As part of the celebration of its 79th anniversary, the Department of National Defense (DND) recognized its best performing and outstanding supervisors and employees from the DND Proper and from each of its bureaus. A total of 28 civilian employees received various awards from Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana, assisted by Undersecretary of National Defense Cardozo M. Luna, and Assistant Secretary for Human Resource, Antonio L. Bautista, during the DND Anniversary Program at the AFP Commissioned Officers’ Club on October 31, 2018.

The awards consist of the following categories: the Civil Service Commission Award for Exemplary Supervisors; Civil Service Commission Award for Exemplary Employees; DND-Wide Model Supervisors, and DND-Wide Model Employees. All of the awardees received a plaque of recognition and cash gifts as reward for their remarkable service to the Defense Department.

Additionally, the SND Service Merit Medal was awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Francis T Rugayan O-13349 (Infantry) Philippine Army. LTC Rugayan was chosen by the Secretary for his exceptional service as military assistant for finance and logistics to the Secretary of National Defense from July 25 2016 to present.

2018 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION EXEMPLARY SUPERVISORS
DND proper, Ms. Ruthrina S. Gonzales
AFP, Ms. Josephine Rhodora C. Amores
PVAO, Ms. Sharon G. Antonio
VMMC, Ms. Juna Hazel T. Belinario
OCD, Dir. Melchito M. Castro
NDCP, Ms. Gladys M. Pua
GA, Ms. Wilma M. Espino

2018 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION EXEMPLARY EMPLOYEES
DND Proper, Mr. Alvin R. Petuco
AFP, Engr. Leizl B. Reonal
PVAO, Mr. Jose Rene E. Macaya
VMMC, Mr. Victor D. Doliente
OCD, Dir. Melchito M. Castro
NDCP, Mr. Gerardo B. Valenzuela
GA, Mr. Robinson S. Contawe

DND-WIDE MODEL SUPERVISORS
OSEC proper, Czarina N. Alqueza
AFP, Mr. Damasito F. De Vera
PVAO, Mr. Lawrence Benedict V. Buenafe
VMMC, Ms. Eleonor P. Francisco
OCD, Ms. Madonna Lyn O. Marquez
NDCP, Ms. Bibiana D. Tiamzon
GA, Engr. Alvir D. Calma

DND-WIDE MODEL EMPLOYEES
OSEC, Ms. Marie Carl R. Paragas
AFP, Dr. Dorothy G. Mangcoy
PVAO, Mr. Mi-khael Jose M. Lladones
VMMC, Ms. Carolyn R. Ramos
OCD, Mr. Rolly P. Manuel
NDCP, Ms. Maricar S. Marisga
GA, Ms. Rudelyn M. Santiago
The Department of National Defense celebrated its 79th Anniversary with the theme "One Defense Team @ 79: Conquering Challenges and Sustaining Peace towards a Stronger Nation."

It is but apt that we feature in this anniversary issue of the Defense Chronicle, the Department’s accomplishments in its peace efforts and initiatives.

Indeed, the Department’s work for peace has been gaining ground. The promotion of peace at the local front through a whole of government approach paved the way to the dramatic increase of the number of former rebels who laid down their arms and returned to mainstream society.

With the government’s comprehensive approaches, such as the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), to finally put an end to insurgency, Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana recently disclosed that more and more members of the New People’s Army (NPA) communist terrorist group are sending surrender feelers, adding that the strength of the group is fast being exhausted.

Secretary Lorenzana, in his speech during the 79th DND Anniversary program, announced that as of September 2018, the AFP Peace and Development Office has recorded a total of 3,443 surrenderees.

The AFP has also been welcoming and supportive to the former rebels who decided to seek its help “sa kanilang pagbabalik-loob” The best choice for the few who remain in hiding is to actually return to the fold of the law. Then ultimately, they can return home to their families. It would be best if they can reunite with their loved ones in time for Christmas.

Let’s continue conquering the challenges and let peace be our gift to the Filipino people this coming Christmas.
SND LORENZANA: MORE AND MORE NPA REBELS SEND SURRENDER FEELERS

Camp Gen. Servillano Aquino, San Miguel, Tarlac City – With the government’s comprehensive approaches to finally put an end to insurgency, National Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana disclosed yesterday that more and more members of the New People’s Army (NPA) communist terrorist group are sending surrender feelers, adding that the strength of the group is fast being exhausted.

