Filipino military nurses, unsung heroes – Gazmin

Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin called Filipino military nurses “unsung heroes” in view of their oftentimes unheralded contributions to the Department of National Defense’s mission accomplishment.

Speaking during the joint 77th Anniversary celebration of the Nurse Corps, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the 50th Anniversary of the Military Nurses Association of the Philippines (MNAP), Secretary Gazmin said that military nurses have continuously performed their mission and expanded their role in line with the transformation of our Armed Forces.

“Complementary to their primary duty of providing quality health care for our soldiers, our military nurses have included the task of taking care of the dependents of our soldiers,” Gazmin said.

The Defense Chief added that military nurses have even moved to the frontlines, as male nurses have been commissioned to the join the Nurse Corps. This, according to Secretary Gazmin, is to ensure that healthcare providers for our troops are readily available when needed.

“Well-trained and ready, our military nurses have been very effective in joint deployment with our combat troops, as attending to and providing for the healthcare needs of our soldiers came in handy,” he said.

To boost the capability of the Armed Forces in bringing much-needed medical care to the frontlines, 60 units of field ambulances worth Php312 million will be acquired for the Philippine Army under the Revised AFP Modernization Program (RA 10349). This is in addition to the recently acquired field ambulances that are already deployed.

Secretary Gazmin also congratulated this year’s awardees and lauded the contributions made by military nurses during disasters and in the furtherance of the AFP’s IPSP Bayanihan.

Col Nilda L Nesperos received the award of Outstanding Senior NC Officer, 1Lt Paula Benilda C. Aromin the Outstanding Junior NC Officer, and A1C Mark Joseph V Gamboa was recognized as the Outstanding Enlisted Personnel for 2015. Mrs. Luz P. Soriano, Mrs. Priscilla Donato, and Ms. Ma. Luisa C. Adolacion were given the Outstanding Registered Nurse, Outstanding Registered Midwife and Outstanding Nursing Attendant awards, respectively.

“Your exhibition of outstanding accomplishments in the delivery of healthcare services for our soldiers and those in need do not end in this celebration. Rather, you now embark on the beginning of a new commitment to serve our Armed Forces and people,” Secretary Gazmin said. ###