



# PRESS RELEASE

Public Affairs Service - Department of National Defense

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## Balikatan 2016 Officially Opens



(Left to right) Philippine Exercise Director of Balikatan Vice Admiral Alexander Lopez; Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin; DFA Undersecretary Jesus I. Yabes; US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg; AFP Chief of Staff Gen Hernando DCA Iriberry AFP; and U.S. Exercise Director of Balikatan LtGen John Toolan link arms during the opening of the 2016 Balikatan Exercises on April 4, 2016, at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City. Australian troops will likewise participate in this year's exercise, while eight other countries, including Japan, Canada, and Southeast Asian states will be observers. ###