The Secretary made the statement on 16 October 2018, the last day of the two-day Peace Summit for the Former Rebels (FRs) held at the Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), under the leadership of LtGen. Emmanuel T. Salamat. The event also included the surrender of firearms and the Ceremonial Acceptance of 125 FRs from Regions I, II, III and Cordillera.

Sec. Lorenzana attributed the decline of the insurgency partly to the effective implementation of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), the flagship program of the Duterte administration that seeks to effect social healing and national unity through a whole-of-nation approach towards the higher objective of having just and lasting peace. It provides social equity to former members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and the Militia ng Bayan by devising a different modality of providing benefits and services to the FRs, in order to reintegrate them into mainstream society.

"NANDITO ANG ATING PAMAHALAAN, SA PANGUNUNGA NI PRESIDENT DUTERTE NA BIBIGYAN ANG LAHAT NG PAGKAKATAON NG NAGBABALIK-LOOB NA MAGBAGONG-BUHAY, MAMUHAY NANG TAHIIMIK, PARA MAKAPAG-CONTRIBUTE KAYO SA ATING KOMUNIDAD," SECRETARY LORENZANA SAID.

Secretary Lorenzana commended the efforts of all agencies under the Task Force Balik-Loob (TFBL) headed by Defense Undersecretary Reynaldo B. Mapagu, which implements the E-CLIP
by consolidating all the programs of TFBL lead and partner agencies, as well as local government units which implement the reintegration program in their localities through the E-CLIP Committees headed by provincial governors.

The E-CLIP provides a wider array of benefits based on the particular needs of FRs and their families such as financial assistance, housing, education, skills training, healthcare, legal assistance, and among others through a convergence of various national and local government agencies.

During the said program, one of the rebels, alias Ka Padi, now in his late forties, shared his hardships and struggles as a communist rebel starting in the 80’s, lamenting how the guerrilla fighters of NPA made a lot of personal sacrifices, exploited by their leaders who were living comfortably and away from danger. He expressed his gratefulness to the government for its acceptance and for the benefits to help him and his family start a new life in the mainstream society.

Addressing his former comrades who are still fighting the government, Ka Padi urged them to return to the fold of the law and said, “Ang tagal na natin sa kilusan. May napala ba tayo? May naidulot ba ito na magandang buhay sa atin? Huwag na tayong magpalinlang sa kanila (NPA).”

Likewise, USec. Mapagu, the TFBL Chairperson, assured the FRs that their comrades who will decide to surrender will receive the same kind of assistance based on their needs.

“Sana ay tanggapin ng mga kapatid nating mga rebelde ang kabutihang loob ng ating pamahalaan, bumaba na sila sa kabundukan, at magbalik sa lipunan para makapiling nila ang kanilang mga pamilya, lalo na nitong nalalapit na kapaskuhan,” Usec. Mapagu said.

Established pursuant to Administrative Order No. 10 of President Duterte, the TFBL includes the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Office of the President, National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Peace Process (OPAPP) as among its lead agencies, and other government agencies and instrumentalities as partner agencies that may be tapped to provide additional benefits and services to FRs.
Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City | October 5, 2018 – "We cannot afford to fail. We cannot let our President down, as much as we cannot fail our own people," Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana said, addressing Task Force Balik Loob (TFBL) lead and partner agencies in a high-level inter-agency meeting here, as he enjoined them to work closely with each other for a whole of government approach in providing benefits and services to former rebels.

"Ending the insurgency is actually not an end but rather a means towards achieving higher national objectives of social healing, reconciliation, unity among our people, and eventually, attaining lasting peace – a legacy which the President wants to bequeath to the nation and to our people," Sec. Lorenzana said.

The Task Force, chaired by Usec. Reynaldo B. Mapagu, has five lead agencies as its members; namely: the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of National Defense (DND), National Housing Authority (NHA), Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP), and the Office of the President.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año, likewise expressed the need for lead and partner agencies including local government units down to the Provincial E-CLIP Committees to work together and faster, considering that the allocated funds for various programs have to be utilized before the year ends. He stated that the former rebels view the E-CLIP as a "light at the end of the tunnel," serving as the best option for the nation to finally achieve peace.

"In order for us to really solve insurgency, it is still impossible to wipe them (insurgents) all out completely or eliminate them through force. Even if you look at all
other insurgencies in the world, they did not end by fighting but rather, through negotiation or by a win-win solution like in Cambodia where everyone was given a chance to go back to the mainstream part of the government or society... and this is what we’re doing now,” the DILG chief added.

