

and others have held on to them.¹⁵⁰

Also, while MNLF members turned over some firearms, these did not significantly disarm them. As maintained by MNLF members and acknowledged by the military officers, an MNLF member typically possesses more than one firearm. In fact, according to an MNLF integree, the other arms in their possession which were not turned in, but were given to comrades were not part of the AFP/PNP integration. One integree, upon completing his training, was reportedly given an M16 by Chairman Misuari as a graduation gift.

Furthermore, some MNLF members who did not opt for integration and are now part of livelihood cooperatives remain armed.¹⁵¹ There are also instances where MNLF members who were granted compensation for their firearms failed to subsequently integrate into AFP.

References have also been made that the modest amount earned from the turnover of firearms has been used to purchase newer and more powerful firearms. Furthermore, some 70% of MNLF integrees to the AFP, as members of the militia, availed themselves of the privilege to acquire loan grants from AFP financial institutions.¹⁵² This practice was reportedly stopped after it was discovered the first batch of MNLF integrees into the AFP had all availed themselves of the gun loan,¹⁵³ particularly since the integrees were left as little as P 2,000 as their "take-home" pay after loan deductions.

The MNLF members who were integrated into the AFP and the PNP were presented with firearms. The MNLF members who were integrated as AFP officers were issued cal. 45 pistols, while the enlisted personnel were issued M 16 rifles except for those who were in garrison duty. MNLF integrees will acquire as part of the arms forces a new firearm unless they are performing garrison duty.

On the other hand, those integrated to the PNP were given "long" arms (i.e., M16) and "short" arms (cal. 45) depending on the crime situation within their assigned areas. The first batch of integrees initially had a problem of inadequate firearms. Only 250 firearms were available, which was not enough for the first batch of 496 graduates. Even the 960 short firearms subsequently issued were reportedly funded from the Countrywide Development Fund of Chairman Nur Misuari.¹⁵⁴ Still,

¹⁵⁰ Interview with Prof. Kalitod.

¹⁵¹ Interview with Lt. Samsodin A. Pulusa, MNLF Integree, 6ID, Camp Awang, Maguindanao, 27 October 1999.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ Interview with AFP Officer involved in the MNLF Integration, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City (9 November 1999).

¹⁵⁴ Interview with Supt. Abdelgardan Indanan Alih.