

April 13, 2009

1 NPA terrorist killed, 3 others apprehended by the Army troops

A New People's Army terrorist was killed while three others were apprehended by the Army troops in two separate encounters in the provinces of Eastern Samar and Kalinga, respectively.

In Eastern Samar, two armed NPA terrorists were apprehended following combat operations by one section of Charlie Company of the Army's 14th Infantry Battalion, 8th Infantry Division led by 2Lt. Benjie S. Negranza at 11 a.m. on April 11, 2009 at Sitio Hitalinag, Brgy. Trinidad, Oras.

The two were identified as Dimas Gotonero Nuguit and a certain alias Batilis. Confiscated from their possession were a snub nose calibre .38 revolver and a fragmentation grenade.

During the initial investigation, the two revealed that they belonged to the group of more or less 15 NPA terrorists led by Martin Colima also known as Tan of the Southern Luzon Commission (SLC), Eastern Samar Provincial Party Committee (ESPPC) who have managed to escape immediately after the encounter with the Army troops.

The troops immediately pursued the fleeing NPA terrorists after the two apprehended NPA terrorists volunteered to act as guides. This led to the tracking down of Colima's group. A 30-minute exchange of fire erupted.

Batilis was fatally hit during the gun battle that caused his instantaneous death. No casualty was reported on the government side. Troops recovered two backpacks, a container of rice and subversive documents.

Troops are still on pursuit operations. The body of Batilis was brought to Dolores Municipality while Nuguit is now undergoing custodial debriefing.

In Kalinga, two NPA terrorists were captured by the scout platoon of the Army's 21st Infantry Battalion, 5th Infantry Division led by 2Lt. Dennis William D. Villanueva at 9:45 a.m. on April 9, 2009 after a five-minute encounter with nine NPA terrorists in Brgy. Balatoc, Pasil.

They were identified as Arsenio Anniban Casucas, who was wounded during the encounter; and Russel Sangga both of Komite sa Larangan (KLG) Baggas, Ilocos-Cordillera Regionl Committee (ICRC) under unknown commander. Troops recovered an M16 rifle.

Troops continued scouring the area to seal-off enemy's route of withdrawal.