



# PRESS RELEASE

Public Affairs Service – Department of National Defense

DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, 1110 Metro Manila

Website: [www.dnd.gov.ph](http://www.dnd.gov.ph) | E-Mail: [dnd.opa@gmail.com](mailto:dnd.opa@gmail.com)

Tel: (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | Fax: (+632) 911-7113

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Releasing Officer: **ARSENIO R. ANDOLONG**  
Chief, Public Affairs Service

## Secretary Gazmin confers highest award during veterans office day



Retired MGen. Fortunato U. Abat, AFP, receives the Outstanding Achievement Medal (OAM) from Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin during the 43rd Anniversary of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office on October 9, 2015. Abat received the OAM, the highest award that can be conferred by the SND, for bringing honor to the defense establishment as Chairperson of the Third Military Service Board (MSB). Created in May 2010 by virtue of RA 9828, the MSB's term was completed in May 2015. It confirmed the wartime military service of 474 deserving guerrillas and made them entitled to veterans' benefits and services. Abat is a former Defense Secretary and PVAO Administrator. #