



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Soldiers receive 3000 protective eyewear for combat

CAMP GEN. EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City—The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through the Department of National Defense (DND) received the second batch of protective eyewear meant for soldiers engaged in combat operations on the ground.

Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana and AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero received the Delta Plus safety glasses from Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. led by Mr. Sabin Aboitiz in a ceremonial handover ceremony held today, 15 January, 2018 at the DND Social Hall here.

Some 700 pieces were initially turned over to soldiers in Marawi City at the height of the battle against Deash-Maute terrorists to protect frontline troops from eye injury resulting from IED explosions, debris, and shrapnel. A total of 3,000 safety eyewear were turned over to the Philippine Army for use of soldiers in combat operations.

"We in the Aboitiz Group appreciate very much the sacrifices made by our soldiers. We can never thank them enough for their service and sacrifice that they have done for the country," Mr. Aboitiz said.

"On behalf of our One Defense Team, I thank the Aboitiz Group for giving protective eyewear for our frontline troops... It should be noted that this donation demonstrates the strong cooperation and collaboration that has always existed between the private sector and the government. Aside from being a tangible and visible indicator of our joint efforts, it demonstrates our concern and love for our valiant soldiers who continue to sacrifice their lives for our freedom and who continuously face threats at sea and on land," Lorenzana said.

The DND notes that in modern combat operations, the risk of soldiers incurring damage to their eyes is very high, leading to either partial or total blindness or a lifetime of disability and suffering, not just for the soldiers but for the families as well. This was evident in places like Marawi and in other areas where soldiers operate.

The Aboitiz Group's donation is not only timely but significant as well because it will augment our current efforts to boost the AFP's capability to conduct focused, surgical, and sustained military operations.



Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero (right) through Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana (third from left), receives the protective eyewear from Mr. Sabin Aboitiz (second from left) who donated a total of 3,000 for soldiers in combat operations in a handover ceremony Monday, 15 January 2018 at the DND Social Hall. (Photo by SN1 Donald Viluan/PAOAFP)

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