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Soldiers figure in misencounter in Masbate

Three soldiers were killed, four CAFGU elements were wounded and one other paramilitary element went missing after a misencounter between Scout Rangers on the one hand and combined forces of the 22nd IB and CAFGU on the other.

The NPA Jose Rapsing Command (JRC) has confirmed the misencounter that took place in Barangay Balete, Aroroy, Masbate last July 31, where Scout Rangers mistook 22nd IB and CAFGU forces on operation as Red fighters and immediately fired at them.



The JRC said the misencounter was due to the serious demoralization and fear haunting the fascist troops as a result of the successive blows inflicted on them by the NPA.

As usual, the 901st Brigade and 9th Division command concealed the incident to avoid embarrassment. Nonetheless, a radio station came to know about the misencounter from reports given by witnesses. The AFP and PNP leadership in the region as well as spokesmen from the AFP Civil Relations Service all refused to issue statements to the media on the misencounter. **AB**

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