The meeting proceeded with updates from the TFBL Secretariat, represented by MAJ Aristotle F Antonio, while COL Joel Q Mamon, Chief of the Operations Division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations (OJ7), presented the accomplishments of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the implementation of the E-CLIP on behalf of MGen Rene Glen O Paje, who also attended the meeting.

Director Karl Caesar Rimando of the DILG-National Barangay Operations Office (DILG-NBOO) discussed the status of DILG-assisted benefits under the E-CLIP such as immediate, livelihood and integration assistance, firearms remuneration and establishment of halfway houses in provinces which will serve as transitional shelters where former rebels can undergo psychosocial interventions and stress debriefing while their E-CLIP benefits are processed.

DILG Assistant Secretary for Peace and Order Alex Macario presented the concept of the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CSBP) for members of the AFP and PNP for benchmarking of best practices that may be applicable to the ECLIP.

Architect Susana V. Nonato of the National Housing Authority also updated the task force on the status of key housing projects for FRs in various provinces nationwide as well as the utilization of housing assistance funds. “As I speak, NHA General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. is currently inspecting the housing units called Freedom Residences in Brgy.Cuambogan, Tagum City, Davao del Norte intended for former members of the New People’s Army (NPA) who surrendered to the government,” Archt. Nonato reported.

Lastly, the TFBL STRATCOM Working Group presented updates on the Strategic Communication Plan and social media efforts. An open forum ensued after the presentations.

Dir. Ma. Karina Perida-Trayvilla of the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns of the Department of Labor and Employment, reported that the DOLE has been consistent in providing employment assistance to former rebels even before the E-CLIP started through the Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Program. Deputy Director General Gaspar Gayona of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority likewise reported that they have assisted several FRs through technical and vocational trainings and provision of starter kits for them to start business right away.

Usec. Luz C. Ilagan, Undersecretary for Legislative Liaison Affairs and Special Presidential Directives in the Mindanao Region of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), for her part, said that notwithstanding the challenges or even shortage in budget allocations, TFBL lead and partner agencies must stand ready at all times to fulfill President Duterte’s commitments to FRs. She apprised the body that the DSWD has been ably assisting several FRs through provision of starter kits for them as well as transportation services in facilitating their ECLIP benefits.

Meanwhile, Usec. Bernardo Florece Jr., DILG Undersecretary for Peace and Order, suggested that the Task Force should boost its effort to promote the surrender of more rebels before the 2019 local elections during which the communist-terrorist group New People’s Army may heighten its atrocities in order to extort “permit to campaign fees” from local politicians.

The meeting ended with a reaffirmation of solidarity and support from top officials representing TFBL lead and partner agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Presidential Management Staff, Department of Budget and Management, and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

Usec. Mapagu thanked all the attendees and reminded them that the TFBL is foremost an exercise and a platform to develop teamwork towards realizing the “whole of government” approach to help former rebels, their families and their communities.

“As separate line agencies of the government, we can only do so much. But as one government with different agencies, working hand-in-hand, we can achieve more. We can make our cooperation work to demonstrate good governance worthy of emulation of E-CLIP committees at the local government level,” Usec. Mapagu said.
I n 2013, the Philippine Army’s 701st Infantry Brigade together with the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental and concerned agencies such as the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), came up with an idea to establish a Halfway House for rebel returnees in Mati City, Davao Oriental.

Halfway houses play a vital role in converting former rebels into productive members of society. It is a facility where various programs ranging from psycho-social healing, vocational and skills training, livelihood program, and even spiritual enlightenment sessions are conducted. Since former rebels (FRs) are being lodged at halfway houses, it also acts as a convergence hub of different government offices for the delivery of their respective assistance to them.

The "Happy Home" constructed in Mati, Davao Oriental has become a transitional home to several former rebels who have decided to go back to the mainstream society. In there, the FRs undergo various technical and livelihood trainings such as massage therapy, carpentry, welding, among others; that would prepare them to maximize their own potential and make a living out of what they learned. Being the first of its kind, the Happy Home served as the congregation of government programs like the DEPED’s Alternative Learning System, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) training program.

