

SAF Troops fight hard in Masbate



FC 83C OF KOMPROB MMX HIT Intelligence report on a heavily armed group with an estimated strength of more or less fifty (50) sighted at Brgy Lahong Interior, Baleno, Masbate set off a team of SAF Commandoes led by PI RYAN PABALINAS on April 2, 2007 for a combat operation.

Firefight ensued at about 7: 00 A.M. of the same day in the vicinity of Brgy Capsay, Baleno when bursts of fire from the nipa hut they were observing began to pour on their position. The encounter sustained for twenty (20) minutes before the CTs finally withdrew in different directions.

Upon clearing of the encounter site the following were recovered:

- a. Three (3) M-16A1 Armalite Rifles with serial numbers 058023, 116098 and 022542;
- b. One (1) M79 Grenade Launcher;
- c. One (1) Caliber .38 revolver;
- d. Six (6) short steel magazines for M-16;
- e. Sixty-eight (68) rounds of live ammunition (5.56mm);
- f. Seven (7) rounds of live 40mm ammunition for M-79;
- g. Medical kit, and
- h. Assorted subversive documents.

Documents identifying the enemy to be FC 83C of KOMPROB MMX, under Ka Mike were also discovered. Heavy blood stains believed to be from injuries inflicted by the Commandoes were found in the encounter site. There was no casualty on the operating troops in the said encounter.

Meanwhile, at about 9:00 A.M. of the same day Commandoes led by PSINSP MANGALDAN, while on their way to reinforce the team of PI PABALINAS, was ambushed by more or less forty (40) armed men at Kabuluan Bridge, Sitio Lining, Brgy Luy-a, Aroroy, Masbate. Following ambush SOPs they were able to successfully extricate immediately from the killing zone while returning fire.



The firefight continued for one hour with the SAT holding the line while waiting for reinforcement. Amidst heavy fires of M14s and M203s the troops managed to treat the injuries of PO1 Tristan Vergel J Sablada, PO1 Arnel which they sustained when they were tossed off the vehicle with it came to an abrupt stop, and PO1 Guddaran who was hit in the arm. PO1 Acnam, who was also thrown off the vehicle in the fierce of the firefight and fatally hit his head against the concrete road, eventually expired before reinforcement came.