

## US assures Philippines of anti-terror...

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Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Philippine Embassy in Washington said the two officials were pleased with the progress of the security cooperation between Philippine and US military forces.

The report said the two officials discussed US support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in dealing with terrorist groups. Gates lauded Teodoro for his efforts to institutionalize reforms in the Department of National Defense (DND) and the AFP.

Teodoro stressed the need to focus efforts on force buildup for internal security operations. He said there was a need to enhance the Navy's Coast Watch South (CWS), in partnership with the US and other countries, in order to protect the Sulu and Celebes Seas' nontraditional maritime threats and illegal activities.

He noted the significance of US assistance to local infrastructure projects like the construction of school facilities, water system and farm-to-market roads in areas prone to conflict in Mindanao.

Both Gates and Teodoro agreed to explore mutual strategic security interests in areas considered nontraditional security threats such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR), climate change, drug trafficking, and maritime security.

Gates commended Teodoro for the Philippines' successful hosting of the first ASEAN Regional Forum on Voluntary Disaster Response (ARF-VDR) last May, a humanitarian assistance exercise held in Clark Air Base and Manila, and participated in by 26 countries.

Next year, the DND/AFP will host a multilateral exercise for HADR known as "Sagip."

## Lucky no. 7...

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ing a press conference at the Beverly Hills Hotel on September 14. "I want to make history and I want to make the people in the Philippines proud."

For the first time in his career, Pacquiao will be fighting in a welterweight match at 145 pounds. Cotto is naturally a bigger man and it was evident when the two stood next to each other during photo ops.

Cotto, already three weeks into his training camp, said he and his trainers are planning to study Pacquiao and capitalize from the Filipinos mistakes.

Pacquiao has a tendency to be reckless at times and often, the Filipinos speed and power cover the mistakes inside the ring.

"I'm going to be the man that beats Manny Pacquiao," said Cotto. "I'm going to train hard for this fight and Manny's camp knows what Miguel Cotto is capable of doing inside the ring."

There had been doubts about whether the 28-year-old Cotto is the same fighter he was before the brutal defeat against Antonio Margarito. Prior to being knocked out by Margarito, Cotto seemed an unflappable boxer with a mixture of strength and resilience.

"I'm here to prove my doubters my wrong," added Cotto. "I know I'm better than Manny."

The main issue Cotto has heading into this bout is whether he will be able to make the 145-pound weight limit. However, he sees no difficulty in making the weight. He said the last match against Joshua Clottey he weighed in at 146 pounds and still had a day to lose an extra pound if needed.

Pacquiao said he knows he's going to be the smaller man again in this bout with Cotto. It was the same story when he faced David Diaz, Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton. But in

all those matches, the small Filipino won.

"Yes, he is a bit bigger but I'm just focused on my training," said Pacquiao. "I'm going to use my speed to beat him."

Pacquiao left for the Philippines on September 15. For the next five weeks, he and trainer Freddie Roach will train in Baguio City before heading back to the Wildcard Boxing Club to conclude the eight-week training camp.

When asked about the upcoming bout between Juan Manuel Marquez and Floyd Mayweather Jr., Pacquiao did not want to look ahead.

With the Marquez vs. Mayweather Jr. bout happening this weekend, many boxing pundits and fans expect the winner of that match to face the winner between Pacquiao and Cotto.

Pacquiao said he expects Mayweather to beat Marquez because "he has the speed and size to do it."

**Marquez vs. Mayweather**  
Monday, Sept. 14, was a busy day for boxing writers. Prior to the Cotto-Pacquiao press conference, Juan Manuel Marquez and Floyd Mayweather Jr. held one of their final public workouts in front of the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood before heading into their match this Saturday, Sept. 19 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Marquez knows that in order to get what he wants he has to beat the man standing in his way.

He won't admit it for the record but Marquez wants desperately to face Manny Pacquiao. But in order to do that the Mexican Numero Uno needs to beat the former pound-4-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"My mind is only on this fight," said Marquez. "My mind is only on Mayweather. I'm not thinking of Pacquiao right now, I'm not thinking of my next fight."