"Ka "Kelly" who served for four months as a regular fighter of the New People’s Army (NPA) is one of the graduates from the aforementioned government programs. He was the 3rd child in an offspring of seven and was heavily relied upon by his parents to support their family. He was only eighteen (18) years of age when he was recruited by NPA who promised him he would get a free education if he joins the group. Presently, he is now residing in the Happy Home where he received his education diploma through DepEd’s Alternative Learning System (ALS) and graduated second honor. He also completed his vocational skills training as a masseuse with the help of TESDA. On top of that, he received immediate and livelihood assistance from the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) worth Php 65,000.00 during the awarding of E-CLIP assistance at the Provincial Capitol of Davao del Norte.”

"Ka "Kenneth” has an interesting story to tell why he joined the rebel group. He was an NPA fighter for 13 years before he finally laid down his arms. He became an NPA member to avenge his father’s death whom he believed was murdered by the rebels. Only to find out after he was recruited that his target had died. Devastated by this fact, and the struggle he has to live and survive out in the jungle, he surrendered voluntarily and is now residing in the Happy Home. He already completed his vocational skills from TESDA and also a recipient of Php 65,000 during the awarding of E-CLIP assistance at the Provincial Capitol of Davao del Norte”

With the recent enhancement of the government’s Comprehensive Local Integration Program for former rebels through President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s Administrative Order No. 10 dated April 3, 2018, hundreds of former rebels have returned to the fold of the law. More are expected to surrender and regaining the chance to lead peaceful, normal lives with their families and loved ones. E-CLIP which now addresses the needs of the FRs through a whole of government approach under the supervision of the interagency Task Force Balik Loob, is seen to benefit more and more FRs in the coming days. The “Happy Home” has produced several former rebels who already received assistance under the E-CLIP.

The success story of Davao Oriental’s Happy Home in the reintegration of FRs to society can be replicated by the local government units (LGUs) in other parts of the country as an adjunct to the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP). Several LGUs are already working out the establishment of their own “happy homes”. This augurs well for the attainment of peace in our land.

BUILDING PEACE AND REBUILDING LIVES THROUGH A “HAPPY HOME”
DND AND DILG EMPOWER LOCAL EXECUTIVES FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINDANAO

City and Municipal Mayors and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Regional Directors in Mindanao, ARMM Regional Governor, battalion commanders, senior police officers and all other concerned with peace and development in Mindanao were equipped with knowledge in planning, implementing, evaluating and improving security interventions through the Executive Course on Security, Peace and Development (ECSPD).

ECSPD is a three day course conducted through the partnership of the Department of National Defense (DND) and DILG. It is focused on making the participants understand security and its interdependence with good governance and socio-economic development through lectures and sharing from experts and practical workshops. The subject matter experts come from various relevant institutions such as the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Ateneo School of Government, and the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) among others,

Local chief executives, as well as military and police officials from the three island provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) namely, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi have already undergone the ECSPD on July 18-20 in Zamboanga City. So far, seven batches of local government officials and leaders in the security and business sectors have attended the ECSPD which started on May 15, 2018 in Davao City. The eighth and last batch will be held in November in General Santos City.

The course aims to provide the participants a unique opportunity to draw on technical assistance and briefings to consolidate the development dividends from recent efforts by the government to secure peace and stability in Mindanao.

The participants were updated on the lessons and challenges experienced by the AFP on the implementation of Martial Law in Mindanao. They were also taught about peace and order particularly crime environment, communist insurgency, sectoral developments and terrorism.

Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana delivered his message at the opening of the 4th Executive Course on Security, Peace and Development conducted by the Department of National Defense in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The course, which was held at the Marcian Convention Center in Zamboanga City from August 1-3, 2018, aimed to strengthen coordination between local chief executives and government security forces in Mindanao in order to effectively address local peace and security concerns.
Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City – The Department of National Defense (DND) conducted its first ever seminar-workshop to capacitate its officers and staff in standardizing the Department’s policy formulation and drafting of proposed legislative measures on October 16-17, 2018 at the Honor Hall of the NDCP Building here.

The two-day seminar-workshop, spearheaded by the Office of the Undersecretary for Defense Policy (OUSDP), also equipped the participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to strengthen the strategies in pursuing the DND’s legislative agenda, which includes the National Defense Act of 2018, the Philippine Defense Industry Development Act of 2018, Anti-Terrorism Act, Reinstatement of Mandatory Reserve Officers’ Training Corps Act, and the Special Economic Defense Zone Authority Act, which are the key pieces of legislation being advanced by the DND in the Philippine Congress to strengthen the country’s national defense capabilities and improve its national security.

