

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



TEAM ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 March 2018

Thursday

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

22 MARCH 2018

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast	-	PDI p.A8
NATIONAL NEWS			
2-3	Bus crash kills 19 in Occ. Mindoro	Madonna T Virola	PDI p.A1
ARMY RELATED NEWS			
4-5	Army chief Bautista outlines reality of terror threat in PHL	Recto Mercene	Business Mirror p.A3
6	Valor battalion intensifies martial law ops in Surigao del Sur	Mike U Crismundo	Mla Bulletin p.11
7	NPA used Misamis villagers as shields	Roel Pareno	The Phil Star p.11
8	Troops pursue fleeing rebels who used civilians as shields	Al Jacinto	The Mla Times p.A7
9	3 magsasaka hinostage ng NPA	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.6
10	Photo:	Toto Lozano	Business Mirror p.A3
11	Photo:		Tempo p.2
12	Photo:		Balita p.16
13	Photo: Fresh recruits	Keith Bacongco	Mla Bulletin p.11
AFP RELATED NEWS			
14	AFP accepting more scholars	Michael Punongbayan	The Phil Star p.10
15	Lorenzana opposes bill on Marines	Nikko Dizon	PDI p.A7
16	Defense chief tutol sa hiwalayang Navy at Marines	Joy Cantos	PM p.2
17	Defense chief submits 5 names for AFP CS post	Mario J Mallari	The Daily Tribune p.3
18	3 general naglalaban sa Chief of Staff	Joy Cantos	Ngayon p.2
19	3 eyed for top AFP post	Jaime Laude	The Phil Star p.9
20-21	Rody wants 75 as retirement age for armed services	Alexis Romero	The Phil Star p.4
ONLINE NEWS			
22	Lorenzana opposes move to make Marine Corps independent	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
23	Terror threat a reality that must be confronted: Army chief	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

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

24	PA activates 7 new battalions	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph
25	Army supportive of gov't anti-drug campaign	Priam Nepomuceno	www.pna.gov.ph

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

22 March 2018



Page: A8

PANAHON TV
www.panahon.tv /PanahonTV

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS - FEARED VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | MARCH 22 2018 | THURSDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
as of 5:00 pm - March 21, 2018

LADAG CITY		TUGUEGARAO CITY		SUNRISE	SUNSET
21-30 °C		24-31 °C		5:59 AM	6:07 PM
SBMA/CLARK		BAGUIO CITY		MOONRISE	MOONSET
22-31 °C		13-23 °C		9:29 AM	10:36 PM
METRO MANILA		TAGAYTAY CITY		NEW MOON	FIRST QUARTER
22-31 °C		19-28 °C		MAR 17 3:22 PM	MAR 24 11:35 PM
PUERTO PRINCESA		LEGAZPI CITY		LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
26-32 °C		18-30 °C		MANILA SOUTH HARBOR	2:30 PM
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY		TACLOBAN CITY		0.00 Meter	0.71 Meter
26-32 °C		24-32 °C		Partly cloudy at times cloudy with rain showers Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms Cloudy with rain showers and/or thunderstorms Light Rain	
ZAMBOANGA CITY		METRO CEBU			
22-30 °C		25-34 °C			
		CAGAYAN DE ORO			
		24-31 °C			
		METRO DAVAO			
		25-34 °C			

METRO MANILA	TAGAYTAY	TACLOBAN
22-31 °C	19-28 °C	24-31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	LEGAZPI	CAGAYAN DE ORO
21-32 °C	22-30 °C	24-32 °C
LADAG	PUERTO PRINCESA	METRO DAVAO
21-30 °C	26-32 °C	25-34 °C
BAGUIO	ILOILO/BACOLOD	ZAMBOANGA
13-23 °C	25-32 °C	23-31 °C
SBMA/CLARK	METRO CEBU	
22-31 °C	25-30 °C	24-30 °C

DZRH NEWS TELEVISION

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11 AM & 5 PM

PILIPINAS HD

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

22 March 2018



Page: A1

BUS CRASH KILLS 19 IN OCC. MINDORO

STORY BY MADONNA T. VIOLA

The deadliest road accident this year happened as the Dimple Star Transport vehicle was negotiating a winding downhill highway stretch that was under repair in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

FROM A1

By **Madonna T. Viola**
@mviolaINQ

CITY OF CALAPAN—A bus headed for Manila crashed into a 15-meter-deep ravine in Sablayan town, Occidental Mindoro province, killing 19 people and injuring 21 others in the deadliest road accident in the country since December last year, police said on Wednesday.

The bus owned by Dimple Star Transport was traveling on a winding downhill stretch of the national highway that was under repair.