Marquez said that this is the biggest fight of his career. ■

## Health care plan closes some but not all gaps

For consumers, Baucus plan comes with costs and benefits

WASHINGTON—You're a 51-year-old single mother raising two kids and juggling a mortgage and a car loan. Because you're self-employed, getting health insurance has always been a problem. Under the new Senate plan, you still might have to stretch your budget to pay premiums even if the coverage is more secure.

The health care plan unveiled Wednesday, Sept. 15, by Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., strives to contain costs for taxpayers, reducing the risk that covering the uninsured will blow the federal deficit wide open. But that means benefits are not as generous as in competing plans from Senate and House Democrats.

"We've done everything imaginable to get the most generous, most affordable coverage we can within President Obama's target of \$900 billion," Baucus said, referring to the president's 10-year estimate of what the legislation should cost.

A free lunch it's not. For consumers, the Baucus plan comes

with costs and benefits, rights and responsibilities. Though people with employer-provided health care would not see dramatic changes, the plan is broad enough that it would touch every American family in some way. Here's a look at how consumers in different circumstances would be affected:

**Self-employed head of household**  
If anyone is meant to benefit from the plan, it's people who have to scramble to find and keep coverage because they work for themselves, not a large employer.

Baucus would eliminate onerous insurance practices, such as denial of coverage due to a pre-existing health problem. But subsidies in the plan may not be enough to make coverage affordable for all middle-class families, who would be required under the bill to carry insurance.

The Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which advocates for low-income people, compared the Baucus plan to two other major proposals—the House Democratic plan and the Senate

health committee bill.

A family of three earning about \$55,000—three times the federal poverty level—would have to pay 13 percent of its income. That's roughly \$7,100 a year. It compares with costs of about \$5,500 under the House bill, and \$4,300 in the Senate health committee bill.

A three-person family earning about \$27,500 would have to pay 5.5 percent of its income, a premium of about \$1,570. That compares with \$824 a year in the House legislation, and \$275 under the Senate health committee proposal.

"They're getting subsidies, but the question is, do those subsidies go far enough both for the premiums they have to pay, as well as the cost sharing charged under the plan," said Edwin Park, a health care analyst with the center.

The numbers used in the examples are based on 2009 incomes. The dollar figures would likely be higher—to account for inflation—when subsidies take affect under the plan in 2013. (AP)

## Go Negosyo honors young...

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young.

Youth groups from different high schools, colleges, universities and organizations gathered for the one-day event that featured exciting and inspiring topics in the programs and forums held, ranging from negosyo basics to tips on youth concerns and interests.

Athlete, celebrity, entrepreneur and Go Negosyo youth icon Chris Tiu, who joined the summit, is also a forerunner in pushing for the entrepreneurial mindset among Filipino youth, believes that entrepreneurship and basketball have a lot in common, such as the passion for excellence and passion to succeed.

Special guests in the morning sessions were Senators Manny Villar and Chiz Escudero, DTI Secretary Peter Favila, Gov. LRay Villafuerte, Go Negosyo trustee Myla Villanueva.

Villar was cited as a role model for Filipino youth and budding entrepreneurs. He reminded youth entrepreneurs to es-

pouse the virtue of "sipag at tiyaga" in order to succeed in business.

Sen. Kiko Pangilinan and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap; celebrity entrepreneurs Dr. Vicki Belo with children Quark and Crystalle Henares and Gladys Reyes, with DJs Nicolehiyala and Chris Tsuper joined the afternoon program.

In recognition of the entrepreneurial spirit of the youth, Go Negosyo awarded Most Inspiring Young Entrepreneurs: Raymond Punzalan (co-founder, Team Manila); Emerson Atanacio (president, National College of Science and Technology); Benedict Carandang (founder, Tuldok Animations); Nicole Whisenhunt (owner, Nicole Whisenhunt Accessories); Anna Amigo-Antonio (founder and managing director, Chocolate Clothing Co.); Melody Ayupan (owner, Natural Metaphors Body Products); Angelique dela Cruz (owner, The Sweet Life Cupcakes and Pastries); Veejay Floresca (owner, Veejay Floresca Designs); Andre Vocalan (owner, Balaw-balaw Food Corp.); and Alvin Tan (president and CEO, Technominds). These young negosyantes were recognized for their success as well as their inspirational journey and positive influence on the youth. (Philstar.com)

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