

NOLCOM, AFP PRESS RELEASE

Informer gets P2-M cash reward from NOLCOM

Camp Aquino, Tarlac City- A civilian informant is two million pesos richer today, after the AFP's Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) paid the cash reward for the valuable information leading to the arrest of a top ranking leader of the CPP/NPA in Northern Luzon.

In a simple ceremony held at NOLCOM Headquarters, Lieutenant General Isagani Cachuela extended his gratitude, as he personally handed out the money to the informer who took great risks just so the mission will be accomplished.

On May 15, 2008 at around 9:15 PM, Randy Felix P. Malayao a.k.a. Panyo, Tonyo, James, and Edu, a top ranking communist terrorist leader was captured at the vicinity of Ortigas Extension, Barangay Malik, Cainta, Rizal by joint elements of the Army Intelligence, 502nd Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Philippine National Police and RID, PNP Regional Office 2.

Prior to his arrest, Malayao is the Deputy Secretary of the Northeast Luzon Regional Committee (NELRC), regular member of the Executive Committee, Head of the Regional Education Department and spokesman of the NELRC wherein he used Salvador Del Pueblo as pseudonym.

He was arrested by virtue of warrants of arrest issued against him for two (2) counts of murder, and frustrated murder docketed as criminal case # 9090, 9091 and 9092 in Tuguegarao City.

During his college days, Malayao was an activist leader at the University of the Philippines. Due to his performance and aggressiveness in pursuing party works, he became a full time party member of the CPP/NPA/NDF. He was the Political Officer of the Northern Front, Cagayan Valley Regional Committee (CVRC) prior his designation to higher posts.

He is being investigated, among others, for the killing of former Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, ambush of Army elements in San Mariano, Isabela, liquidation of Brgy. Capt. Nicolas Collado of Barangay Dibuluan, San Mariano, Isabela, liquidation of Army personnel in Ilagan, Isabela, and slaying of businessman Benjamin "Rigor" Olalia Jr also of said town after a failed extortion attempt.

Lt. Gen. Cachuela said Malayao's arrest is a big blow to the communist terrorists' organization in Region 2. "They have lost seasoned cadres who can help salvage their deteriorating organization. They do not have mass base support, so they are now on the run", he said.

Last year, Army Intelligence also arrested Elizabeth Principe, the Secretary of NELRC.

According to the NOLCOM Commander, the AFP will not waiver in its commitment to attain strategic victory over the CPP/NPA on or before the 2010 deadline of the President. "We are on track of our target goals."



NOLCOM on track of target goals

Camp Aquino, Tarlac City - Lieutenant General Isagani Cachuela, Commander of the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), AFP that has jurisdiction over the vast area of Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region and the Cordillera is confident of attaining strategic victory over the local communist terrorists on or before the 2010 target set by the President.

This came out when he met with top AFP and PNP Unit Commanders in the area of responsibility last January 12 for the first NOLCOM Command Conference for 2009. The objective of said activity is not only to review their operational accomplishments during the past year, but most importantly, to set their target goals and conceptualize new tactics and strategies in order to effectively address the insurgency threat. It was a no-holds-barred discussion about problems encountered by the field units as they go about performing their respective tasks under Security Plan.

Present during the conference were the following Commanders: Major General Ralph Villanueva and Brigadier General Antonio Supnet (7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army), Brigadier General Eduardo Oban (1st Air Division, Philippine Air Force), and Commodore Jose Luis Alano (Naval Forces Northern Luzon, Philippine Navy). The 5th Infantry Division, Philippine Army was ably represented by its OIC Colonel Renato David. Other units under the operational and tactical command of NOLCOM also had their representatives on that day.

During the review of Internal Security Operations accomplishments, Colonel Harold Cabrerros, Operations Chief of NOLCOM mentioned that out of the 11 guerrilla fronts targeted for clearing last year, three (3) were already dismantled, four (4) were downgraded, while the remaining four (4) are on the final stage of clearing. In the non-priority areas, the troops efforts led to the dismantling of one (1) front and downgrading of three (3) others.

What is left of these enemy organizations are eight (8) guerrilla fronts on verge of collapse and ragtag elements claiming to be members of a newly coined group (SPP or Sangay ng Partido sa Platun) who are on the run owing to lack of mass base support.

‘They (CPP/NPA) can keep on inventing names or units (SPP) to make it appear that they are getting stronger, but they cannot hide the fact that they are losing the battle. Call yourselves whatever you like, it really doesn’t matter. Our troops are ready to face you head on,’ General Cachuela said.

He commended all the Commanders and troops in the frontlines for doing a good job even as he underscored the importance of operational flexibility and convergence of efforts with the local chief executives and other government agencies in order to attain peace, stability and progress.

Based on the briefing, sixty-eight (68) Kalayaan sa Barangay Program (KBP) projects are already finished, five (5) are still ongoing while 17 will be started very soon. These include 11 water supply system, 43 school buildings and 19 farm-to-market roads situated in Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Abra and Kalinga. KBP is a vital component in achieving lasting peace as it provides basic services in depressed communities through the skills and ingenuity of the Army engineers and support personnel in the field.

Practically all affected barangays were cleared, thus limiting the rebels’ room for maneuver resulting in tactical engagements. Noteworthy of these encounters were the July 26 clash in Baluarte, Salcedo, Ilocos Sur that resulted to the recovery of five (5) high-powered firearms (HPFAs) and the death of three (3) NPA (body count); May 26 encounter in Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija wherein three (3) rebels were captured and three (3) HPFAs were recovered; and the November 28 encounter in Bamban, Tarlac that led to the capture of two (2) rebels and the recovery of three (3) high caliber guns.

Record shows the AFP maintaining an upper hand on all aspects of combat. On high-powered firearms exchange, government troops recovered 54 guns and lost only three (3) unserviceable garand rifles to the enemy. A total of 151 CPP/NPA regular members and supporters/sympathizers were also neutralized by AFP/PNP troops compared to 35 casualties incurred by government forces. Among those neutralized were key leaders like Evangeline Manabat aka Tani/Che and Randy Malaya aka Jaeron, both regional party leaders.

The ideological, political and organizational efforts of the enemy through its legal front organizations were also lessened due to the all-out support and cooperation of various sectors especially the citizenry.

In his guidance, Lt. Gen. Cachuela instructed the Unit Commanders to always talk to their troops to maintain their enthusiasm and make them understand the significance of their role in making every community a peaceful and progressive place to live in.

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