It smashed into a railing at the approach to Patrick Bridge before landing on its side at the bottom of the ravine at Barangay Batong Buhay around 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

The provincial police director, Senior Supt. Ronnie Estepa, said the driver, who was among those killed, apparently lost control of the vehicle but investigators could not immediately say whether this was due to human error or mechanical failure.

The bus left San Jose, one of the southernmost towns of the province, at 5:20 p.m. on its way to Abra de Ilog town where it was to board a roll-on, roll-off vessel to Batangas City for the trip to Manila.

Survivor's account

Passenger Normina Labaniego, a resident of Sablayan, said she survived because she was seated at the rear of the bus. She said most of the fatalities were in the front-row seats.

"We crawled out of the bus. It was dark, people were shouting for help, especially mothers

who were looking for their children," she said.

The 45-year-old dressmaker suffered severe back pain and cuts to her face that required stitches.

In addition to driver Arno Panganiban, Estepa identified the fatalities as conductor Erwin Ebuenga and passengers Teresita Tupagan, Elizabeth dela Cruz, Marciano Ramos, Virginia Ramos, Lolita Bayle, Leahflor Borlado, Anselma Gomez, Gilbert Laguardia Jr., Robert Jose, Gloria Gabuco, Cely Pama, Nelie Alvaro, Rodolfo Santiago, Percival Flores, Rudy Bacani, Judith Gabuco and Josie Salcedo.

Six of the injured were being treated at San Sebastian District Hospital in Sablayan, while 15 others were taken to the provincial hospital in Mamburao town.

Sablayan Mayor Eduardo Gadiano said the local government would pay for embalming of the dead and provide financial assistance to those hospitalized.

Grounded buses

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) grounded nine other Dimple Star buses on the company's Mindoro-Manila route for 30 days.

The company has 120 buses covered by 10 franchises.

The LTFRB ordered Hilbert Napat, operator of Dimple Star, to show cause in writing within 72 hours why his franchise, of certificate of public convenience, should not be suspended or revoked.

Napat was also ordered to comply with several requirements, including the inspection of the grounded buses for their roadworthiness and a road safety seminar and compulsory drug tests for the

company's drivers and conductors.

Insurance coverage

Napat said the fatalities were insured for up to P200,000 each, while those injured would receive P20,000.

Even so, the LTFRB directed Napat to show proof that his company had paid insurance coverage for the accident victims.

At Chris Canillo, of the Sablayan Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office who was at the accident site 15 minutes after the crash, said people living nearby were the first to aid the bus passengers.

Highway fatalities are alarmingly high in the country due to poor traffic law enforcement, the dilapidated condition of vehicles, and a lack of safety features like signs and railings, especially in far-flung provinces.

A bus-jeepney collision on Christmas Day last year killed 20 people in La Union province.

Rage over bus accidents

Sen. Grace Poe, an advocate of traffic safety, expressed sympathy to the families of the victims while also voicing rage that such accidents were preventable.

"Sadly, the list of tragic road accidents and their casualties continue to increase because vehicles that are not roadworthy or even those we label as rolling coffins are still allowed to ply the roads with near impunity," Poe said in a statement.

She called for support for a Senate bill that would create a National Transportation Safety Board and other measures such as strict inspections of public transportation vehicles and drivers' licensing. —WITH REPORTS FROM JHESSET O. ENANO, CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, AFP AND AP INQ

22 March 2018

BusinessMirror

Page. A3

A President's Journal at the Office of the President

Army chief Bautista outlines 'reality' of terror threat in PHL

THE threat of terrorism, which the Philippines experienced firsthand during the five-month long Marawi City siege, is a reality the world needs to confront, the chief of the Philippine Army (PA) Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista said.

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

The Army commander's statement came as the authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) hoisted the heightened alert on Tuesday, amid reports that foreign terrorists have sneaked into the country through the southern backdoor.

Manila International Airport General Manager Ed V. Monreal, however, said that the public should not be alarmed with the heightened security status since "it is just part of a security measures to protect our passengers, the facilities and, of course, the airport users."

"We have coordinated with the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group [PNP-Avsegroup] and directed the Office of Transport Security personnel to remain vigilant. But we do not want to cause inconvenience in the process by creating long lines at the baggage-screening checkpoints," Monreal added.

He said security personnel at airport checkpoints will conduct inspections of car's passengers of motor vehicles. He advised the public to abide with the new security protocol for their own protection.

The heighten alert was raised after reports from the Western Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) alleged that some foreign terrorists were able to slip into the country recently.

The report has reportedly

prompted the AFP and the PNP to embark on a manhunt.

Omnipresent

"THE threat of terrorism is omnipresent and unavoidable in this day and age. It is a reality that the free world must now confront. The siege of the city of Marawi opened the eyes of countries in our part of the world to the realities of terrorism," Bautista said during the Army's 121st anniversary rites on Tuesday.

