Pramis, 9th Infantry Division public affairs officer, said the communist guerrillas withdrew after about 15 minutes of gunfights.

There was no reported casualty on the government side.

Two backpacks, four cell phones, a medical kit and propaganda materials were also recovered from the rebels.

- Celso Amo

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### CamSur clash

A landmine was discovered by government troops during an encounter with communist New People's Army (NPA) terrorists or "CNTs" in Barangay Pinamhagan, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur the other day. The landmine was found as elements of the 93rd Division Reconnaissance Company of the army's 9th Infantry Division encountered more or less 20 CNTs in a 15-minute firefight at about 8:35 a.m. Wednesday. Lieutenant General Danilo Pamonag, the Commander of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Southern Luzon Command (AFP-SoLCom), condemned the CNTs' continued use of improvised explosive devices, which is a violation of the International Humanitarian Law. (Francis T. Wakefield)

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**REGIONS BRIEFS**

**34 rebs surrender as Army pushes offensives in Cotabato**  
ARAKAN, NORTH COTABATO—Thirty-four communist rebels surrendered to the military this week, ahead of the expected resumption of peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Lt. Col. Ehrlich Noel Paraso, commander of the Army's 19th Infantry Battalion, said this was the biggest number of New People's Army (NPA) rebels to surrender in the town, although only two of them had turned over their firearms. Paraso said the surrender, which was facilitated by rebel returnees, came amid the intensified military offensives in remote villages of Arakan and other communities in North Cotabato province.

—EDWIN FERNANDEZ



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**Bicol rebels accuse military of executing wounded comrade**  
Communist insurgents in Bicol on Thursday accused the military of executing a wounded guerrilla in violation of the Geneva Convention, as well as the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. The Camarines Sur-based Tomas Pilapil Command said in a statement that one of their fighters, Jeric Gestone, alias Ka Ems, was wounded in the knee in an encounter with soldiers from the 83rd Infantry Battalion on April 9 in Gubat village, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur. The rebel group's spokesperson, Baldomero Arcañhel, said the 20-year-old Gestone, a native of Bulan, Sorsogon, had been hiding for four hours in tall grass some 50 meters from the encounter site when soldiers found him. The soldiers fired their weapons for one minute to make it appear that Gestone was killed in the encounter, but actually shot him in the head, he said. —NIKKO DIZON

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Col. John Divinagracia (second from right) joins members of the Philippine Army-Bicyology Shop in donating 10 new wheelchairs at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center in V. Luna.

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# IS threat high in PH—study

By Doris Dumfao-Abadilla  
@philbizwatcher

The jihadi movement led by the Islamic State (IS) group is seen as posing a sustained threat to Southeast Asia, and the risk remains "high" in the Philippines, according to global professional services company Aon.

Aon has released its 2018 Risk Maps covering political risk and terrorism and political violence in conjunction with Continuum Economics and The Risk Advisory Group.

Despite the absence of a spectacular attack by IS in Southeast Asia in 2017, the movement and its affiliates are seen as posing a sustained threat as it has "provided a unifying framework for groups in the region, binding them to-

gether into a more coherent and capable force," the report said.

The report said Singapore could be a "prized target" noting propaganda specifically aimed at the city-state in 2017.

## 'More severe' threat

The country risk level for Singapore remains "low" a year after it was raised from "negligible," but a terrorism peril is still in place, particularly from attacks mounted by lone actors, the report said.

The terrorism threat is seen as "more severe" in the Philippines, where overall country score remained "high" in 2018, a year after it was raised from "medium."

The assessment comes after Islamist extremists laid siege on Marawi for five months last

year, prompting President Duterte to place all of Mindanao under martial law.

The Marawi attack indicated that IS-linked factions are regrouping in southern Philippines and there is jihadist capability to mount attacks from there across Southeast Asia, the report said.

## Propaganda

Dan Bould, Asia regional director for crisis management at Aon, said: "In 2018, we expect a continued increase in terrorist activity within Asia. While the global reach of IS appears to have peaked, they will continue to agitate for attacks in areas where they have traction, notably in the Philippines and to a lesser degree in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore."

"Recently we have seen IS

producing more directed and relevant propaganda content aimed at Asia-based militants and affiliates. Their messages aim to inspire and motivate individuals to mount attacks using crude and improvised weapons. The shift in modus operandi toward lone-wolf attacks utilizing everyday objects highlights an evolving peril that organizations must address. The property damage sustained in such an attack is historically minor, while the effect on operations and business interruption may well be substantial," he said.

