

August 21, 2009

Basilan heroes to receive military honors

The Philippine Army will render military honors to 1Lt Dell Jhun Evangelista, one of the Army soldiers killed in the August 12 encounter with the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan, as he will be laid to rest tomorrow, August 22 at his hometown in San Quintin, Pangasinan.

1Lt Evangelista was instrumental for the loss suffered by the Abu Sayyaf Group as he led the 1st Light Reaction Company in a decisive and most significant engagement by the Philippine Army with the Abu Sayyaf resulting to 20 ASG bandits killed and 17 high-powered firearms recovered including five machine guns and two rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

According to Lt Col Ronnie Evangelista, commander of the Light Reaction Battalion of the Special Operations Command, Philippine Army, this heroic feat and display of gallantry could qualify 1Lt Evangelista as a Medal of Valor Awardee. Likewise, the Philippine Army also sees the possibility of giving appropriate Military Medals to Cpl Renato Dindin 1Lt Chester Barela, who was also a given military honors in his burial yesterday, August 20.

Cpl Dindin will also receive military honors during his interment on Saturday in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Lieutenants Evangelista, Barela and Cpl Dindin died for the country – an ultimate expression of undiminished valor a soldier could offer. The Philippine Army will forever remember this supreme sacrifice the three has offered the country.