The Marawi City fighting, which started from May 23 to October 23, 2017, subsequently resulted in the death of more than 1,000 military, police, civilian and Maute Group terrorists, aside from causing billions of pesos worth of damages in public and private infrastructure in Marawi City.

Despite challenges and losses, however, the Army managed to neutralize the Maute Group terrorists which proved its capability to defend the country against security threats.

Leading the charge

"THE Army served as the main effort to address and neutralize the ISIS [Islamic State of Iraq and Syria]-Maute terrorist group in a protracted battle for the liberation of the City of Marawi. Having no less than our Commander in Chief,

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who entered the main battle area at the height of the firefight, inspired and motivated every AFP, PNP and Coast Guard personnel to perform their mandate to rescue the hostages and neutralize all the terrorists," Bautista said.

He also attributed the desire of military personnel, wounded in the fierce battles, to continue fighting with the President's unwavering support. "His unwavering support made even some of the wounded to refuse medical evacuation in order to be able to go back to the front-lines," he added.

In the liberation of Marawi City, the Army managed to get the better of their terrorist enemies in the urban terrain by swiftly making the necessary adjustments by tailoring its tactics, techniques and procedures to suit the difficult urban environment.

"Thinking out of the box, the Army outmaneuvered the ISIS-Maute terrorists and shook their core, resulting in the neutralization of about 900 terrorists, headed by the FBI's most wanted terrorist, Isnilon Hapilon, and the Maute brothers," Bautista added.

Recto Mercene with PNA

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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

22 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page: 1

'Valor' battalion intensifies martial law ops in Surigao del Sur

BY MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP BANCASI, Butuan City - Troops of the Army's 36th Infantry "Valor" Battalion (36th IB) is intensifying the enforcement of martial law in Surigao del Sur with the continued threat coming from the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), according to 36th IB Civil Military Operation Officer Capt. Francisco P. Garelo, Jr.

Garelo said relentless military and security operations such as intensified military police checkpoints, and route and areas security have been undertaken to deter the travel of terrorists and lawless elements.

A massive security awareness cam-

paign has also been undertaken to inform the public on the true nature of the CPP-NPA and its deceptive recruitment strategy.

"Recent encounters in some parts of the province of Surigao del Sur are results of the continuous campaign to address the armed component of the communist terrorist group while AFP-PNP checkpoints have intensified due to continuing threats of the CNTs in the province," the CMO officer of the 36th IB said, in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin on Wednesday.

Garelo added that commuters and private vehicles will be randomly checked.

It can be recalled that, around 11:30 a.m. on February 21, troops of the 36th IB intercepted foreigners at the checkpoint in

Dreamland Patrol Base, Sitio Dreamland, Barangay Alba, Tago, Surigao del Sur.

As a routine process, the foreigners were subjected to questioning and were asked for proper identification as they have violated Municipal Ordinance and Tribal Laws.

Hence, the group was invited at Tago Municipal Police Station for documentation and identification. They were later released upon documentation as witnessed by their legal counsel Antonio Azarcon.

"We call for all commuters to cooperate and voluntarily subject themselves in the routine process of the AFP-PNP checkpoints," also said Lt. Col. Xerxes A. Trinidad, commanding officer of the 36th IB, in a statement sent to The Manila Bulletin.

22 March 2018



Page: 11

'NPA used Misamis villagers as shields'

By ROEL PAREÑO and JAIME LAUDE

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Government troopers have launched pursuit operations for New People's Army (NPA) rebels who snatched three villagers during an encounter in Misamis Occidental on Monday.

The victims, all farmers and residents of Barangay Sinampogan in Aluran town, were taken from their homes by around 20 communist guerrillas who clashed with personnel of the

10th Infantry Battalion, Maj. Gen. Roseller Murillo, First Tabak Division commander, reported yesterday.

Capt. Benjie Jimenez of the First Infantry Division quoted

Aloran Mayor Junie Roa and barangay officials as saying that the rebels used their captives as human shields.

As a military helicopter provided air support to ground troops, the rebels abandoned their captives in the jungle. The victims were rescued by pursuing troops.

More than 200 residents fled their homes to avoid being caught in the crossfire.

Murillo condemned the rebels for taking civilians as hostages.

"This is another terrorist act and a crime against the International Humanitarian Law," he said.

The military has intensified its operations against communist rebels ahead of the 49th anniversary of the NPA on March 29.

- With Lino de la Cruz

22 March 2018

The Manila Times

Page: A7

Troops pursue fleeing rebels who used civilians as shield

ZAMBOANGA CITY: Army troops on Wednesday pursued a band of communist insurgents who seized three civilians and released them after using them as shields as they escaped an intensive military operation in Misamis Occidental.

