GAZMIN VISITS GOZAR AIR STATION

Present condition of Gozar Air Station. (Photo courtesy of PAF)

Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin visited a Philippine Air Force (PAF) facility in Lubang Island, a municipality of Mindoro Occidental, which will soon be upgraded under the AFP Modernization Program.

On March 21, 2015, Secretary Gazmin inspected the facilities of the PAF Air Defense Wing's Gozar Air Station, which will be refitted and equipped with new radars acquired through the ongoing capability upgrade of the AFP.

“We give primacy to the enhancement of our capability to monitor and secure our territory. Gozar Air Station will play a major role as we shift our focus from internal security operations to territorial defense,” Secretary Gazmin said.

The Air Station was named after Lt. Jose "Pepe" P. Gozar, who served as instructor in the Flying School at Zablan Air Field until the outbreak of World War II, and was subsequently cited for his acts of heroism during the war.

Gozar Air Station became fully operational in December 1961.

During his visit, the Secretary also met with local government officials headed by Mayor Juan M. Sanchez, the mayor of Lubang Island. Secretary Gazmin commended Mayor Sanchez for making Lubang Island environmentally friendly as well as insurgent and crime free. As NDRRMC chair, Secretary Gazmin also lauded the mayor's disaster risk reduction and preparedness initiatives. ###