Globally, IS mounted terrorist attacks in 29 countries on five continents in 2017, the same number of countries as in 2016 and up from 19 countries in 2015. INQ



3 April 2018

# The Manila Times

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## Military chief bids AFP units farewell

THE chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Thursday began bidding farewell to military units across the country.

On Monday, Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero went to the Eastern Mindanao Command (EastMinCom), where he formerly served as commander before he was tapped by President Rodrigo Duterte to lead the AFP.

His leadership of the EastMinCom was highlighted in 2016 during the Davao City bombing, which allegedly was committed by the Islamic State-inspired Maute Group.

The incident led President Rodrigo Duterte to declare a nationwide state of lawlessness.

Guerrero was honored with a parade at the EastMinCom.

On Tuesday, Guerrero went to the Western Mindanao Command, which is headed by Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., his successor as AFP chief.

Galvez's appointment was announced last week by Malacañang.

Also on Tuesday, he visited the Cebu-based Central Command (CentCom), which is led by Lt. Gen. Paul Atal, his batchmate in the Maharlika Class of 1984 of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Col. Medel Aguilar, CentCom spokesman, said Guerrero lauded the troops based in the Visayas in his farewell message for their "major accomplishments," such as conducting internal security operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations in times of typhoons.

According to Aguilar, Guerrero also went to the 3rd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, where he also led troops during his stint as division commander there.

He went on Thursday to the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), which secures the Philippine Rise (Benham Rise), the Scarborough Shoal and the Batanes islands.

Guerrero will be honored with another parade on Sunday in the PMA, according to Lt. Col. Reynaldo Balido Jr., PMA spokesman.

Next week, he is expected to visit the headquarters of the three major service commands of the AFP—Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy.

According to Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva, Army spokesman, Guerrero will be visiting the 80,000-strong Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Monday.

Guerrero is the third soldier to serve as AFP chief under the Duterte administration.

The first one was retired general Ricardo Visaya, who was appointed by Duterte to the National Irrigation Administration and the second was retired general Eduardo Año, now the officer-in-charge of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Guerrero is set to take over the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) after Duterte sacked Marcial Amaro 3rd for alleged corruption and "unnecessary junkets."

**DEMPOSEY REYES**

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**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Military chief begins farewell tour

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero has started bidding farewell to key military units throughout the country, ahead of his retirement from the service on Wednesday next week.

On Monday, Guerrero paid a farewell visit to the officers and men of the Davao City-based AFP's Eastern Mindanao Command which he commanded before assuming his post as AFP chief last year.

Guerrero has also said goodbye to the AFP's Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City and to the AFP's Central Command in Cebu City, both on Tuesday, and the AFP's Northern Luzon Com-

mand in Tarlac City yesterday.

Guerrero also visited on Wednesday the Army's 701st Brigade based in Davao Oriental which the outgoing AFP chief headed when he was still a colonel.

During his visit in Centcom, Guerrero said lauded the Centcom for its contribution in the fight against the communist New People's Army.

"Neutralizing a number of insurgents, some of whom are occupying key positions in the enemy organization, is a big contribution towards sustaining the peace in the Visayas regions," said Guerrero.

Several other units are due to be visited by Guerrero in the com-

ing days, including the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City, where he graduated in 1984, on Sunday, and the Philippine Army (his branch of service) on Monday.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said Guerrero is "really a very good officer."

"With his experience, he made it to the chief of staff," Villanueva said of Guerrero.

Guerrero is due to relinquish his post to AFP Wesmincom chief Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez of the PMA class 1985 on Wednesday in Camp Aguinaldo, during rites to be led by President Duterte, the military's commander-in-chief.

Guerrero assumed command

as AFP chief in October last year. He was supposed to bow out of the service on December 17, upon reaching the retirement age of 56, but his term was extended by Duterte.

Duterte has said Guerrero will be named administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority after he retires.

It's not yet known who will succeed Galvez as Wesmincom commander. The possible contenders include 6th Infantry Division chief Lt. Gen. Arnel Dela Vega (of PMA class 1985), and 1st Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo (of PMA class 1986). – Victor Reyes



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## Duterte determined to bring peace back to PH – Dureza

By FRANCIS T. WAREFIELD

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza said President Duterte's determination to end the decades-old insurgency in the country is the key factor in opening up the talks with the communists.