Captain Benjie Jimenez, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division, said the operation was the offshoot of an earlier clash with New People's Army (NPA) in Aloran town where the rebels snatched a farming couple and a villager. The three were later released unharmed and recovered by the soldiers.

Mayor Junie Roa of Aloran and Marieta Dologao, chairman of Barangay Roxas, confirmed the report and said the victims were seized from their houses.

The two local officials reported that three of their constituents were forcibly taken from their

homes and used as human shields by 10 communist NPA terrorists while retreating after their armed encounter with troops from the 10 Infantry Battalion in Barangay Sinampongan," Jimenez said.

"Army troops immediately conducted rescue operations for the kidnapped civilians who were released after the NPA terrorists used them as human shields," he added.

Major General Roseller Munillo, Army division commander, condemned the NPA saying, "this terroristic act of kidnapping innocent civilians for use as human shields is a crime against international humanitarian law and an act of desperate criminal cowards who care nothing about the welfare and safety of people."

**AL JACINTO
AND DEMPSEY REYES**

March 2018

BusinessMirror

Ahead of the times, wherever

Page. A3

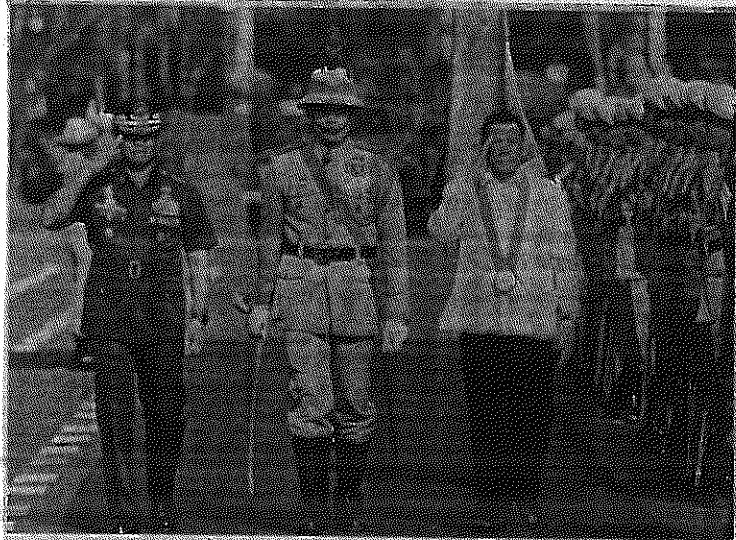


PRESIDENT Duterte confers the Army Governance Pathway Institutionalized Medallion award on the 10th Infantry Division represented by its commander, Maj. Gen. Noel Clement, during the 121st founding anniversary of the Philippine Army at the Army Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, on Tuesday. Also in photo is Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence Go. TOTO LOZANO/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO

22 March 2018



Page. 2



PRESIDENT Duterte and Philippine Army commanding general Lt. Gen. Rolando Bautista troop the line during the 121st founding anniversary of the Philippine Army in Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. (Presidential photo)

