

Fil-Am's inventions also fly high

by JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
Inquirer.net

NABUA, CAMARINES SUR— When the Hueys, Black Hawks and Apaches fly, Florencio Pinili-Regala flies with them—his work, that is.

Embedded in these US military helicopters—and sometimes tanks—are antennas the 70-year-old Filipino-American designed and that were approved by the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Regala's four inventions—all antenna designs that could receive and transmit signals from line-of-site (LOS), ground-based transmitters/receivers to satellite communications (Satcom)—were patented in 2006 and in 2007.

His first patented antenna design, approved on March 28, 2006, was the "Portable Co-Locator, LOS and Satcom Antenna."

He described the antenna as a gadget that integrated the ground-based and satellite communications so that the operator would not have to shift modes when the need arose for either system.

The other two inventions were the "Single Connector Dual-Based Antenna with Embedded Diplexer," approved on

Aug. 29, 2006, and the Portable Telescoping Line-Of-Sight Array," on Sept. 5, 2006.

The first invention was an antenna installed in the belly of fixed winged and rotary aircraft used in air-to-ground communications, while the portable telescoping line-of-sight array was an antenna installed in the transceivers used by foot soldiers.

The latest invention was called "Conformal Driveshaft Cover Satcom Antenna," granted a US patent on June 19, 2007, which was installed in the horizontal boom in the tail of the helicopter.

Regala's life could be a classic example of a poor boy from the province who had achieved what he wanted through hard work.

His family of seven siblings survived on a small eatery in the public market here. Regala, however, managed to earn a degree in electronics and communications engineering from University of the East.

He migrated to California in 1969 and recalled he had to walk to his workplace to save money from a starting salary of \$1.75 an hour in an assembly line.

Regala later got employed in Communications Component Corp. There, he volunteered to undertake the design of a 50-watt radio frequency antenna that American technicians and engineers could not build.

Regala said it was his first opening in antenna designs which made him a name among his peers in the company.

Communications Component was later sold to Rockwell Collins Operation in 1982 where he became vice president for research and documentation. In 1985, he joined Trivec Avant Corp. where he stayed for 18 years.

In 2004, he started his own company and produced monitoring video, access card production and other electronic security products.

"We do our business at home with my son, wife and brother working together as a small enterprise and we use our garage for our laboratory and the living room for the administrative office," Regala said.

With the demand for security after 9/11, he has been doing extremely well and has been unaffected by the ups and downs in the US economy. ■

First Family to holiday in Baguio

by THEA ALBERTO
Inquirer.net



THE First Family will spend the holidays and hold their New Year celebrations in Baguio City, as they do every year.

However, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will continue to work and inspect projects in the region, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Arroyo, who earlier presided a National Security Council meeting in Baguio, is set to have Christmas dinner with local media last Dec. 26, according to a separate release on the government website.

Arroyo will then visit a vegetable noodle factory in La Trinidad, Benguet where researchers from Benguet State University are said to have perfected the process of substituting flour with squash and similar vegetables as raw materi-

als for cheaper noodles, according to the statement.

The First Family will then attend a morning mass on December 28 before meeting some 3,000 indigents for a gift-giving activity, it added.

A Palace statement meanwhile said Arroyo will also launch a two-day medical and dental mission at Wright park right across the presidential mansion in Baguio City.

On December 30, Arroyo will then go to San Fernando, La Union to lead the commemoration of the 118th death anniversary of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal. ■

IT innovators honored

by RIZA T. OLCHONDRA
Inquirer.net

THE country's organization of IT reporters held this year its first CyberPress IT Choice Awards to honor the entities and technologies that made their mark in the local market this year.

In a ceremony held recently, CyberPress named the "Rise of the Netbooks" as the Newsmaker of the Year. The mini-laptop revolution edged social networks, broadband breaks into the mass market, green IT and the gil@s program as the technology trend that made the most impact to Filipinos.

As the pioneer in the netbook segment, the Asus Eee PC was honored as the Gadget of the Year. It bested iPhone 3G, Canon cameras, Globe Visibility and Sony Bravia.