In an interview with CNN Philippines yesterday morning Dureza said the resumption of talks is in line with the President's "personal advocacy (and) ambition" as well as his "mission and vision."

"He (President Duterte) would like to bring sustainable and just peace in the land," Secretary Dureza said.

"He understands very well coming from a place like Davao, where he dealt with them (New People's Army) directly, and he would like to address the root cause of the problem," he added.

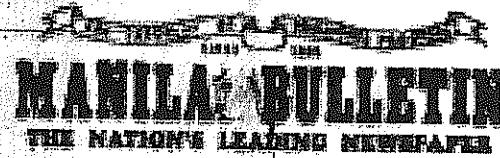
During the Cabinet meeting last April 4, President Duterte ordered Dureza and Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who is the chief government negotiator

with the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People's Army–National Democratic Front (CPP–NPA–NDF), to work on the resumption of talks with directives to forge a ceasefire agreement.

Dureza also pointed out that the President is taking into consideration the public's desire to conclude the conflict.

"I'm sure it's not only him (President Duterte) that is very anxious to have that conclusion, pati ang taong bayan nag-eexpect," he said.

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## 2 Australian Navy ships visit PH

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

The Royal Australian Navy vessels, Her Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Anzac (FFH150), a Long Range Guided Missile Frigate and HMAS Success (OR 304), an Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment (AOR) vessel, arrived at the SBMA in Olongapo City for a goodwill visit until Sunday, April 15.

The Philippine Navy delegates headed by the representative of the

Flag Officer-In-Command, Cmdr. Judith Palamos, the Assistant Chief of Education and Training Staff for Personnel and Reservist Affairs of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) accorded the visiting navy a welcome ceremony upon arrival followed by a port briefing related to health and security aboard HMAS Success.

The Defense Attache of Australia to the Philippines, Capt. Bradley White, along with the two command-

ing officers of the visiting vessels, Cmdr. Michael Devine of HMAS Anzac and Cmdr. Grant Zilko of HMAS Success, is scheduled to have a courtesy call to the Commander of NETC Rear Adm. Allan Ferdinand V. Cusi.

Other engagements between the two navies involve a luncheon aboard HMAS Anzac with invited key personnel and goodwill games followed by a traditional boodle fight.

B April 2018

The Manila Times

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## MILF to disengage 1,869 child warriors

**COTABATO CITY:** The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Focal Point persons on para-social workers have said they will disengage some 1,869 child soldiers including their families from the revolutionary front.

The move complies with the UN Charter on forbidding minors to be trained as combatants.

Sheik Abdulhadi Gumander, team leader of the MILF Focal Persons on para-social workers said he met last week for the first time with MILF Chairman

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim at Camp Darapanan in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, to discuss further the disengagement of these thousands of child soldiers including their family members.

Gumander said the focal point persons were appointed by the MILF leadership to focus on the child soldiers in compliance with the UN Charter banning minors as combatants in times of war.

He added that it also aims to protect children by transforming

them to be good citizens and providing them an environment that is not prone to violence and giving them roles in nation-building.

The program on disengagement of children has been concluded by providing training to MILF para-social workers in three batches to cater to the needs and gaps of social issues confronting these workers.

The focal point persons reported and submitted to Murad details and updates on the program and gains from the just-concluded activity.

Each focal point person gave his observations and recommendations related to his engagement with the international community.

Murad reminded the focal persons that their presence in the program is institutional, not individual, considering that they came from different agencies and committees of the MILF.

The MILF chairman reiterated his commitment to the UN Charter of not allowing those below 18 years old to become child warriors. **JULMUNIRI JANNARAL**



13 April 2018

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

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## Indonesian rescued in Tawi-Tawi

BY VICTOR REYES

AN Indonesian was rescued off Tawi-Tawi on Tuesday, or three weeks after his floating cottage was cut off from its anchor in Manado, Indonesia, the military reported yesterday.

Capt. Jo-ann Petinglay, spokeswoman of the Zamboanga City-based AFP Western Mindanao Command, said Erens Fiter was rescued by policemen inside his cottage at around 4 p.m. off Barangay Manuk Mangkaw, Simunul town, after a Filipino fisherman sighted

and subsequently reported his presence in the area.

Petinglay said the town police station extended medical attention to Fiter before turning him over to the military's Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, under Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon.