Undersecretary for Defense Policy Ricardo A. David Jr., in his opening remarks, highlighted the need for the DND and its bureaus to “harmonize” legislative efforts and align them with existing policies.

“This year, we are including policy formulation and development in order to come up with standard procedures within the Department and its Bureaus,” Undersecretary David said, referring to the DND Proper and the DND’s five bureaus namely: the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Government Arsenal, Office of Civil Defense, National Defense College of the Philippines and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office. "Beginning this year, we will be annually conducting seminar to monitor and assess the progress of our respective offices’ policy development,” Usec. David added.

Among the resource speakers who imparted knowledge and expertise to the participants were Atty. Renato Camelon III, Supervising Legislative Officer of Reference and Research Bureau - House of Representatives; Director Gilbert E. Lumantao, CFG-Policy Research Office of the Development Academy of the Philippines; Director Irving Fajardo, Chief, Administrative Services of the Department of National Defense; Major Noreen Calaoagan PA of the Office of the Adjutant General, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP); and Brigadier General Jess G. Estoesta AFP of the AFP Office of the Legislative Affairs.

"We need to assess what we are doing in these policies... kaya tayo gumagawa ng bill, gumagawa ng policy, in order to align ourselves dun sa mga strategy that were provided by different departments. Dapat sama-sama tayo. We must be in one direction. We must review policies. That’s why, this is very important to us,” Usec. David emphasized.
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, QC/ October 22, 2018 – Manifesting its commitment to excellent public service and continual improvement, the Department of National Defense formally received today, its ISO 9001:2015 Certificate from SGS Philippines, Incorporated for being compliant with the requirements of the new version of the International Standard.

The ISO 9001:2015 Certificate was presented and handed over to Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana by SGS Philippines, Inc. Director, Mr. Roger S. Villanueva, after this morning’s flag raising ceremony.

“It is my honor to present to you this certificate which acknowledges you to the new ISO 9001:2015 version – a true feat in itself since your compliance to the ISO 9001:2008 Standard in mid-2016. We, at SGS, recognize and support your commitment to patriotism, professionalism, and good governance, the values that form the foundation of who you are, your purpose, and your goal,” Mr. Villanueva said.

Subsequently, Secretary Lorenzana, in his message during the ceremony, congratulated and commended the officials and employees of the Department for the prestigious achievement which could not have been possible without their commitment, support, and hard work to meet the requirements in a short period of time. He emphasized that “execution” is still the key to excellence.

"Let me enjoin all of you, as part of the One Defense Team, to keep on performing the duties and responsibilities entrusted to you by this Department in order to ensure that the ISO-aligned Quality Management System we have established will be constantly implemented and sustained, with the aim for continual improvement for the benefit of the people we are sworn to serve," he added.

He also acknowledged and thanked the SGS Philippines, Inc. for their assistance in auditing the DND, ensuring it is on the right track for its quest for performance excellence.

This is the second time that the Department received an ISO 9001 Certificate from an International Certifying Body. The first was in June 2016 when the Department first attained its ISO9001:2008 Certification for its Quality Management System (QMS) covering the Defense System of Management and Bids and Awards Committee Procurement System. Due to the revision of the ISO 9001 Standard which will render obsolete the 2008 version effective September 2018, the Department underwent transition activities from January to May 2018 and passed the transition audits conducted on 31 May and 01 June 2018.

The ISO 9001:2015 Certificate presented to the DND is valid from September 2018 until June 2019 with annual surveillance audits to ensure its continuous conformance to the International Standard.

The attainment of the prestigious ISO certification is in compliance with Executive Order 605 issued in 2008 which requires all departments and agencies to adopt certified ISO 9001 Quality Management System as part of the implementation of a government-wide quality management program.
The cornerstone of Philippine Defense Policy, guiding the future direction of the Defense Department in carrying out its mission to guarantee Philippine security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President, Republic of the Philippines

Successfully accomplishing these important undertakings is the valued vision of the Department to be a key player in the Pacific Region, a formidable partner in nation-building, most importantly, a trusted and reliable institution by the Filipino people.

Secretary DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Secretary of National Defense

Department of National Defense Assistant Secretary for Plans and Programs Angelito M. De Leon presented a copy of the country’s first ever National Defense Strategy to Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana during the 79th DND Anniversary program on October 31, 2018. The National Defense Strategy serves as the cornerstone of Philippine defense policy.