



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Australia to provide ISR assistance in fight against terror in Marawi - Lorenzana

Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City - Australia will be providing technical assistance in the government's fight against ISIS-linked local terrorist groups in Marawi City, particularly, the services of two Australian Defense Force's (ADF) AP-3C Orion surveillance planes for two weeks effective upon a mutually agreed date by military officials of both countries.

This was confirmed by Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana who said that President Rodrigo Duterte has accepted Australia's offer.

"We welcome any technical assistance that our allies can provide while the Armed Forces of the Philippines is in the process of developing such capabilities," Secretary Lorenzana said.

"With these AP-3Cs from the ADF, our troops can benefit from enhanced airborne surveillance of the area any time of the day thereby improving operations on the ground.

Secretary Lorenzana noted that the AP-3C Orion aircraft will immediately assist in the ongoing operations as soon as the AFP and ADF finalize operational details. The operation of these aircraft will not require the embedding of ADF personnel with Filipino troops on the ground.

The Philippines and Australia have an extensive Defence Cooperation Program that provides the mechanisms for military support, intelligence sharing, and people to people exchanges.

"In the fight against global terror, we need to act as a community of nations. Any help and support we can get from our friends and allies will always be welcome," Secretary Lorenzana said.

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