22 March 2018



Page. 16



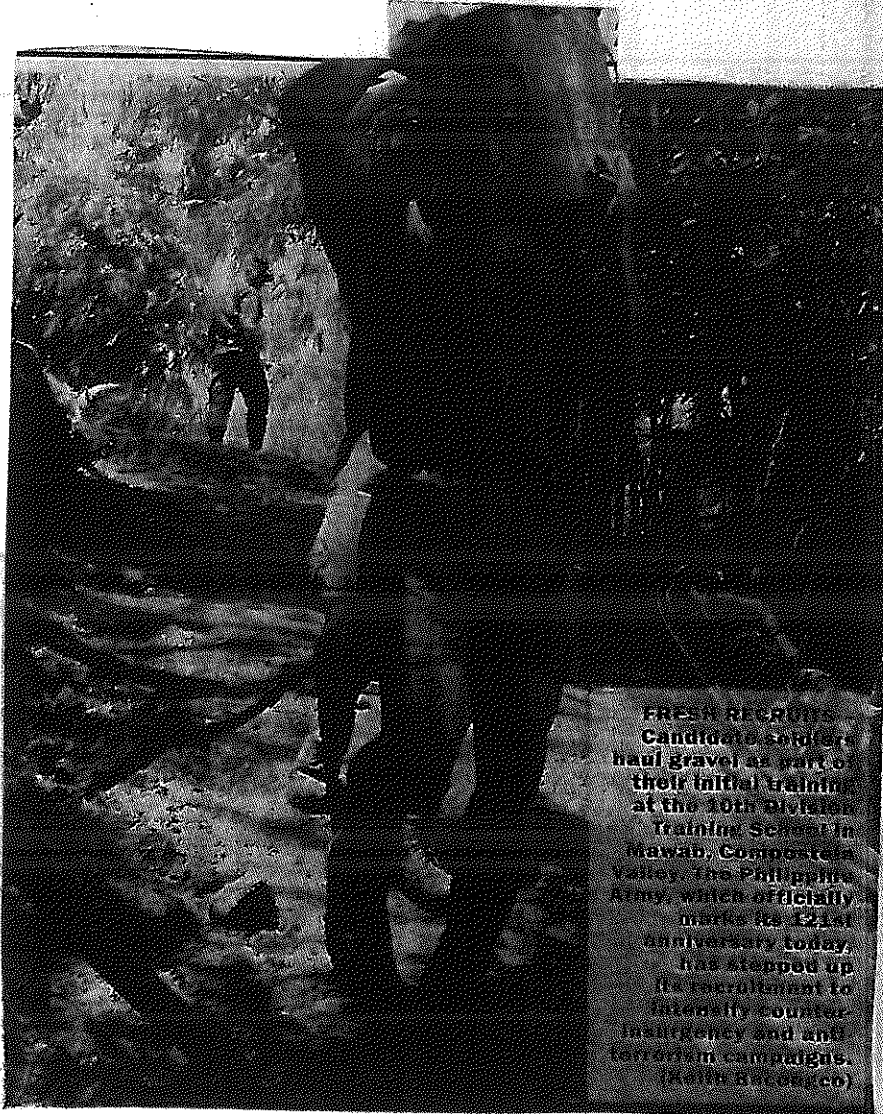
NAGDIWANG ang Philippine Army-Bicycology Shop, sa pangunguna ni team manager Olympian Eric Buheir (center) at business partner John Garcia (matapos ang matikas na kampanya ng Armymen na tumapos ng runner-up sa team classification ng 2018 LBC Ronda Pilipinas

22 March 2018

MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Page:



FRESH RECRUITS
Candidate soldiers haul gravel as part of their initial training at the 10th Division Training School in Mawab, Compostela Valley, the Philippine Army, which officially marks its 121st anniversary today, has stepped up its recruitment to intensify counter-insurgency and anti-terrorism campaigns. (Kelly B. Cojuangco)

22 March 2018



Page: 10

AFP accepting more scholars

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is accepting more dependents of soldiers as scholars after its beneficiaries rose to 4,129 as of February 2018. The number is expected to increase in the following months as the military continues its scholarship generation activities nationwide spearheaded by the AFP Educational Benefit System Office (AFPEBSO). The AFPEBSO reported that 769 beneficiaries are in the National Capital Region; 1,408 in Luzon; 499 in Visayas; and 1,453 in Mindanao. All are benefitting from scholarships consisting of law mandated programs and those by virtue of partnerships with educational, government, socio-civic and financial institutions. Among the benefits being received by current grantees are free tuition and miscellaneous fees, monthly stipend up to P20,000 per year, food and transportation allowance. The AFP said it now has over 290 scholarship partners as of February 2018 that include around 280 academic institutions and foundations that have entered into a memorandum of agreement with the AFP. The AFPEBSO has been managing educational programs to qualified dependents since its activation in 2000. It caters mostly to the disadvantaged orphans whose parents have died or were incapacitated in combat. Other beneficiaries are dependents of non-battle casualties, active and retired soldiers, and Civilian Employees of the AFP.

- Michael Punongbayan

22 March 2018



Page: A7

SEPARATE BRANCH OF SERVICE

LORENZANA OPPOSES BILL ON MARINES

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday said the Department of National Defense (DND) would oppose the proposed measure to make the Philippine Marine Corps a separate branch of service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"We oppose that because the Marines is basically a ground force. If we make it a branch of service, we would have two ground forces," Lorenzana said in a television interview.

The Philippine Army is the ground force of the AFP, which is also comprised of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Air Force.

The Marines are an infantry force under the command of the Navy.

Last week, House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez III and House Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas Jr. filed House Bill No. 7304, or the Philippine Marine Corps Act, which seeks to make the Marines an independent branch of service of the AFP.

"The Marines are expeditionary forces. In other countries like the (United States), their Marines, upon which we patterned ours, are utilized for overseas deployment ... The Philippines, on the other hand, will not be invading foreign shores anytime soon or ever," Lorenzana said. --NIKKO DIZON INQ

22 March 2018



Pahina. 2

Defense chief tutol sa hiwalayang Navy at Marines

Timutulan kahapon ni Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ang panukalang ihiwalay bilang isa pa sa military service ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang Philippine Marines na nasa ilalim ng kontrol ng Philippine Navy.

Anyang hindi napapanahon at lalong hindi karapat-

dapat na ihiwalay bilang panibagong military service ang Marines sa Navy na siyang mother unit nito.