Petinglay said the task force later coordinated with officials of the Indonesian border crossing station (BCS) for background investigation and the BCS confirmed Fiter's nationality.

"According to Fiter, his floating cottage was cut from its anchor on

March 19 due to the strong winds and his cottage was cast away from the shore (in Manado, Indonesia)," Petinglay said.

"He further revealed that he had been trying to get help from passing sea craft (before he was seen by a Filipino fisherman). It seemed that he was not able to catch attention," she added.

Parcon said a military cooperation with Indonesia made the coordination with Indonesian authorities easier. Fiter is still with the JTF Tawi-Tawi, pending his formal turnover to the Indonesian officials.

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## Rescued after 22 days drifting at sea, Indonesian may return home soon

**A**N Indonesian rescued on Tuesday after being adrift at sea for days would be sent home soon, according to authorities.

The Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, which took custody of the drifter, had coordinated with local and Indonesian officials for his release.

"We coordinated with the Interpol Tawi-Tawi and the Indonesian Border Crossing Station [BCS] for the background check of Fiter," JTF Commander Brig. Gen. Custodio Parcon said. "Indonesian BCS personnel initially vouched for the subject's nationality but reserved the final confirmation when authorities from Indonesia communicate their feedback."

The BCS was a product of the trilateral agreement the country entered into with Malaysia and Indonesia as part of the effort to stem the movement of terrorists at sea.

"Since our trilateral cooperative arrangement is in effect, we are able to closely coordinate with our neighboring countries and address security concerns and other issues," Parcon added.

According to Armed Forces

Western Mindanao Command Spokesman Capt. Jo-ann Pentinglay, Filipino fisherman Idris Elsan reported seeing a man inside a makeshift cottage that was floating in the coastal waters of Manuk Mangkaw, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi, at around 4 p.m. of April 10.

The Indonesian identified as Eren Fiter was turned over to the police before he was transferred to the custody of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi.

Fiter was brought to the Simunul Municipal Police Station at around 7 a.m. on Wednesday after spending the night at his rescuer's house. The Indonesian was initially given medical attention by the Simunul police before he was eventually turned over to the military personnel in Tawi-Tawi.

According to Pentinglay, Fiter said his floating cottage was cut from its anchor on March 19 due to strong winds and cast away from shore. The Indonesian said he tried to get help from passing vessels and other seacrafts while adrift.

However, he said he was unable to catch the attention of these vessels. *Rene Acosta*

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## Pinoys glimpse ruined Marawi; Chinese get contract

MARAWI CITY - Approaching her house for the first time since militants took over the neighborhood, evidence of a disaster unfolded around Haydee Dimalawang: the word "ISIS" spray-painted on the door of the family's completely stripped car, walls gouged by bullets, a kitchen ripped in half by a mortar shell.

She felt lucky - relatively.

At least her house, in a central neighborhood of Marawi, was still standing. Her neighbor across the street, Alpata Utto, was left with an empty plot. His house had burned down early in the fighting, and weeds had sprouted up from the ashes.

Islamic State (IS) loyalists seized Marawi, a predominantly Muslim city of more than 200,000 in Mindanao, more than 10 months ago, leading to months of military siege and devastating US airstrikes.

The residents are finally being allowed to return, but only for a day or two per family to salvage what they can and then leave again.

What happens next will depend on how and when the city is rebuilt. And in a

central example of how the political wind is shifting in the Philippines, the destruction enabled in part by US military assistance will be repaired by a Chinese-led consortium, officials say.

On Tuesday, President Duterte visited China to discuss the project, worth an estimated \$1.5 billion, with President Xi Jinping, among other issues, officials said.

As residents' visits to Marawi began, three *New York Times* journalists were given exclusive access both to those neighborhoods and to some parts of the city still cut off to civilians and littered with ordnance and rubble.

Since Duterte declared victory over the IS loyalists in October, residents have been kept out. For the past five months, they have been scattered across the country. Some moved in with relatives, but many were stuck in open-air, government-sponsored camps for the displaced.

After residents protested the delayed return to their city, the military scheduled the short-term visits. - *New York Times News Service*

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## 4 BIFF men surrender

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Four Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) surrendered

to the 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion in Ampatuan, Maguindanao Tuesday.

They were presented to local

and military officials at the 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion headquarters on Wednesday.

Present were Major General Arnel B. dela Vega, Joint Task Force ZamPelan (Zamboanga Peninsula, Lanao) commander and Maguindanao Governor Esmael "Toto" Mangudadatu.

