




The

CAVALIERER

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

A PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

APRIL – JUNE 2021



Orienting our Organization's Compass: Setting the PMAAAI's Organizational Direction

ABOUT THE COVER



The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc., is a dynamic and vibrant organization. With more than 11,000 members under its wings, the Association has to be continually innovative and has to set the direction to create a sense of shared purpose, guide behavior and provide meaningful guidance how to move forward.

The present Board of Directors and Officers is very optimistic in aiming their focus towards achieving the Association's set of goals and objectives.

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The CAVALIER

IN THIS ISSUE

PMAAAI Army Cavaliers Chapter News	11
PMAAAI PCG Chapter News	
PCG's Steadfast Allegiance to PMAAAI.....	12
PMAAAI PAF Chapter News	
"Taking the Lead" - Updates from the Air Cavaliers.....	13
YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES	
Transcending Femininity: Leading Beyond Limits	16
• Cav Cleah Angelica L Laride '17	
FEMALE CAVALIERS CORNER	
Learn from the Young Ones.....	19
• Cav Arianne Mae G Ayanggod '13	
Aspects of the RP-US Defense Alliance	21
• Cav Edilberto P Adan '72	
The COVID-19 Pandemic and Philippine Economy in 2021-2022	25
• Cav Wilfredo G Nuqui '68	
Strengthening the Delivery of Philippine Public Safety Education.....	29
• Cav Ricardo F De Leon '71	
Principles of a Good Community Policing	31
• Cav Chris R Francisco '68	
Action Plan for Urban Security Against Terrorism	
Part I - Major Operational Factors and Environmental Realities.....	32
• Cav Chris R Francisco '68	
The AFP Day: When and Why.....	36
• Cav Cesar P Pobre '52	

DEPARTMENTS

1	From the Chairman's Desk	7	Cavalier Newline
2	President's Corner	8	Adjutant's Bulletin
3	Supe's Report	39	Class Call
6	Baron's Dissemination	IBC	Last Call

The **CAVALIER** magazine is a professional journal published quarterly by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), to provide a general forum for the alumni of the Philippine Military Academy. The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the PMAAAI or any other agencies of the Philippine government unless otherwise specified by the author.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Your opinion about The Cavalier and the articles in the issue would be appreciated.

Readers may now view The Cavalier online at pmaai.com.ph

Send your letters to:

The Editor, The Cavalier

PMA Alumni Center

Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Q.C.

e-mail address: pmaai@yahoo.com

Some articles have been edited to meet space requirements.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV AMADO T ESPINO JR '72

Continuing the Race Along a Well-Laid Path

We are very lucky indeed to sit as one of the new PMAAAI Board officers. Every system and every process is well emplaced. We just have to continue to implement these systems and processes and to adopt only new ways and means if there is a need to discard or re-invent them as the need arises. We shall strive to live up to the expectations of the cavaliers who voted their trust and confidence on us.

We shall continue and put more vigor to our five-year PMAAAI Strategic Plan that started in 2020 and will reach up to 2025. The plan is well-embodied in the acronym

P-L-E-A-D:

- P** -reservation of PMA's Heritage, Customs, Values and Traditions
- L** -ive the PMA ideals of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty
- E** -ngagement of Cavaliers
- A** -llot Donations
- D** -eepen Social Responsibility.

The performance of the immediate past BODs, especially its Chairman Cav Aglipay, is a tough act to follow. It is the humble intention though of the present Board to equal if not surpass the achievements of the previous Boards.

Rest assured we will strive for excellence to sustain the trademark of the Association. But, of course, we cannot do it alone without the support and cooperation of every Cavalier member. We rely on you Cavaliers, for together we can do so much. Thus, everyone is highly encouraged to be a team player!

This, therefore, is a challenge to us, present officers of the Association to do our best in pursuing PLEAD and addressing other concerns of the members of the PMAAAI and our beloved Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy.

Hand in hand, we shall continue to hold high the lighted torch to inspire and guide us as we pursue the goals of the Association.

Every year, PMAAAI membership is increasing as the Philippine Military Academy produces more graduates. Hence, we have to really sustain the management and administrative operations of the Association to cater to the varied needs and requirements of its growing membership annually.

The five-year strategic plan addresses the goals of the Association as stated in the briefing of the Association. These were all started by the previous board under the strict but sterling supervision and leadership of Cav Edgar Aglipay '71 and we take our hats off to the rest of the immediate outgoing Board.

Rest assured we will strive for excellence to sustain the trademark of the Association. But, of course, we cannot do it alone without the support and cooperation of every Cavalier member. We rely on you Cavaliers, for together we can do so much. Thus, everyone is highly encouraged to be a team player!





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV STEVE B LUDAN '92

Together We Can Achieve Our Goals

Our mandate as members of the new PMAAAI Board of Directors started on March 1, 2021 with our predecessors ending their stint with very meaningful theme “Passing on a Brighter Torch to Our Successors”. We are very grateful to them that our path has indeed been lighted in furtherance of our organization’s goals and objectives. It is, however, a challenge to us, the new set of officers, to keep that torch continuously lighted up despite of strong winds and disasters that we will be facing in the future. With the current pandemic that has devastated the very core of our normal existence, there is no telling how long this situation will last.

“We call on all the members of the Association, retired and those still in the active service, to help us achieve these goals.”

Whatever hindrances or obstacles, life must go on. Our two sets of immediate predecessors have experienced great challenges during their terms in the Board of Directors when the pandemic was at its peak. It was the time of lockdowns and quarantine situations; and reminders to keep safe, maintain social distancing, wear face mask, face shields, wash hands always, are the norms of the day. Strict safety protocols have been enforced— office works, and businesses practically came to a halt.

Despite all this, the PMAAAI’s activities, particularly the celebration of our traditional Annual General Assembly and Alumni Homecoming, went well. These

were indeed unparalleled feats. The zealousness and dedication of our previous set of officers are worth duplicating and emulating!

Now, it is our turn! We must keep the torch burning!

Pandemic or not, there is no room for alibis. We will make our mandate as good, if not better from what we have inherited. Our leaders have said their piece. They have set the directions for us to tread. We must be a working board! We should make sure that our respective committees will perform their tasks and accomplish its mission.

This is not a unilateral effort. We call on all the members of the Association, retired and those still in the active service, to help us achieve these goals. We would be glad to hear your suggestions or any recommendations that will make our association better and in tune with the times. At this electronic age, everything is almost at a touch of a finger. We do not have to be physically present, but we can be virtually connected. This will help us a lot in making our association active and vibrant.

Together, we can achieve our goals! We will keep the torch burning! And we will always have a guiding light in our pathways!





SUPE'S REPORT

CAV FERDINAND M CARTUJANO '88

PMA's Significant Milestones Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic



LTGEN CARTUJANO PAF, Superintendent, PMA delivers his Welcome Remarks during the Commencement Exercises of PMA "Masaligan" Class of 2021.

PMA Graduation Ceremony 2021 Under Strict Quarantine Rules

On 10 May 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte led the Commencement Exercises of the PMA "Masaligan" Class of 2021 via video teleconference.

President Duterte served as Guest of Honor and Speaker in the graduation rites as he extended his warmest congratulations and pride to the newest junior officers to be commissioned in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

For the second time in the Academy's long history, virtual ceremony was conducted as deliberate measures were made for the health and safety of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. The graduation rites was held indoors at Yap Hall where a small group audience, composed of tactical officers, mentors and professors, witnessed the 164-strong members of PMA "Masaligan" Class of 2021 to graduate. Key personalities attended virtually via Zoom. The parents, relatives and friends were able to watch the ceremony through the video coverage uploaded in the PMA Official Facebook Page.

'MASALIGAN', which stands for 'Mandirigmang Samahan na Lakas at Sandigan ng Bayan', is composed of 138 males and 26 females, for a total of 164 graduating cadets.

The PMA "Masaligan" Class of 2021 has demonstrated strength and has proven to be one of the most resilient classes of graduates to join the "Long Gray Line," ready to serve the nation amidst a pandemic environment.



AFP Chief of Staff GEN CIRILITO E SOBEJANA (2nd from right) presides the distribution of diplomas and recognition of graduates. He was assisted by the Superintendent, PMA, LTGEN CARTUJANO PAF; CAPT ROGER P VIDUYA (GSC) PN, Assistant Superintendent, PMA; COL JULIUS A TOMINES (MNSA) PA, Commandant of Cadets and COL JOSE DEMAR A PAULY PROF (GSC), Head, Academic Group.

Upon commissioning, these new officers of the AFP shall be joining their chosen branch of service — 82 in the Philippine Army (PA), 46 in the Philippine Navy (PN) and 36 in the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Recognition Rites of PMA “Bagong Sinag” Class of 2024

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana led the recognition rites for the latest class of cadets to join the Philippine Military Academy Corps of Cadets.

Secretary Lorenzana served as Guest of Honor and Speaker when the Corps received the 368 fourth class cadets belonging to PMA “Bagong Sinag” Class of 2024.

Recognition rites signify the acceptance of the plebes by the upperclass men, after being subjected to pressures in the military, physical and academics aspects, and at the same time testing their mental and emotional toughness to withstand whatever adversities that come their way.

This event draws massive crowds composed of relatives and friends of the cadets but as a precaution against the spread of the virus, no visitors were allowed inside the Academy. Only the military personnel witnessed the activity while a live coverage was broadcast in the PMA Official Facebook page for the family and relatives of the cadets.



A fourth-class cadet expresses his tears of joy when he was recognized by his squad leader.



The first batch of vaccines received by the FDP SH from Department of Health-Cordillera thru the Baguio City Health Office were given to FDP SH medical personnel led by the Commanding Officer, FDP SH, COL NEALON EUGENE P BATALLA MC (GSC).

“BAGONG SINAG” stands for *Bagong Henerasyong Gagampanan ang Tama, Serbisyo, Integridad, at Nasyonalismo ang aming Gabay.*

After two months of Summer Camp Training, 350 members of the class were incorporated in the CCAFP challenged by the rigors of cadetship which include academics and military training.

After ten months, 337 strong and proud members of PMA “BAGONG SINAG” Class of 2024 received the warm handshake of their upperclassmen wearing parade gloves and embracing them as younger brothers and sisters in the noble profession of arms.

COVID-19 Vaccination in the Philippines Military Academy

The Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines; PMA Military personnel and Civilian Human Resource took part in the COVID-19 immunization program in response to the ongoing pandemic in the country.

The activity commenced on 08 March 2021 when the Fort Del Pilar Station Hospital (FDP SH) conducted and administered the Ceremonial Vaccination of COVID-19 Vaccine with the Superintendent, PMA, LTGEN FERDINAND M CARTUJANO PAF. Given that frontliners serve as first responders in hospitals, COL NEALON EUGENE BATALLA MC (GSC) was the first medical personnel vaccinated with COVID-19 Vaccine of Sinovac in the PMA.

The Sinovac Biotech’s CoronaVac vaccine was administered in two doses with an interval of thirty (30) days. The vaccination was conducted in five stages: (1) Registration; (2) Screening; (3) Counselling; (4) Vaccination and (5) Post Vaccination Monitoring.

Changes/innovation in classes due to pandemic

The Headquarters Academic Group conducted classes via Distant Learning and Modular Type Instruction. The teaching methodologies include, but not limited to, the following teaching methodologies:



On 08 March 2021, the Fort Del Pilar Station Hospital (FDPSH) conducted and administered the Ceremonial Vaccination of COVID-19 Vaccine with the Superintendent, PMA, LTGEN FERDINAND M CARTUJANO PAF; other key personalities of PMA and representatives from Baguio City Health Office led by Dr. Celia Flor C Brillantes, Assistant City Health Officer.

1. Lectures via Zoom App

The instructors conducted all the lectures via Video Teleconferencing (Zoom Application) while the cadets stayed inside barracks. The cadets made use of their issued laptops, signed in and interacted in the lecture.

2. Use of Educational Platforms and e-Sources

An e-copy of the Program of Instruction (POI), the Master Schedule, online references and review materials were disseminated and uploaded to the CIS and Edmodo program applications for cadet use. Given the modular type of instruction, the pre-distribution of powerpoint presentations, notes and case digests is necessary for the on-hand access of cadets.

3. Sit-Down Examinations

The Unit Examinations and Lesson Examinations were conducted in Yap Hall with strict observance to social distancing and safety health protocols. The military personnel were tasked to facilitate and proctor during the sit-down examinations.

Despite the adjustments brought about by the distant learning scheme, the course was effectively conducted as evidenced by the excellent performance of the cadets. The availability of educational platforms and online resources contributed in the successful delivery of the course.

Overall, the course directors, instructors and the cadets managed to adapt to the changes through the modular type instruction as shown by the rating for the overall effectiveness of the course in the academic development of the cadets.



A cadet reviewing her lesson after a lecture conducted via Video Teleconferencing (Zoom Application).



Baron's Dissemination



JAN HERNAN R PEREZ
Cdt F/Cpt 1Cl CCAFP
Brigade Commander

The Nation Builders of Tomorrow

The Philippine Military Academy, since time immemorial, has produced competent leaders, many of which have become the nation's leaders and pioneers of movements that created an impact in our society. Today, the Academy is no different and continues to mold leaders that strive and put the nation's welfare first.

As we look ahead into the future, it is important to consider where we are today. Cadets that compose the Academy today are from a different generation from the cadets that composed the Academy 10 years ago, 20 years, and so on. It is true that with the different generations come different traits, personalities, and customs. However, despite the diversity and differences amongst generations, one fact still remains, the standard of "Courage, Loyalty, and Integrity" remains in the core of each and every cadet.

As graduation approaches, a new set of leaders will emerge from the hallowed grounds of the Borromeo Field, ones filled with passion to serve the country and the heart to serve our countrymen. The leadership of the first class men is founded on Servant Leadership, a leadership that emphasizes the welfare of their subordinates. The negative notion that Servant Leadership is irrelevant in the military organization was proven to be invalid and was even one of the factors that led to the drastic change

in the culture within. Seeing how the Cadet Corps Armed Forces had been in the past year, there is great hope that a cultural transformation will occur in the near future, one where maltreatment is eradicated, shabbity is taboo, and honor is upheld.

One can expect that the future of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is hopeful and we can be assured that the AFP will welcome patriotic leaders with the burning passion to contribute to society.

One of the thrusts this past year was the development of the "Social Responsibility Committee," a committee focused on the education of cadets on current social issues, broadening our perspective and deepening our concern for the country and a committee focused on organizing activities and programs that develop a sense of care towards our countrymen among the cadets. These have been helpful in enkindling the fire in the cadets and making them realize that being a cadet means that they have to be a leader, not only amongst

themselves, but a leader for others. Before we become officers or even leaders, we are first Filipinos.

One can expect that the future of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is hopeful and we can be assured that the AFP will welcome patriotic leaders with the burning passion to contribute to society.

As John F Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."



CAVALIER NEWSLINE



CAV ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55

Cav Espino elected PMAAAI chairman; Cav Ludan, president

Former Congressman and Governor, Province of Pangasinan, Cav Amado T Espino, Jr '72 has been elected as the new chairman of the PMAAAI for AY 2021-2022. Cav Steve B Ludan '92 has been, likewise, elected as president.

The other officers elected are retired Cav Vidal E Querol '73, vice chairman; Cav Joselito E De Guzman '93, vice president; Cav Aristotle D Gonzalez '92, corporate secretary; Cav Jesselito L Castro '98, treasurer; and Cav Zyril S Villacorta '02 PN, auditor.

Likewise, the major chapters of PMAAAI have elected their respective chapter chairman and president, to wit: PMARAI (BIRCI), Cav Vidal E Querol '73 (chair), Cav Danilo A Abinoja '74 (pres); PA Chapter pres, Cav Patriarch RP Pel '92; PAF Chapter, Cav Jeffrey C Hechanova '91 (chair), Cav Rommel P Roldan '92 (pres); PN Chapter (pres), Cav Joe Anthony C Orbe '92; PNP Chapter, Cav Israel Ephraim T Dickson '87 (chair), Cav Matthew P Baccay '92 (pres); and PCG Chapter (pres), Cav Artemio M Abu '92.

Cav Sobejana appointed AFP chief

Cav Cirilito E Sobejana '87 has been appointed as the new AFP chief of staff, replacing Cav Gilbert I Gapay '86 who retired.

With the new chief of staff, in the GHQ are Cav Erickson R Gloria '88, vice chief of staff; Cav Erick A Kagaoan '87, TDCSAFP; Cav Von Albert Sumergindo '95, SJS; Cav Adriano S Perez Jr '88, J1; Cav Alex DC Luna '89, J2; Cav Edgardo Y De Leon '88, J3; Cav Romel Diaz, J4; Cav Samuel Gotico, J5; Cav Vener Odilon D Mariano



Espino



Ludan



Sobejana

'88, J6; Cav Benedict M Arevalo '90, J7; Cav Antonio C Palces '90, J8; Cav Eugenio V Hernandez '89, J9; and Cav Romeo S Brawner '89, J10.

Cav Eleazar appointed PNP chief

Cav Guillermo Lorenzo T Eleazar '87 has been appointed as the new PNP chief, vice Cav Debold M Sinas '87 who retired.

Cav Joselito M Vera Cruz '87 is the deputy chief for administration, as the second highest official of the PNP, while Cav Israel Ephraim T Dickson '87 is the deputy chief for operations and Cav Dionardo B Carlos '88 as the chief of directorial staff.



Eleazar

Cav Centino appointed new PA chief; Cav Bordado, FOIC

Cav Andres C Centino '88 was appointed as the new Philippine Army chief, Cav Centino was commander of the 4th Infantry Division, which is based in Cagayan de Oro City. Before becoming 4th ID commander in May last year, Cav Centino was the Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.



Centino



Bordado

In the Philippine Navy, Cav Adeluis S Bordado '88 has been, likewise, appointed as the new Flag Officer in Command, replacing Cav Giovanni Carlo J Bacordo '87 who retired.

In the Philippine Air Force, Cav Florante M Amano '90 is the vice commander with Cav Fernyl G Buca '90 as chief of air staff.



Amano

Cav Ursabia appointed as PCG commandant

Cav George V Ursabia, Jr '87 has been appointed as PCG commandant. Cav Eduardo

D Fabricante '89 is the new deputy commandant for administration, while Cav Leopoldo V Laroya '88 is the deputy commandant for operations.



Ursabia

In Memoriam

The PMAAAI board of directors conveys its deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the bereaved family of the following alumni who have passed away on dates indicated:

Cav Dante B Borebor '94	13 July 2020
Cav Mark Anthony Caabay '18	16 January 2021
Cav Brillante C Ochoco '55	18 January
Cav Claro G Unson Jr '89	26 January
Cav Romeo O Odi '67	28 January
Cav Wodroop P Sagadraca '10	29 January
Cav Romulo M Bambao '79	31 January
Cav Rodolfo J Garcia '69	11 February
Cav Gilbert G Villareal '98	21 February
Cav Antonio E Sibayan '63	11 March
Cav Miguel C Abaya '59	25 March
Cav Allen T Toribio '90	31 March
Cav Ronaldo M Macalintal '93	02 April
Cav Hercules T Galon '66	03 April
Cav Pedro F Baraoidan '59 (USMA)	13 April
Cav Ciriaco S Reconquista '60	17 April
Cav Michael B Satumba '98	April
Cav Arturo C Ferrer '51	20 April
Cav Rommel JI Mendoza '93	02 May
Cav Florencio F Magsino '51 (USMA)	03 May
Cav Federico E Ruiz Jr '60	21 May
Cav Muhammad Nur A Askalani '77	24 May
Cav Leopoldo S Acot Jr '60	02 June
Cav Roberto D Domines Jr '82	05 June
Cav Francisco Z Patrimonio Jr '82	07 June

The PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) offers a scholarship to help in the education of qualified children of married, deceased and disabled alumni and younger siblings of those unmarried. To qualify, their alumnus-parent/brother must have been a regular member of PETFI and regular member of good standing of the PMAAAI at the time of death or disability.

The qualified children or the widows and parents concerned may get in touch with Mabel at the PETFI office, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. or at her cellphone no.: 0917-808-1456 or by email at petfi@yahoo.com.



The Philippine Military Academy held this year's annual alumni homecoming with Supreme Court Chief Justice Diosdado M Peralta as Guest of Honor and Speaker at Fort Gregorio Del Pilar, Baguio City on February 13, 2021. As highlight of the event, distinguished and outstanding alumni in their respective fields were awarded.

PMAAAI Awards: Rules and Criteria

• CAV VIDAL E QUEROL '73

Chairman, PMAAAI Awards Committee AY 2021-2022

It is my privilege to announce that the PMAAAI is now in Search for the Cavalier Awardees of Association Year 2021-2022 pursuant to Sec 3, Art. IX and other related provisions of the PMAAAI Amended By-Laws. The Association shall confer the **Cavalier Award**, the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, the **Valor Award**, and the **Outstanding Achievement Award** to all qualified regular members of the Association in good standing for distinguished, exemplary and unblemished service and outstanding performance of duties, under such rules as the Board shall prescribe: Provided, that an affirmative vote of at least thirteen (13) or two thirds (2/3) of all the voting members of the Board is required for the grant of the above awards. Accordingly, the following Rules and Criteria in the selection of the awards are hereby prescribed unless modified by proper authority.

A. CAVALIER AWARD

- 1. Number of Awardees** - The Cavalier Award shall be given annually to the twelve (12) most outstanding regular members of the Association for outstanding performance of duties during the last five (5) years, in various fields of endeavor as enumerated in paragraph 2 below. In addition, a Cavalier Award (slot) may be granted to outstanding junior officers in the following field: Army Operations; Naval Operations; Air Operations; Police Operations and Coast Guard Operations. Additional Cavalier Award may also be granted to Special Operations and Public Administration provided that the total number of Cavalier Awards shall not exceed twenty (20) Cavalier Awards every Association Year.

2. **Fields of Awards** - The Cavalier Award shall be given to those selected as the most outstanding members in the following fields of endeavor:

2.1 Military/Police/Coast Guard Service in:

2.1.1 Command and Administration - for commanders of AFP/PNP/PCG units with TO rank of Brig General/Commodore or higher, except AFP chief of staff, PNP chief, PCG commandant and AFP major service commanders.

