

June 19, 2010

## CSAFP RECEIVES AWARD AT PMA

FORT GREGORIO DEL PILAR, Baguio City—An Outstanding Alumni Award from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) was presented here today by the Superintendent, PMA to the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP) during the testimonial review and Incorporation Day Ceremony of cadets from class '2014.

VAdm Leonardo C Calderon Jr., PMA Superintendent gave the award to Gen. Delfin Natividad Bangit, CSAFP during the Incorporation day ceremonies for the first year cadets, for having been a deserving alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy, outstanding achievement, professionalism, exemplary leadership and dedication to public service as the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The ceremonies started at 10 a.m. where the cadets were presented and executed a pass-in-review to the CSAFP as the guest of honor. Bangit delivered his congratulatory message to the plebes (first year cadets) for hurdling the two-month summer camp training and reaching Incorporation Day where plebes join the rest of the Corps of Cadets of the PMA.

Bangit said, "I can clearly remember my first "Open House" during my incorporation day. My mother passed right in front of me several times. Not recognizing her own son. She was in the verge of tears, perhaps doubting if i was able to make it through the beast barracks. When my family noticed my name posted on my door, that was the only time that they were able to see me, their 'boyet' who was as dark as chocolate and as thin as a stick. I felt like crying too; but i had to be strong. I had to show my family that I was not wrong with my decision. I had to be brave for them and suppress my emotions, for I know that they get their strength from me too."

Bangit added, "We can never really tell the significance of everyday sacrifices right away. That is why it is important to endure the challenges in every moment."

"Like a plebe who goes into rigorous training to prove oneself worthy of being incorporated to the regular corps, the team AFP seemed like my squad who was with me in my most trying times, when I experienced the pain and hardship and pushed me to go on," said Bangit.

"If I be allowed to give my advice this I have to say: no matter what your current predicaments are, no matter how difficult it gets, it will not last. You are not a plebe forever, but you have to endure plebehood and pick up its lessons so that you can get on the next level prepared," said Bangit.

"Now I am leaving the military service, I decided to face new challenges similar to a plebe. I would belong to a different squad and would battle a different fight outside the armed forces. I would have to face unfamiliar routines like an inexperienced plebe devoting the whole night preparing his uniform and performing endless compliances," said Bangit

"I would be separated from my previous squadmates-in this case the Team AFP-but they will forever be etched my heart that every time I'll bump into them in the boodle bar for a piece of long john, I would still break it in half and offer the other peace to them. I would still monitor if they would be deficient in a subject and offer my extra instructions," said Bangit

"Yes, PMA did not teach me that outside its embrace, conditions are far from perfect. But out there, during our trying times, in the face of people who do not practice the honor code, in the face of people who cannot be strong enough to stand for what is good and what is right, I have the PMA to look back to. I then believe that yes, It's possible to do what is good and what is right; it's possible not to cheat, not to steal and not to lie, because it was possible in PMA," said Bangit.

"With the Academy as my inspiration and working by God's grace, I tried my very best to put honor and dignity to the AFP so that you would inherit the AFP that is professional and competent. When your time comes, you too will be measured by the same standard. Exceed what I have done, exceed what all of us have ever done. I am leaving without regrets. I am leaving with no regrets. Why did I say that? Because at the end of my career and the guards challenge would challenge me, I could confidently say; 'All Right Sir!'," ended Bangit.