

February 15, 2009

1 NPA rebel killed in Nueva Ecija Clash

BONGABON, NUEVA ECIJA – Government forces under the 702nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army scored another blow against NPA communist terrorist group in Nueva Ecija. Two sections of the elite 5th Scout Ranger Company under 1LT LANSANG and 1LT MABUS figured in a series of gun battle against unidentified group of communist terrorists in the hinterlands of Barangay General Luna, Rizal, Nueva Ecija along the Sierra Madre Mountain Range on 15 February 2009 at about 9 o'clock in the morning.

702nd Brigade Commander, BGEN EMMANUEL BAUTISTA reported that one (1) section of the Scout Rangers under 1LT LANSANG, while on security patrol, chanced upon an unidentified group of NPA terrorist and subsequently engaged the communist terrorists in gun battle. The NPA terrorists withdrew away from the government troops. Subsequently, the section under 1LT MABUS conducted pursuit along the NPA terrorists' route of withdrawal and again engaged the beleaguered terrorist group. The group of NPA terrorist scampered to different directions leaving behind one (1) dead comrade, one (1) M16 rifle, a medical kit and voluminous subversive documents. There was no reported casualty on the side of government troops during the said armed engagement.

BGEN BAUTISTA said that this was the 9th and 10th encounters respectively between government forces and CTs since January 26, 2009. He reiterated his appeal to the NPA rebels to come down from the mountains and return to mainstream society. "There are other ways to resolve the issues these NPA rebels are fighting for. There is no need to resort to violence and bloodshed. I hope they will realize the futility of their cause. We guarantee the safety of those willing to lay down their arms. The Social Integration Program, which offers livelihood and financial assistance for those rebels who want to renounce their armed struggle, awaits those who will come down from the mountains" added BGEN BAUTISTA.