2.1.2 Staff Function - for staff officer positions in the AFP/PNP/PCG units.

2.1.3 Operations - for officers holding the positions other than those covered under para 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 above who are directly engaged/employed in PA, PAF, PN, PNP, PCG and Special Operations. There shall be one awardee per AFP major service, PNP and the PCG, each being considered a separate field. The awardee for Special Operations may come from any of the five services.

2.2 Private Enterprise - for members in private enterprise who are either entrepreneurs or managers.

2.3 Public Administration - for members in government agencies and in government-owned and/or controlled corporations.

2.4 Contribution to Alumni Affairs - for members who have made invaluable contribution and/or services to the PMAAAI and/or the alumni.

2.5 Special Fields - for members who have outstanding achievement in sports, arts, literature, music, science and technology or in other endeavors which at the discretion of the Board of Directors deserve the Cavalier Award.

3. **Qualification and Eligibility.** To be qualified and eligible to receive the Cavalier Award, a nominee must satisfy the following criteria:

3.1 Is a regular member in good standing of the Association and preferably a member of all the four affiliate foundations;

3.2 Has faithfully lived up and adhered to the PMA motto of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty; and

3.3 Has an honorable and unblemished record and whose reputation is beyond reproach. (Any act of commission or omission that tends to cast doubt on the nominee's reputation shall be sufficient ground not to consider the member for the Award.)

4. **Disqualification** The following shall be disqualified from receiving the Cavalier Award:

4.1 Alumni who have been recipients of Association awards are disqualified from receiving the same Association award category for the next ten (10) years except for Outstanding Achievement Award which can be granted to a recipient cited for his/her election to another position of major responsibility; and,

4.2 Members of the PMAAAI Board of Directors and Awards Committee during their tenure.

5. **Criteria for the Awards.** The Award shall be based on outstanding, distinguished and exemplary achievements worthy of emulation, personally and directly attained or done by the member during the last five (5) years in any of the fields enumerated above, that have:

5.1 Enhanced the prestige of the PMA and the PMAAAI;

5.2 Contributed significantly to the attainment of the AFP/PNP/PCG mission; and/or

5.3 Resulted in the improvement of the general welfare of the community or country.

6. **Selection Process.** The selection process shall be from as wide a zone of consideration as possible. All regular members of the Association are qualified and should be considered for the Award, except as earlier provided for.

6.1 Nomination. **Any PMAAAI member, Class President, or Chapter President can submit nomination for the Award not later than last working day of July of the applicable association year.** The nomination shall be in writing, addressed to the PMAAAI Board of Directors (Attn: Awards Committee), and e-mail to pmaaaai@yahoo.com. Soft copy must also be furnished to the Committee in a word format saved in the USB. The nomination shall specify the field of award and shall include the following which should be in seven (7) copies each and properly filed in appropriate folders.

6.1.1 Curriculum vitae of the nominee;

6.1.2 Authenticated description or summary of nominee's achievements or accomplishments;

6.1.3 Justification for the Award; and

6.1.4 A write-up of the nominee's accomplishments in not more than 100 words for possible publication in the Cavalier Magazine.

6.2 Search Committees. The different chapters and classes of the PMAAAI shall conduct an extensive

search for outstanding alumni deserving of the Award. For this purpose, all chapters, whether service or fraternal, shall create their respective Cavalier Award Search Committees. The Committees shall make a thorough search for nominees.

- 6.3 PMAAAI Awards Committee. The PMAAAI Board of Directors has a standing Awards Committee composed of representatives from the various service chapters and chaired by a member of the Board. The Awards Committee shall evaluate the qualifications of the nominees in accordance with these rules. It will submit to the Editor-in-Chief of the Cavalier Magazine the names of those favorably considered after the initial screening, indicating the particular field of the award for which nominated.

The names of nominees shall be published in the Cavalier Magazine July - September issue to solicit comments or reactions from members of the Association, for or against the nominations. Screening and consultations with Class Presidents and Personnel Chiefs of the AFP/PNP/PCG and other resource persons shall be completed by the PMAAAI Awards Committee by the **1st week of December**. The Awards Committee shall evaluate the final list of qualified nominees in each category of award and submit the final list of the principal and alternate recommendees for each category of award, to the Board of Directors in time for its last meeting in December.

- 6.4 Deliberation of Board of Directors. The Board shall deliberate on the recommendees and select the Cavalier Awardees during its meeting in December. Approval of any of the awards requires a **two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote or 13 of all the voting members of the Board**. The Board shall limit its deliberations only to those recommendees submitted by the Awards Committee. The list of Cavalier Awardees shall be published in the Cavalier Magazine's January-March issue.

7. **Presentation of Awards.** The Cavalier Awards shall be presented to the awardees during the Alumni Homecoming Parade in February. The order of presentation of the awards shall be from the most senior awardee by class to the most junior.

B. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This Award shall be given to a regular member of the Association who has rendered at least fifty (50) years of distinguished, outstanding, exemplary and unblemished service to the country and people, whether in government and/or in non-government organizations, who must have served for at least two (2) years as head of any such organization, and who must have been a recipient of any of the other Association awards provided herein. The award will be given during the Alumni Homecoming Parade in February. Any PMAAAI member, Class President or Chapter President can submit nomination for the Award not later than last working day of July of the applicable association year.

C. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This Award shall be given to regular members who have distinguished themselves by being elected or appointed to high positions in government, such as, but not limited to, President, Vice President, Senator, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ambassador, Department Secretary, AFP Chief of Staff, PNP Chief, PCG Commandant and AFP Major Service Commander. The Award will be given during the PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting in January of the applicable association year.

D. VALOR AWARD

The Valor Award shall be given to regular member of the Association who have been recipients of the Medal of Valor.

E. TIMELINES

For the Association year 2021-2022:

1. **18 March to 30 July 2021** – PMAAAI members, Chapter and Class Presidents shall conduct a search of nominees for the Awards.
2. **30 July 2021** – Deadline for submission of nominees to the PMAAAI Awards Committee. Screening by the Awards Committee starts.
3. **2 August 2021** – First meeting of the Awards Committee and Submission of list of qualified nominees to Editor, Cavalier Magazine for publication in the quarterly (September) issue.
4. **Sept-Nov 2021** – Awards Committee receives comments on the nominees from Cavaliers.
5. **30 September 2021** – Submission of Chapters Deliberation.
6. **11 November 2021** – Finalization of the list of nominees by the Awards Committee by categorizing them as Principal and Alternate by field of award.
7. **1 December 2021** - Submission of the Awards Committee's recommendation to the PMAAAI Board of Directors for the:
 - a. Lifetime Achievement Award
 - b. Outstanding Achievement Award
 - c. Cavalier Award
 - d. Valor Award
8. **10 December 2021** – Meeting of the Board to select the awardees.

The PMAAAI Awards highlight the various significant contributions of the cavaliers to national security and development. We, therefore, enjoin everyone to participate in the search for awardees.



PMAAAI Army Cavaliers Chapter News



Cav Victor D Tanggawohn Jr '91, the outgoing President of PMAAA-ACCI, presents a plaque of recognition to Cav Edwin M Mirador '05 for his service rendered as Treasurer of PMAAA-ACCI CY 2020-2021.

FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig, Metro Manila – The outgoing set of officers of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association – Army Cavaliers Chapter, Inc. received a plaque of recognition from Outgoing President, Cav Victor D Tanggawohn Jr '91 on 01 April 2021 at Army Human Rights Office, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

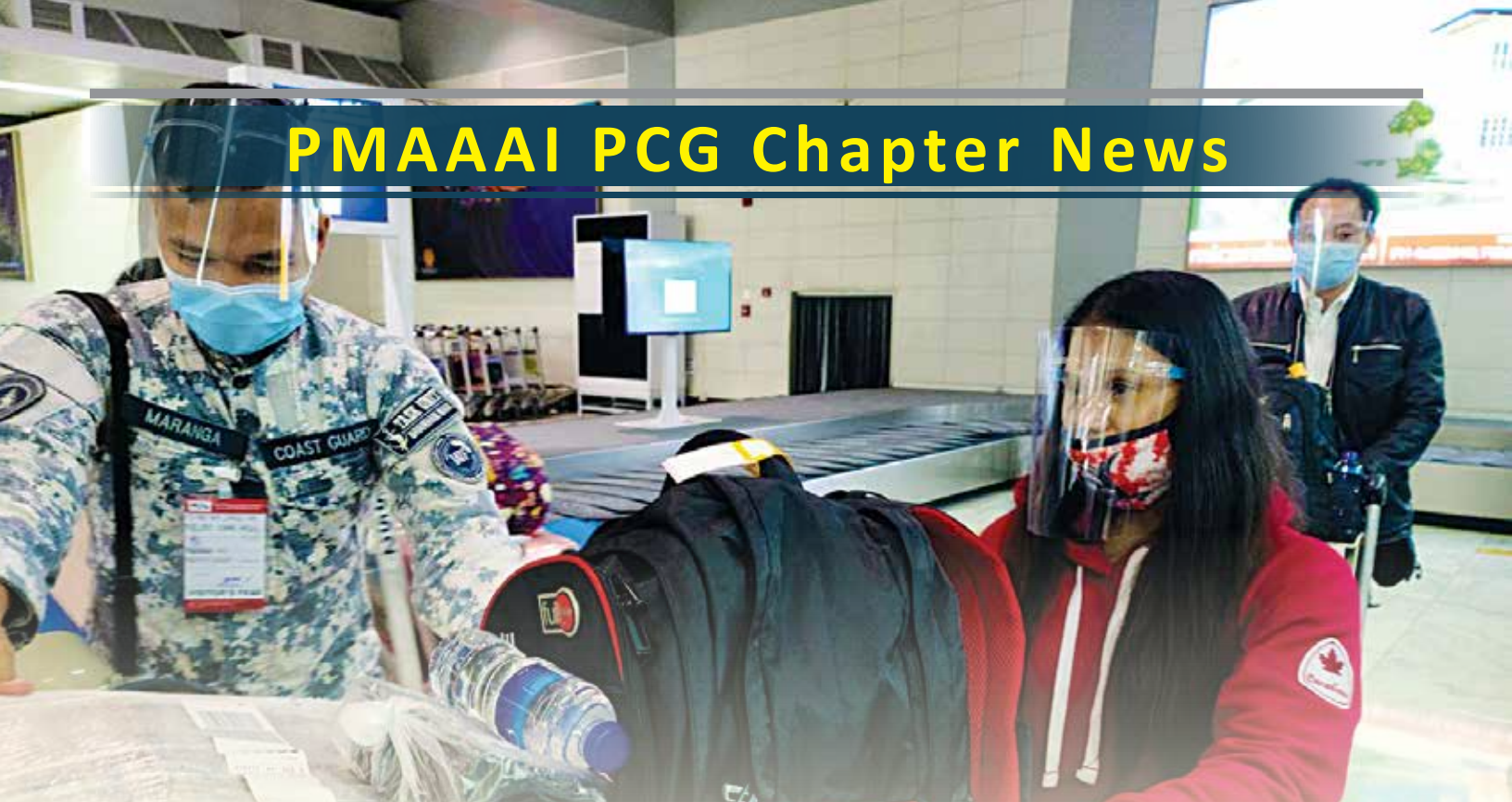
Cav Victor D Tanggawohn Jr, as outgoing President of PMAAA-ACCI Calendar Year 2020-2021, recognized the invaluable services rendered by his co-officers during their respective stint. The awarding ceremony was informally done at AHRO, FBMM due to health restrictions and COVID-19 protocols. However, Cav Tanggawohn Jr expressed his gratitude to the PMAAA-ACCI officers for supporting his plans and programs for the past year.

In spite of the challenges due to the onslaught of COVID-19 Pandemic, the chapter was still able to implement most of its plans, programs, and activities albeit in a manner unprecedented in the past. Although limited time was being allocated for face to face meetings and other mass gatherings were canceled, the organization was still able to deliver essential outputs for the greater good of the Army Cavaliers.

"I am very much honored working with my co-officers and Army Cavaliers during my stint as the President of PMAAA-ACCI Calendar Year 2020-2021. The dedication of my co-officers to their respective positions served as an important factor for attaining our accomplishments. I hope the recognition that was given to them will inspire them to serve the PMAAA-ACCI even if they are already relieved in their respective posts. The whole duration of my Presidency became significant because of their personal contributions. May they continue to be mission-driven and always live up to the ideals of our Alma Mater which are the Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty", he said.



Cav Jessie G Bergonia '04 receives the plaque of recognition given by the President of PMAAA-ACCI to acknowledge his service as Auditor of PMAAA-ACCI CY 2020-2021.



PCG's Steadfast Allegiance to PMAAAI

Cavaliers of PMAAAI-PCG Chapter continue to toil towards achieving and effectuating the Philippine Coast Guard's mandates as the newly assigned flag-ranked officers assume the commanding positions of two significant units of the organization. On 14 April 2021, CAV ROLANDO LIZOR N PUNZALAN '92 effectively assumed the position as Commanding Officer of the Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM) of PCG. Said command endeavors to provide a cleaner and sustainable ocean for the Filipino people by preventing and mitigating pollution at sea, rivers, and tributaries within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines. Concomitantly, CAV EUSTACIO NIMROD P ENRIQUEZ JR '93 effectively undertook the responsibility as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Education, Training, and Doctrine (CGETDC) Command on 14 April 2021. The command is primarily tasked to educate, train, and continuously develop members of the Coast Guard to be equipped with basic and advance Coast Guard knowledge and skills necessary to perform the core functions of the PCG effectively. The chapter is in full support and confidence that these distinguished cavaliers will continue their selfless service and unwavering dedication for the PCG and the Filipino people.

As the COVID-19 pandemic persists nationwide, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), through its Task Force Bayanihan, consisting of frontline public servants, perseveres to support the national government's fight against said pandemic. These efforts are evident

as the Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROF) and the repatriation of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) reap the safe, swift, and convenient arrival process in the country. These attainments were made possible with the leadership posed by CAV EDUARDO D FABRICANTE '89 and CAV JUAN MANUEL DF RAMOS JR '92 as the then Commanders of Task Force Bayanihan ROF and subsequently resumed with the newly designated head of said task force, CAV ROLANDO LIZOR N PUNZALAN '92. He properly assumed the duties and responsibilities as Commander of Task Force Bayanihan ROF last 18 April 2021 during the "Turn-over of Command" led by PCG Commandant, CAV GEORGE V URSABIA JR '87.

The strong bond of the PMAAAI-PCG Chapter remains intact and unscathed as they focus on their goals and objectives in line with the PMAAAI Mother Chapter. Setting aside the adversities and issues that surfaced in the past, advocacies regarding the betterment and advancement of the PCG will prevail to serve the nation and people adeptly. As a group component of the Mother Chapter, they live on strengthening the spirit of camaraderie among its members and enhancing their professional growth and career advancement. Further, they stand to safeguard the prestige and reputation of each member with utmost respect revolving to the Academy's ideals of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty. The solid and unwavering allegiance that the chapters have established will never falter come what may.



PMAAAI PAF Chapter News

“Taking the Lead” – Updates from the Air Cavaliers

We are all living witnesses as to how our lives have drastically changed consequent to the unprecedented, unseen and universal blow of the COVID-19 pandemic. But in retrospect, this ordeal, while still ongoing, has taught all of us – cavaliers included - three immortal lessons on how to survive and transcend: (1) nothing is permanent, (2) adapt to transcend, and (3) plan for the future. These lessons are what the PMAAAI-AF chapter BOTs seek to apply to remain relevant to our fellow air cavaliers.

Nothing is Permanent

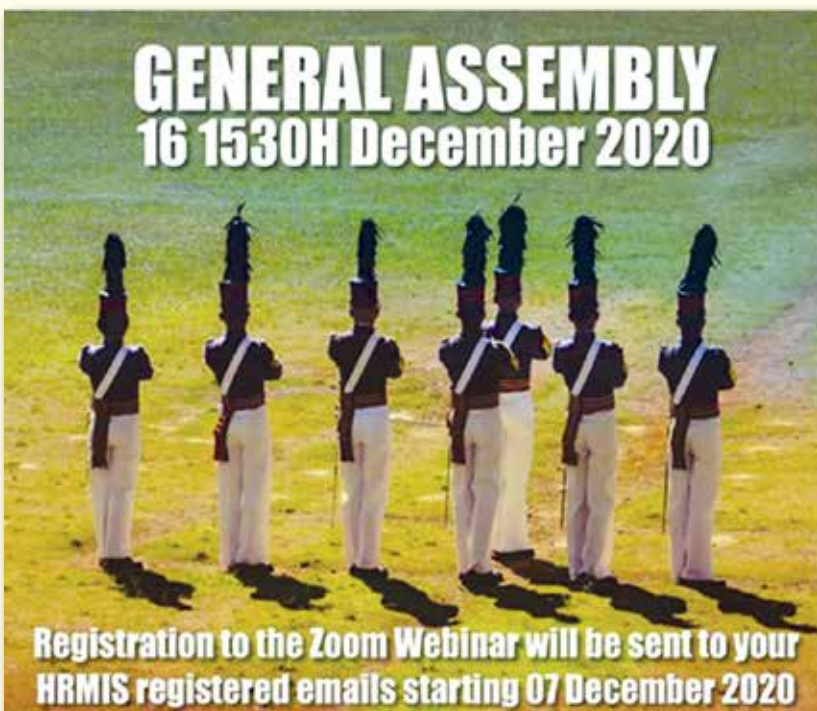
Following the successful conduct of the first-ever Air Force Chapter General Assembly and Election via Video Teleconferencing last 16 December 2020, the Air Chapter welcomed its new set of Board of Trustees led by **CAV JEFFREY C HECHANOVA '91** and **CAV ROMMEL P ROLDAN '92** as Chairperson and President, respectively.

NAME	DESIGNATION
CAV JEFFREY C HECHANOVA '91	Chairman
CAV ROMMEL P ROLDAN '92	President
CAV ARISTOTLE D GONZALEZ '92	Senior Representative, PMAAAI Mother Chapter
CAV ANGELITO R RETUTA '93	Vice-President
CAV ALVIN M HATE '95	Auditor
CAV ARTHUR D LAYLO '96	Treasurer

CAV RALPH Y HIBIONADA '02	PRO
CAV EDSON CARLO M TADEA '05	Board Secretary
CAV ABRAHAM C PASION '06	Junior Representative, PMAAAI Mother Chapter

Above listed officers, together with the following newly appointed Committee Chairpersons, took their oath during the Courtesy Call to the Commanding General, Philippine Air Force last 10 February 2021.

NAME	COMMITTEE
CAV JOJIE D BRAVO '02	Awards
CAV GENE PAUL P SANTOS '04	Education and Professional Development
CAV MICHAEL ANGELO S PATRON '05	Membership and Election
CAV MAYNARD P MARIANO '99	Public Relations
CAV OWEN M AVENIDO '04	Special Committee On Female Cavaliers' Affairs
CAV SHARON LOUIE C MONTALLANA '02	Socials
CAV ALVIN M SEVILLA '00	Sports
CAV REYMAR T PEREZ '02	Ways and Means
CAV ANSELMO A TY II '01	Welfare and Grievance



With the changing of the guard, the new sets of officers are set to take the LEAD and bring new and fresh ideas and talents in order to improve our Association, most significantly, its services to its members.

Adapt to Transcend

*“All failure is failure to adapt,
all success is successful adaptation”*
-Max McKeown-

With this mantra in mind, the PMAAAI-AF Chapter early on recognized the need to rethink its plans, programs and activities for 2021. We began by revisiting our purpose of existence to identify ways to continue to be “relevant” to our members amidst the ongoing pandemic.

After careful deliberation, the following are the priority projects of the Air Force Chapter:

1. Engage our sub-chapters and empower them, so they can communicate to us their pressing concerns and, in turn, provide them with appropriate and immediate assistance.
2. Organize quarterly webinars involving distinguished guest speakers so we can interact, educate, and inspire our fellow cavaliers to continue to lead with courage, integrity and loyalty especially during this pandemic.
3. Improve the Association’s internal affairs in order to provide better services to our fellow air cavaliers. We shall start by initiating measures towards the financial sustainability of our

association to support our priority projects and take care of our sub-chapters.

As a testament to our commitment, we are happy to report that your air force chapter has:

1. Donated P300,000.00 to support the COVID Welfare Funds of the PAF, and,
2. Provided prompt financial assistance to the following cavaliers as shown.

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LATE CAV MARK ANTHONY CAABAY '18	P25,000.00
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LATE CAV WODROOW SAGADRACA '10	P50,000.00
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CAV JEFFERSON SANTOS '08	P40,000.00

Be assured that the Air Force Chapter shall endeavor to consider the new normal as a catalyst for us to find innovative ways to help our fellow cavaliers.

Plan for the Future

For us to steer the direction of our Chapter for the rest of the year, our first step is to know where we are now and lay down what we want to do. By this, the current BOTs believe that we need to do the best that we can do by laying the foundations of our aspirations so that others can build on them.



PMAAAI PAF CHAPTER Members Satisfaction Survey

Dear Air Cavalier,

The PMAAAI PAF Chapter aims to bring the organization closer to its members. As such, our ardent desire is to determine the current perception of the members of its’ value and relevance through this survey. This assessment focuses on the organization’s objectives stated in the By-Laws of promoting the members’ general welfare, protecting the members’ interest, strengthening the spirit of camaraderie, and enhancing members’ professional growth and career advancement.

Further, this survey will be the basis for developing sound and deliberate engagement plans and programs that fit the members’ needs and aligned with the PMA ideals of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty. We humbly request the sincerest answers to obtain the actual standing of the organizations to its members. Please take note that we are evaluating the PAF Chapter and not the PMAAAI – Mother Chapter. Rest assured that all of your responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

In questions where the scale is 1 to 10, be reminded to rate your agreement with the Statement using our cadet standard for LE, with 10.0 being the highest.

Thank you very much.

PMAAAI PAF Chapter Board of Trustees CY 2021-2022

We shall begin by listening directly to our constituents through an Online Survey. From the results of the survey, we shall start crafting our plans and programs while ensuring that our targets are achievable.