Named IT Startup of the Year was G2VC, a venture capital firm that operates open-source companies Morph Labs and Exist Global, which have successfully expanded overseas, particularly in the US.

For the IT Company of the Year category, Bayan Telecommunications won.

The IT Executive of the Year award went to Enrique Y. Gonzales, who steered technology conglomerate IPVG to unprecedented heights this year. ■

Yearender: Quezon City still richest,...

PAGE A17 ◀

sites of the United Nations and the World Bank that highlighted the city's success from a bankrupt and disintegrating urban center into one of the cleanest and richest cities in Asia.

"We are weaving our magic, sabi ko naman, we simply took care of the basics first," he said. "Now, we are better able to take care of our constituents."

Belmonte also reported that in two international forums in

Berlin and Singapore, the success of Quezon City was also discussed, and leaders from various parts of the world were interested to know the city's success formula.

The city's rapid development has prompted his administration to help create more high-growth communities through the construction of road networks that would interlink communities in Metro Manila, he added.

From 2001 to date, the Quezon City government has invest-

ed close to P13 billion for infrastructure, 53 percent of which financed the improvement and extension of road networks.

On the education front, Belmonte announced the construction of 87 more public elementary and high school buildings, providing 1,471 new classrooms. The city government espouses free education for children from day care to high school and free college education for deserving scholars. ■

Door to Door to the Philippines
AAA CARGO EXPRESS
14536 Roscoe Blvd., Suite 101, Panorama City, CA 91402
Tel. No. (818)830-1167 Fax No. (818)830-1003



DROP OFF PRICE

Regular Box	Metro Manila	Jumbo Box
\$40		\$50
\$45	Luzon	\$55
\$50	Visayas	\$60
\$55	Mindanao	\$65

Pickup : \$10+

Ultra Remote Areas - prices vary by destination

EAGLE ROCK
JoJo & Judee Ramos
3964 Eagle Rock Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90065
Tel. (323)258-8000
(626)205-0255

LOS ANGELES
Elvie Ronquillo
244 S. Oxford Ave., Suite 17
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Tel. (213)842-0145
(818)988-3200

SUN VALLEY
Estela Flores
11343 Stagg St.
Sun Valley, CA 91352
(Tribung Maharlika)
Tel. (818)306-7296
(818)308-6485

LAS VEGAS
Annoinette Reyes
1444 E. Charleston Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89104
Tel. (702)671-4222
(702)671-4220
(Please call for Prices)

AGENTS

Angel Alvarez
13162 Brent Wood LN.
Moreno Valley, CA 92551
Tel. (951) 743-2175

Joseph Del Rosario
42445 N. Sierra Highway
Lancaster, CA 93535
Tel. (661) 945-8698

Alain De Leon
14837 Wyandotte st.
Van Nuys, CA 91405
Tel. (818) 987-8693

Alex Barraga
24531 Artemia St.
Mission Viejo, CA 92691
Tel. (949) 232-9494
(949) 232-8455

How would you like to give yourself a nice raise?

Join Our Vocational Nursing Program

Bring a friend to join with you, get additional \$250 off!

Join our next VN class and get a *****FREE LAPTOP*****
Must bring this ad to avail of this promotion

HOMESTEAD SCORES 100% ON NCLEX: EVERYONE PASSES

BENEFITS OF HOMESTEAD:

- ✓ Small classes
- ✓ Individual attention
- ✓ Computer for each Student
- ✓ Experienced instructors
- ✓ Free NCLEX review

Classes are forming now. So hurry! Remember, we only have a limited number of openings for the class. You can take either the day or evening classes and keep your present job.

OTHER PROGRAMS

- CNA
- Medical Assisting
- Pharmacy Technician

Special Offer! **FREE LAPTOP!**
CALL US NOW TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT



HOMESTEAD SCHOOLS
23844 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 200
Torrance, CA 90505

(310) 791-9975 • (800) 253-0088

HomesteadSchools.com

Now Accepting Applications for our **GLENDALE** Location
Opening January 2009!
PLEASE CALL GEORGE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

We don't just promise, We Deliver....

Toll Free 1-877-610-6975