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TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

14 March 2018

Wednesday

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

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TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST MARCH 14, 2018 WEDNESDAY		EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST			EXTENDED WEATHER FORECAST			
		MAR 15 THU	MAR 16 FRI	MAR 17 SAT	MAR 15 THU	MAR 16 FRI	MAR 17 SAT	
<p>NORTHEAST MONSOON IMPROVING VIZION TAIL END OF A COLD FRONT IMPACTING EASTERN VISAYAS as of 5:00 am - March 13, 2018</p>		METRO MANILA	23°C 33°C	23°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	PUERTO PRINCESA	25°C 32°C	25°C 32°C
MANILA 20-31°C	QUEZON CITY 21-31°C	TUGUEGARAO	20°C 31°C	22°C 32°C	22°C 32°C	HOLO/ BACOLOD	26°C 31°C	26°C 31°C
SMOOTH CLARK 24-33°C	METRO MANILA 22-32°C	LAGIG	20°C 31°C	21°C 32°C	21°C 32°C	METRO CEBU	25°C 31°C	25°C 31°C
DAVAO CITY 19-28°C	CELEBES 25-31°C	BAGUIO	14°C 24°C	15°C 24°C	15°C 25°C	TACLOBAN	23°C 31°C	24°C 31°C
MANILA 25-31°C	CELEBES 23-30°C	SBMA/ CLARK	24°C 33°C	24°C 33°C	25°C 33°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	23°C 31°C	24°C 31°C
MANILA 26-32°C	CAGAYAN DE ORO 23-30°C	TAGAYTAY	20°C 29°C	21°C 29°C	22°C 29°C	METRO DAVAO	25°C 34°C	25°C 34°C
MANILA 24-35°C	METRO DAVAO 24-34°C	LEGASPI	25°C 32°C	25°C 31°C	25°C 30°C	ZAMBOANGA	24°C 35°C	24°C 35°C

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INQUIRER

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CLEARING OF DRUG LORDS UPSETS SOLONS

STORY BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

Lawmakers denounce as selective justice the exoneration of suspected drug kingpins while thousands of poor pushers and users get killed. They hope Justice Secretary Aguirre will reverse the dismissal of the drug trafficking charges.

MANILA—The United States handed over six surveillance drones to the Philippine Air Force (PAF) in a P687-million grant that the top PAF official said was "worth the wait."

Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar, PAF chief, said the PAF first "manifested interest" in getting the six Boeing Insitu ScanEagle drones in 2015 under the Foreign Military Financing component of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and United States.

"It is certainly worth the wait," Kintanar said of the three-year wait for the drones.

Training included

The grant includes a 10-week training program for PAF pilots to fly the drone and crew to maintain the equipment.

The turnover of the drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, followed the transfer to the PAF by the United States of two single-engine surveillance planes last year.

The Philippine military planned to deploy the drones for surveillance against terrorists and pirates and for surveying the aftermath of disasters like typhoons, mudslides and earthquakes.

The PAF would operate the drones from its base in Palawan, Antonio Bautista Air Base.



One of six ScanEagle surveillance drones turned over by the United States under a foreign assistance grant is on display at the Philippine Air Force.

—LYN RILLON

"This acquisition of ScanEagle is one way to modernize the military to deter those who want to wage war against our country," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said at a ceremony at the Villamor Air Base, the PAF headquarters,

attended by US Ambassador Sung Kim.

No hurt feelings

The United States is the most important military partner of the Philippines, but ties have been tested by President

Duterte's pivot to China.

Nevertheless, the US military provided technical support and surveillance vital in ending a five-month occupation of Marawi City by Islamic State followers last year.

—REPORTS FROM NIKKO DIZON AND REUTERS INQ

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Rajah Buayan Mayor Zamzamin Ampatuan (right) turns over a World War 2 vintage 30-caliber machine gun and 60mm mortar to Brig. Gen. Diosdado C. Carreon (left) of the Philippine Army's 601st Brigade on Monday. 40th IB commander Col. Edgar L. Catu (center) and Rajah Buayan ABC President Datu Jack Ampatuan witness the turnover of 25 high-powered firearms. **Mark Navales**

'Balik Baril' program sees more firearms recovered

By Mark Navales

RAJAH BUAYAN, Maguindanao—Twenty-five loose firearms—all but three being high-powered rifles—were turned over at the municipal gymnasium here Tuesday, as Mayor Zamzamin I. Ampatuan declared that his town is peaceful.