During the courtesy call with the Commanding General, PAF, the Chairman of the PMAAAI-AF Chapter laid out the thrusts of the BOT leadership:

1. Enhance camaraderie among fellow cavaliers.
2. Let our love for the association propel us in performing our respective duties and responsibilities with excellence.
3. Seek to contribute to promoting the professional development of fellow cavaliers.
4. Work towards the financial sustainability of the association.
5. Take the lead in supporting the affairs and programs of the mother chapter.
6. Take care of the chapter and its sub-chapters.

Meanwhile, the Commanding General enjoined the newly elected BOTs and Chairpersons to do three (3) things for our fellow air cavaliers:

1. **Pay it forward!** – to make it your commitment to helping fellow bugu-bugos in the PAF in a big way - something they cannot do by themselves, so you do it for them.
2. **To think of an idea that can change our world - and put them into action** – As stewards of our air cavaliers, we must find ideas on how we can change our Association and its members positively.
3. **Do not grow weary of doing what is good and right** –there is no finish line in doing what is good and right. Now more than ever, is the time to unite and be ONE in taking the LEAD in helping others!

“We have it Sirs!”

More than being PEEMAYERS, we are all public servants who share a common passion for serving and defending our country and its people. Our collective passion helps drive the AFP and the PAF to do more, to give more and be more. This is what gives us the motivation to continue serving even beyond the call of duty.

Therefore, the members of PMAAAI can rest assured that your AF Chapter is committed to taking significant steps towards the betterment of the PAF, AFP, and the whole community because WE HAVE IT, SIRSI!



YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES



Transcending Femininity: Leading Beyond Limits

• CAV CLEAH ANGELICA L LARIDE '17

At an early age, I have always been an adventurer. I always see challenges as a fun and exciting thing to do. I had my fairshare of cuts and bruises from playing outside my neighborhood with my friends. From climbing different fruit trees to swimming and paddling a canoe in a river without a life vest. My childhood has always been an interesting experience.

That is why it did not come as a surprise to my parents that I chose to enter the military. They saw my innate need to tread a different route from my family members. Coming from a family of teachers, accountants, and nurses, I am the sole member that chose a profession that is quite far fetched from what was expected.

Before entering the Philippine Military Academy, I was a sophomore college student in Ateneo. My goal then was to become a CPA lawyer and get loads of cash from corporations needing my financial and legal advice. My seemingly feeble ambition was influenced by an unwritten rule in the society that the more money you earn, the greater the success and respect you receive from those around you.

This twisted mindset has changed when I finally took a u-turn and applied to become a cadet instead of finishing my course. Much to my parents' disappointment, I dropped out and took my chance. They are aware that I can get easily bored by routinary tasks, but they did not expect that I would be able to risk my future for an endeavor that is yet unknown.

Cadetship was hard. I do not find the need to sugarcoat the grueling four years of studying, physical strengthening, and military training. However, despite the rigors that I have and those who came before me have faced, there is that sense of camaraderie and deep-rooted values that was ingrained by PMA that became a compass that led every alumna to make morally right decisions after graduating from the academy.

After graduation, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant of the Philippine Army and was assigned to the 92nd Infantry "Tanglaw Diwa" Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division. The unit then was a newly activated battalion that was created to serve as the division's Rapid Deployable Force (RDF) aimed to be deployed anywhere at any time within

House to house visitation to the Dumagat Indigenous People of Umiray.



Gift giving activity to the displaced Dumagat Indigenous People from Brgy Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon.



Clearing Operations at Nasugbu, Batangas with the Scout Platoon, 92IB.



the Area of Operations of 2ID. As a new lieutenant and one of the pioneer officers of the unit, my leadership was doubly challenged by the situation that our battalion was in. Our troops came from different units in different areas whose cultures and traditions diverge from one another. There was a divide within our ranks, and it was up to us to impress cohesion and teamwork for our personnel.

As a female officer, I wanted to become relevant in the infantry by actively involving myself in the triad operations. Luckily, my then battalion commander, COL CHRISTOPHER M DIAZ (INF)

G S C PA gave me an opportunity

to lead a small unit as a scout platoon leader. I immersed with my troops and led them throughout the organizational training and to our first clearing operations in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Unlike our male counterparts, the chances for females to be trusted to lead an operation was very slim. My commander was apprehensive for my safety but his liberal leadership broke barriers for women like me. He told me that he chose to see me not as a man or a woman but as a second lieutenant,

trained enough to fight and contribute to the accomplishment of the mission.

I was disheartened when the operation ceased without a positive indication of the enemy. We had to pull out because one company of our unit will be sent to participate in an urban warfare training in Townsville, Australia and I was designated to act as the Intelligence Officer. Upon our arrival back in the country, the officers from the higher headquarters were surprised that I was the only female participant in the combat exercise. However, due to the level of empowerment and encouragement from my commander, being a lone female did not become an issue. My troops and fellow male officers find my involvement in the training as normal, and no prejudice was set because of my gender.

I continued to be involved in the battalion's operations at our new AO in Brgy Umiray, Gen Nakar, Quezon. Continuous military, intelligence, and civil-military operations were conducted to dismantle the enemy groups in the area and end the abuse to our local Dumagat IPs who have fallen prey to the snares of the New People's Army. However, our operational tempo was halted because of our redeployment to Fort Magsaysay as a component unit of the newly organized 1st Brigade Combat Team.

The 1BCT is a mobile brigade sized RDF of the Philippine Army that is mission capable to conduct combined arms operation. In the middle of our training with the US Army, I was sent by my new commander to undergo a specialized course in Taguig for three months. This schooling was meant to enhance our unit's readiness for its future deployment with the 1BCT in the province of Sulu.

After my graduation, I reported for duty in Sulu. At that time, our brigade headquarters were recently bombed by two suicide bombers killing two of our valued soldiers who were manning the gate. Despite its magnificent beauty, Sulu remains to be a hot and critical area. As soon as I arrived in the headquarters, I was given an hour to prepare and pack my combat gears to proceed to our battalion's Tactical Command Post in Brgy Latih, Patikul, Sulu.



Urban Warfare Training in Townsville Australia.



During the surrender of ASG member, Al Amin Jul Ambri.

The residents in Latih were evacuated because of the running battles of the government forces and the Abu Sayaff Group in the area. During my first patrol, I was mortified at the state of the barangay. Empty shells were everywhere, buildings were heavily damaged by artillery and gun fires, things inside the houses were left in disarray, and schools were vandalized with foul words against the government. It was a clear indication that the civilians rushed to leave their homes. Seeing the toys sprawled on the floor of their broken homes pricked my heart as I visualized the children who were fleeing for safety.


As we returned to the TCP at sundown, we were alerted by a single gunshot. We paused, observed, and evaluated that it must have been a misfire by one of our troops cleaning their rifle. Our S3 ordered our personnel to find out who it was but as soon as we attempted to go back to our tent, continuous bursts of fires ensued. We were being harassed by the enemy. Support from our fellow component unit from the 9th Field Artillery Battalion could not be granted because the enemy were already at close proximity of 30-40 meters from our troops. As the acting mortar platoon leader, I immediately proceeded towards our 81mm mortar with three of my men from our mortar team and fired at our predesignated targets. I called my mistah who was the immediate platoon leader of our company to assess the fires and request for our adjustment to incapacitate the aggressive firing enemies. When the enemy attempted to withdraw away from our forces, we immediately requested a platoon round of 105mm howitzers from 9FAB to bombard them at their withdrawal routes.

Intelligence report confirmed three deaths from the ASG in said encounter.

During my stint in Sulu, I felt valued as a female officer. My commander always encouraged me to show my potential and maximize my talent in the field. He allowed me to go on patrols and lead strike operations that were driven by intelligence target packets. In return, I have shown willingness and dedication to learn my job and made initiatives that are out of the box to achieve and accomplish our mission. I was included in the mission planning of 1BCT where I was given a chance to work with one of the legendary female officers of the Philippine Army and my Senior Tactical Officer in PMA, LTC LEAH L SANTIAGO (FA) GSC PA.

Our continuous intelligence and CMO efforts came to fruition when one civilian requested us to facilitate the surrender of his relative who is a PSR-listed ASG. Our clear intentions to bring peace in Latih gained the trust and confidence of the local residents. We immediately assisted the surrender of said ASG member where he also turned over his high-powered firearm in December 2019. The surrendered ASG became a good friend and voluntarily gave valuable information that later resulted to our recovery of various IED components and the discovery of enemy encampments and hideouts. After a few months, two of his other cohorts also joined him and voluntarily surrendered to the unit together with their HPFAs.

As much as I want to remain in Sulu to continue my current mission in my battalion, I was ordered to report to my mother unit in the Army Artillery Regiment at Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. I was assigned at 9FAB, the very same unit who once supported me when I was in the infantry. The Philippine Army is indeed a small world, so it pays to be known not only for your achievements but more importantly for your character and work ethics.

I still have a long way to go in my career but if there is one thing that I have learned in my experiences in the field, it is to always do your best to thrive as a female officer. I would like to stress what LTC SANTIAGO told me *"You do not need to be a man in the organization. Your role is to be a WOMAN in the organization."* This statement speaks volume in my head. It is indeed true; we do not need to prove ourselves that we can do what men can do. Life is not a competition on gender superiority. What we need to be is to become a woman who can excellently accomplish tasks and take active roles as productive officers and members of the Philippine Army. 



My first 105mm ammunition shell from my first target and live fire.



My first live fire at 9FAB, Brgy Liang, Patikul, Sulu.

FEMALE CAVALIERS CORNER

Learn from the Young Ones

• CAV ARIANNE MAE G AYANGGOD '13

An officer's job is one of the toughest things to do in the world. Officers are supposed to lead, fulfill challenging duties and possess exceptional qualities to become great leaders and soldiers. However, in this male-dominated world, some women still try their best to thrive even when lives are very tough. Nonetheless, women in the military always fulfill their duties despite the hardships.

Given the integral role women play in the future of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, at this juncture in 2021 it is important to step back and ask: Is the military a leading or a lagging organization with regards to gender equity? And, should our leadership be proud of what it has accomplished to date, or stirred to do much better?

On both questions, the answers will surely be mixed. The AFP, specially the Philippine Navy, has come a long way in the past few decades. But with the challenging times and rapidly changing security environment, there is so much further to go.

Today, the PN is much more cohesive towards equipping its personnel technology and modernization. One young female cavalier has been making buzz in her field. She is **ENSIGN MARY PAULINE "PAWIE" M FORNEA PN**. This young blood is a member of **PMA MABALASIK Class of 2019**. She was known for her *Sweat, blood and tears* mantra. She had a five-year journey as a foreign schooling cadet of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) to the United States Naval Academy (USNA) where she recently graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science Degree major in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and Robotics and Controls Engineering. She is also known for being a bronze



medalist in the just concluded 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games 2019. During our conversation, she mentioned her daily routine which starts as early as 0400H. Such dedication, hard work and discipline made her survive her cadetship with flying colors while also excelling in her sport. And now that she is already an officer, I asked her ***“How is it to thrive and succeed in military and sports organizations as a female cavalier?”***

“It takes a lot of courage and persistence to be a young female officer thriving in the organization that is traditionally ruled by men. As a female Ensign, who is entrusted by my Commanding Officer

to be the youngest Executive Officer of the Electronic Warfare Unit, writing project proposals for the advancement of the warfare and autonomous systems, teaching and being the Subject Matter Expert (SME) in electronic warfare and combat systems, and helping my senior officers in crafting the electronic warfare capability development and roadmap, it is my “bread and butter” to be technically and tactically proficient in our Command. In addition to my job as a young female officer in our command, it takes a lot of extra hardwork, mental toughness, and patience to be a female elite athlete training and competing with elite men in the sports community. In our sports career where speed and power are physically dominated by men, it is my “bread and butter” to run, bike, and swim extra miles just to catch up with the guys.”



How is it to thrive and succeed in military and sports organizations as a female Cavalier?

“CAPTAIN PACIS, one of my senior officers in our Command, told me, “You need to be seven (7) steps ahead of everyone.” This is true and applicable not only in the military organization, but also in sports. Most of our jobs and activities are highly technical and require technical skills. Previous studies have shown that men may have better motor and spatial skills, on average. Thus, most of my colleagues are men. In order for me to thrive and to be at par with natural motor and spatial skills of men, I always go seven steps ahead by improving and maintaining my proficiency in technical and tactical aspects in engineering, electronic warfare, and combat systems. Also, I go seven steps ahead in sports. As a female athlete training with my male teammates who are physically equipped with speed and power, I need to swim, bike, and run more to catch up with their physical performances. If they train once a day, I train twice, on top of my work in the Navy.”

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

“As early as nine years old, I was trained to always be at par with my gender counterparts, not only in physical abilities, but also in mental and spatial/analytical abilities. I was trained by my coach to swim, bike, and run with the guys, and I was trained by my late father to think analytically in life and in the academe. My life trained me to compete and run against my male counterparts so I can provide money and food for my education, for myself and for my family. I was trained to push myself every single day so I can thrive and succeed to the community where I belong. I push myself hard. That is why whenever I do my work, I always think that

there are no gender preferences in work and training performances. I always think seven steps ahead in technical, tactical, and physical aspects.”

What do you think other Cavaliers should know about the female Cavaliers in this organization?

“It is hard to thrive and succeed in the organization driven and dominated by men, but I always take it as challenges and opportunities for me to serve the Philippine Navy and the whole Nation. Having a passion to serve our Filipino people is not gender-related or majority/minority-related. For as long as I have the passion or compelling enthusiasm to serve our Nation, with courage, persistence, hardwork, mental toughness, and patience,

I can thrive and succeed in my chosen organizations as a female cavalier and a female athlete. “

So that was ENS FORNEA up-close. She is currently serving in the NSSC, thriving and trying to succeed in a career field that is gradually changing. She is one of the Female Cavaliers to watch out for. Her life experiences, her knowledge and technical proficiency in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and in Robotics and Controls Engineering really matters. We only need to give the right support to best recognize and resolve the challenges faced, and how we can adapt and overcome.





Aspects of the RP-US Defense Alliance

• CAV EDILBERTO P ADAN '72

A Chinese embassy official once told a Philippine diplomat, “Why don’t you get closer to a friendly neighbour rather than a distant cousin?” Of course he was referring to the relationship between the Philippines and China vis a vis the former and the United States. On another occasion, a US official, on the same topic similarly quipped, “Yes, you cannot choose your neighbours but you can choose your friends.” Two superpowers contending for the preferred attention of a smaller but a very important state.

What the Constitution Says

The 1987 Constitution provides direct guidance on how the country shall conduct its foreign policy: *“The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest and the right to self determination.”* Our nation is free to choose who, in what manner and when to engage any state. The national interest is the paramount consideration.

In 1848, British PM Lord Palmerston declared, “We have no eternal allies, and we have-not perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow.” History shows many applications of this principle as long-time friends or allies become protagonists and once enemies become friends and partners.

Although not defined in the Constitution, sovereignty is understood as the absolute control and exclusive jurisdiction by a nation-state over its territory and internal affairs.

Relatedly, while the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, this clause refers to offensive wars or wars of aggression and not defensive war since the power to wage a defensive war is the very essence of sovereignty. The defense of the state is a primordial obligation of the government and of the people. Self defense is an inherent right of nations.

Furthermore, the Constitution says that the State is obliged to “protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone”...in conformity with international law and the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

What the Supreme Court Said

During the deliberation of the 2014 PH-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), the Supreme Court expounded that *“the President of the Philippines, as the sole repository of executive power, is the guardian of the Philippine archipelago, including all the islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty and jurisdiction. These territories consist of its terrestrial, fluvial, and aerial domains; including its territorial sea, the subsoil, the insular shelves, and other submarine areas; and the waters*

around, between, and connecting, the islands of the archipelago, regardless of their breadth and dimensions”

The necessity of forging alliances with friendly nations was cited in *Saguisag versus Exec Sec. Ochoa* and the Supreme Court described the President’s task as:

“It is the president’s prerogative to do whatever is legal and necessary for Philippine defense interests... and this duty of defending the country is unceasing, even in times when there is no state of lawless violence, invasion, or rebellion... It would therefore be remiss for the President and repugnant to the Constitution to do nothing when the call of the moment requires increasing the military’s defensive capabilities, which could include forging alliances with states that hold a common interest with the Philippines or bringing an international suit against an offending state”

The President, it is established, “is the Commander-in-Chief in times of peace and war and includes the power to wage war successfully but also the power and responsibility to prepare for the eventuality of war..., in cooperation with Congress.”

PH Defense Cooperation: the MDT and the VFA

The Philippines has some 38 defense cooperation agreements with other countries aimed to preserve peaceful relations, to advance the national interests overseas and enhance the country’s defense capabilities. As the only treaty ally of the Philippines, the defense partnership with the US is the most advanced as manifested in the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951 (MDT), the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) of 1998 and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) of 2014.

Similar to the PH-US MDT, the US mutual defense and security agreements with both Japan and South Korea provide that “an armed attack against either party would be dangerous to its own peace and security and declares that each party would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional provisions and processes.”

The VFA is a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and is the key enabler of the MDT. No sending state would be inclined to send its troops on foreign soil on a cooperative mission without clear rules and guidelines on what are the rights and privileges of the visiting troops. Under international law, a SOFA differs from military occupation. The United States has more than 120 SOFAs with various countries.

Only two countries have a Visiting Forces Agreement with the Philippines: the US and Australia. The SOFA with Australia was ratified by the Philippine Senate in July 2012, with only one dissenter and it was described by Malacanang as enhancing our national and regional security. Australia is a defense ally of the United States under the ANZUS and Five Eyes defense agreements.

It should be noted that while the Constitution prohibits the establishment of foreign troops, facilities or bases on Philippine soil, this is not an absolute prohibition. Three conditions must be met first to allow them: 1) that the terms are contained in a treaty concurred by the Senate; 2) If Congress requires, it is ratified by a majority of votes cast in a national referendum; and, 3) that the agreement is recognized by the sending state as a treaty. The VFA with the US was ratified by the Philippine Senate in May 1999. A “VFA-2” or the counterpart agreement was also approved.

Separate convictions by Philippine courts for grave criminal offenses of two US military personnel, LCpls. Daniel Smith (2006)



and Joseph Scott Pemberton (2014) and who consequently served their jail sentences in the Philippines, and later released or pardoned, are considered proof that the VFA works.

THE RELEVANCE OF DEFENSE ALLIANCES

Alliances and defense partnerships between nations with common interests are forged for reasons of security. It provides a sense of assurance and promotes trust among the signatories. Shared intelligence provides early warning of an impending threat. Shared resources lower the cost of defense spending. Alliances deter aggression.

When the threat of Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, it was thought that NATO will also be dissolved. Yet its members decided to continue maintaining it, with some saying that it was more than a military alliance, but a “community of values” that transcends any specific threat. NATO was considered a source of stability as it had gathered “valuable organizational and cooperative experience that serves as an insurance policy against future threats”.

I have learned that there are three levels of defense relationships: as a treaty ally, as a defense partner, or as a friend. A treaty ally obliges each party to defend and come to the aid of the other in case of aggression. Partners and friends do not have that obligation to send troops or defend the other but may agree to provide support to maintain and develop defense capabilities. Australia, Japan, and South Korea are defense partners of the Philippines; Malaysia and Indonesia are friends.

Some problematic cases: Pakistan is still linked to the US by the 1954 Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement but has moved closer to China while the US has moved to Pakistan’s rival, India. The MDT between the US and Taiwan was terminated in 1980 since recognition has shifted to the People’s Republic of China and



construction that are now military bases within the PH EEZ and their excessive territorial claims using the Nine dash Line declaration? Undoubtedly, US Freedom of Navigation (FONOPS) patrols deter more aggressive behaviour of the PLA in the South China Sea, the Taiwan Straits, and the Sea of Japan.

3. Alliances control allies – A dominant partner is usually concerned with being entrapped by a smaller partner who might be tempted to go it alone when it perceives a quick victory in a short war. Throwback to the late 60s: what could have happened if the Philippines, an ally of the US, decided to invade Sabah which is controlled by Malaysia which has a defense pact, the Five Powers Agreement, with the Commonwealth nations of the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore?
4. Alliances enable balancing – when bigger regional states attempt to disrupt the status quo, smaller states will balance against it in an effort to retain their independence. The Taiwan Relations Act requires the US to supply arms to Taiwan, and optionally intervene in the event of a Chinese invasion.

The US-PH MDT states that an armed attack on either of the parties “would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common dangers in accordance with its own constitutional processes”. The treaty may be invoked in the event of an armed attack in the metropolitan territory, island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean and its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific. During the Senate ratification hearings of the PH-US VFA in 1998, the PH Senate demanded and received the assurance of the US, that the Kalayaan Island Group in the South China Sea is covered by the MDT.

Is the Philippines a target for a Chinese nuclear attack because of the presence of nuclear weapons in the designated EDCA bases in the Philippines as claimed by a retired PH military general? The stationing of nuclear weapons is banned under the PH Constitution. The Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces (PCVFA) is tasked to enforce compliance with PH laws by the US visiting forces.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY (NSS) Lines of Action

The Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, or PCFR, was invited to contribute in the development of the NSS that was endorsed by President Rodrigo Duterte and published in May 2018.

Four Strategic Lines of Action related to National Defense stand out in the NSS:

1. Safeguarding and preserving national sovereignty and territorial integrity
2. Ensuring Maritime and Airspace Security
3. Strengthening International Relations and Providing a strong Cyber Security Infrastructure and Cyber Security
4. Strengthening International Relations

yet recent action of the 7th Fleet in the Taiwan’s Straits, huge arms sales, and visits of top officials to Taipei provide an assurance of support in case of a Chinese invasion.

There are also issues and complaints about alliances:

One is “Free riding” – usually coming from big allies like the US; is letting the US pay for their defense so that they could spend money on social welfare or economic projects. Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana recommends that the PH increase its defense budget to at least 2% of its GDP from .95%. For decades the PH defense budget has not appreciably increased although in recent years, a program for modernization of the AFP had been undertaken.

