



P N P News Release

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SALARY INCREASE FOR SOLDIERS STARTS THIS MONTH

The Department of National Defense (DND) today announced that a three-phase increase in pay for the 119,000 personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will start this month, making their salaries at par with members of the Philippine National Police, public school teachers and other civil servants.

AFP officers and personnel will get 20 percent of the increase at the end of this month, with the next adjustment of 30 percent to be given in January next year.

The third adjustment equivalent to 50 percent of the increase, will be implemented in January 2004.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that early this year, President Gloria-Macapagal-Arroyo had certified as urgent the passage of the new base pay law. It was signed into law on June 7, 2002.

The last base pay increase in the Armed Forces was implemented 15 years ago in December 1987.

After the adjustments, the AFP chief of staff will have a salary grade of 30 and a private will have a salary grade of 10, which is comparable to that of Police Officer 1 in the PNP.

When fully implemented, the pay adjustments would place the lowest paid soldier on the same salary level as the lowest paid policeman and public school teacher.

As of now, the lowest paid policeman has a base pay of P9,939.00 a month, while the director general of the PNP has a base pay of P28,875.00 a month.

Before the increase, the lowest paid soldier was earning a base pay of P5,575 a month, while the highest ranked soldier, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, was getting P19,173 monthly.

A new merit system was introduced to cover incentives to deserving soldiers and military personnel in the form of scholarship grants to their children, hospital care, social services and other non-cash benefits aimed at strengthening professionalism and excellence in the Armed Forces.

Also, a continuing education program will be formulated for all officers and enlisted personnel.

In addition, a special housing assistance program will be set up for Armed Forces personnel to ensure that every soldier will have affordable home in wholesome community.

Implementing rules and regulations of RA 9166 were signed recently by Secretary Reyes and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.