



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

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Security forum to highlight women in defense and peacebuilding

Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City - In celebration of the 2018 Women's Month, the Department of National Defense (DND) will hold its first-ever Gender, Peace and Security Forum on 27 March 2018, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, at the Tejeros Hall of the AFP Commissioned Officers' Club here.

Notable women commanders and decision-makers, as well as women in the front line of combat and humanitarian assistance disaster relief operations will share their real-life experiences and discuss how women play a key role in all levels of the defense establishment.

The speakers include Col Maxima O Ignacio PAF (GSC), Adjutant General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; Col Joselyn R Bandarlipa CE (GSC) PA, Army Chief Engineer; Capt Luzviminda A Camacho PN (GSC), Deputy Chief, OESPA; Maj Nancy R Dacanay PAF, attack pilot of the 15th Strike Wing and Commander of the 591st Supply Squadron; 1Lt Mersheena Mahalil Silungan PN (M), Commander of the Fire Support Platoon, 47th Marine Company; Ms. Gecile C. Gonzales, Chief, Recovery and Rehabilitation Management System Section of the Office of Civil Defense – Maguindanao Regional Office; and MSg Astred T Graganza (FS) PA, Chief NCO, Office of the Registrar, of the AFP Education, Training, and Doctrine Command.

Focusing on women in the defense sector, the forum aims to translate the concrete policies of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) which are inclusive of women's issues, especially in times of conflict and disaster.

As part of the DND's Gender and Development (GAD) advocacies, the activity recognizes the impact of conflict on women and girls, and emphasizes women's roles as conflict resolvers and peacebuilders. It is envisioned to serve as a mechanism to inform the whole defense establishment of the NAPWPS concept, and to serve as an avenue of ideas as to how this concept can be operationalized.

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