The "Balik Baril Program" is symbolic of the culmination of the local peace process, Ampatuan said and locals turned over a 30-caliber machine gun, a 60mm mortar, an Ultimax light machine gun, and M16, M14, M79 and Barrett rifles.

"We have to continue this turning over of loose firearms. We should not wait for the full force of the law. Let us surrender the unlicensed firearms. This will be good for all of us. Let us think on how to live peacefully," the mayor said.

Ampatuan encouraged everyone who has unlicensed firearms to "use your coconut (brains), return your loose firearms and we will give you coconut seedlings."

Brig. Gen. Diosdado C. Carreon, commanding officer of 601st Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, said those who are returning their firearms

"are the law-abiding citizens. You may possess it, but you cannot bring it out."

"During martial law, licenses to carry guns are suspended. Studies show that the root cause of violence in this area is because of so much loose firearms," Carreon added.

During the recent two-day firefight between the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and troops of the Army's 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division in the nearby marsh town of Datu Saudi Ampatuan, the BIFF lost 44 soldiers and saw 26 wounded.

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2 Army official kinasuhan sa 'Lumad massacre'

Kinasuhan ng paglabag sa International Humanitarian Law ang dalawang matataas na opisyal ng militar kaugnay ng pagkamatay ng walong katutubong Lumad, kabilang ang kanilang tribal leader, sa umano'y bakbakan sa Lake Sebu, South Cotabato kamakailan.

Avon sa report ng Commission on Human Rights (CHR)-Region 12, sinampahan ng paglabag sa International Humanitarian Law sina Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc, ng 33rd Infantry Battalion Command, at Lt. Col. Benjamin Leander, ng 27th Infantry Battalion, kaugnay ng sinasabing bakbakan sa Sitio Datal Bonglangon sa Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu noong Disyembre 3, 2017.

Ayon kay CHR-12 Regional Director Erlan Deluvio, napalaban umano sina Habunoc at Leander sa grupo ng New People's Army (NPA), na nagresulta sa pagkamatay ni Datu Victor Danyan, tribal leader, at pito pang miyembro ng tribo.

Iginiiit naman ng pamilya ni Danyan na minasaker ang kanilang tribo, pinabulaanan ang umang sila sa NPA, at itinatanggiling nagkaroon ng engkwentro na kinamatay ng kanilang mga katrigo.

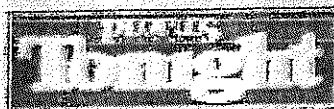
Batay sa dokumentong harekober ng mga katrigo ni Dayan sa lugar ng anila'y massacre, nakasaad na nagtatag ang grupo ni Dayan, kasama ang ilang matataas na opisyal ng NPA sa lugar ng revolutionary barangay sa Sitio Datal Bonglangon, na nagresulta sa sinasabing bakbakan.

Naipadala na ang subpoena kina Habunoc at Leander, na nakatakdang sagutin ng mga ito sa loob ng 10 araw.

