

December 5, 2008

18th AARM: A Shared Vision for a Strong ASEAN

AARM Village, Camp O' Donnell, Capas, and Tarlac – Day 2 of the 18th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) started early today at 7 a.m. Rifle events that are lined up for today are Pistol Men and Women, Carbine, and Rifle Match.

The AARM with a theme: "A Shared Vision for a Strong ASEAN" officially marked its opening yesterday with Lt. Gen. Victor S. Ibrado, commanding general of the Philippine Army as the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

"We come together once again in the spirit of friendly competition and with the vision of enhancing the bilateral and multilateral ties among our armies and our nations in the furtherance of regional unity and security. As such, we earnestly appreciate your presence and participation in this important event," said Lt. Gen. Ibrado.

After seven years, the Philippine Army is proud and honored to once again host the AARM. The AARM was first established in 1991 under the recommendation of the Malaysia Chief of Army at that time. It aims to develop and strengthen the relationship between the military personnel on all levels of the ASEAN Armies from senior military leaders to the soldiers of the lower ranks through rifle competitions.

"There will certainly be individuals and teams who will emerge as winner in the different shooting events. But whatever the results will be, we shall all be happy for the victory of one is the victory of all the ASEAN armies," said Lt. Gen. Victor S. Ibrado.

ASEAN countries who will be participating in the week-long competition include the Royal Brunei Land Force, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (Army), Indonesian National Army, Malaysian Army, Myanmar Armed Forces, Singapore Army, The Thai Army, Vietnam People's Army, and of course the Philippine Army.

The opening ceremony was highlighted by the silent drill and sky diving exhibition. It was followed by the entrance of the AARM flag and contingents, welcome remarks/ introduction of guest of honor by Maj. Gen. Jerry V. Jalandoni AFP, vice commander of the Philippine Army; message and declaration of 18th AARM Opening 2008 by the Army chief Lt. Gen. Victor S. Ibrado; reading of the Oath of Sportsmanship by Cpl. Jenny V. De Belen, four-time champion Ladies Pistol AARM; Raising of the AARM flag and playing of the AARM hymn; and the Novelty Rifle Shoot of the Deputy Chiefs of Army.