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Armyman gets Gold Cross Medal by foiling a bus hold-up

FORT Bonifacio, Metro Manila – A Philippine Army soldier was awarded with a Gold Cross Medal and was promoted to the next higher rank after foiling a hold-up incident in Misamis Oriental on December 30, 2008.

Corporal Franklin L. Casio, a member of the 58th Infantry Battalion of the 4th Infantry Division unmindful of his personal safety, along with Fire Senior Superintendent Alejandro Cagampang of the Bureau of Fire Protection Region 10, gallantly engaged in a shoot out, three armed men who held up the bus that they were riding on while traversing the national highway in Barangay Duka, Medina, Misamis Oriental.

“Corporal Casio manifested true and genuine spirit of the army soldier being a real protector of the people and a source of national pride. He gave us the initial glory for this year,” said Army chief Lt. Gen. Victor S. Ibrado who graced the first Monday flag raising ceremony for the year 2009.

“We have concluded 2008 with much gratitude to the Almighty for Team Army’s numerous achievements and for being the bright beacon that has guided our troops into safety and success in our many operations,” said Lt. Gen. Ibrado.

Lt. Gen. Ibrado advised the troops to continue doing their part, just like Corporal Acasio, in fulfilling the collective commitment to at the people’s service across the land. In doing so, the organization can confidently push forward its thrusts in the fight against insurgency and other impediments to national unity and progress.

“I count on all members of Team Army to be shining examples of discipline and committed service to the nation, as we reach out to our people and encourage their participation in our initiatives for community, societal, and national growth,” he added, emphasizing on strengthening inter-agency partnerships, promoting public participation in the endeavors for peace and development.

“In doing so, the Philippine Army will play a prominent role in the pursuit of national programs aimed at eliminating poverty and attaining the global millennium development goals by 2015,” Lt. Gen. Ibrado said.

Corporal Casio was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was given the Gold Cross Medal, which according to him is already his 5th. Gold Cross is an award given only by the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Area Command and Major Service Commanders to military personnel of the AFP for gallantry in action.