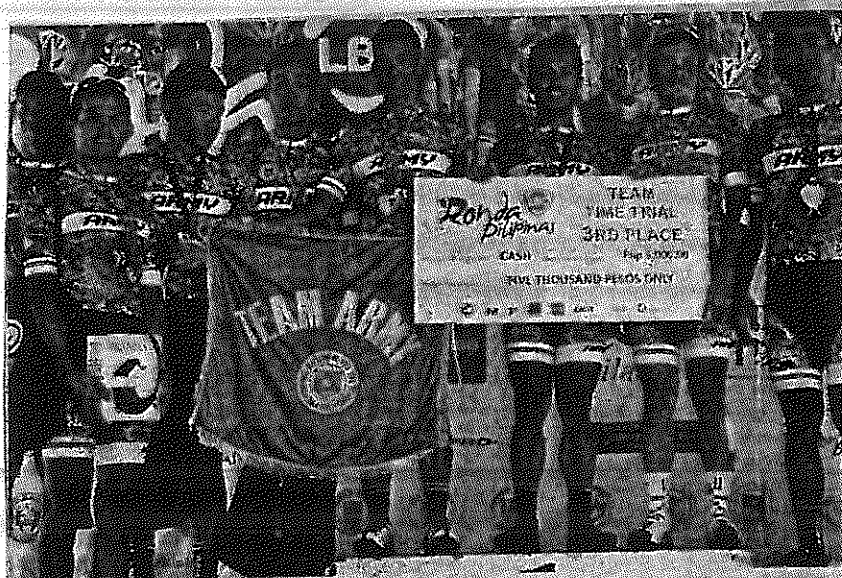
Sinabi pa ni Deluvio na kung mapatutunayang mayroong paglabag ang militar, gaya ng pagkakaroon ng excessive force, at abuse of authority sa ilalim ng martial law, ay mananatagot sa batas ang mga ito.

Fer Taboy

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The Philippine Army Bicycology Shop, led by Stage Three winner Pfc. Cris Joven, finished third in the Team ITT Stage Eight in 2018 LBC Ronda Pilipinas.

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21 terrorists eye IS 'emir' title

BY DEMPSEY REYES

TWENTY-ONE terror leaders are in the running as the next "emir" of the Islamic State (IS) for Southeast Asia, replacing Isnilon Hapilon, according to National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

"After we walloped [the Maute group] in Marawi City, there were, of course, leaders who were left there. There were 21 of them we are looking at," Esperon said on Tuesday at the sidelines of the annual Protect 2018 event in Makati City.

He came up with the revelation a week after the Philippine Army's First Infantry Division (ID) cited information that Abu Dar had replaced Hapilon, after the latter was killed in October last year with Omarkhayam Maute in the middle of a siege of Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, by the IS-inspired Maute group.

Esperon said it is possible that Dar is a potential successor of Hapilon, adding that the First ID should have only mentioned that the former is a "probable candi-

date" for the leadership of IS in Southeast Asia.

"One of the candidates is Abu Dar. He is among those [who could replace Hapilon], because he is very near Marawi. Abu Dar managed to escape during the Marawi siege and he was able to get out of Marawi and bring out some funds, which we believe he can now use to recruit or to fund some operations," the former military chief added.

"That is why we are monitoring him closely," he said.

All 21 candidates have been identified and were included in the wanted list of the government but not all took part in the Marawi siege, according to Esperon.

"Not that significant. I don't want to sound very complacent.

We all know that since it's on our list," he said.

Esperon downplayed the capabilities of Dar to lead another siege despite his boast that "so many [terrorist] leaders" are dispersed all over Mindanao.

Aside from Dar, he said, Malaysian Amin Baco and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leader Yasser Igasan are also potential successors of Hapilon.

Baco, according to Esperon, was not accounted for as among those who were killed during the Marawi siege, contradicting claims made by several military officials last year that the foreign terrorist was among those who died during the siege.

He said terrorists who originated from the Lanao provinces and Sulu would not let themselves be under foreign terrorists.

In 2007, the military disclosed that Talipao, Sulu-based Igasan had replaced Khadaffy Janjalani as the leader of the ASG.

Igasan is also being considered as the heir of Hapilon in the IS leadership, Esperon said.

He, however, said the IS "emir" candidates are not comparable with Hapilon, whom he had faced when he was in Basilan during his days as an active military officer.

"Isnilon Hapilon was my match in Basilan. Remember, that's where Hapilon and Esperon had a face-off," Esperon added.

"I don't think [that the candidates are comparable with Hapilon]. But we can never be complacent, and we can never let our guard down. In fact, the President has been saying that these terrorists could attack other cities," he said.

With military forces deployed to different parts of Mindanao, particularly "target areas" of terroristic activities, Esperon added that the military must be able to react immediately to any incident that may occur.

He said government troops have been sent to Cotabato and Iligan City, Lanao del Norte.

Esperon also disclosed that there were 40 foreign terrorists who managed to slip into the country to join the Marawi siege.

But of the number, he said, only 14 were accounted for as having died during the Marawi crisis.