Some advantages of alliances:

1. Alliances prevent wars – it drives the cost of aggression and deters states from using violence to settle disputes. Allies are less at risk of attack than those without them. Would North Korea be restrained to invade South Korea if there is no defense treaty between the ROK and the US?
2. Alliances control rivals –using a network of bases and control of chokepoints, rivals are denied freedom of movement. Is defense cooperation with China desirable; what are the costs? Allowing access of PLAN ships and PLAAF aircraft in PH ports or bases would certainly expand the PLA’s geographic reach, facilitate logistics, and advance the security interest of China in the South China Sea. How about the Philippines’ security interest of resisting their illegal activities e.g. artificial island

In order to Safeguard and Preserve National sovereignty and Territorial integrity it prescribed the modernization of the deterrent and self-defense capabilities of our ground, naval, littoral and air forces. Additionally, it cited the need to provide the support to bilateral, regional, and global mechanisms that promote peace and security, the rule of law, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Ensuring Maritime and Airspace Security requires acquiring equipment to provide nationwide 24/7 domain awareness and effectively managing and controlling our air and maritime spaces.

The NSS also provides the strengthening of alliances and strategic partnerships, as well as developing new security or cooperation agreements. Significantly, it recognizes that the Philippines's inability to thwart the threats from cyberspace could imperil the country's vital interest, critical infrastructure and installations, institutions, and the patrimony of the country and people.

The NSS cites the necessity of passing relevant national security legislation and support to bilateral, regional as well as global mechanisms that promote the rule of law and peaceful resolution of disputes.

The acquisition of equipment to provide 24/7 nationwide maritime domain and airspace awareness and control, strengthening alliances and strategic partnerships as well as developing new security or cooperation arrangements are imperatives. Since the US bases were closed in 1992, early warning systems, air and maritime, have been degraded. A foreign submarine maybe lurking in Manila Bay or within territorial waters and remain undetected. It is only when these foreign vessels choose to announce themselves that their presence is known.

The arrival of the US Scan Eagle drone early this year and the acquisition of new frigates are significant steps in enhancing domain awareness. What you cannot see, you cannot engage or even file a diplomatic protest about; what you cannot engage you cannot defeat.

Significantly the NSS took cognizance that the country's inability to defend itself from cyber attacks could imperil the country's vital interests, critical infrastructure, and institutions. (e.g. foreign interference in elections). We are reminded that a few months ago Facebook struck down 155 questionable accounts, consisting of 11 pages and whose contents were described to be interfering in Philippine politics and promoting certain politicians perceived to be friendly to China. The questionable accounts were traced to Fujian.

WHAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY SAYS

The National Security Policy states that the dispute over the West Philippine Sea (WPS) remains to be the foremost security challenge to Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity. China has refused to recognize the Arbitral ruling that it has no historical rights to resources based on their nine-dash-line claim. The Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling reaffirmed the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf claims.

Hundreds of Chinese vessels not necessarily engage in fishing and part of the maritime militia loiter and coerce Filipino fishing vessels at will within the PH EEZ. In February 2020 PLAN fire control radars lit a PH Navy ship on patrol in the WPS; in plain language "tinutukan tayo". Our resupply vessels to Ayungin detachment are under the coercive shadow of Chinese militia or Coast Guard vessels most of the time.

Notably, the NSP recognizes that a continuing security presence of the US in the Asia Pacific is a stabilizing force.

In order to circumvent the "armed attack" condition that will cause a US response if the PH invokes the Treaty, China has employed "unrestricted warfare" or 'gray zone tactics". These include information warfare, diverse cyber and espionage operations, economic and trade warfare, the use of hundreds of para-military or militia vessels to coerce Filipino vessels and intimidate naval patrols in the West Philippine Sea.

The Three Warfares contained in the PLA's Political Work Guidelines are employed: Public opinion warfare, psychological warfare and legal warfare. The extensive use of paramilitary forces operating below the threshold of what might invite a forceful US response has provided strategic advantage and gained territory.

"Watch out," a former Vietnamese ambassador told PH officials a few years ago, "You should not easily believe what the Chinese are saying, instead watch what they are doing. We know them. We have been fighting them for a thousand years." Such a profound advice for a small nation just learning to deal with a bullying neighbour.

According to the World Bank, the PH defense budget in 2019 was .95% of the GDP. From 1958 to 2018 the average was \$1.93 Billion. A significant increase of 35% from the 2015 budget started in 2016. The national policy is to be able to allocate at least 2% of GDP for defense. However, the projected decrease of 8% in our GDP growth in 2021 as a result of the covid pandemic caused a pushback in the schedule of some defense acquisitions. Within ASEAN countries, the AFP has the second lowest defense budget compared to the GDP.

The five-month long battle in Marawi City, Mindanao in 2017 was the most intense battle the AFP had ever fought in its history. It showcased the bravery, ingenuity, and resilience of the Filipino soldier. It also provided valuable lessons. Capability gaps were revealed. Foreign military assistance and support incapability development such as training, new equipment and systems augment the inadequate defense and limited modernization budget.

CONCLUSION

The Philippines, while still developing a credible defense capability "that is a source of national pride," needs not just friends and partners but an ally committed not only to its defense in case of an armed attack but also in helping develop its capabilities to resist the gray zone tactics of China. A vital role played by the MDT is deterrence from more aggressive actions by China inside our EEZ and the contested areas. The DND and the Armed Forces of the Philippines must learn to adapt fast to the asymmetrical and hybrid warfare techniques being used to further China's national objectives.

The MDT will benefit from a review that will take into account hybrid warfare and unrestricted warfare threats as opposed to conventional armed attacks.

The Philippines should seek to enhance defence partnerships and strengthen alliances with states who share the values of democracy, the rule of law and peaceful cooperation.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in his memoirs in 1945 said:

"The only thing worse than fighting with allies is fighting without them".





The COVID-19 PANDEMIC and Philippine Economy in 2021-2022

• CAV WILFREDO G NUQUI '68¹

I. Introduction and context

This brief article reviews the interactive COVID-19 pandemic and induced economic crisis and priority public policy measures. Unprecedented in its impacts, the pandemic is weighing heavily on the population, public health system, economy, education and social equity. The situation is due mainly to delayed government containment response, prolonged and stringent lockdowns, low testing and contact tracing, inadequate relief to distressed businesses and population and low supply of vaccines.

'Defeating COVID-19 is more important than ever. Global progress on vaccinations has been wildly uneven and unfair'(UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Feb 17, 2021). Inoculation is still largely a privilege of rich countries, home to 16% of the world population, and administering 47% of vaccine doses (Agence France Press, April 2021). The COVAX Facility, in which the U.S. government is its biggest funder, donates vaccines to Philippines and other developing countries.

II. Philippine economy and the pandemic

Economic and social effects. In 2020, the growth rates of real GDP and GDP per capita were -9.6% and -10.9%, respectively the worst in postwar economic history. The gross regional domestic products (GRDP) of all regions fell in 2020. An inverse relationship between higher COVID cases and deeper economic slump is notable. Regions 3, NCR and 4A suffered double digit GRDP contractions and had the highest confirmed COVID cases in 2020.

Poverty increased to 14.1% among families or 3.48 million households in 2020 despite public cash grants and wage subsidies (C. Reyes, 2021). In March 2021, 7.1% (3.44million) and 16.2% of the labor force were unemployed and underemployed, respectively (PSA). Thousands of malnourished children are denied school based feeding due to suspended face to face classes. For many children, the free lunch is their only full meal of the day which is crucial to their physiological brain development.

A record 7.6 million families experienced severe hunger in July-September 2020 (SWS).

Education faces an extremely serious and inter-generational human development crisis. Filipino 15-year old learners are near bottom among 79 countries in learning skills on reading, mathematics and science (Program for International Student Assessment, OECD 2018). Filipino pupils in Grade 5 lagged behind five neighboring countries in reading, mathematical and writing literacy (SEA-PLM, 2019). Most families with school age children consider virtual classes as more difficult than the regular face-to-face learning. About 48% of girls and young women age 13-24 spend only two or less hours studying due to internet problems and competing household duties (Plan Int'l Philippines).

DSWD has identified around 6.5 million poor and vulnerable households, and 2.9 million indigent senior citizens as beneficiaries of social amelioration programs. The targeting method aims to minimize exclusion and inclusion errors. It estimated that some 7.7 million informal sector workers and daily wage earners nationwide are vulnerable to loss of income due to quarantines and other restrictions. The national ID system (PhilSys) establishes a single Philippine Identification System for all citizens to enable their financial inclusion and access to employment opportunities and government services.

The COVID-19 treatment challenge. The simplified pandemic risk function is: Risk = f (Hazard, Exposure and Vulnerability)/ (Capability). The main exposure and vulnerability variables are the mutating virus, demographics, mobility, poverty, health seeking behavior, and comorbidities. The principal capability variables are the public health care system e.g., testing, tracing, isolating and treating cases, vaccines, household economic standing and government fiscal condition. Statistical analysis could confirm the significance of each variable and inform public health and other responses.

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Increases in COVID-19 cases are due to low compliance with minimum health protocols, more infectious variants of concern and vaccine shortage. Region-wide and extended quarantines have very adverse economic effects. Surgical quarantines at the municipal and barangay levels address both health risks and economic needs more effectively. These call for very precise and real time geographic information on the evolving situation. In 2020, Philippines conducted only 17 tests per confirmed COVID-19 case well below that of Vietnam (4,277) and Laos (2,080) according to World Bank. It likewise had a delayed and weak border control.

It is the last among 11 Asian countries to roll out its vaccination program on Mar 1, 2021 using donated Sinovac vaccine under EUA. WHO scheduled the technical review of Sinovac vaccine for possible emergency use listing on May 3, 2021. DoH advises 'the best COVID-19 vaccine is whichever one is available'. Unlike the Philippines which has similar maritime disputes with China, Vietnam is immune to China's vaccine diplomacy and a high performer-country in mitigating the pandemic.

Table 1 presents some leading indicators of the national COVID-19 situation.

Table 1. Philippines: Selected COVID-19 statistics and ranking among countries	
Indicators	Value and rank
Total cases	1,124,724 (rank 25, Johns Hopkins University)
Total cases recovered	1,050,643 (93.4%)
Active cases	55,260(4.9%)
Deaths per 100,000 population	16.21 (rank 104, JHU)
Number of deaths	18,821 (1.67%)
Mild and asymptomatic cases	95.5%
Tests per 1 million population	112,024 (Worldometer.info, May 11, 2021)
ICU beds utilization rate (Philippines/NCR)	61%/64% (<50% is considered low risk by DoH)
Ventilators utilized (Philippines/NCR)	41%/48%
Bloomberg COVID Resilience Score	Rank 35 out of 56 countries (Mar 24, 2021)
Administered vaccine doses:1st/2nddose (May 12, 2021)	2,539,693: 79.7%/(20.3% fully vaccinated)
Vaccination coverage: 1 st /2 nd dose (own estimate)	1.82%/(0.46% fully vaccinated)
Sources: DoH (May 13, 2021) and JHU (May 4, 2021). DoH statistics must include % of target e.g. population and as appropriate for better appreciation of status relative to desired results.	

Philippines ranks 35 in a field of 53 major economies based on Bloomberg's COVID Resilience Score. Scores are based on sub-components of COVID status and the quality of life. Philippines has a rank 25 (Johns Hopkins University)in total cases and a rank 13 in the list of countries and dependencies by population. 'The

national capacity to take care of severely affected COVID patients has improved with Dexamethasone, Remdesivir and Tocilizumab. High flow nasal oxygen keeps patients off the ventilator. All approved vaccines prevent severe disease in all patients'(Dr. E. Salvana, NIH-UPM).The availability of essential and affordable anti-COVID medicines aside from vaccines remains inadequate. The price of Leronlimab is quoted at US\$118,000 per patient.

Economic growth prospects. Leading multilateral banks forecast better world economic prospects in 2021-2022

(Table 2). These assume encouraging results in mass vaccination, policy support and adherence to health protection rules which are subject to varying risks.

Table 2. Growth in real gross domestic product (in %) in 2020 and forecasts for 2021-2022: Selected countries

Coverage	2020 Estimates	2021 Projections (Prelim Q1 estimates)	2022 Projections
Advanced economies	-4.7	5.1	3.0
Emerging economies	-2.4	6.9	5.0
United States	-3.5 (4.3 in Q4)	6.4 (6.4)	3.5
China	2.3	8.4 (18.3)	5.6
Japan	-4.8	3.3	2.2
East Asia	1.8	7.4	5.1
ASEAN 5	-3.4	4.9	4.1
Vietnam	2.9	6.7 (4.5)	7.0
Malaysia	-5.6 (-3.4 in Q4)	6.0 (-0.5)	5.7
Thailand	-6.1	3.0	4.5
Philippines	-9.6 (-8.3 in Q4)	4.5 (-4.2). GoP official target is 6.5-7.5	5.5 (8-10 target)
Indonesia	-2.1	4.5 (-0.74)	5.0
Sources: IMF, ADB (Asia) and national sources. The projections are regularly updated.			

Pent-up demand, China's economic resilience and the stronger U.S. economy are positive for Philippine economic rebound. The Philippine economic recovery program consists of (a) Bayanihan 1, 2 and 3 (proposed), (b) tax and tax incentives reform, (c) assisting firms facing liquidity and solvency problems, (d) 'Build Build Build' infrastructure program and (e) expansionary 2021 and proposed 2022 national budgets. In 2021, P2.76 trillion (15.4% of GDP) of fiscal, monetary and other resources are allocated for the recovery package.

The economy remained in recession for the fourth quarter since the onset of the pandemic. Annual GDP contracted by 4.2% in 2021Q1. By sector, agriculture, forestry, and fishing declined the least by 1.2%. Services and industry contracted by 4.4% and

4.7%, respectively. On the demand side, household consumption declined by 4.8%, along with gross investments by 18.3%. Growth of both exports and imports was similarly negative. Government operating expenditure grew by 16.1%. NEDA remains confident of a positive economic growth in 2021. The Philippine economy must grow by at least 7.5% annually in the next five years to approximate its pre-pandemic per capita GDP in 2019. Philippines regained its pre external debt crisis per capita GDP in 1982 only after ten years.

III. Selected public policy and program measures in 2021 and beyond

The struggling public health response to the pandemic is assisted by fiscal, monetary and other policies to support relief, recovery and economic growth.

Highest priority to immunity-targeted nationwide inoculation. The strength and durability of any economic recovery hinge primarily on the evolution of the pandemic, timely supply of effective vaccines and effective nationwide rollout. Achieving a 70% herd immunity in 2021 is unlikely due to major issues related to vaccine supply, vaccination sites, vaccination hesitancy, and other operational constraints. Some LGUs may not qualify to receive anti-COVID vaccines requiring specialized cold chain vehicles, biosafety refrigerators, ultra-low temperature freezers and trained staff.

The population of the Philippines is estimated at 110.83 million as of May 12, 2021 (Worldometer). Coverage of at least 35 million Filipinos can create huge immunity protection if priority is given to NCR Plus and other highest risk and virus-epicenter regions (OCTA Research). The revised GoP 2021 target (as of May 12, 2021) is about 50 million vaccine recipients in strategic areas with the highest infections and largest estimated economic and social impacts. The high priority areas are in Cordillera, Regions 2, 3, NCR and 4A in Luzon and selected cities and other areas in the Visayas and Mindanao. It is assumed that government authorities are engaging OCTA and other experts in applying statistical and data sciences in its nationwide inoculation program.

There are some doses of measured optimism. These include (a) more supplies of effective vaccines including for adolescents, (b) heterologous vaccination (mixing and matching), (c) availability of more affordable orally and nasally taken treatment drugs, and (d) private sector vaccine manufacture under possibly more liberal vaccine patents. The U.S. is projected to have nearly 1 billion surplus vaccine doses later in 2021 which it could share with other countries.

Prudent and sustainable fiscal policy framework. Fiscal policy is transparent and observes sustainability and other metrics. Of the total outstanding national government debt stock of P9.054 trillion as of end-June 2020, 32% is sourced externally while 68% are domestic debt. Philippines enjoys a ‘stable’ international credit rating which means the country has the capacity to pay its debt and on time.

Department of Finance secured \$13.34 billion in official development assistance (ODA) loans and offshore bond issuances for the government’s development and anti-COVID programs in 2020. The loans will be paid in 2023-2049, with an average repayment period of 15 years for each loan. A total of \$23.7 billion of external debt financing is planned in 2021. ODA loans from multilateral banks and bilateral sources e.g., OECD member-countries such as Japan (top ODA source) and South Korea are concessional. The grant element is a measurement of how ‘soft’ or concessional the conditions (e.g., interest rate and grace period) of an ODA loan. ODA loans to Philippines and other lower

middle-income countries have a 15% grant equivalent share measured in net present value. An upper middle-income status which Philippines seeks to achieve within the decade gets a 10% grant equivalent. ODA grants are wholly concessional by definition and have a grant element of 100 per cent. U.S. government’s \$27 million worth of anti-COVID assistance as of May 8, 2021 is considered ODA grant.

The national government, Bangko Sentral (BSP) and private banks entered the pandemic period with strong buffers. The fiscal outlook in 2021-2022 shows high national budget deficits, reliance on more ODA loans and weak revenue performance (Table 3). In 2020, the budget deficit to GDP ratio was 7.5%, more than twice that of 3.4% in 2019. The ratio is projected at 8.9% in 2021 and 4-8% in 2022. The public debt to GDP ratio was at a record low 39.6% in 2019. It is projected at 14-year highs of 57% and 60% in 2021 and 2022, respectively by the Bureau of Treasury (BTr).

Table 3. Selected national government (NG) fiscal indicators, 2019-2022

Year/Indicator	2019 Actual	2020 Estimates	2021 Targets	2022 Targets
1. Tax and non-tax revenues in trillion pesos (% of GDP)	(15.4% in 2016-2019)	2.85t (15.7)	2.88t	3.31t
2. Disbursements in trillion pesos (% of GDP)	-	4.23 (23.3)	4.66 (23.4)	4.95 (21.6)
3. Budget Deficit to GDP ratio (%)	3.4	7.5	8.9	4-8
4. Total Debt to GDP ratio (%)	39.6	-	57	60

Source: NEDA Board Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC). Targets are subject to regular review.

A public debt ratio which exceeds 77% of GDP for an extended period of time may result in an adverse impact on economic growth (World Bank). A prolonged high debt ratio especially with a large external debt and low international reserves indicates a potential risk of default. This may result in recourse to emergency financing from IMF along with its restrictive policy conditions and intensive economic surveillance. This happened to Philippines in the 1980s.

The duration of the pandemic and next destructive climate change and other shocks are very unpredictable. The expansionary higher-deficit 2020 and 2021 national budgets and Bayanihan 1 and 2 have provided social and wage subsidies to displaced workers and OFWs, concessional loans to small businesses and other economic stimuli. The public spending multiplier from an increase in public investments is much larger in a liquidity trap. Loan disbursements by banks are low despite large liquidity injections (11% of GDP) and other accommodative policies by BSP. The Bayanihan 3 bill requires about P405 billion. Financing is sought from unobligated and un-programmed funds from the 2020 and 2021 budgets. A balance of P31.35 billion in unpaid 2018 MUP pension differential remains unreleased as of March 2021. House Bill No. 9271 authored by Congressman J. Salceda, with support from DoF proposes a structural reform of the MUP pension system and a GSIS managed pension fund to make it sustainable. The actuarial lives of the anti-pandemic



funds of PhilHealth, OWWA and ECC will be compromised unless supplementary funds are made available. BIR and BoC must intensify revenue collection. DoF and Congress must continually collaborate to raise the revenue effort and review the tax regime on the growing digital economy. An across-the-board 1% tax on personal net worth ('wealth tax') above P5 billion could earn the government P20 billion (S. Monsod). Progressive taxation, results based and time bound fiscal incentives and strong revenue collection protect the fiscal space and minimize new debt.

Review of the Local Government Code (LGC). LGUs are responsible for primary healthcare services under the three-decade old Local Government Code of 1991. Economic growth, employment and revenue collection among LGUs are very uneven. Supreme Court recently ruled that the internal revenue allotment (IRA) must come from 40% of collections of all national taxes—including collections from import duties and other levies. This would jack up LGUs' aggregate IRA to 1.083 trillion in 2022.

NEDA Board's Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) warns that the high court ruling could result in an 'unmanageable budget deficit'. LGUs must effectively use their IRA windfall in addressing devolved functions such as primary healthcare, social welfare and other assignments. Local school boards likewise depend on local real property tax collections. The windfall IRA may have an undesirable substitution effect on already low revenue collection from local business and real property. Local finance committees and treasurers in the 81 provinces, 146 cities and 42,046 municipalities must avoid complacency and intensify efforts to raise local revenues. The COVID-19 experience demands a serious review of the current sharing of national and local expenditure and revenue responsibilities especially on major infrastructure projects and serious communicable diseases.

More effective development policies. Spikes in inflation and unemployment quickly result in more hunger as demonstrated by community pantries and feeding. The consumer inflation rate averaged 4.5% in Jan-April 2021, the highest in the last two years. The high inflation is considered transitory due to natural calamities, high meat and pork prices (current Asian Swine Fever) and rising oil price. The two-year old Rice Tariffication law notably contributed to rice price stability and improved incomes among small rice farmers. Fiscal and monetary policies are coordinated and guided by fiscal sustainability and inflation-targeting and

financial stability frameworks, respectively. The legislative bills on the liberalization of Retail Trade, Foreign Investment and Public Service laws have been certified as urgent to further invigorate the economy.

Intensified R&D and technical cooperation. The government is the legally assigned duty bearer in the provision of public goods and services. The R&D of Philippines as a percentage of GDP is a pitiful 0.16. It is 0.23 in Indonesia, 0.53 in Vietnam, 1.0 in Thailand and 1.94 in Singapore (SWS). Singapore, Vietnam and Taiwan are either inventing or co-developing their own vaccines. Increased local funding and cooperation such as with India, the world's largest manufacturer of pharmaceutical products, Singapore and developed countries are compelling. Research on vaccine technology to address both COVID and seasonal flu and other diseases is on-going. Malaria is endemic in 58 provinces and 13% of the population are at high risk. A candidate malaria vaccine with a demonstrated high-level efficacy is undergoing licensure trial by University of Oxford researchers. Global research on more effective and safer anti-dengue vaccines continues.

