

Mandaon Encounter

In another event, reported enemy sightings set off 11th and 12th SACS for a reconnaissance patrol on April 24, 2007 at Sitio Mabinunga, Barangay Bugtong, Mandaon, Masbate. The reconnaissance patrol was turned into a fierce firefight lasting for about one hour when the operating troops engaged more or less ninety (90) communist terrorists (CTs) in the said vicinity at about 5:00 o'clock in the morning of the same day. The enemies eventually broke contact from the operating troops and fled in different directions evacuating with them their dead and wounded. On the part of the operating troops, the Commando Team Leader PINSP HAROLD GACES got fatally hit resulting to his instantaneous death.



On the following day, 12th SAC received intelligence report on a certain Alfredo Gracio Y Dequino, male, 26 yo of Bugtong, Aroroy, Masbate who was admitted at Masbate Provincial Hospital due to gunshot wounds. Upon verification by the SAF intelligence operatives with the Masbate PPO, PIIB on the identity of the said person, it was revealed that he is in the Order Of Battle (OB) of the province and a regular member of the New Peoples Army (NPA). Suspicion is strong that he was among the CTs the operating troops had encountered.

Certain Jessie Rabino of Panique, Aroroy, Masbate was also admitted in the same hospital due to gunshot wounds. He is also under close monitoring by the saf operatives. The operation resulted in the recovery of the following items, which are now in the custody of HSAF for proper disposal.

- A. Two (2) pcs. Of cal. 38 Revolvers with five (5) live Ammunition;
- B. One (1) long m-16 magazine with thirteen (13)live Ammunition;
- C. One (1) magazine for cal 45 with two (2) live Ammunition;
- D. Two (2) back pack (one(1) with bloodstain);
- E. One (1) military bull cap with blood stain;
- F. One (1) army t-shirt;
- G. One (1) upper camouflage uniform;
- H. Five (5) meters detonating cord;
- I. One (1) lensatic compass;
- J. One (1) m16 bolt part;
- K. One (1) flash light
- L. Assorted subversive documents;
- M. Assorted medicines.