Magugunita na isinulong muna House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez at Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas ang isang panukalang batas para ma-institunonalize ang Philippine Marine

Corps bilang autonomous arm ng AFP o ihiwalay ang mga ito ng military service sa Philippine Navy.

Sa kasalukuyan, tatlong military service lamang ang mayroon ang AFP na kinabibilangan ng Philippine Army, Philippine Navy at Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Sinabi ni Lorenzana na ang Philippine Marine Corps ay nagsisilbing ground force na kayang magdeploy ng infantry force sa Mindanao at kung ihiwalay ang mga ito ng service sa kahahmalaad na trabaho ng Philippine Army at kung magkagayon ay dalawa na ang ground force sa bansa - *Joy Carios*.

22 March 2018



Page: 3

Defense chief submits 5 names for AFP CS post

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana will be submitting five names of senior military generals to President Duterte for his choice to succeed Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero.

Guerrero is supposed to complete his three-month extension of duty on April 24.

It will be recalled that Guerrero reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 last December -barely two months after assuming the AFP top post in October, but was extended by Duterte.

Lorenzana said that the AFP Board of Generals (BoG) will prepare the shortlist, composed of five names, which he will submit to the President for his pick.

The defense chief stressed that all three-star generals of the AFP are qualified to succeed Guerrero, who is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1984.

"All of the three-star generals are all qualified. I know them all and I am sure whoever will be chosen will do a good job," said Lorenzana.

However, Camp Aguinaldo sources said that the race to the

AFP top post is down to three officials, namely, Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista; Eastern Mindanao Command (Eastmincom) chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal, and Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) head Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr.

Bautista, Madrigal and Galvez are mistahs from the PMA "Sandiwa" Class of 1985.

Among the three, sources said that Bautista is most likely to be appointed vice Guerrero.

"General Bautista enjoys the trust and confidence of the President having served as PSG (Presidential Security Group) commander. He also performed well during the Marawi City siege," one of the source said.

During the siege, Bautista was the commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division (ID) which has jurisdiction over Marawi City.

It will be recalled that more than 900 Islamic State-inspired terrorists, led by Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon and the dreaded Maute brothers, were killed during all-out military operations in Marawi City.

The military liberated Marawi City only after five months.

Mario J. Mallari

22 March 2018



Pahina. 2

3 general naglalaban sa Chief of Staff

Tatlong heneral ang mahigpit na naglalaban upang pumalit sa puwestong babakantehin ni Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero sa susunod na buwan.

Si Guerrero, miyembro ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Maharlika Class 1984 ay dapat nagretiro na noong Disyembre 17, 2017 pero pinalawig pa ni Pangulong Duterte ang termino hanggang Abril 24, 2018.

Ayon kay Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, kabilang sa mga ikinokonsidera ng AFP Board of Generals na humalili sa puwesto ni Guerrero ay sina AFP Western Mindanao Command Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez at AFP Eastern Mindanao Command Lt. Gen. Benjamin Madrigal.

Samantala matunog naman sa mga contenders si Army Chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Josecito Bautista na kapwa mistah nina Galvez at Madrigal sa PMA Sandiwa Class 1985.

Sina Galvez at Bautista ay napabantog sa pagsupil sa Marawi siege. Si Madrigal ay nakabase naman sa Davao na pangunahing nagsusuperbisa ng operasyon laban sa CPP-NPA terrorists.

Inihayag ni Lorenzana na bagaman may manok siya ay prerogativo na ni Pangulong Duterte ang pumili ng susunod na Chief of Staff. *(Joy Santos)*

22 March 2018



Page: 9

3 eyed for top AFP post

Three military officers are being eyed to replace Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Rey Guerrero, who will take over as administrator of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) on April 24, an official said yesterday.

The contenders for the AFP post are Lt Gen. Benjamin Madrigal Jr. of the Eastern Mindanao Command, Lt

Gen. Carlito Galvez Jr. of the Western Mindanao Command and Army chief Lt. Gen. Rolando Josecito Bautista, according to Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Guerrero was supposed to retire last December, but President Duterte extended his term for three months.

Guerrero will replace Marcial Amaro III as Marina chief. Amaro

was sacked by Duterte over his numerous trips abroad.

Meanwhile, Lorenzana rejected a proposed bill in Congress seeking to make the Philippine Marine Corps an independent service command under the AFP.

The measure seeks to detach the Marines from the jurisdiction of the Navy. - Jaime Laude, Michael Punongbayan

22 March 2018



Page: 4

Rody wants 75 as retirement age for armed services

By ALEXIS ROMERO

President Duterte wants to raise the retirement age of uniformed personnel to 75 from 56, saying the government would be shortchanged if security officials are allowed to leave the service early.

Duterte said the retirement age of 56 is "too early," considering that Filipinos are spending so much for soldiers and policemen.