Better quality of public governance. The World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators record government effectiveness on a country's quality of public and civil service, degree of political independence, policy formulation, implementation, and commitment. Philippines is ranked 6th among ASEAN member-states in 2019. It is ranked 115th out of 180 countries based on the 2020 Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International. The ranking is one notch lower than in 2016.

Effective and accountable public institutions and servant leaders are hallmarks of good governance. Progress is encouragingly positive. U.P. Los Banos is supporting, among other agricultural reforms the consolidation of small farms via cooperatives to achieve economies of scale. AFP is reinventing its comptroller system through increased professionalism and competency, ethical standards and effective controls and supervision (Farolan).DILG and other public agencies and respected CSOs actively promote and recognize excellence in public governance in various fields. BARMM government undergoes capacitation to effectively exercise its development and peace building mandate.NEDA is preparing a national and local governance index in aid of development planning and public accountability.

Medium-term development agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession are generating highly valuable lessons on public policies. These inform the evolving development agenda in 2021 and the medium-term period toward stronger public financé, healthcare and education, social protection, inclusive economic and green growth and climate safety. The risk of a slow abatement of the COVID-19 pandemic beyond 2022 is the biggest challenge to the next national leaders and the entire population.

Principal references. NIKKEI, 2021; Habito, 2021; ADB, <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-resilience-ranking/>, BSP, COA, CPBRD Policy Brief on MUP System, DBCC (NEDA), DBM, DoF, DoH, DoST, S. Evenett (Brookings Institution), Economist, IMF, Johns Hopkins University (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data/mortality>), R. Farolan (Reveille), C. Habito (No Free Lunch), S. Monsod (Get Real, PDI), NEDA, NIKKEI Asia, C. Reyes (PIDS), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), OCTA Research, PD Inquirer, PSA, E. Salvana (NIH-UPM), Southeast Asia-Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), SWS, Transparency International, voxexu.org, WHO (<https://covid19.who.int/table>), University of Oxford, U.S. Embassy in PH, World Bank, and Worldometer.info.





Strengthening the Delivery of Philippine Public Safety Education

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President, Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC)

As a public safety and security institution committed towards innovation and excellence at its core, the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) continuously strives to soar high in the performance of its mandate while at the same time adapt to innovations for the enhancement of Philippine Public Safety Education.

The part 2020 has been a challenging year for the global community as it is faced with non-traditional security threats particularly brought by the SARS-CoV-2 virus better known as the COVID-19 virus. COVID-19 brought humanity on equal footing as it attached all sectors of society. Apart from this, the country had its fair share of natural disasters and calamities beginning with the eruption of the Taal Volcano in January. In October, three preceding cyclones hit the country, and in the early week of November Super Typhoon Goni (Rolly) blew its wrath affecting the Bicol region and other contiguous places whipping destructive winds and dumping torrential rainfall over a wide area causing floods. While the affected areas continue to reel from the consequences of said weather disturbances, nature has yet again tested our capacity to handle and manage disasters as Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses) hindered our response efforts and caused further destruction lashing the main island of Luzon, especially Cagayan

and Isabela on November 11 and 12, 2020 through extensive flooding including Metro Manila and some areas in Bicol Region which were previously devastated by Super Typhoon Goni (Rolly).

Facing the Challenges brought by Non-Traditional Threats

The past and present experiences we have and the way we cope with things in the New Normal are the drivers of change that dictate the shape of the future. For instance, to cope with the pandemic, PPSC has modified and upgraded its Program of Instruction almost rebooting its educational model to stay attuned with the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0 that is gearing towards Digital Education. It reckoned that this contemporary time is an era of virtual learning for the commons. With this, at the very heart of instructional delivery of PPSC is the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and the integration of **Flexible Learning Management Systems (FLMS)** as a modality for teaching and learning which incorporates the use of various courseware such as self-learning modules and the use of broadcasting media paving the way towards digital fluency and intellectual legitimacy among

the public safety and security student-officers and the subject-matter experts.

This massive redesign in the delivery of academic instruction exhibited PPSC's proactive stance to continuously address the learning needs of students despite the challenges. Several components of learning were reviewed to promote holistic teaching-learning approach.

The flexible modality of learning was designed by the PPSC Academic Board upon meticulous assessment of students' technical competence, available resources, and allotted time for study.

As such, through technology utilization, our public safety officers were also given the opportunity to take advantage of diving into an array of **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)** with the latest global expertise, trends, and technology in learning that help them to acquire global skills and attributes to become highly competent public safety officers. Some of the MOOC platforms containing virtually-facilitated and self-paced courses are World Bank, EdEx, Audacity, Coursera, and many others purposely developed for interactive digital participation, publicly-shared curriculum, and open-ended outcomes creating a potent space for digital global diplomacy through shared ideas and experiences from other countries.

Maximizing the role of technology in this new normal can bring limitless opportunities to grow and see the world through a wider lens. The moment we gracefully embrace these new norms to future education as a starting point then we begin to embrace countless opportunities. While these institutional innovations are running, the institution has identified its scenarios as signals or clues to the future – an important tenet for Futures Thinking.

Futures Thinking in the Lens of Public Safety Education

The PPSC is behooved to forecast the future extrapolated from past and present trends and articulate the probable, possible, and preferable future in a more exploratory and divergent manner to pursue the unknown. For instance, Tropical Storm Ondoy (Ketsana) in 2009 had caused the swelling of the Marikina River by 21.7 meters causing devastating fatalities, injuries, and infrastructure destruction and now with Typhoon Ulysses surpassing the rise to 22 meters inflicting a much worse desolation. The Spanish flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, had killed 50 million people, and now, the ongoing outrage of the CoViD-19 pandemic bringing the global deaths to 1.3 million and counting. Furthermore, the September 11 attacks by the Islamist terrorist group Al-Qaeda against the United States on September 11, 2001 killing nearly 3,000 people and the succeeding bombing attacks by the terrorist group in Iraq in 2010 killing over 100 people and injuring 350, and considered as the highest death toll in Iraq in 2010 for a single day.

These scenarios share a common denominator for both patterns and repetition. Human-induced or natural phenomena may it be, its occurrence is repetitive in nature and iterative, building its own subset from the roots. Had we learned and

prepared from it through the use of Futures Thinking, more than responded and recovered, we could have provided the most viable and feasible strategy to prevent the massive destruction. In the same way, if we learn from the crisis we face in this new normal, we could project a more luminescent future of informed decision and multi-level strategies fortifying our adaptability and resiliency: the creation of a Homeland Security agency or university, for one.

With the introduction of Futures Thinking into the curriculum of mandatory courses of PPSC, the institution is envisaged to increase and even accelerate its adaptation, innovation, and transformation capacity. The institution's *raison d'être* for this is to develop Futures Thinking Leaders who can create an enabling environment for the people and society to become more creative and robust futures imaginers. Leaders who can see the world in both microscopic and telescopic lenses able to dissect the past and the present in detail and use these essentials in strategizing the game of the future— "backcasting." The PPSC views leadership as not limited to the organization *per se* but it needs to go outside the box traversing spaces and boundaries. Through Futures Thinking, public safety officers can change the nature of decision-making in the present and transform it into a more encompassing, embracing, interdependent, and real-time decision-making capable of bringing people together, breaking the silos, and designing emergent outcomes in the future within a complex system. Such leadership engenders visual, conceptual, scenario, strategic, and design thinking to gain the skills and confidence of a leader who can make and shape the future instead of letting the future happen by chance. In becoming a public safety leader, the officers must develop future thinking skills and employ collaborative foresight to see the future of public safety before it happens in actuality and to employ the most potent strategy to game the future while turning this foresight into action.

Moving Forward in the New Normal

Undeniably, this New Normal has caused turmoil across the globe, affecting more systems and terrorizing the minds and hearts of many individuals and/or organizations, government as one. But this extant situation shouldn't hang us to the losing end. Instead, this should provide us an avenue to recalibrate, reorient and refocus. At times like this, true heroes emerge, gleam and radiate inspiration and hope in this era.

Likewise, in the context of Public Safety, the peace and order of the society depend on the ability and capacity of the public safety leaders to forecast the future. In like manner, the rigor of public safety education lies in the hands of the auspex of the future –the public safety leaders who put high regard and have deep respect to the pains of change in the past; leaders who recognize the drivers of change in the present; and leaders who mirror the outcomes of tomorrow –the niche of PPSC as an institution in honing Nurturing, Patriotic, and Caring leaders with the lens of futures thinking.





Principles of a Good Community Policing

• CAV CHRIS R. FRANCISCO '68

- A Law Enforcer and Public Order officer is a very important sworn person of authority of the State tasked to enforce the laws of the land without fear or favor, but NOT above the law.
- You are the protector of the State, country and people. Your government, through taxes, provides you with good pay, pension, health services, and protection in your line of duty.
- You must strive to be a good professional and continue to educate yourself to be intellectually capable, technically proficient and morally upright; a model citizen endowed with a communitarian (community) spirit. Knowledge develops superiority and efficiency. Do NOT be mediocre. The frontier of knowledge is boundless and limitless.
- *"One who has no concept of honor and does not know that honor is above life must never wear the uniform of a policeman soldier"* (by President Manuel Quezon).
- Your battle ground is the community and court of law. The police basic weapon is NOT the gun but the excellent knowledge of the law. Your first line of defense is your capacity to reason. Assumption is the mother of all blunders.
- A person of authority must appear respectable at all times. The uniform is a symbol of pride, dignity and respect. To appear unrespectable ("shabby") especially in uniform is a serious offense.
- Lead a simple and frugal life within your means and set a good example to your children and family. Maximize savings in order to provide security for the future. Strive to be self-reliant at all times. Practice the godly-oriented life style.
- Strive for excellence in all your duties and performance. Be an achiever so that you put meaning to your life. A life without vision is useless without a purpose.
- Be proud of being a Filipino for you are a crossbreed of the best races of the world. A Filipino police must be among the best.
- Be a dreamer. Translate dream into ambition, ambition into hard work, and hard work into productive reality. Lead, inspire and succeed. Do not exceed the limit of glory.
- A good law enforcer is a leader-educator who inspires followers to be future leaders. You begin informal education at home for your children and the community.
- Do not take orders from a hostile superior (or anybody without legal authority). It is a serious criminal offense.
- Be vigilant and never allow disoriented ideologies or dangerous ideas to destroy our democratic way of life. It takes good people to do nothing to perpetuate evil.





Action Plan for Urban Security Against Terrorism

Part I – Major Operational Factors and Environmental Realities

• CAV CHRIS R FRANCISCO '68

Prevailing Condition

The need to strengthen urban areas has been considered among the most vital considerations in securing the country from terrorism, crime and violence. This is to underscore the fact that urban areas are the centers of the political and economic activities wherein the legitimacy of the country's existence and the ability to perform the mandate of governance must be fully secured both from the physical and non-physical threats that endanger society.

The magnet of attraction created by the political and economic centers is difficult to ignore for migrants from the rural areas who are not transient visitors but permanently seeking jobs in urban areas. More often, these people end up as squatters with their families even living under unhuman conditions thereby adding to the congestion of the city populace and creating fertile ground for criminality. Urban centers are favorite and primary sources of illegal funds through bank robberies and kidnappings. The complexities and indifferent attitude of people in the cities are perfect haven for criminals and terrorists. Magnitude of criminalities, violence and disorders can be reduced or minimized.

A. Doctrines of Security and Urban Defense

1. **Policing by Consent and Communitarianism** – Communitarianism is an acronym for community spiritualism; being a model citizen deeply involved in community activities to ensure a peaceful environment; to contribute to the healthy and progressive neighborhood system with public safety as its main objective.

As a communitarian, you are involved in action results program (not mere thoughts and words) to make your community safe. It is an anchor to the community. If this is imbibed in the heart and mind of every citizen, then policing is not difficult.

A voluntary engagement between the citizens and police. The community through this reinforcing partnership (like husband-wife relationship) is a vital source of information about criminals, illegal activities, and potential threats to society.

2. **The local government leaders are the primary officials responsible for peace and order.** The police is under their supervision. The police station commander is the executive officer under the mayor.

The government cannot provide soldier or police in all parts of the country to secure; hence the need to establish a nucleus of local defense force utilizing all able bodied citizens under the supervision of the territorial force (PNP) through the general direction of the local government units (LGUs). Communitarianism is the underlying doctrine here. AFP reservists, retired military/police/fire/jail, and law enforcement personnel like the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), to include company guards, good citizens and volunteers must be fully organized as the secondary force component, with the police and the military as the primary forces.

3. **National Unity (words, actions, and support) against terrorism and criminality.** – National and local government officials are sworn persons to defend the Constitution. They are not there to play personal vested politics to glamorize (or protect) the enemies of the state nor denounce the actions of the military or police against criminals or terrorists. They are the primary source of morale and will to fight by our military and police.
4. **Glamourizing the rebels and enemies through the media is counter-productive practice that emboldens the criminals and terrorists to justify their unlawful actions.**
5. **Professional jealousy and competition for credit (which are prevalent among the military and law enforcement agencies) must be stopped and be rectified.** The role of the territorial forces and organized home defenses through the local government must be established once

the area has been cleared to avoid vacuum for the rebels to retake or *return*.

6. **Negotiation with an ideological enemy and terrorists is a sign of psychological weakness. "To adhere to peace but remain weak is self-treason."** You cannot pamper the enemy. Fighting the terrorists and rebels is fighting a war. They are not ordinary criminals but ruthless enemies of the state without accountability or moral conscience. Truce or ceasefire is only favoring the enemy.
7. **In an impoverished society which is a perfect breeding ground for insurgency, we cannot and must not allow dangerous ideology against a democratic way of life to prosper or develop, much more to protect such idea under the guise of freedom of thought; "a mortal combat in an open market of ideas".** This is self-defeating chivalry that a struggling country like the Philippines cannot afford to adopt. **"If we are to stop a flowing water from the mountain, where shall we put the barrier, down or at the source?"**

President Duterte has given a stern warning to some schools and universities for communist group to stop their recruitment activities among students to join the communist movement.

For 50 years, we have been fighting the rebels, but we have been protecting the breeder of these rebels..." This is irrationality if not madness!

8. **Let us align with our allies and be consistent with our commitment.** Rebels and terrorist groups have been declared as terrorists by the superpowers, but we beg to disagree with them. Psychologically, we have manifested our defeat and perpetual humiliation. Do we not have the political will to be strong? Have we internalized the meaning of power? We cannot even agree and have one voice. We appear to be divided!

B. Major Operational Factors and Environmental Realities

- Cities and urban areas are the centers of the government economic and political activities. The rule of law must prevail to maintain civil order, and governance to sustain. They are the major targets of terrorism.

Terrorism is to create a climate of destabilization and collapse to humiliate the government and picture it as inutile or incapable to protect the citizens. When urban centers collapse, the entire country collapses. The government cannot project strength or power if it is crippled or weak from within the center of power – the urban center.

"Terrorism is the systematic use of terror especially as a means of coercion. An act of violence or threat thereof intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public; a particular group or groups of persons for political purposes."

- The United Nations through the superpowers have listed the following causes and insights of global terrorism:
 - a. Enmity, hatred, frustrations that create and inspire terrorists to commit even to offer their lives. Religious beliefs and indifference.
 - b. Poverty- root cause; imbalance of wealth brought about by ignorance and fanaticism, envy and jealousy. There is hope in universal misery. Poverty abets terrorism and conversely terrorism breeds poverty.
 - c. Misery, frustration, grievance, despair that cause some people to sacrifice human lives including their own in an attempt to effect radical change.
 - d. Conventional responses designed to address previous kinds of conflict are irrelevant, and will not work.
 - e. No borders/moral, ethical or legal boundaries. No respect for any stations in life. No sector of society is spared. Society is the whole target. Time is boundless; and is enshrined in the heart and soul of terrorists/practitioners, i.e. promising reward after death.
 - f. Satanism in a different form in the 21st century (vis-à-vis, Nazism, and Communism).
 - g. The United States of America (USA) demands for pre-emptive attack as a solution, i.e. to destroy the monster before it takes its victim.
 - h. Popularity and orientation, common in the breeding society of Islam.

The Anti-Terrorism Law of 2020 authored by Senator Panfilo Lacson is a powerful weapon against terrorism, had finally rectified the old and ineffective Human Security Act of 2007 that had been giving more comfort, protection and advantage to the terrorists.

- Urban centers are dependent on the food, resource supply, and products (to include industrial) from the countryside. If the countryside is open and controlled by the rebels and insurgents, the urban centers are strangled; the factories and businesses are being pushed toward the urban centers, hence migrants workers flock the cities that add to congestion and squatting.
- **The countryside must be protected and safeguarded by the territorial forces supported by the military and the people.** The PNP (regional and provincial) mobile forces must be the office of primary responsibility(OPR) to continuously patrol the countryside to clear the area from the control of insurgents. When industrial peace and security are established through extended perimeter defense, then factories and businesses can prosper. This will result to **“magnetizing and frontiering toward the countryside”**; hence decongesting the urban centers. The PNP Special Action Force (the SWAT oriented force) shall be the strike force in the urban areas.
- **The territorial forces (PNP/BJMP/BFP) must be augmented by the citizens** volunteer forces organized and composed of the AFP reservists, personnel,

company guards barangay officials, volunteer citizens (especially with licensed firearms) under the control and management of the local PNP through the mayors. In this regard, liberalization of firearms licensing and renewal must be encouraged. Areas of responsibilities and other obligations or duties must be specified. A scenario or mobilization must be conducted on a periodic basis to outline the defense and offensive campaign. Household members and schools children must be indoctrinated and educated.

- **Mandatory coordination and exchange of (intelligence) information or sharing of ideas and tactics must be developed by removing compartmentalization and unfounded confidentialities.** The intelligence community must take a primary role, and improve the intelligence gathering and utilization. Nevertheless, we must have the enduring vigilance, and to safeguard our plans and intentions. The terrorists and rebels will not attack at the time and place of our choosing. They are cunning and highly motivated fanatics.
- Interlinkages on alarm system among business establishments and vital government installations (like banks) connected with the central operation center of the police and military must be established.
- **A 24 hours duty system for judges/prosecutors be maintained for purposes of issuing warrants, filing of cases within the allowed detention period of suspects especially during weekends and holidays..**
- Additional training on para-military duties together with the citizens volunteer group must be undertaken. This can be done during weekends and holidays. Our local PNP, especially in the isolated towns, must be reoriented toward military duties and discipline. Complacency and wrong attitude that they are only good for receiving complaints must be rectified. “Civilian in character” has been misinterpreted. Local PNP must at least safeguard their immediate perimeter, and intensify barangay intelligence networking.
- **The mayors and governors league must conduct the efforts for an integrated strategy on pooling of resources, and expertise through a unified planning and implementing task force.** This includes big companies and multi-national corporates in the area. The more we rely upon others for security, the more insecure we become. Self-reliance within our own capabilities and resources must be explore to the maximum.

Democratic Ideals in a Developing Country

Our country adheres to the democratic way of life following the ideal system of developed countries where poverty is not a major problem. Poverty, which is a primary cause of terrorism, is a continuing problem of the government against the backdrop of uncontrolled population. Thirty-five years ago, we were 58 million people that had increased to over 109 million in 2020. Food supplies from the countryside are decreasing affected by frequent calamities; hence affecting seriously the food requirements

in urban centers. This is aggravated by the worsening Covid pandemic, worldwide.

The nation's security and survival is confronted by several forces of destabilization caused by growing criminality and illegal drug that destroy society. But the more serious threat is terrorism attributed to the different terrorist groups especially in the southern part of the country carried by Muslim rebels and criminal elements.

The secessionist movement has been a great problem of the government that is threatening to split the republic. This is being aggravated by the popular desire of some politicians advocating federalism that will make this country impoverished and cater to the desires of the insurgents, rebels and ambitious politicians.

Certainly, chaotic situation will prevail amidst overlapping levels of government. Shall we aggravate the more confused confusion?

In a developing country, the primary national security (NS) forces are a combined military and police. The problem is more of internal where the military is the leading agency with partnership with the police. The 1987 Constitution provided for the creation of national police that is civilian in character; hence removing the former Philippine Constabulary (PC) from the AFP. This was a product of emotional sentiments of the victims of Martial Law where the PC was the primary implementer of Martial Law. Unknowingly, this was a home run victory of the communists and insurgents. It has emasculated the government operational effectiveness against insurgency especially the secessionist problem in Mindanao.

The rigid and independent set up of the PNP as separate from the AFP was **not** only a dissipation and reduction of limited power but a wastage of resources and operational capability. In South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil), the police while a separate agency is associated with the military at all times. Accordingly, it would take at least a hundred years for them to be separated from the military when the country attains a status of highly developed country. They have cited the parallel condition of the Philippines and that the abolition of the PC was a big blunder; aggravated by a non-consistent provision, i.e. "renouncing war as an instrument of national policy." A former defense secretary was arguing with our policy makers, that the enemy was inside our garage and yet we were debating to fight back due the inconsistent provision on renouncing war as an instrument of national policy. Only in our country has this kind of provision which is designed to weaken us and remain subservient. An expert in national security from the US has fully emphasized this and said much better if we remove this provision. And yet we went to war in Korea and Vietnam which was a violation of this provision!

Recommendations

Mandatory Coordination and Joint Action in all Operational Tasks by the Military and Police. The AFP and PNP are twin organizations that must plan together, work together and fight together.

Refusing to learn from the blunders of the past is a stubborn, vain or arrogant behavior dictated by the greed for power and monopoly of credit- recognition.

The unfortunate blunder of the sensational 'Oplan Exodus' that resulted to the slaughter of 44 PNP Special Action Force (SAF) by the MILF on January 25, 2015 at Mamasapano, Maguindanao was considered "the biggest loss of government elite force in history." It was purely a PNP operation without the participation of the AFP. This was repeated in a mis-encounter on June 29, 2020 where four military intelligence operatives were gunned down by the PNP troops in Sulu. Two of the casualties were Major Marvin A. Indammog (PMA Class 2006), and Captain Irwin B. Managuelod (PMA Class 2009). As per report, the military intelligence operatives did not coordinate with the PNP troops and instead speed up when confronted by the PNP. Very recently on February 24, 2021 was the unfortunate encounter between operatives of Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) at the Ever Gotesco Shopping Mall in Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City where four died in the shoot out between PDEA and the PNP, and about three more injured. Each agency claimed that theirs was a legitimate and justified sell-buy/bust illegal drug operations.

