

LT GEN CADUNGOG NAMED NEW AIR FORCE CHIEF

The incumbent Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP Lt Gen Pedrito Sinco Cadungog was named as the incoming Commanding General of the 16,000-strong Philippine Air Force. He will assume command of the Philippine Air Force in a simple but fitting rites at the Headquarters Philippine Air Force, Pasay City at 3 p.m. on Dec. 4 with Defense Secretary Gilberto C Teodoro as the presiding officer.

Lt Gen Pedrito S Cadungog will take the helm as the 30th Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force from Lt. Gen. Horacio S. Tolentino who is bowing out of the military service after spending 37 years in the AFP. On the other hand, Maj Gen Pedro Inserto of PMA Class 1974, is designated as the incoming Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP.

Lt Gen Cadungog colorful military career started in 1975 after graduating from the prestigious Philippine Military Academy. During his early years in the military service, he became Director for Cadet Administration, Director for Military Education and Training, Flight Commander and Executive Officer of 103rd Student Squadron. Prior to that, he became a flight instructor for 4 years where he honed his flying, teaching, leadership and managerial skills. He's also a certified UH-1H and B205A-1 helicopter pilot. He is one of the few pilots proficient in both fixed-wing and rotary aircraft.

Lt Gen Cadungog also held significant assignments to include Squadron Commander and later Director for Comptrollership, 100th Training Wing; Advanced Command Post Commander of 206th Tactical Helicopter Squadron; Comptroller, 3rd Air Division and Commanding Officer, Air Force Management Information Center, among others. These were complemented by his stints as Chief, Intelligence Branch, Defense Operations Center; Chief, Operations Branch, Department of National Defense and Chief, Plans and Program Division, Office of the Presidential Consultant for Military Affairs.

The humble, well-rounded and definitely one of the Air Force's top pilots hails from Ginatilan, Cebu.

Lt Gen Tolentino, the outgoing Air Force chief, has steered the Philippine Air Force toward becoming an **"ACTION AIR FORCE: Action Driven, Combat Focused, Technology-Based, Innovative, Organizationally Sound and Nation Building Air Force**, during his stint as Air Force chief from Feb 2007-Jan 2008.

With regards to air operations accomplishments, an aggregate total flying time of 26,059 hours in 23,943 sorties was accomplished during his time. Likewise, a total of 131,187 military and civilian passengers to include 5.1M lbs of cargo were air lifted to various places in the country.

On disaster response, a total of 974 hours were flown. This resulted to the search, rescue and recovery of 97 persons during search and rescue operations. The more prominent of these rescue operations were during the aftermath of the typhoon is Surigao Del Sur where 505th Angels brought foodstuffs to passengers of an incapacitated ship long stranded in high seas.

On ground operations, the Philippine Air Force under the leadership of Lt Gen Tolentino, conducted 1,426 ISO-related operations, 1,367 security and counter-urban terrorist operations, 9,751 intelligence reports, 283 CMO, diffusion of 33 bombs and explosive devices, recovery of 44 unexploded ordnance and Medical-Dental Missions that benefited at least 34,000 patients, environmental protection and community-relations activities.

The aforementioned ground operations resulted to the recovery of different weapons and armaments; killing, capture and neutralization of 48 communist terrorists, ASGs, MILFs and JI personalities and recovery of subversive documents. Significant to note is the merging of 3 Guerilla Front into just one GF in SPOW AOR in Batangas and Cavite.

Meanwhile, the new Air Force Chief intends to embody the vision of **“A Professional and Competent Air Force Responsive to National Security and Development”** as he leads the Philippine Air Force in carrying out its mission to “Organize, train, equip, maintain and provide air forces in order to conduct prompt and sustained air operations to accomplish the AFP mission.”