The surrenderees yielded several high-powered firearms including a rocket propelled grenade launcher, an M16 rifle, and a Garrand.

Dela Vega noted this is the first time members of the BIFF surrendered to the government.

"The surrenderees felt that it is time for them to return to the fold of law after seeing President Rodrigo Duterte is serious about his campaign to attain peace in Mindanao," Dela Vega said.

The identities of the surrenderees were withheld for their security. The 6th ID will give them refuge until they are ready to rejoin mainstream society.

Mangudadatu promised to help the surrenderees with livelihood training.

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INQUIRER

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EDITORIAL

## Rare news, good choices

**A**fter the debacle that was Vitaliano Aguirre's tenure at the Department of Justice, the President has appointed his opposite as justice secretary: Menardo Guevara is not a close personal friend, has served with quiet competence and distinction in two administrations, and is not prone to making, or being goaded into, uncalibrated statements before the press. And from all indications, the man who first served in the Duterte administration as senior deputy executive secretary is a lawyer who seems to understand that law is about putting limits on power, not lifting them.

After the human rights calamity that was Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa's twice-extended tenure as chief of the Philippine National Police, the President has appointed his opposite as director general: Oscar Albayalde is not part of the so-called Davao Group crowding the corridors of power, enjoys a reputation for discipline, and is an articulate and reasonable spokesman of official policy. Many sources say he is strict about following police regulations.

And the sense of professionalism that has characterized the Armed Forces of the Philippines in recent years, continuing under the tenure of Eduardo Año and Rey Leonardo Guerrero as chief of staff, looks set to continue after the President appointed another officer seemingly made from the same mold, Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, as the new leader of the AFP. Galvez, who headed the Western Mindanao Command and led the military response to the siege of Marawi City, has a strong combat background that appeals to the rank and file.

Their appointments, announced on the same day, made for welcome news; they are all seen as good choices, fit appointees for their high-profile, high-impact roles.

Galvez, like Guerrero before him, is hardly known to the public; Año, who now runs the Department of Interior and Local Government, had a slightly higher profile. But all three have very much preferred to work without any fuss or drama. In a developing democracy, this is a good sign of a professionalized military.

Albayalde has had his dramatic moments on television, as when, for instance, he was seen berating policemen sleeping on the job. But he strikes the public as someone who is not interested in personal publicity, or indeed as an officer who does not operate as though personal publicity were a substitute for good policy and outstanding performance. Even though he has committed to continue the controversial "Tokhang" campaign begun by Dela Rosa, we do not expect him to turn a deaf ear to the Senate, the Supreme Court, and indeed the general public when appeals for greater transparency about the Tokhang operations and a more disciplined observance of police rules of engagement are raised. And we certainly don't expect to see him weep in public, as a means to deflect hard questions.

Guevara has been forthright about the circumstances of Aguirre's departure, as well as the President's express instructions to him to do the right thing and restore the credibility of the Department of Justice. He will—to be completely candid about it—face a difficult time. His Solicitor General remains someone who is close to and politically allied with the President; the President himself remains committed to some policemen and officials implicated in scandals or controversies; a majority of Supreme Court justices have proven they are susceptible to political rather than legal or constitutional motivations. He will need to navigate a path that is tortuous and steep and increasingly narrow. He will need allies, the right kind: Delfin Lorenzana in Defense and Año in Interior will be key to his tenure, because these two ex-military men have consistently managed to enact the right policy even in the face of the President's expressed objections.

To be sure, Guevara is only an alter ego of the President's, Albayalde is only a representative of the Chief Executive, and Galvez is only a reflection of the Commander in Chief. It is still the Duterte administration, very much so. But the appointment of officials of clear competence and impressive qualification is rare and positive news; we should all welcome it.

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## Army braces for BIFF retaliatory attacks in Maguindanao

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 11): **Army braces for BIFF retaliatory attacks in Maguindanao**



Seized BIFF firearms in Maguindanao (Photo by 6ID)

**SHARIFF AGUAK, Maguindanao -- The Army's 57th Infantry Battalion (IB) based here foiled an attempt by outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) to overrun Tuesday night a military detachment in adjacent Datu Hofer town.**

**Undetermined number of ISIS-linked gunmen, armed with assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades, attacked at around 8 p.m. the 57th IB detachment stationed in Barangay Labo-Labo.**

**The gunmen simultaneously fired with rockets and assault rifles toward the Army detachment while government troops were taking dinner.**

Although outnumbered, soldiers, backed by armored personnel carrier, returned fire, forcing the attackers to flee. No casualty was reported on the government side.

