



PNP News Release

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PINOY COPS RETURN HOME FROM KOSOVO MISSION

Twenty-two Filipino policemen will return to the country today after completing a 12-month tour of duty with the United Nations-sponsored peace-keeping mission in war torn Kosovo.

The contingent will fly-in from Pristina via Dubai and Kuala Lumpur aboard a chartered JSC East Line Airlines flight.

They are expected to arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila at 6:00 PM.

Meanwhile, a replenishment force, composed of 23 PNP personnel, will leave for Kosovo on Tuesday, September 19, to replace the returning Filipino contingent.

PNP Officials will lead brief welcome ceremonies for the arriving members of the PNP contingent led by Superintendent Pedro Desuasido and Superintendent Luis Saligumba.

The 22-man PNP contingent served as members of the civilian police force (CivPol) under the UN KFOR and were assigned in different police stations and border outposts in Kosovo.

Early in their tour, some Filipino policemen figured in notable police operations in Kosovo against carjackers, smugglers, and other crime offenders.

Some of those returning from Kosovo are veterans of similar UN-sponsored missions in Cambodia and Haiti.

PNP Spokesman, Senior Superintendent Nicanor A Bartolome said the deployment of Filipino policemen in Kosovo is part of the Philippines' obligation to the United Nations.

The UN security plan in Kosovo involves the presence of an international peacekeeping force, the pullout of the Yugoslav Army from Kosovo, and the establishment of "substantial autonomy and self-government" for ethnic Albanians.

Almost the same time last year, the PNP sent a 21-man contingent to East Timor which served under the UN Transitional Authority in East Timor (UNTAET).