



# PRESS RELEASE

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## On DND's 69<sup>th</sup> year

### **4 military officials get OAM award; 13 civilian employees cited for exemplary performance**

In celebration of its 69 fruitful years of public service, the Department of National Defense today honored 4 military officers for their outstanding contribution in cleansing the military's pension payroll of illegitimate pensioners and 13 civilian employees for exemplary performance.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro conferred the Outstanding Achievement Medal (OAM) to Captain Cornelio Dela Cruz Jr. PN; Lt. Commander Brendo Casaclang PN; Lt. Commander Antonio Cantoria PN; and Lt. Maynard Cabungcal PN in a simple celebration at Tejeros Hall, AFPCOC in Camp General Aguinaldo.

These officers were cited for their extraordinary achievement as members of the core group who led the "AFP Pension Payroll Cleansing Operations" through validation of the status of all pensioners.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of 2008, about 4,100 illegitimate pensioners were removed from the pension payroll generating a total savings of P40.33 million a month in the Pension budget for CY 2008.

Apart from enhancing the management of military's pension funds by increasing the accuracy of payroll, they also conducted the cleansing of the rank and file of AFP offices/units involved in pension processing and stamping out fixers.

"We take pride in giving recognition to our personnel in the defense and military establishment who are instrumental in improving our services and in bringing us closer to our people", Secretary Teodoro said.

He also expressed hope that this activity be an inspiration to other defense and military personnel to continue their good work and demonstration of enduring capacity to meet the winds of crisis.

The OAM is awarded by the Secretary of National Defense to military personnel of the AFP and citizens of the Republic of the Philippines, members of the Armed Forces and civilian personages of friendly foreign nations for distinguished or extraordinary achievement or service in the advancement of science or in socio-

economic, technical or military fields related to national defense, or for public service of the highest order.

During the ceremony, Secretary Teodoro also recognized deserving civilian employees from the DND and its bureaus, namely, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), and Government Arsenal (GA).

Model Supervisors awardees are: Marina Agustin (DND Proper); Dr. Hector Santos Jr (PVAO), Ruth Rodriguez (OCD), Cynthia De Vera (NDCP), and Engr. Jeaneth Espinosa (GA).

This year's Model Employees are Julieta Dalisay (DND Proper), Dina Recato (AFP), Rogelio Conde (PVAO), Carlos Jose Roda (OCD), Eileen Torres (NDCP) and Ramon Ambrocio (GA).

In his speech, the defense chief underscored this year's theme, "**DND and the Filipino People: One Team. One Country. One Vision.**" emphasizing the *DND-AFP One Team* concept which Secretary Teodoro has advocated since he assumed office in August 2007.

The theme signifies the resolve of the DND leadership to raise the consciousness of the Filipino people to participate as stakeholders of our national defense.

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