Many serious blunders had happened in the past but we have refused to learn from the mistakes. No amount of words and medals or compensation to the victims and their families. Like a 'ningas cogon grass' burned easily and forgotten. Many similar blunders in the past were committed by both the military and police due to a rigid professional jealousy and stiff competition for credit. The required coordination between the military and police cannot be achieved by a mere operational standard operating procedure(SOP). A need for a higher authority directing the Chief of Staff of AFP and the PNP Chief must be made directed by the President who is the commander-in-chief of all armed forces of the Philippines. A Presidential Executive Order (PEO) directing the CSAFP and PNP Chief for mandatory and joint operational action in all national security problems in order to attain a maximum effectiveness and optimal utilization of manpower, intelligence and available resources is the immediate solution. This is urgent that can be done immediately. The AFP and PNP have both legal and doctrine development offices that must attend to this mandatory requirement.

Dynamics of Terrorism

The dynamics of terrorism has been properly identified through the basic definitions both of local and international concerns. The causes and insights are explained. This paper has advanced some pointers to address terrorism toward protecting urban communities in society and country as a whole. The fundamentals of public order in society underscore that a civilized society is characterized by the existence of law and order. Without the rule of law, chaos is eminent and disorder prevails.

Indeed, no government can long exist as a viable entity amidst lawless chaos conducive to creation of anarchy. **Our motto:**

"Fight terrorism and win."





The AFP Day: When and Why

• CAV CESAR P POBRE '52

Eighty-six years ago, on 21 December 1935, Commonwealth President Manuel Quezon signed into law the National Defense Act (NDA), otherwise known as Commonwealth Act No. 1. It is this date to which the AFP Day has been traced. Which is probably why Maj Gen (Ret) Ramon Farolan chose the AFP Day as the subject of his column in the 21 December 2020 issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. Entitled “*Revisiting the AFP Day*”, General Farolan says good reason warrants a “*debate on the proper date for the observance of AFP Day*.” Yes, indeed, and this is why I prepared at the instance of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office this article on what I thought are some of the material facts bearing on when and why we should celebrate the AFP Day.

To begin with, let us recall such facts or events as had happened during the Philippine Revolution, the most glorious chapter of our history.

The first happening that comes to mind was on 22 March 1897, a revolutionist convention was held at Tejeros in Cavite. In the convention presided by Andres Bonifacio – the founder of the Katipunan and initiator of the Philippine revolution – and attended by the Cavite rival Magdiwang and Magdalo factions, a

not-so-orderly election was conducted, resulting in the dissolution of the Katipunan. It was replaced by a government which Emilio Aguinaldo called “*Pamahalaan ng Sangkatagalogan*.” Aguinaldo was elected President and Artemio Ricarte, the Captain General.

At a subsequent meeting in Naic, Aguinaldo and his men took up the reorganization of the diverse rebel groups, with the end in view of consolidating them into what was envisioned as the army. Then, directives were issued for the redesigning of the revolutionary standard and adoption of fighting tactics, rank insignias of officers, and a modified version of the Spanish army regulations. Cavite, now the center of the revolution, was divided into war zones.

Whether the directives were given in due course is not clear. One reason that they might not have been complied with is the rebels were kept busy slugging it out with the Spanish forces, suffering defeat after defeat, until they left Cavite for Batangas. There, they were joined by Miguel Malvar and his troops to face the pursuing enemy. However, the combined friendly forces could not repulse the Spanish relentless attack. Thus, Aguinaldo and his followers had to flee again, this time to Rizal. In this province, he

was able to put up a good fight and inflicted the Spaniards quite a severe beating. At any rate, Aguinaldo decided to be always on the move if only to keep a safe distance from the enemy. Finally, he reached Biak-na-Bato, a barrio (or sitio) of San Miguel, Bulacan. He must have found the place a comfortable haven and central enough in relation to the location of the Central Luzon armed groups. And so, right then and there he would remain for two months, setting up his command headquarters, and establishing, on 1 November 1897, a government called Biak-na-Bato Republic. It had a Constitution prepared by Felix Ferrer and Isabelo Artacho, which was almost a copycat of the Cuban Constitution of Jimaguayu, and signed on the same date. In his book, *The Roots of the Filipino Nation*, Volume II, O.D Corpuz says that the Biak-na-Bato Republic was the “first constitutional republican government in Filipinas.”

The Constitution provided a Captain General of the army, with authority over all troops and military operations. No one, however, was actually named as such. Meanwhile, Aguinaldo strengthened his force by creating a bolo battalion or “sandatahan.” He would also avail of his prerogative to command, communicate and control the Central Luzon rebels, exhorting them to strike and hit hard the enemy the guerrilla way.

Theirs, was the mission to bleed him, feed on him, and break him down to kingdom come. Note that guerrilla or unorthodox war is such a war of attrition, a protracted war, if you will, that is much to the advantage of the guerrillas. They have the choice as to where and when to ambush or raid the enemy, almost always taking him by surprise. They are highly mobile, elusive, with no fronts or rears, disappear as fast as they appear; and when their job is done, they seek shelter and safety in the wilderness or by mixing themselves with the populace.

Before long the Spaniards would reach the verge of exhaustion and, realizing the uncertainty of winning the protracted costly guerrilla war, they decided to offer a truce and negotiate a settlement with the revolutionists, thanks to the mediating efforts of Pedro Paterno. As a result of his efforts, the Pact of Biak-na-Bato was forged.

By virtue of the Pact, hostilities would cease and Aguinaldo and his group were to go to Hongkong on exile. The Spanish authorities were to give the revolutionists ₱800,000 in installments, with the first installment of ₱400,000 to be handed to Aguinaldo upon leaving the country. There were other stipulations agreed upon, such as the disbandment of the rebels and the turnover of their arms to the Spanish authorities. But, as things turned out, the agreement was not fully complied with.

The money given to the exiles was not only spent for their subsistence and sundry needs, but most of which was used for the purchase of arms. Then, on 17 May 1898, Aguinaldo returned to the Philippines to resume the revolution. His mission was to execute the plan that had been made by the Hongkong Junta, composed of Aguinaldo, himself, and some of the exiled revolutionary leaders. The plan showed the steps Aguinaldo was to take that would lead to the establishment of a republican government as soon as possible. Its creation was meant to belie the claim propagated by then US President William McKinley and his fellow imperialists that the Filipinos were incapable of self-rule.

The first of these steps was, upon his return to the country, Aguinaldo was to call the various revolutionary groups for action. Many of them lied low while the truce was in effect; others ignored it and continued harassing the Spaniards. Responding to the call warmly, they began assaulting the Spanish strongholds with

hammer and tongs. So successful were their actions that soon the only pockets of resistance were those in Cavite and Manila. These enemy positions could have been easily broken into smithereens had not the American troops prevent the revolutionary fighters from doing so.

To prosecute the revolution more effectively, as planned, Aguinaldo placed the country temporarily under a dictatorial government. This was on 24 May. Then on 12 June 1898, he declared the independence of the Philippines in Kawit, Cavite.

The next step was the organization of the local governments and election in each province of the delegates to the revolutionary congress. When all these were done, Aguinaldo decreed the dissolution of the dictatorial government and, in its place, established the Philippine Revolutionary Government, on 23 June, with himself as the President.

As part of the Philippine Revolutionary Government’s organizational structure, four departments were created to handle the various governmental functions. These offices were headed by secretaries who composed the cabinet. Named as the Secretary of the Department of War and Public Works – forerunner of the present Department of National Defense – was Baldomero Aguinaldo, the President’s cousin. He was designated as such Secretary, on 15 July. (This date could as well be an appropriate date to observe the DND’s foundation day.) The other Secretaries were likewise appointed on the same date.

And now the ultimate step. President Aguinaldo promulgated the decree, establishing the Philippine Revolutionary Army (PRA) on 30 July 1898. Issued in Bacoor, Cavite, the fiat was comprehensive; it had detailed provisions on the PRA organization, composition, basic regulations, etc. Modeled after the world’s armies at that time, it was constituted with major branches and service units that were then standard. It was equipped with arms, many of which were those bought abroad with the money that Aguinaldo received from the Spanish authorities.

The Presidential decree was the first law on the formation of a regular standing army.

In charge of the PRA operationalization was Antonio Luna, then the Assistant Secretary of War. Luna, an eager beaver, lost no time in implementing his idea for the organization of what many a revolutionary leader called “our liberating army.” To professionalize the PRA, Luna, with Aguinaldo’s approval, created in Malolos, Bulacan the “Academia Militar,” on 25 October. Its mission was aimed at the education and training of regular officers of the PRA. It is this institution to which the Philippine Military Academy traces its foundation.

With the aforementioned historical facts in mind, let us now consider which of them should be the most deserving as basis of the AFP Day. This we shall do by the process of elimination, as we evaluate the merits or qualifications of each.

The first is 22 March 1897. This was the date when the “Pamahalaan ng Sangkatagalogan” was established in Tejeros. Ricarte was elected Captain General; and an army to be composed by the existing rebel groups planned. Directives were issued for the adoption of a new flag, tactics, officer insignias and army regulations; and for the division of Cavite into war zones. But other than these initial military measures, nothing notable was taken to further develop, make more real and operational what was to be the army. Consequently, I find the date lacking enough merits to commend itself. It should be crossed out.

The second is 1 November 1897. This was the date when a government, the Biak-na-Bato Republic, together with a



provisional constitution, was put up. A Captain General of the army, with authority over all troops and military operations was provided but no one was designated for the position. Aguinaldo created a bolo battalion to beef up his military strength and urged the rebel groups to take the offensive and fight as guerrillas. But the two-month stay of Aguinaldo and his group in Biak-na-Bato was not enough for him and his group to attend to military affairs, more specifically to the nitty gritty of organizing an army. They were preoccupied with the negotiations for a ceasefire.

Then, on 15 December 1897, the Pact of Biak-na-Bato was concluded; and on the twenty-seventh, with the ₱400,000 in his possession, Aguinaldo, together with his men, embarked at Sual, Pangasinan for Hongkong where they stayed as exiles. In short, there was no army worth the name that was created, much less operationalized as a consequence of the Biak-na Bato Republic and constitution which came into being on 1 November 1897. This is why I am likewise constrained to deny this date as the AFP Day.

That narrows down our choice to the remaining two dates: 21 December 1935 and 30 July 1898.

Let us take up, first, 21 December 1935. This was the date when the National Defense Act took effect. This law established the Philippine Army (PA) and prescribed all that was needed to make it a standard mission capable national defense force. Its core was the division-sized Philippine Constabulary, an organized armed force whose officers were not only Filipinos but also Americans who held the highest positions of command and control. For the training of reserve officers there were the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and Reserve Officers Service School (ROSS); and the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) for regular officers. Needless to say, the operationalization of the PA had to be done fast as war clouds, thick and dark, hanged ominously under the Philippine sky.

Note, however that the NDA – the law which created the PA – was crafted under the auspices and imprimatur of the American colonial master. This is a reality that can not inspire. More so because it cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, help “strengthen the patriotic spirit and nationalist consciousness

of the military,” as enjoined by Section 5(2) of Article XVI of the Philippine Constitution. This is why I am not inclined to endorse that 21 December 1935 remain as the AFP Day.

Finally what is left for us to consider is 30 July 1898. This was the date when the Philippine Revolutionary Government President Emilio Aguinaldo issued the decree creating the Philippine Revolutionary Army (PRA). Its creation was the last step towards the building up a firm foundation of the Philippine Republic.

Vis-à-vis those of the Philippine Commonwealth Army or the PA, the following are its merits:

1. It was created by law (decree) and thoroughly organized with all the ramifications of a world-standard standing regular army.
2. Its operationalization was done through the efforts of arguably the most militarily prepared official of the Philippine Revolutionary Government, the Assistant Secretary of War, Antonio Luna. Tasked to develop the PRA, Luna, with Aguinaldo’s approval, created and likewise operationalized the “Academia Militar,” the school for the education and training of regular officers of the PRA. The date when the Academia was established, 25 October 1898, would later be made the Philippine Military Academy Foundation Day, as ordained by a Presidential proclamation.
3. The PRA’s creation was the last but not the least step taken to establish the first Philippine Republic. It was the army *for* the Filipino people, *by* the Filipino people, and *of* the Filipino people. It was the army that aroused the nationalistic feelings and consciousness of the Filipino people, animating their dedication to the cause of freedom of the Motherland, for which they fought the Spaniards and Americans.

Thus, the above-stated merits/qualifications of the Philippine Revolutionary Army, in my view, far outweigh the commendable attributes of the Philippine Commonwealth Army. This is why I cannot help but conclude that the date when the Philippine Revolutionary Army was created, on 30 July 1898, is the most appropriate date to which the AFP Day should be traced. I recommend, therefore, that AFP Day be 30 July 1898, and observed as such from now on.

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*Oh, proud and bold you stand
Bright beacon of the land...*

*...May thy sons ever be men of
integrity, courage and loyalty.*

CLASS CALL



MIGUEL M VILLAMOR
President
JESUS T DIZON
Class Historian

17 February 1951 at Fort Del Pilar, Loakan Road, Baguio City, sixty-two (62) members of the first post-war class of PMA graduated and commissioned 2nd Lieutenant regular officers, AFP, out of seventy-five (75) Filipino youths who were appointed cadet corps of AFP.

Seventy (70) years later, 17 February 2021, BANAT CLASS OF PMA, as we happily called ourselves, the following are survivors:

1. Cav Jess T Dizon of San Carlos City, Pangasinan, born 25 Dec 1926, now 95 years old, with spouse Lily, with five children and 11 grandchildren as of 2010.
2. Cav Ernie A Enrique of Cebu City, born 17 Feb 1928, now 93 years old, widower, with ten children and 22 grandchildren as of 2001.
3. Cav Thelmo T Garrucho of Murcia, Negros Occidental, born 14 Apr 1926, will be 95 years old with wife, Lisa (remarried); five children and 11 grandchildren as of 2001.



4. Cav Sar Miel of Balamban, Cebu, born 5 Oct 1927, will be 94 years old this year. Widower at Cagayan de Oro City, with seven children and 17 grandchildren as of 2001.
5. Cav Bert B Regis, of Subod, Leyte. Born 23 Oct 1925, will be 96 years old this year. Widower, remarried (Elna). With seven children and 26 grandchildren as of 2001.
6. Cav Mike V Villamor of Cebu City, born 31 Mar 1926. Widower, remarried

(Teresita, 1981). Five children and 13 grandchildren as of 2021.

7. Cav Fidel V Ramos, USMA '51 of Lingayen, Pangasinan, born 18 March 1926, will be 93 years old this year. Spouse Amelita (Ming) with five daughters and eight grandchildren as of 2001. Most distinguished classmate. His Excellency, the 12th President of the Republic of the Philippines.



FORTUNATO C CORACHEA
President
LEVY M MALTO
Secretary

The class failed to revisit the PMA and the Cadet Corps on April 2021 to commemorate its 65th graduation year. Already ascending to their 90s year, a few of the 17 survivors of the 51 grads, are desirous to see their Alma Mater, make on-the-spot recall of the most exciting period of their youths and pay homage to the institution that made them responsible and respected men in their respective fields of calling.

When the class reported to the PMA on 4 April 1952, there were only a few facilities

there: Melchor Hall houses the cadet barracks in the 3rd floor, the Superintendent, Commandant of Cadets, staff, faculty offices and academic classrooms were in the 2nd floor and the library, cadet store and admin offices in the first floor. We had no water problem in the 3rd floor and savor the luxury of hot water for our bathe. The Parade ground and Punishment Tour Area was a strip of elevated ground besides the right wing of Melchor Hall. It was later moved to its present site where we as plebes were made to align in formation to plant its grass. The Mess Hall at the back of the old parade ground was a market place where the plebes' reported compliance of their previous orders that mostly resulted in punishments by drinking many glasses of water, recited aloud the current news of the day and received new orders from the mistakes that they have committed anew while eating their meals. Besides the Mess

Hall was the PMA Station Hospital where malingering cadets love to stay. It was also the place where you as a cadet could see for yourself the astonishing Sunday Evening Parade, the Cadet Corps renders weekly with or without live audiences (as a cadet, you can't see the parade because you are a participant). The gym at its present site was the all purpose exercise, social and forum halls practically housing all the rites (Ring Hop, Graduation Ceremony, etc) of the academy. The officers quarters in the housing area of the Tactics Group has just been completed and we had a chance to be invited for lunch DP (dining privilege) on Sundays by some of our Tac Os, to show the cooking prowess of their wives. We had several pairs of black dress shoes, athletic shoes, hop shoes and combat boots. In addition to our prescribed uniforms, our clothing, underwears and footwears were stateside (procured by the Philippine

Procurement Mission in New York, USA) and were very proud to wear them for their quality. That was all what we had but more than enough than most of the average students in the universities.

Barely a quarter from 5 January 2021 when our Paul Canalita suddenly died from a fatal renal disease, his beloved wife, Daly followed on 9 April due to a lingering

intestinal problem, leaving behind their daughter Carla, now a VP at BDO, Ortigas Center and five grown-up apos (three from their son Larry, returning from a business trip from the USA, died aboard a PAL plane from a heart attack and two from her). Paul and Daly are the 7th (the Deverases, Barlaans, Laroyas, Lopezes, Ribos, and OG Santos) couple- casualties of the class.

The class has now a preponderance of 23 widows (C. Ampig, M. Bello, T. Calip, A. Canieso, B. Filio, L. Galang, T. Gutang, I. Ignacio, M. Laroya, T. Lukban, A. Macabasco, R. Manalo, P. Mangonon, L. Mison, E. Nicolas, S. Ordoyo, E. Paez, L. Pio Roda, M. JPSantos, J. Suarez, L. Tolentino, L. Venago, and C. Villalobos over the remaining living couples in its family roster.



EDUARDO R ERMITA
President
TAGUMPAY R JARDINIANO
Secretary

There seems to be light on the other end of tunnel with the advent of vaccines now available. While there are reported upsurge of COVID-19 cases in other countries such as India and Japan, there is optimism that the COVID crisis may be through in the near future. Unlike in early 2019 when many were very apprehensive about being infected by the virus because of the reported cases and seemingly no cure being talked about, at least today, vaccines have been developed and the vaccination programs occupies mass media coverage, we can only thank the good Lord for this positive development. Indeed, God is very good, He loves us.

Class '57 members extend their acknowledgement and congratulations to some cavaliers in the middle of the implementation of the vaccination program most notable are Gen Roy A Cimatú '70, Secretary, DENR; Gen Delfin N Lorenzana '73, Secretary, DND; Gen Hermogenes C Esperon Jr '74, NSC Adviser; Gen Eduardo M Año '83, Secretary DILG; Gen Carlito G Galvez Jr '85, head vaccination program and Chairman of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF); and Gen



Rolando D Bautista '85, Secretary of DSWD. They are in the forefront of the quality service they are displaying at a time crisis.

A few lines from the Cadet Prayer is appropriate as follows *"Guide us that we may live this life to the fullest in devotion to Thee, in service to humanity and country and in the realization of our true self. Let the light of Divine wisdom direct us to a firm resolve to live at all times to the creeds of our institution and teach us never to fail to measure up to the ideals of the profession we have chosen through life to follow."*

Today, our class has thirty one (31) strong senior citizens out of the original seventy (72) members when we graduated on 16 April 1957. (Wow 64 years ago) needless to say, we are all super senior citizens today. We can only pray and hope that despite, the pandemic, we will continue to stay strong and overcome the crisis of course, with our spouse's valued assistance. We pray that our cavaliers equally situated will continue to keep their healths intact and continue to enjoy the years ahead with more vigor and continuing happiness.

God bless us all!



ORLANDO B SALIENTES
President

It's now or never...

After more than a year of inexhaustible excuses like; your number cannot be completed because your wifi is weak, you've got the wrong number etc, etc. I would rather consider this a situation rather than a pandemic lockdown on all of us; physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Hard as it may seem every time we called one another, Class 60 did their best to keep in touch. You know we didn't mind all those excuses, but Class 60 "did well enough to be good enough." In fact, the family of Class 60 became closer as we got to know the children as well. Primarily because we weren't tech savvy enough to send a message to begin with. Like in December Leni Balbas, as she was alone, spent her Christmas Day lunch at home with us. What a treat that was as we gladly spent time to our young years as officers, looking at the pictures, realizing once again that we find ourselves reminiscing the times of old, that would replenish any vitamin booster any time.

Was thankfully relieved that Nani Gabales recovered from an illness and so with Dot Gabales.

What a pleasant surprise after so many years to hear from Odette Reyes. Her two sons, one of which is abroad with his wife and two children, the other son is here and takes care of them.

Occasionally we would hear from Chit Paredes who still regularly has her checkup with our Class 60 in house doctor, Juliette Yap. Juliette Yap has not tired looking after her classmates who need medical help.

Nothing gets down a cavalier 60 who regularly drops in for a quick call like Loven Abadia, Pong Panes, Tony Leviste, TG Fajardo, Fred Ruiz, and Ernie Arzaga despite the

distance. Just spoke to Sting Cariño who has opted to stay home to keep his emphysema in check. But regularly still goes to his dressing plant. Nonoy Acot keeps in touch with him regularly.

Little things go a long way like those quick calls, small notes in the form of texts, that was how we learned about the death of the son of Ness Lansang. We attended the zoom mass and exchanged

pleasantries despite the sad occasion she was most pleased to hear a message from the class as well.

Hey, keep safe and stay healthy. /LC

Abadia



EDUARDO T CABANLIG
President

Our Diamond Jubilee celebration could have meant a lot to our living classmates, because it could be our last opportunity to be rendered such accolade by our beloved Alma Mater. For those who could still march in cadence, it could have been our last chance to march around Borromeo Fields and

“troop” for the last time The Long Gray Line. What a memorable moment it could have been to cherish in our remaining years.

