

January 25, 2010

SIX UPGRADED APCs TO BE COMMISSIONED

CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City— Six upgraded Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) M113, acquired through the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program, is scheduled to be commissioned here today at 8:30 a.m.

Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales and Turkish Ambassador to the Philippines Adnan Basaga will be present during the ceremony prior to the deployment of the APCs.

The APC M113 Upgrade Project is one of the first projects implemented by the AFP Modernization Program. Market Analysis showed that it was cheaper to procure a complete unit than upgrade the 20 vehicles in the country. It was in 2003 when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo approved the change of project from Upgrade Project to Acquisition Project.

The launching marks a step towards the AFP's efforts to upgrade its fleet of APCs. The new armored vehicles will play a key role in supporting the nation's Security Operations.

The current fleet of APC M113 in the Philippine Army was acquired in the late 1960s and 70s. The acquisition of upgraded APCs will enhance the AFP's operational performance through the installation of the latest technology, lessen maintenance cost and extend its life cycle.

The APC M113 family of vehicles is one of the most produced armored vehicles in the world. The APC has a combat weight of 10.7 tons and can carry 13 soldiers including the driver and the gunner.

The Defense secretary said FNSS Savuna Sistemleri AS was awarded a contract of Php 139,141,674.84 for the delivery of six units of upgraded APC M113 which includes training and warranty, maintenance, tools and two years of spare parts.