"*Alam mo 'adre, sa totoo lang, lugit ang gobyerno sa inyo* (You know buddy, the government is shortchanged) You retire at the age of 56, that's too early," the President said at the graduation of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) "Maragtas" class of 2018 yesterday in Cavite.

"Do not be offended. Filipinos are spending much for you, yet you retire at the age of 56. *Hindi ako makabawi* (I cannot recover the expenses)," he added.

Duterte urged Vice President Leni Robredo, who was also present during the graduation ceremony, to support a measure raising the retirement age of the armed services.

"Perhaps in the next legislation, we will ask the Vice President to do her part. Retirement age is 75," he added.

Duterte also cited the need to enlist more policemen to address the Philippines' security requirements. He ex-



PNPA cadet Don Carlo Labastida presents Vice President Leni Robredo with her portrait, which he himself painted, during the PNPA graduation rites yesterday.

pressed hope that more Muslims would join the country's security forces.

"I hope by the next batch or the next - the one coming up for this generation, I will have the money to give you to enlist more police officers," he said.

"Not all the Moro of Mindanao are our enemies. So maybe next time there should be a percentage of the Moro people joining PMA (Philippine Military Academy) or the PNPA. We need them," he said.

At the same event, Duterte advised PNPA graduates to be vigilant against the Sparrow unit or the assassins of the New People's Army (NPA).

"Be on alert for the sparrows because they are very active. If you have guns, do not display it, and be sure to keep a low profile. And if you enter an unfamiliar place, keep a sub rosa (private) style of movement," the President said.

"We are at war. Now, the NPA is really after your guns. Those fools are drooling for your guns," he added.

Duterte reminded the incoming police officers to have presence of mind and to study the ways NPA members assassinate their victims.

"I am not condemning you to death, I am just saying keep a low profile, heighten your sense of awareness," the President said.

Duterte also claimed that about 1,000 soldiers and policemen have died because of the campaign against illegal drugs in Mindanao.

He also urged the PNPA graduates to perform their duties in accordance with the law.

This was the third time Duterte and Robredo shared the same stage in less than a week.

"Vice President Maria Leonor 'Leni' Robredo, this is the third time that I have greeted you, my lady," the President said. Robredo smiled, sparking cheers from the audience.

The country's top officials attended the graduation rites at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City on Sunday and the 121st founding anniversary celebration of the Philippine Army in Taguig City on Tuesday.

Robredo said she had a chance to talk with the top 20 of the 106-strong Maragtas Class before the commencement exercises. One of the graduates, meanwhile, gifted Robredo with a portrait of herself.

Robredo shared on Twitter photos of the artwork by Cadet Fourth Class Don Carlo Labastida, who hails from Davao City. The painting featured the Vice President's face and the seal of her office.

Turn to Page 5

Rody From Page 4

"Was gifted with this beautiful painting by the PNPA Council of Artists. In the pictures with me is the artist behind this masterpiece, Cadet 4CL Don Carlo Labastida of Davao City," Robredo said.

Labastida is a self-taught painter who belongs to the PNPA Council of Artists, the Office of the Vice President said.

Yesterday's rites took on a new meaning for one of the female graduates after

her policeman boyfriend surprised her with a marriage proposal.

Inspector May Ann Beluna, 25, was with her relatives on the parade grounds when her boyfriend of three years, Inspector Thomas Allabo, 26, of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF), approached her with a bouquet of flowers.

Allabo, a member of the PNPA Lakan-dula Class of 2015, was accompanied by his classmates carrying heart-shaped balloons. – With Emmanuel Tupas, Helen Flores, Christina Mendez

ONLINE NEWS

22 MARCH 2018

www.pna.gov.ph

Lorenzana opposes move to make Marine Corps independent

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on Wednesday dismissed outright proposals to separate the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) from its mother unit, the Philippine Navy (PN).

The defense chief issued this statement after House of Representatives Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas filed a bill seeking to institutionalize the PMC as a distinct and autonomous arm of the military.

"Number 1, Marines are expeditionary forces. In other countries like the US, where we patterned ours, the US Marines are for overseas deployment. That is also true with the Royal Marines of UK. Both units are invasion forces embedded with their Navies. The Philippines, on the other hand, will not be invading foreign shores anytime soon or ever," Lorenzana said.

Second, he pointed out that the PMC is "basically a ground force" and making them an independent service will mean that there will be two ground forces, including the Army, in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Number 3, the PMC claims that they have particular skills, like ship-to-shore operations. The Army could easily learn these skills," he added.

Lorenzana further said that the PMC was envisioned as a light, hard, striking force to pursue pirates and smugglers, upon its creation in 1950 by a General Headquarters order.