Even as we miss such an important event, we were not remiss in our effort to render our last “hurrah” as a class. Our write up in the Cavalier is something we can be proud of as we tried to herald in the best possible means, what each one of us have undergone as a cadet, professional, and veteran. We have put on record our relevance as PMA Class 1961, in service of our country.

If there was no pandemic, members of the class who may have joined the “trooping of the line” are: Pong Biazon, Ed Domingo,

Zaldy Ventura, Urso Bello, Nick Rodriguez, Ray Jarque, Ed Cabanlig, Bert Rodriguez, Manny Lukban, Vic Mamon, Romy Sanga, Lito Santos, Tony Suratos, Ding Simon, and Ernie Tan. Jorge Lagera, Liby Manuel, and Gerry Estrada may have watched from the grandstand. We could have missed Percy Padua, Tony Ocampo, Gerry Gironella, who have been long inactive in all class affairs. Of course, this is all “day dreaming”, as the event never happened. We look forward to our class affair to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee after the pandemic. We hope to have all living classmates and their wives, widows, and children.



MANUEL B MARIANO
President
RAYMUNDO L LOGAN
Secretary
JUANITO R RIMANDO
Class Historian

As we enter into this year’s second quarter, news about class activities continues to be scant, what with all class meetings and socials put aside due to the COVID 19 pandemic with Metro Manila as the epicenter. Even so, we begin our countdown for the class’ diamond jubilee celebration as we shall be observing our 60th year after graduation in March 2022. However, the class decided that we put aside all our plans to celebrate this very significant class milestone in Baguio since there seems to be no end in sight yet for the pandemic. At any rate as members of the 2022 jubilarians, our class president Nano has been elected as a Director of the PMAAAI. He was also appointed as the auditor of the Council of Class Presidents. Congratulations Mr. President!

Because of the dearth of news from classmates, the class also decided to

encourage classmates to share in Class Call ‘62 their activities, and vignettes. Today we start our sharing with this article from our very own class president Nano:

Guardian Angel in Uniform

Looking back, I believe that my Guardian Angel helped me to reach my destiny of becoming a PMAyer. I remember passing the special PMA written entrance examination to fill up forty (40) slots to complete the one hundred twenty (120) slot quota for PMA Class 1962. I was scheduled for my medical examination in V. Luna General Hospital on April 1, 1958. However, at that time, I was just leaving the Cotabato wharf and only arrived at the V. Luna Hospital on April 7, 1958.

I was six days late, only eighteen (18) years old, could barely speak any Tagalog, it was my first time in Manila and my first time away from home. I remember I was nervously explaining to one Sgt. Fangon of why I was late reporting for my medical examination in my broken Tagalog. After my almost incoherent explanation, Sgt. Fangon looked at me intently and then told me that he will help me even though he advised me that all the PMA officers who were supposed

to conduct interviews left already for Baguio City. In his eyes, Sgt. Fangon probably saw in me a lost boy fresh from the province and took pity on me. True to his word, Sgt. Fangon assisted me and brought me to all my medical examination stations and I was able to complete all the medical requirements in one (1) day. After twelve (12) days, I read my name on the list of the one hundred twenty (120) successful candidates who passed and were ordered to report to Camp Murphy for our departure to Baguio City. I have never been able to truly show my appreciation to Sgt. Fangon. Indeed, he was my guardian angel in uniform. (Manuel B Mariano)

Our class call ends with a sad note. On Mildred Templo, the beloved and devoted wife of Mitch passed away last 8 April. According to Mitch, Mildred “suffered quietly for 27 days and God in his infinite mercy took pity and lifted her up to His bosom where she can now rest in peace.” The entire class was with Mildred during her affliction praying for her recovery. Mon Rodriguez and other devotees also invoked the intercession of St. Padre Pio but God in his infinite wisdom chose to give Mildred eternal rest. The class condoles most sincerely with Mitch and their children Milton John and Michael Emiliano. (JRRIMANDO)



Greetings from the Matindi 1963. Below are the entries from our Log Book:

12-13 February 2021

The PMA Alumni Homecoming celebration in Baguio was simultaneously held via Zoom attended by Bill Ruiz and Ebro Ebro. This first of its kind hybrid event had been very successful and convenient.

The tickets for the homecoming raffle were all sold by 7 February. Many thanks to the generous hearts who bought tickets and continued support for the PMAAAI.

7 February, Sunday

Tony Sibayan celebrated his birthday hosted by Pert and Inday Andaya. Together at Tony’s side were his sons, respective spouses



GUILLERMO R RUIZ
President
RENE LEANDRO P EBRO
Secretary

and grand children along with Bumie and Josie Bumanglag, George and Gie Aquino, Naty Laput, Beth Arevalo and Jojo Binay. Class President Bill Ruiz sent a video message for Tony.

Sadly a month later, on 11 March he passed away and laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park Marikina.

Cheers to Another Birthday in Quarantine:

On a lighter note, extending our happiest birthday greetings to our second quarter celebrators. Every wrinkle or fold or feeling out of sorts may come with growing old but aging is a privilege earned. Welcome and work with the changes. Celebrate and embrace your new number! Cheers to us septuagenarians and octogenarians!

May:

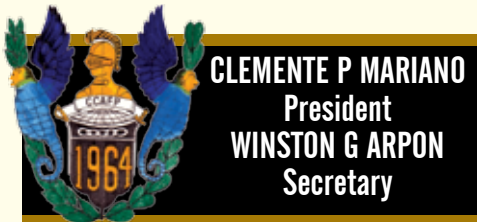
3 - Avelino Noble, 4 - Lino Medina, 17 - Angie Villamor, 25 - Susie Sabarre

June:

3 - Baby Domondon, 7 - Bob Manlongat, 7 - Gie Aquino, 8 - Maning Estrada, 10 - Marga Lacson, 29 - Brenda Iletto, 30 - Fred Pflieder

On behalf of the class president and class treasurer, we are reminding our mistahs who have not yet paid the 2021 annual dues to append our class fund.

Different strokes for different folks in these very different times. In any given situation, may we all remain forever grateful and abundant in all areas of our lives. A good outlook always looks good on each of us. (18111605)



Last Taps

Quarter II of The Cavalier found Class 64 losing two members: Associate Member Rogelio "Roger" Soledad and Honorary Member Ruben "Ben" Labre.

Class VP **Rey Reyes** recorded a video for the memorial service of Roger on April 12, citing among others, his success as a businessman, a good family man which did not deter him from being active in class affairs.

Class Prexy **Clem Mariano** recalls that in his later years of his naval service, Ben, who would retire as Commodore, served as deputy to and replaced Cavalier **Armando "Budge" Madamba '62** as Secretary of the Joint Staff, then became Commander of GHQ



Headquarters Service Command. He retired as Deputy Commander of Visayas Command. An alumnus of Adamson University, he attended the US Naval Postgraduate School as well as the US Naval War College. He and wife **Zeny** were active in our class activities. "An avid golfer, he was always present in class

golfing in our younger years before migrating to USA. A very nice guy, we will miss him much."

COVID Pandemic

Returning from Canada on December 20, **Jun Padilla** got the virus, was confined at



VMMC but released Easter Sunday, and has fully recovered in Pangasinan. Meanwhile, US residents (and Seniors) **Rolly and Siony Pabellano**, and **Abe and Emmet De Guzman** have completed their Moderna vaccinations. However, on account of the pandemic, the **Agcaoilis** and **De Guzmans** have put on hold their planned return to the Philippines.

Philippine residents (and Seniors) **Clem and Cora Mariano**, **Billy and Beth Villareal**, **Ding and Ester Odoño**, **Rene and Nida Garcia and Arfs** and **Vicky Arpon** had their first jab of SINOVAC and are expecting their second soon. **Rey and Sandy Reyes** won't have theirs because of history of severe allergies including GBS on both sides of their family.

Class Activity

"Only golfing," laments **Clem Mariano**, "seems to be the lone class activity." And if only to avoid making a liar of their Class President, **Rene Garcia**, **Rey Reyes** and **Arfs Arpon** continue to make the sacrifice of making their rounds; **Rey and Arfs** at the latter's home course in Malarayat, **Rene and Rey**, with Cavalier **Bob Manlongat** at PNGC.

Incidentally, **Rene** still finds time for his Sunday runs, with his team, and with "Cheers. To My wife **Nida**, daughter Ranie and son **Raskie** who towers like a six-footer now!"

COVID Workaround

Clem Mariano, no longer playing golf for sometime now, apparently doesn't miss the game and shares this, his COVID workaround: In my lonesome quarantine, I managed to turn my residence into an exercise ground doing physical fitness minimums. Despite our

treadmill and stationary bike gadgets, doing brisk walking circles inside the house to my delight seems better and even entertaining especially with 60's to 80's music in the background, and, occasional forays in the terrace to catch the sun. I can imagine now how it feels to be in a correctional facility. (And) I still manage to drive around once in a while to do essential errands, which can come in many forms."

"Good Day!", he says. And we cannot disagree.

Reception Day

May 1 - 61st anniversary of the first day aka Reception Day, at PMA, Fort del Pilar,



Baguio City, of Class 64; perhaps, the only postwar class that did not report on April 1.

For the occasion, a Zoom meeting was set up by **Rey Reyes**, joined by mistahs in the US - **Abe Deguzman** (Texas), **Rolly Pabellano** (California), **Jorge Agcaoili** (Illinois).

Broadened Horizons for the Advocate



A proliferation of Viber Groups outside that of PMA Class 64 - to name a few: The Graduates of PMA; PMAAAI; Bugo-Bugos Halalan 2022; Cavalier's Bulletin; Closed for Business - has been manna from up there for **Ding Odoño** broadening the horizon of his advocacy, Para Sa (Kawawang) Bayan, engaging the general membership of these fora consisting of fellow PMA alumni and former cadets in the discussion of current hot button issues on governance, like the West Philippine Sea; Philippine relations with other countries, specifically USA and China; COVID response; etc.

Birthday Celebrant, Jim Vandevort, April 9

As a USNA alum, he qualifies to be an Associate Member. But he graduated long after 1964, to be exact, 39 years later; so, Jim has been "adopted". Choice was between "brother" or "son". Claiming that "my hair is the grayest," Jim prefers brother. Or its short form - Bro.





MANUEL P ESPEJO
President
FREDELINO S BAUTISTA
Secretary

PAMBUNGAD

Hindi pa rin tayo malaya. Limitado ang Hating mga galaw. Hindi natin magawa ang mga dating pagkikita – sa mga kainan, kapihan, sa bahay, sa mall, sa simbahan, at iba pa. Hanggang kailan kaya ang ganitong kalagayan?

Kung sabagay, mas mahalaga ang ating kalusugan at kaligtasan pag nasa bahay lang tayo. Isa pa, higit na makakasama natin ang mga mahal sa buhay. Sa katunayan, marami tayong magagawa – magdasal, magbasa, manood ng TV, magpakadalubhasa sa gadgets, mag exercise.

GOOD BYE, BAY

It is said that no news is better than bad news. This is true in the case of Class 66. For a long time, there is a little in activities that we can report in the Class Call section of The Cavalier. But last 3 April, something sad happened. We lost mistah Bay Galon, after a lingering illness, at the Lung Center. Bay, true to his name, Hercules, is tough, a survivalist of other dreaded illnesses. But this time, he chose to let go, for the sake of his family which was surely suffering more than him.

It was also somewhat painful for us, his mistahs, who could not even visit him in the hospital because of the COVID-19 pandemic, nor, could we attend personally the last rites in his honor provided by the Philippine Army, in recognition of his services to the country, the last one of which was as the Adjutant General, AFP.



The others were under the shade of the stalls, buying souvenirs.



Everybody in this picture was at least 75 years or more in age.

The Necrological Service was held last 03 April at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Relatives and friends delivered eulogies recalling their fond memories of Bay. For the class, President Noli Espejo and fellow Cebuano, Vic Belo cited recollections in the service and retired life observed from or spent with Bay.

Serving as primary speaker was former CG PA, Gen Manuel Cacanando '58, who captivated his listeners with his

extemporaneous account of his interaction with Bay as a staff officer at HPA and a field commander in Mindanao. To top it, he was physically present during the occasion. The presence of Bay on earth was capped by his inurnment the next day at St. Michael's Chapel, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

We are republishing in this issue pictures of some class activities participated in by Bay which he enjoyed. One was the pre-Golden Anniversary trip of the Class on 21 February 2015 at PMA, where the attendees jokingly congratulated each other for surviving the Trooping the Lines of the Cadet Corps without skipping a beat of the bass drum.

The other activity was the trip next day to Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, a famous resort of the Philippines where the group had a long walk and posed for posterity along the rugged parts of the beach, as shown above. They just came from the mountains in the background. In the picture were (left to right) Paz Bautista, Fred Bautista, Kyla Bautista, Fe Cuison, Sylvia Agudelo, Margie Galon and Bay Galon.

Probably, one of the last pictures of Bay, with the Class was the Thanksgiving Night on 08 December 2019 in honor of those who lived through at least 75 years of existence. Bay was at front row, leftmost, in his characteristic smile.

So long, Bay.



Bay was at the rear row, leftmost (tired but not out and all smiling).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FELLOW SENIORS!

April - Mars Cordova (26), Gerry Cunanan (06), Rudy Eco (06), Noli Espejo (18), Bay Galon (22), Irene Antonio (05), Luz Baylon (07), Edna Gopilan (10), Fe Sabularse (13), April Fernandez (21), Rose Tagamolila (22).

May - Charlie Batayola (22), Rey Gopilan (29), Buddy Perez (26), Tony Romero (03), Raul Urgello (05), Ed Urieta (10), Simeon Cruz (22), Nene Atienza (05).

June - Andy Andres (01), Bert Sabularse (08), Rec Sarmiento (27), Oca

Barrientos (16), Roly dela Cuesta (05), Elsie Rivera (09), Edna Bello (12), Nene Reodica (14), Lil Santos (10).

May you be more blessed starting the first days of the rest of your lives and onward.



CLASS ACTIVITIES

A. Had COVID allowed us, our schedule for January - April 2021 would have been as follows:

January - Dimasupil Monthly Forum (DMF) to be hosted by Jun and Agnes Avenido, Bobby and Penny Lastimoso, Edsel and Toto Salvana, and Joseph and Reina Young.

12 February - PMAAAI Annual Convention in PMA, Baguio City.

13 February - Annual PMA Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City.

19 March - Celebration of our 54th Graduation Anniversary to be hosted by Manny Dalipe, Jun and Ronnie Ibay, and Nic and Glo Parena.

April - DMF to be hosted by Alice Averilla, Ernie and Dinsay Dionisio, Rody and Graise Gaerlan, Mar and Mely Gatmaitan, and Bert and Ruby Torres.

B. If allowed by COVID, the following would be our schedule for May - June 2021, onwards:

May - DMF to be hosted by Joy Casillan and family.

June - DMF to be hosted by Abe and Cora Din, Hedy Duenas, and Ross and Mandie Sibal.

July - DMF to be hosted by Pol and Norma Aliac, Lettie Baula, and Jovy and Baby Sales.

August - DMF to be hosted by Sergs and Zeny Austria, Fred Encarnacion, Ed and Myrna Espinosa, Vir and Marina Odulio, and Mar and Beth Santiago.

UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS

On 28 January 2021, Romy Odi passed away in the ICU of a hospital in Metro Manila due to maxillary sinus cancer. Because of the pandemic, the wake and memorial services were done virtually. Some Dimasupils, led by Jun Avenido, were requested to speak about their memories of Romy. We pray for his eternal rest with the Almighty and for God to comfort Merle and family in this time of sorrow.

Congratulations to Jun Ibay on his reelection as Chairman of the PMA Foundation Inc (PMAFI) for 2021 - 2022. The purpose of PMAFI is to help the PMA further improve the quality of its instruction, through professorial chairs, scholarship and research grants, and improvement of training facilities and equipment. Our Class is among few Classes with 100% membership in this Foundation.

Congratulations to Jun and Agnes Avenido and also to Mar and Mel Gatmaitan on their Golden Wedding Anniversaries on 7 March 2021 and 1 May 2021, respectively.

UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES

Our prayers were answered for the fast and full recovery of Abe and Cora Din, their daughter Gie, and her husband who were all hit by COVID. According to Abe, "Praise the Lord for His enduring love!"

Our condolences to Cora Din and family on the death of her brother Antonio Bailon on 21 January 2021 in Bicol. May he rest in peace in the bosom of God.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

Best wishes to the following Dimasupils and spouses who celebrate their birthdays in April, May and June: Alice Averilla (9 April), Mila Pinto (9), Nenie Abendan (12), Carol Rigor (12), Bert Torres (16), Eve Villacorta (17), Rudy Gaerlan (18), Mar Gatmaitan (26), and Dinsay Dionisio (28), Auring Garcia (6 May), Agnes Avenido (7), May Garcia (15), Jun Gabison (24), Ida Aquino (28), Meds Reyes (30), Tante Torrechante (1 June), Joy Casillan (11), Abe Din (15), Ross Sibal (16), Walter Briones (17), Beth Santiago (19), Louie Sanchez (21), and Cora Din (30).

Please let us know if there are celebrators we have not mentioned or if there are wrong data so that we can correct our Class records accordingly.

CLASS TRIVIA

We received the following messages in connection with our 54th Graduation Anniversary on 19 March 2021:

1. Alex De Guzman: Let us be present on our 67th Anniversary in 2034.
2. Ben Libarnes: Let us be present also on our Diamond (75th) Anniversary in 2042.
3. Nanding Perez: Let us keep safe, healthy and well. Eat healthy foods, exercise and pray always.

Luck was not with us in the PMAAAI - PMARAI Raffle last February. Nobody from our Class won any prize. However, Jun Avenido won a hefty cash prize for his virtual attendance in the PMAAAI Convention in PMA.

May God continue to keep watch over us and our families. Mabuhay tayong lahat!



Strictest compliance with health protocols, self-discipline, productive stay-at-home and spiritual devotion continue to guide our

behavior. Quarantine has proven to have very positive health and bonding effects on family relations at home.

Class herd protection is still below health standard to enable much sought face to face Class fellowships, medical consultations and haircut. Based on shared and assumed information as of May 10, 2021, at least 11 CMs (32% out of 34) and 16 ladies residing in the country, U.S. and Canada have received their first dose of anti COVID-19 vaccines. Six CMs and eight ladies were injected with

western vaccines while the rest got Sinovac, a ratio of 12 western: 15 Sino. Mon, Baby, Rudy, Arlene, Ying, Amy and Blet have received their second shots. All CMs and ladies are expected to be fully vaccinated by the third quarter of 2021. Some of our front-liner children and adult grandchildren have likewise been inoculated. Strict and faithful adherence to health protocols remains imperative as immunity is not absolute.

A few CMs continue to cope with age related health challenges which require close

medical attention. A Class officer is actively back in good health. We continually pray for them and the eternal rest of the souls of the following departed CMs: Bobby Dance, Felix Bueno, Joey Calimlim, Bobby Canezal, Jewel Canson, Mito Castillo, Armand Castro, Dante Cimatu, Manolo Diamante, Sat Dumlaog, Johnson Duque, Ceo Fajardo, Danny Flores, Rolly Garcia, Romy Maddela, Dick Mistades, Tom Ortega, Leonor Padre, Ed Pangan, Doods Pangantihon, Ponyong Reyes, Dante Ruiz, Epoy Salvio, Norman Samonte, Diosy Santos, Percy Subala and Rey Wycoco. Former AFP

Chief Chaplain Msgr Tirso Dolina very kindly offered a mass for them as requested by the Class. Our annual March 24 graduation anniversary-fellowship event was cancelled for the second time.

Many thanks to Bobby Santiago, Sonny Penilla and Nori Azcueta who promptly provided a CM's military nurse officer-daughter with replacement PPE and other supplies in view of delayed official procurement in her assigned military hospital. Other CMs continued to donate to their preferred and needy recipients.

Every CM and any member of the family of every departed CM are enjoined to share the requested information for the 2021 Alumni Register before May 19, 2021. Please email these to pmaaai@yahoo.com and share a copy to our Class President and scribe. Read the President's Viber message on the subject for more details. Those who wish to apply for a Philippine National ID may log on to (<https://register.philsys.gov.ph>). The next Patriot Credit Cooperative General Assembly shall be announced as circumstances permit.

"I do not know the dignity of his birth, but I do know the glory of his death" –General Douglas MacArthur

FELIX BUENO B- 1 JUN 1945 D- 6 AUG 1981	VENANCIO DUQUE B- 25 APR 1946 D- 31 JUL 2017	EDGARDO PANGAN B- 1 JAN 1945 D- 19 OCT 1989	ROBERT DANCE B- 10 NOV 1942 D- 2 JAN 2011	RICARDO MISTADES B- 19 JUL 1946 D- 22 APR 1988	DIOSCORO SANTOS B- 15 JUN 1945 D- 9 FEB 1971
JOSE CALIMLIM B- 29 NOV 1945 D- 29 NOV 2007	EUCEO FAJARDO B- 9 FEB 1945 D- 13 NOV 2008	VICENTE PANGANTIHON B- 20 APR 1943 D- 24 JUN 2016	SATURNINO DUMLAO B- 25 OCT 1945 D- 11 JUN 1990	TOMAS ORTEGA B- 21 SEP 1946 D- 22 SEP 2016	REYNALDO WYCOCO B- 10 NOV 1946 D- 19 DEC 2005
JEWEL CANSON B- 10 DEC 1945 D- 21 DEC 2011	DANILO FLORES B- 21 OCT 1943 D- 3 JUN 2013	DANTE RUIZ B- 28 JAN 1945 D- 11 JUN 2019	EUFRACIO CANEZAL B- 4 MAR 1943 D- 15 JAN 2007	ELONOR PADRE JR B- 1 APR 1945 D- 17 FEB 2012	PERCIVAL SUBALA B- 24 APR 1944 D- 16 DEC 2017
MARCELO CASTILLO III B- 27 DEC 1946 D- 18 DEC 2000	ROLANDO GARCIA B- 26 JUL 1943 D- 22 OCT 2012	PHILIPPO SALVIO B- 16 APR 1945 D- 9 JAN 2012	MANOLO DIAMANTE B- 5 DEC 1945 D- 23 FEB 2016	ARMANDO CASTRO B- 3 NOV 1942 D- 18 MAR 1987	APOLONIO REYES B- 8 MAR 1932 D- 9 OCT 2016
DANTE CIMATU B- 3 NOV 1944 D- 27 SEP 1978	ROMAN MADDELA B- 18 NOV 1946 D- 29 SEP 2002	NORMAN SAMONTE B- 22 JUL 1945 D- 9 SEP 2016			



Just like everywhere else in the world, the big challenge for Suaviters is dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. Garic RJ succumbed to the dreaded disease after a long off-and-on bout with it, first in the hospital and later at home where he took his last breath. The Suaviters managed to pay its last homage to RJ and accolades for his accomplishments, specially his dedicated service to country up through his last days. This was conducted through a virtual memorial service with short eulogies from the Suaviters after the mass. Thanks to Rey Berroya for facilitating the virtual Zoom coverage of RJ's last rites. All in all, although the Suaviter family are badly bruised by

the pandemic, it still stands defiant, strong and hopeful to come out victorious against it by vaccinations, closely observing health

safety protocols, strengthening immune system and performing regular physical exercises.