The attempt of BIFF came some 12 hours after the Army's 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion overran two BIFF camps, including a gun factory, and recovered high powered firearms in Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao.

Maj. Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Army's 6th Infantry Division commander, said the recovery of the arms cache has weakened the BIFF operating in Maguindanao.



The recovery of high powered guns and explosives came after government forces clashed with the group of Commander Bongos in Barangays Pamalian and Pagatin, both in Shariff Saydona Mustapha town.

Two BIFF were confirmed dead, two others injured, the Army said. Two government troops were also slightly injured and are currently being treated at Camp Siongco Hospital in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.

The attack on the 57th IB detachment on Tuesday night was retaliatory for the losses the BIFF has incurred, Dela Vega said.

Dela Vega said he placed all Army units in Maguindanao on high alert status as he expects the BIFF to retaliate from losses. He said the Joint Task Force (JTF) Central, which he also chairs, would utilize all available air assets, artillery as well as armor assets to thwart attempts to destabilize the province.

"We will continue our pursuit of the terror groups like the BIFF that continues to threaten the peace and security of communities," Dela Vega said. He said the continued support and cooperation of the community hastens and compliments the ability of JTF Central to counter the efforts of the radical extremist groups in sowing fear and violence in their area of operation.

www.pna.gov.ph

## Army recovers BIFF arms in abandoned camps in Maguindanao

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 11): Army recovers BIFF arms in abandoned camps in Maguindanao



**ABANDONED FIREARMS.** Major General Arnel dela Vega (with microphone), Army's 6th Infantry Division commander, presents to the media on Tuesday (April 10) the firearms abandoned by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters during the two-day gunbattle in Maguindanao. (Photo by 6ID)

**CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao – The military here said it overran Tuesday two camps abandoned by ISIS-inspired Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and recovered war materials following a brief firefight in neighboring Shariff Saydona Mustapha and Datu Salibo towns in Maguindanao.**

**Major Gen. Arnel dela Vega, Army's 6th Infantry Division (6ID) commander, presented to newsmen here 18 assorted high powered firearms recovered from the two camps abandoned by the BIFF while carrying their two dead companions shortly after a gunbattle.**

**Dela Vega said the firearms were found by elements of the Army's 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion following brief firefight with the BIFF factions of Commanders Bongos and Abu Toraife at the border of Shariff Saydona Mustapha and Datu Salibo on Tuesday dawn.**

Three other terrorists were wounded in the firefight with the Army using artillery fire at past 5 a.m., Dela Vega said.

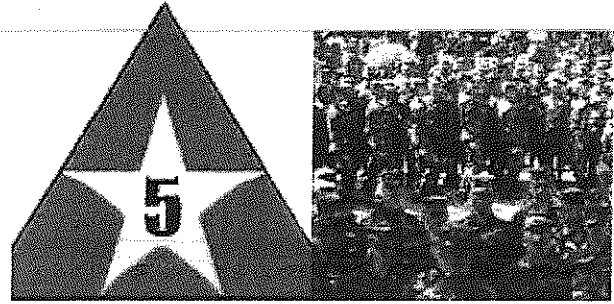
He added that two infantrymen were also injured and are now recuperating at the Camp Siongco Station Hospital here.

**Lt. Colonel Alvin Iyog, 2nd MIB commander, said the fighting started Monday afternoon when residents alerted government troops over the presence of the BIFF forces in their area. Overnight, the opposing camps traded shots and barrage of mortar fire.**

www.dwdd.com.ph

# ACTIVATION | 95th Infantry Battalion to help fight insurgency

Posted by [Alvin Santiago](#) on April 12, 2018 at 11:07 AM



**CAMP MELCHOR F DELA CRUZ, Gamu, Isabela (DWDD)** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Star Division (5ID) has formally activated the 95th Infantry Battalion.

According to Major General Perfecto Rimando, Commander, 5ID, the battalion's activation is based on the recommendation of the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines Gen Rey Leonardo Guerrero and was approved by the Department of National Defense.

MGen Rimando added that the newly-activated battalion would first undergo organizational formation training before they are sent out and help in the fight against insurgency. **5ID / MCAG**