"It was originally part of the Philippine Naval Patrol, the forerunner of the Philippine Fleet. In short, the PMC was envisioned as an adjunct of the PN and it was envisioned as a small force only," he said.

The PMC is composed of about 8,000 officers and enlisted personnel spread around three maneuver brigades, apart from combat support and headquarter units. **(PNA)**

Terror threat a reality that must be confronted: Army chief

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA -- The threat of terrorism, as exposed in the five-month long Marawi City siege, is a reality the world needs to confront.

"The threat of terrorism is omnipresent and unavoidable in this day and age. It is a reality that the free world must now confront. The Siege of the City of Marawi, opened the eyes of countries in our part of the world, to the realities of terrorism," Philippine Army (PA) commander Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista said during their 121st anniversary rites Tuesday.

The fighting, which started May 23 to Oct. 23, 2017, subsequently resulted in the death of more than 1,000 military, police, civilian and Maute Group terrorists aside from causing billions of pesos worth of damages in public and private infrastructure in Marawi City.

Despite challenges and losses, however, the Army managed to neutralize the Maute Group terrorists which proved its capability to defend the country against security threats.

"The Army served as the main effort to address and neutralize the ISIS-Maute terrorist group in a protracted battle for the liberation of the City of Marawi. Having no less than our Commander-in-Chief, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, who entered the main battle area at the height of the firefight, inspired and motivated every AFP, PNP and Coastguard personnel to perform their mandate to rescue the hostages and neutralize all the terrorists," Bautista said.

He also attributed the desire of military personnel, wounded in the fierce battles, to continue fighting with the President's unwavering support.

"His unwavering support made even some of the wounded to refuse medical evacuation in order to be able to go back to the frontlines," he added.

In the liberation of Marawi City, the Army managed to get the better of their terrorist enemies in the urban terrain by swiftly making the necessary adjustments -- tailoring its tactics, techniques and procedures to suit the difficult urban environment.

"Thinking out of the box, the army outmaneuvered the ISIS-Maute terrorists and shook their core, resulting in the neutralization of about 900 terrorists, headed by the FBI's most wanted terrorist, Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute Brothers," Bautista added. **(PNA)**

PA activates 7 new battalions

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – In line with ongoing efforts to beef up its operations on the ground, the Philippine Army (PA) has activated seven out of the 10 additional infantry battalions it has authorized to raise and deploy.

This was announced by PA commander Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista during their 121st founding anniversary celebration in Fort Bonifacio Tuesday.

"To beef up our ground operations, seven out of the additional ten infantry battalions have been activated. The remaining three shall be activated in the second quarter of this year," he said.

A Philippine battalion has an average size of around 300 to 500 officers and enlisted personnel.

"Furthermore, the 5th Scout Ranger battalion and the 500th Engineer Combat Battalion were also activated," Bautista stressed.

Also, the war fighting competency of the Filipino soldiers was enhanced by the conduct of more than 700 squad-level training activities and more than 12,800 individual training programs.

"Furthermore, 24 allied countries provided training programs and military courses, that contributed to the professional development of our personnel," the PA chief pointed out.

He added that the PA's success in last year's operations, against lawless elements and other security threats, were due to the good relations that the troops enjoy with the people of the communities.

"For instance, in the island of Bohol, the joint AFP-PNP operations against the terrorist elements of Abu Sayyaf Group or ASG, resulted in the neutralization of the ASG sub-leader, alias Abu Rami, simply because Boholanos gave us the necessary vital information to accomplish our mission. These acts of mutual cooperation prevented the culprits from extending their terrorist activities in the island," the PA chief pointed out. **(PNA)**

Army supportive of gov't anti-drug campaign

By Priam Nepomuceno



PRRD GRACES PH ARMY'S 121ST ANNIVERSARY. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte chats with Philippine Army (PA) Commander Lieutenant General Rolando Bautista on the sidelines of the 121st Founding Anniversary of PA at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on March 20, 2018. *(Toto Lozano/Presidential Photo)*

MANILA – As a show of support in the government's ongoing anti-illegal narcotics campaign, a total of 28,811 Philippine Army (PA) personnel have undergone mandatory drug tests in 2017.

This was bared by Army commander Lt. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista in his speech during the PA's 121st founding anniversary rites held in Fort Bonifacio Tuesday.

"Last year, a total of 28,811 personnel underwent random mandatory drug tests. We also shared information from our intelligence units, with both Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police in support of their anti-illegal drug operations," he added.

Earlier, PA spokesperson Lt. Col. Louie Villanueva said any Army personnel caught using or involved in drug dealing activities will severely sanctioned including dismissal from the service.

"The Army is serious in support of government campaign on illegal drugs, hence it has undertaken at its level programs activities such as mandatory drug test to all personnel establishment of drug-testing facilities in various camps as well as sustain advocacies," he added. *(PNA)*