He also revealed that transfer of funds for local terror groups in Mindanao from the IS organization was "slightly cut."

"But we will never know because transfer of funds could happen anytime," Esperon said.

He considered the possibility that there might be foreign terrorists roaming Metro Manila, echoing what Philippine National Police chief Ronald de la Rosa said and also considering arrests made by the police of alleged Maute-linked terrorists in the country's premier region.

Addressing the rise of violent extremism in the Philippines and in other nations is "obviously not an easy task," US Ambassador Sung Kim said also on Tuesday during the launch of the US Embassy together with the Philippine government of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies Countering Violent Extremism workshop.

"As all of you know, the true strategy for dealing with violent extremism is to prevent the next crisis by focusing on the underlying issues that give rise to the violent extremism in the first place," Kim said. "This is obviously not an easy task."

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PH, Australia conduct joint maritime exercises

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY – The Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM) started yesterday its Second Maritime Security Engagement exercise with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the waters off Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi in which are aimed at enhancing both forces' anti-piracy and anti-terrorism capabilities.

NFWM Commander Rear Admiral Rene V. Medina said the 21-day activ-

ity will include maritime patrols in NFWM's Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the waters off Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

Medina said the arrival of HMAS Broome and HMAS Launceston on Monday at the Zamboanga City International Port signaled the start of the Second PN-RAN Maritime Security Engagement.

According to Medina these kinds of activities were part of the anti-piracy and anti-terrorism campaign of the government in these Mindanao islands.

The joint engagements conducted were one of the major causes for the decreasing number of kidnapping incidents in Western Mindanao.

"I am very certain that both, our navies share common concerns in ensuring safer seas and trade routes for our sea farers and respective communities," Medina emphasized.

He likewise underscored that "piracy and terrorism here in the Southern Philippines are not only the concern of our country, but the concern of all."

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AFP rescues 4 loggers abandoned by captors

By ROEL PAREÑO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Four loggers abandoned by their kidnapers after nine days in captivity were rescued by the military in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte on Monday.

Roger Jung-an, Jomar Maglangit, Jomar Mantangan and Raymond Purisima, who were taken by members of a renegade faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, were rescued in Barangay Libucon at about 3 p.m., Lt.

Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief, said yesterday.

“The victims were left by their disoriented captors after soldiers and policemen had relentlessly pursued them,” Galvez said.

Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, Joint Task Force Zampelan commander, said barangay and local officials contacted the soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Battalion after the victims were sighted in the area.

Murillo said the kidnapers “panicked aside from being weary in the pursuit operations.”

The loggers were snatched while cutting timber in Barangay Panabutan. The kidnapers called up the

employers of the victims and demanded the payment of ransom. One of the victims died after he was hit in the crossfire in a failed rescue operation on March 7.

The military said a manhunt for the kidnapers led by a certain Jamilon Wahab is ongoing.

“Let this be a warning to anyone or any group planning to engage in any criminal activities. We will eventually get you,” Galvez said.

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4 workers escape from their captors in Zambo Norte

By Mario J. Mallari

Sustained military operations in Zamboanga del Norte on Monday resulted in the recovery of four kidnap victims in Sirawai town — nine days after they were abducted by lawless elements.

Report from the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom) identified the victims as Roger Jung-an; Jomar Maglangit; Jomar Mantangan; and Raymond

San Vicente, Sirawai town.

The four, all chain saw operators, were abandoned by their captors at around 3 p.m. Monday — apparently due to military pressure.

Maj. Gen. Roseller Murrillo, commander of Joint Task Force Zampelan, said that there were originally five kidnap victims but one of them was hit in the crossfire during an encounter between government troops and the suspects last March 7 — four days

The victims were abducted by armed men, under a certain Jamilo Wahab, last March 3 along Barangay Panabutan, also in Sirawai.

"They were originally five when they were kidnapped however, one of them was hit in the crossfire during an encounter between our soldiers and their captors last March 7," said Murrillo.

The four kidnap victims were found by residents of Barangay Libucon and subsequently reported to authorities.

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4 kidnap victims abandoned in Zamboanga del Norte town

B. NONOY E. LACSON
and **FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - After spending nine days in captivity, four kidnap victims were abandoned by their captors in a remote village in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte Monday afternoon, according to a local village chief.

Barangay Libucon, Sirawai Chairman Mahari Abdulla said Roger Jungan, Jomar Maglangit, Jomar Mantangan, and Raymond Purisima were recovered at an agricultural area in sitio Simbulalao, Libucon at about 2:45 pm, Monday.

Abdulla said that, according to the victims, they were released at about 10

a.m. Monday by their captors at the inner forested areas of the village, and arrived at an agricultural site in sitio Simbulalao, Libucon about 2:45 pm.

Local residents living at the area immediately informed Abdulla about the presence of the four kidnaped victims in the area.

Abdulla said he immediately fetched the four victims, and brought them to Sirawai Mayor Gamar A. Janihim.

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom) Spokesman Army Capt. Jo-Ann Petinglay said the four rescued kidnaped victims were chainsaw operators and laborers, who are all residents of Barangay San Vicente, Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte.

They were abducted in Barangay Panabutan last March 3, Petinglay said.

Joint Task Force Zampelan Commander Maj Gen Roseller G. Murillo said "the (recovered victims) were originally five when they were kidnaped however, one of them was hit in the crossfire during an encounter between our soldiers and their captors last March 7."

According to Murillo, Janihim and Abdulla contacted the soldiers of the 42nd Infantry Battalion, and turned over the four kidnapped victims.

They immediately underwent medical check-up while military intelligence operatives and police investigators conducted debriefing.

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Suspected Indonesian terrorist held

SULTAN KUDARAT - An Indonesian man was arrested in this province on Monday for alleged links to a local militant group.

Mushalah Somina Rasim, 32, alias Abu Omar, failed to present any identification card when questioned by personnel of the Palimbang police and intelligence agents of the 5th Marine Battalion, the military said.

The Ansar Al-Khulafa terror group, which declared its loyalty to the Islamic State, emerged in Palimbang in 2014.

Soldiers seized the camp of the militants in Barangay Butril following an encounter that left seven terrorists dead.

A cache of firearms and explosives was also seized.

Senior Superintendent Raul Supiter of the Sultan Kudarat police confirmed the arrest of Rasim, but did not give details.

"There are transnational security cooperation efforts between our government and Indonesia. Our superiors will initiate proper procedures," Supiter said.

Members of the Sultan Kudarat inter-agency provincial peace and order council said they would ask the Indonesian consulate in Davao City to help the Philippine National Police in its investigation of Rasim.

- John Unson

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Air Force acquires drones from US

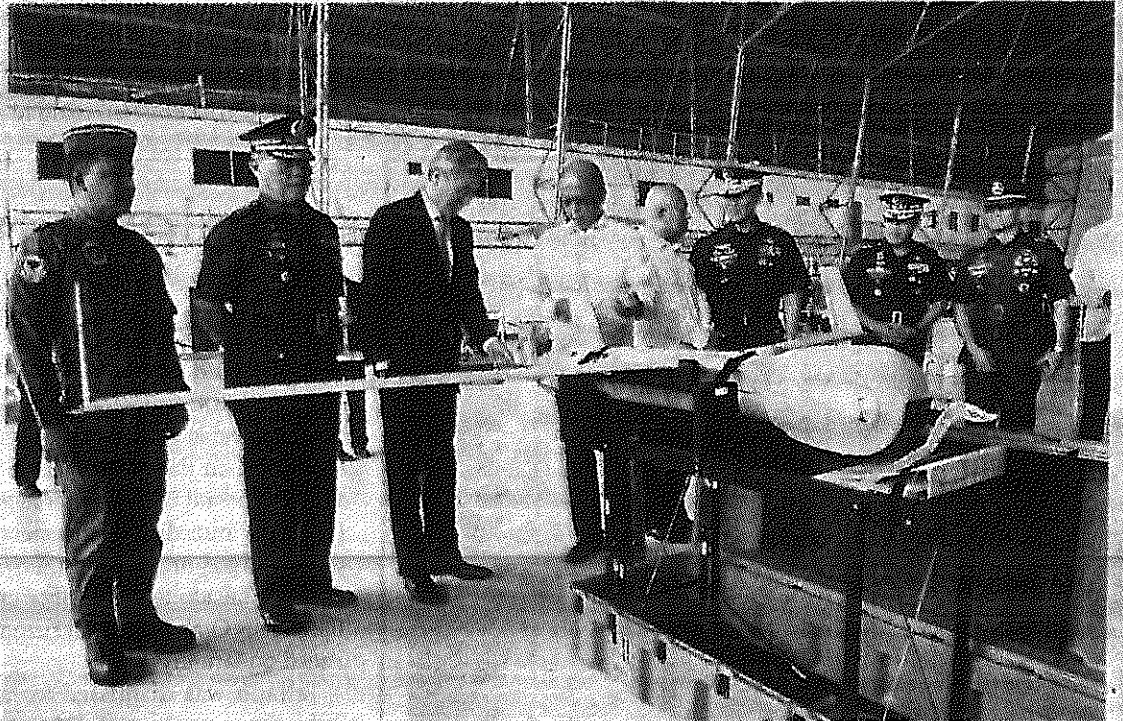
THE US government turned over to the Philippine Air Force six ScanEagle unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) that could detect terrorist activities, piracy and encroachment of Philippine territories.

The turnover ceremony was attended by US Ambassador Sung Kim, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr. and other high-ranking air force officials.

Lorenzana said the UAV units would boost the capability readiness of the Philippine Air Force especially in the conduct of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) operations in support of missions such as territorial defense.

"With a number of security issues confronting our country, there is a need to upgrade our nation's Armed Forces and to establish a more credible defense and this acquisition of ScanEagle UAV is one way to modernize the military to deter those who want to wage war against our country," he said.

"This collaboration is also an indication of the Philippines' and the United States' goodwill, deep friendship and genuine commitment to peace. There are a variety of ways for our equipment to make its way to the Philippines.



SPANKING NEW US Ambassador Sung Kim (third from left) and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (fourth from left) inspect the unmanned aerial vehicles at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. PHOTO BY JOHN MICAH SEBASTIAN

My assurance to you is we are going to explore any possible avenue to provide types of equipment that the Philippine military needs," Kim added.

The drones, worth \$13.76 million, were acquired through the US' Foreign Military Financing Program (FMF).

Kim said the turnover represents the "strength of partnership" be-

tween Manila and Washington.

He gave assurances that the US government is committed in enhancing the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"We know that ISR assets like the ScanEagle would significantly improve AFP's ability to detect terrorist activities, piracy activities, territory encroachment. So in all fronts, maritime domain security,

counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief," Kim told reporters at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

Maj. Aristides Galang Jr., Air Force spokesman, said the six UAVs will also provide support to other government activities such as stopping illegal logging and dynamite fishing.

DEMPSEY REYES

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PAF boosts intel gathering with drones acquisition

By JAIME LAUDE

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has upped the ante on its aerial intelligence gathering with the acquisition of six unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from the US worth \$13.36 million.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said with six Scan Eagle UAVs acquired from the US under a Foreign Military Financing (FMF) scheme, the PAF air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance

operations got a big boost.

"This new asset has a state-of-the-art technology that makes it highly capable of conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR)," Lorenzana said.

The UAVs have the capability to conduct various functions including special services operations, escorts operations, sea-lane and convoy protection, protection of key installations as well as high speed wireless voice video and data communications.

Given the "super technical specifications" of the Scan Eagle, the Air Force, he said, will be able to use these UAVs to support a variety of missions also aimed at addressing internal and external threats.

Lorenzana issued the statement following the official turnover of these UAVs by US Ambassador Sung Kim to the Air Force in a ceremony held at the 250th President Airlift Wing Hangar, Villamor Air Base in Panay City yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Galileo Gerard Kintanar

Jr., Air Force chief, said that the six Scan Eagle UAVs are the first unmanned aerial vehicles which the PAF has acquired.

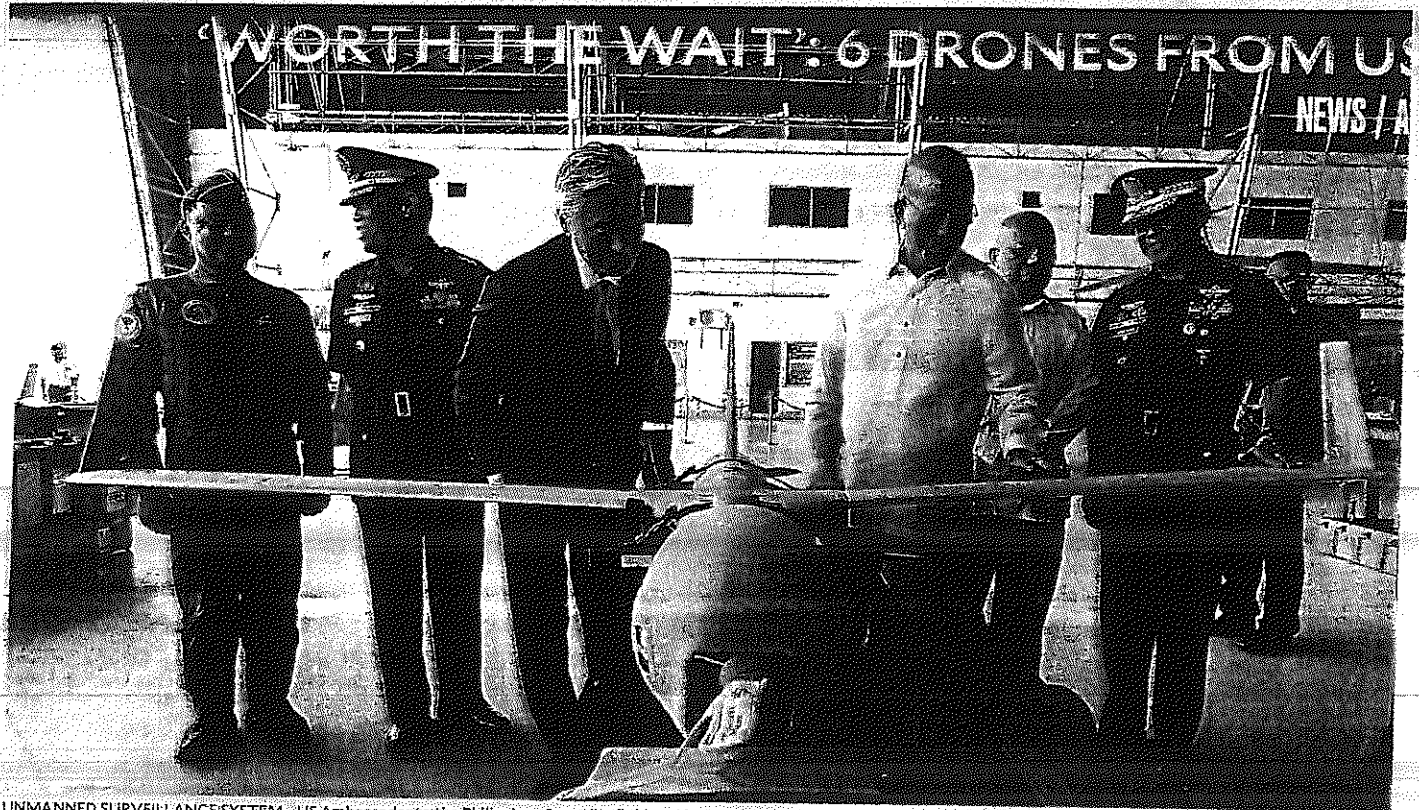
He added that these UAVs will be placed under operational control of the 300th Air Intelligence and Security Wing.

Aside from the US ambassador, the turnover rites were also witnessed by US military officials led by Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) chief Col. Ernest Lee.

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INQUIRER

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UNMANNED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM - US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim (left) and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana inspect an unmanned aerial vehicle, part of a P687-million drone system donated by the United States to help the Philippines fight Islamist militants. -LYN RAYLON

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DRONE SYSTEM. An unidentified military chaplain blesses ScanEagle Unmanned Aerial Vehicles during the turnover ceremonies Tuesday at the military air base in Manila. The United States on Tuesday gave the Philippines its first drone system which would help fight militants in strife-torn Mindanao as the allies hailed their 'strong relations.' **AFP**

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