Benjie Defensor takes his first jab of COVID-19 vaccine. Many suaviters have also had their first vaccination, Cleo and Vivian Erfe, Boy and Amy Maligalig, Jus and Ellen Manlongat, Sol Mendoza and family, Jimmy and Lulu de los Santos.



Boy Maligalig represented the class during the internment of Rudy Garcia, a virtual necro service was conducted by the class to render our last salute to a dear brother and classmate.



Rey Berroya in the company of a humble President in a fellowship.



Farmer Jimmy displays veggies from his farm that were distributed to the community pantry.



Class 68-69 golf team, from left to right, Ike Begonia, Mel Rosales, Nony Carranza, Jess Regala, Patrick Marayag, Jake Duller, Jimmy de los Santos, and Rene Aguda.





On April 12, 2021, I received a Viber message from Romy Acop forwarding a PMAAAI announcement saying; *“Good Afternoon, Sirs. Please be informed that the deadline for submission of class calls/class updates for Cavalier Magazine, April-June 2021 issue is on May 14. Number of words must not exceed 900 with a maximum of two photos. Please send your article thru email at pmaai@yahoo.com. Thank you, sirs.”* Without further ado and sensing that it was a marching order to mobilize our existing Class Editorial Board, I forwarded the same message to our Viber groups setting the deadline for consolidation of articles or write-up on above subject as May 8, 2021.

Within seconds after sounding out the call for articles and write-ups a member of the editorial board and concurrent class treasurer, Vic Signey, suggested that we feature our four classmates who were awarded the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, LAA for brevity, given by the PMAAAI to *“regular members of the Association who have rendered at least 50 years of distinguished, outstanding, exemplary and unblemished service to the country.”* The qualification and standards therefore to be awarded the LAA are: 1) Must be a regular member of PMAAAI, 2) 50 years of service or more, 3) Service must be distinguished, outstanding, exemplary and unblemished, and 4) The service must be for the country. Can you beat that? If not, we proceed to present the four Magitings who were awarded the LAA:

1. ERNESTO GONZALO CAROLINA was born on October 18, 1947 and reported late for the traditional New Cadets Reception on April 16, 1966 as member of PMA Class 1970. On hand to give him “special treatment” were Cavaliers Augusto S Enriquez and Lyle V Paras, both of PMA Class 1967. Nesty or Poks, as he is fondly called by classmates, breezed through plebe year and the remaining three years by finally graduating number 56 in a class of 65. He holds the distinction of being one of the 39 original members of class 1970 who reported in April 1966, survived “beast barracks” or Summer Camp training for plebes and the rest of their stay in the academy to finally graduate on March 22, 1970. He joined the

Philippine Army after graduation and took up graduate studies in Mathematics in the University of the Philippines (UP) as part of the PMA Faculty Improvement Program. From UP he became an instructor in PMA and eventually its Comptroller.

The call of field duty beckoned to the young, good looking, always smiling, officer and he returned to the Philippine Army. His re-entry was captioned by stints in the Finance Service and Comptrollership before becoming the Commanding Officer of the 78th Infantry Battalion, PA. There was no stopping Nesty’s career rising from then on as he slowly but surely moved up the ladder of leadership in his chosen profession as Commander of the First Infantry Division, PA; Commander Southern Command, AFP and eventually retiring as The Deputy Chief of Staff (TDCS), AFP in 2003 on his birthday.

Upon retirement from the AFP, Lt Gen Ernesto G Carolina was appointed to several positions in the Department of National Defence (DND) the last of which is Administrator, Philippine Veterans Administration or PVAO. His entire uniformed career is 37 years including cadetship and when added to his 18 years in DND sums up to more than 55 years of dedicated public service and still counting.

2. ROY AGULLANA CIMATU was born on July 4, 1946 in the northern Municipality of Bangui, Ilocos Norte where he said as a young boy they can hear radio broadcasts from China more clearly than those coming from radio facilities in the Philippines. Originally a member of PMA Class 1969, he discovered his talent as a sprinter in the 100-meter dash track event during plebe year. He excelled in track and field and was the best bet and sure winner of Delta Company in Decathlon when an unfortunate incident involving an upperclassman prevented him from competing at 100% form in the finals. Nevertheless, he set PMA records in these two (2) events and competed with national athletes. This was during the Inter-Company Intramurals of school year 1965-66.

As a yearling of PMA Class 1969, he abruptly went on extended leave with four (4) other classmates to join PMA Class 1970 in the second semester of school year 1967-68. During his second-class year, he became a mainstay of the basketball corps squad. His athleticism will be an asset later on in his career.

Roy graduated from PMA as number 16 in a class of 65 on March 22, 1970 and joined the Philippine Army as number 2 in the Magiting Army roster. He later on became number 1 when Adriano C Ballesteros passed on. A natural field

man, Roy spent most of his Army life in Mindanao and Panay Island where he met his late wife, Fe Aguillon of Antique. From Platoon Leader and concurrent Executive Officer of Alpha Company 11th Infantry Battalion of the 3rd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army he would lead Company, Battalion, Brigade, Division size units as its Commander. He would then be designated as Commander of Southern Command which covered the whole area of Mindanao and Sulu at that time. His field assignments will only be interrupted by staff duties in Comptrollership, school duty in Fort Leavenworth, USA for his Command and General Staff Course (CGSC) and a truncated Instructor Duty at CGSC, Fort Bonifacio, Makati. He later on became the 29th Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines and retired as a four-star general on his birthday after 37 years of military service including cadetship.

After serving Six Presidents (DM, FM, CCA, FVR, JEE, GMA), Roy was appointed Special Envoy to the Middle East, Department of Foreign Affairs with the rank of Ambassador. When President Rodrigo R Duterte (PRRD) was elected in 2016, Roy was subsequently appointed as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) when the late Gina Lopez an environmentalist resigned. Roy eventually passed the rigorous confirmation of the Commission on Appointments of both Houses of Congress. With his experience as a trouble shooter in previous administrations Roy was hand-picked by PRRD to personally focus on highly controversial projects such as the rehabilitation of Boracay and so called Dolomite Beach of Roxas Boulevard, City of Manila. Recently during the second elevation of Emergency Community Quarantine (ECQ) of Cebu City, he was instructed by PRRD to personally oversee the setting-up of quarantine protocols. Now a widower, he would not only be the longest serving Magiting in the government but also the most sought-after bachelor.

3. HERMOGENES EDEJER EBDANE JR was born on December 30, 1949. He graduated Number 35 in a class of 65 from PMA, enough to earn him a slot as number 15 in a batch of 17 Magitings in the Philippine Constabulary (now Philippine National Police) upon graduation on March 22, 1970. In The Sword issue for 1970 then graduating Cadet Rex Baquiran wrote, *“and there was one in the foreground who sometimes went out alone to adventure. He is seriously-looking, though a certain twinkle in his eyes could denote an original sense of humor. This was Jun Ebdane.”* Rex’s impression

51 years ago of Jun or Ebdane fits him to this date. Jun was one of the pioneers in the PMA Skydiving Club along with Bang Adriano who as a cadet on leave learned to skydive and wanted to wear his wings in his cadet uniform.

As a young Constabulary officer, Jun would earn his skydiving wings and command the elite Special Action Force of the PNP. In various Alumni Homecoming at Fort del Pilar, Jun, with other graduates of the Academy, would entertain the crowd with pinpoint landings on the parade ground. Along with skydiving, his other sport is Practical Pistol Shooting. These two skills were honed through the years as a Law Enforcement Officer. In July, 2002 Jun was appointed as the 13th Chief of the Philippine National Police with the rank of Director-General, the equivalent of a four-star general in the AFP. He served in this position up to August, 2004 when he was appointed as National Security Adviser and Director-General of the National Security Council up to February 2005 when he was appointed, for his first stint, as Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) up to January, 2007. After one month he became the Secretary of the Department of National Defence (DND) up to June, 2007 when he returned to the presidential cabinet as Secretary (DPWH) up to October, 2009. He then decided to seek an elected position as a public servant for the National Elections of 2010. He won the governorship of his native province, Zambales and served in that position for one term up to 2013. In 2016, he ran again for Governor of Zambales and is now on his second term.

In all, Jun has served 38 years in the uniformed service, five years as member of the Presidential Cabinet as department secretary and nine years in an elective public office. Forty-three of these years was in Law Enforcement, Intelligence Operations and Public Safety Administration.

4. EDGAR CALASTE GALVANTE was born on September 28, 1946. Ethnically, he has Bicolano blood running in his veins. After a brief vacation in the second semester of PMA School year of 1965-66, he joined PMA Class 1970 in its reception on April 1, 1966. He was assigned to Alpha Company, CCAFP upon incorporation to the cadet corps and eventually became its Company Commander in his first-class year. A strict disciplinarian in his cadet days, he carried this demeanour even after graduation from PMA where he graduated on March 22, 1970. In *The Sword* issue of the same year he was described as: "BLACK and WHITE – is how "Egay" would say "YES and NO" whether he is at work or at play, in the military or..... elsewhere.

He graduated number 21 in a class of 65 and was number 11 among the 17 graduates of the PMA Class 1970 who joined the Philippine Constabulary (now Philippine National Police). He would be assigned to the Presidential Guards of the Presidential Security Command along with Pitong Heredia Jr, Irwin Ver and Rudy Maluyo. He also had stints as Chief of Police of Baguio City; Provincial Commander of Western Samar, Bulacan, and Cagayan Valley; Commander of the Aviation Security

Command and Regional Commander of PC/INP Region XI. In the National Headquarters of the PNP, he served as Director of the Directorate for Personnel and Directorate for Operations respectively. Later he became the Commander of National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), then assumed the position of Deputy Chief PNP for Operations until his retirement at the age of 56, after completing 37 years in the military and police services.

Upon retirement, Egay was appointed to the Dangerous Drugs Board, where he assumed the position of Permanent Board Member and Executive Director, and even before his term at DDB was finished in 04 July 2016 he got appointed as the Assistant Secretary at the DOTr to head the Land Transportation Office (LTO) as its Chief of Office in 30 June 2016. To this date, ASec Edgar C. Galvante has been in public service for the past 55 years, 37 years of which were in military and police services.

References

1. *Magiting Golden Sword Coffee Table Book, 2010.*
2. *PMA Magiting Class of 1970, AHEAD OF ITS TIME, Golden Jubilarians for 2020 By The Class 1970 Golden Anniversary Editorial Board, The Cavalier, January-March 2020 Issue, pages 15-16.*
3. *Souvenir Program and Alumni Register, 1980-80 Diamond Jubilee, Philippine Military Academy pages 154-57, 201.*
4. *The Sword 1970.*
5. *Viber Chats Info, Conniving Magiting and Magiting Bulletin Board.*



Golden Anniversary and Cavalier Award

We are glad that our 50th Anniversary pushed through successfully albeit in a different mode compared to the past celebrations. This was done in a "hybrid" modality which is a combination of limited face-to-face presence at PMA and via a virtual platform where cavaliers were able to join from their respective homes and headquarters thru internet. Many of us at home simultaneously donned our golden jubilee medallion with the assistance of the wife upon the cue from the emcee. The program was smooth and

our congratulations to the PMAAAI Board, PMA leadership, and other support staffs. Kudos goes to our mistah Egay Aglipay, the outgoing Chairman of the PMAAAI Board, for this achievement and innovation. Our congratulations also go to our class Historian mistah Rollie Malinis for his Cavalier Award for 2021 for the special category in Literature.

By the way, it was announced by our class President Egay that the fabled class of 1971 will have a "reenactment" of our Golden Jubilee celebration this December 2021 with our hopes and prayers that the pandemic situation will improve by that time. It is also expected that everybody shall already have their complete vaccination and those mistahs living abroad can also join this celebration.

The Pandemic Scenario

Alas, we are still under the pandemic situation. With the announced lockdowns

due to MECQ and GCQ, us seniors are most affected due to limited movements and experienced the fear of being easy targets of infections. However, the Matatags took this in stride and as much as possible followed the health protocol required by the National Anti-Covid 19 Task Force. However, the class had five (5) mistahs who were covid affected but all of them recovered in due time. Two were asymptomatic which only required two-week quarantine while three had to recover in the hospital. Thanks to the medical doctors of VMMC, our three mistahs survived the infection. I want to make a special mention to Doc (Gen) Mar Mejia (adopted member of Class'83) who was our contact man in monitoring the medical condition of our three mistahs. *Pasensiya ka na Doc Mar kung makulit kami sa katatawag sa iyo. Currently, many mistahs and mas-Matatags had already their first dose of the vaccines.*



Concerned of the harsh effects of this pandemic period among economically displaced *kababayans*, the Matatags made efforts to help them in the form of “ayudas” either in cash or in kinds. The Hampaslupa Group gave assistance to the caddies in Beverly, Villamor, Navy, and Orchard Golf Clubs. Some mistahs joined in giving support to the community pantries organized by these clubs. Mistahs Bing Alano and Tex Balmaceda joined the food distribution and community pantry to the informal settlers in Las Pinas last 14 May 2021 with the support of Prexy Egay. Special

mention, too, to Aleli Belonia, Mel Acosta, and Ed Matillano for the daily prayers that they send via our class viber groups. These prayers inspired us to do well and remind us that Somebody up there watches over us during this critical time.

Limited Golf Games and Hole-in-One

The class golfers had their games on a limited scale. No longer can we gather more than one flight. Due to the strict observance of the health protocol and the pandemic condition in the NCR Bubble, some golfers preferred to play outside of NCR and

environs. We had the greatest attendance last March when we played in the Subic International Golf Club and followed by our game in the Hacienda Luisita Golf Course. After that, *tig-iisang flight na lang sa Villamor, Navy, and Beverly* for April and early May. Hopefully, if the situation permits, we can have more than two flights in our next game at the new Puerto Azul Golf Club this 3rd week of May.

Our congratulations to HL’71 Rey “Totoy” Rivera for his first ever Hole-in-One last 4 May 2021 at the Blue Rocks Springs Golf (West) Course Hole Nr 15 in

Vallejo, California. This was witnessed by flight mates Irwin Ver '70, Tony Ramos '74, and Larry Doria '74. He used a 5-hybrid (di ba driver?), a red volvik ball, at 185 yards downhill.

Donation and Blessing of Prayer Building and Chapel to the Diocese of Caloocan

Last May 10 May 2021, the EMME SMEs and the Mariel Aglipay Foundation, chaired by Egay Aglipay, donated the Divine Mercy Spiritual Renewal Center and a chapel to the Diocese of Caloocan for their spiritual enrichment programs like retreats and seminars. There are 34 rooms for the participants and eight rooms for the instructors. The Center will be used as a seminary in the future when the Vatican has given the permission for such use. The two structures were blessed last May 10, 2021 on the occasion of Mawie's birthday. Present during the blessing were Bishop Ambo David, some priests and parishioners, EMME employees, mistahs EQ Fernandez and Tex Balmaceda, and some of us who watched it via zoom.

Quote for this Issue:

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord and He will repay him for his deeds." Prov 19:17

JCL/14 May 2021



It has been more than a year since the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic that resulted to the death of thousands of our kababayan and thousands afflicted with the deadly virus undergoing treatment in different hospitals nation-wide. The strict restrictions being implemented by the government to contain the transmittal of the virus create havoc and miseries to some of the populace.

It is with deep sadness and pain that some of our Mistahs were not spared from the pandemic. The months of April, May and June were black moments for us. Some Mistahs were infected by the virus despite adherence to strict protocol standard to get rid of the disease. Eric and Marivic Aurelio were the first victims of



COVID that resulted to their confinement at NKTl for almost two months. God is so merciful and loving that the couple were able to recovered completely. Thank you Lord for hearing our prayers for the healing of Eric and Marivic. Unexpectedly, Mistah Odette Bibit was the next victim but unfortunately she was not able to survive and died few days after her confinement at VMMC. Mistah Lorna Abu died last May after undergoing spinal column surgery coupled with heart failure and other organ complications. Mistah Zeny Fuentes was confined at United Medical Center at Ilagan, Isabela and succumbed to COVID last June 2. To our beloved Mistahs who passed away recently, may you rest in peace eternally in the Kingdom of the Lord. Your memories will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

The love and care manifested by whole Masigasig family was very evident during the crucial moments of survival for Eric and Marivic, Odette, Lorna and Zeny. The never-ending prayers, novenas and words of comfort somehow assuaged the sadness and sorrow of our Mistahs as well as their loved ones. The Class and some Mistahs extended financial assistance to them. Indeed, the Masigasig spirit is very contagious and alive. Carry on, Masigasigs.

News Updates:

- The Class conducted two anti-COVID mass vaccinations for Masigasigs last May 24 and June 24 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and June 4 at NKTl, Quezon City, respectively. A total of 60 Masigasigs and dependents got their first jabs. Prez Espines, on behalf of the Masigasig family, expressed his thanks and gratitude to Orly Ambocio and Marido, Bing Valencia, Gene Senga and MB who worked hard and took initiatives for the availability of vaccines, in coordination with concerned government agencies. They were also responsible for the smooth and very organized conduct of the vaccination in tandem with Dr Mar Mejia of VMMC. Special thanks goes also to Sec Charlie Galvez and Usec Cabotaje (thru MB) for their kindness and benevolence. We acknowledge the big contribution of Dr Mejia and his competent staff for orderly and smooth conduct of the entire vaccination activity. Kudos also to some kindhearted Mistahs (Yaric, MB, Babes,



Freddie, Fiel Balaoing and Art Lomibao) for their donations of foods and other stuffs during the events.

- The following were the highlights of the Special Meeting of the Class Officers/ BOT last June 9 via Zoom presided by Prez Espines. The Board, thru motions, approved the following:

- a. The official hotels of the Class are Microtel and Crown Legacy. Hotel accommodations for two days/ three nights will be shouldered by the Class. Those who wish to stay in Manor will pay for their accommodations.
- b. The proposed attire/uniform for the ladies was presented by Ludy Vidad in behalf of the Ladies Working Group. The budget of P696,000.00 (87 ladies at P8,000.00) from the Class fund was approved by the Board.
- c. For men’s attire/uniform, two tone suit(dark blue upper suit/ beige pants) was the choice of the Board. A matching neck ties and under garment shirt will be determined very soon. Final details and costing to follow. Prez Espines requested immediate

feedback on the costing and final design of the suit since the time is running short for us. Bing was asked to do the task. The Class will also shoulder the men’s attire.

- d. Espines informed the Board that the construction of Prayer Room for Muslim cadets will commence soon. The 1.6M project will be completed within 2-3 months. Bogie Agustin was tasked to monitor the construction. It was suggested that the donation will be done formally at PMA, with concurrence of PMA Supe.
- e. The Class will have the traditional Post Valentine Party, simple dinner and picnic: the dates and venues to be determined later.


Birthday Greetings:

Happy birthday to the following celebrators.

MAY: Cely Nobleza, Amy Brillantes, Lucille Flores, Lino Caringal, Angelito Santos (dec), Marivic Aurelio, Nene Pestano, Roger Favis, Ed Gador and Grace Sta Clara.

JUNE: Eric Aurelio, Med Pestano, En Alino, Yaric Yarcia, Luis Bismonte (dec), Cora De Vera, Jun Espino, Orly Buenaventura, Efren Abu, Neris Batestil and Malou Joaquin.

JULY: Elmer Ignacio, Celo Navarro, Mely Espino, Art Lomibao, Lulu Pechuela, Jay Velasco, Medin Velasco, Pilar Senga, Gene Senga, Mel Hermoso, Rey Ochoa, Orly Lumawag, Beth Navarro, Vic Luga, Fe Castro, Celso Castro and Emily de Leon.

Till next Class call. Happy reading and stay safe and healthy.... /Celso 



The political vaccine of South China Sea and the US-China rivalry in time of corona and 2022.

After more than a year under the grips of the pandemic, many ask when will we ever get out of the pandemic? We simply are tired, unable to socialize like we did before the pandemic, tired of myriad of restrictions which we thought would not last long just like in the season of ordinary flu; and if ever it would delay, we would get used to it anyway. Tired, yes; get used to it, apparently a big No. Deep inside the heart of every MAAGAP and Lady is a social

being born and raised that way, nurtured through the years that our innate social character provides us strength in being together specially in the face of challenges and adversities which are too many in life. There is constant rebellion inside against the pandemic restrictions, wanting to be free and be happy once more. Like anybody else, we want to be ourselves free to roam around with little hands in tow to face the new promise of everyday sunrise and gaze the calm, confident and receding sunset of life. This pandemic teaches us that social and family cohesion is both our strength and weakness.

Like the rest of the society, the MAAGAP is suffering from compliance fatigue and carrying heavy recusant heart to restrictions. But the virus is vicious; it imposes resolutely upon all of us. The sooner we dropped basic health protocols and relaxed the usual restrictions, the

virus sprang back quickly with vengeance, flooded our healthcare systems with hordes of pandemic victims. The pandemic situation is even worst in India where a good 2% of the population have been infected daily with the virus. Many believe that the radical surge came when the Indian people dropped their masks and the government relaxed all restrictions in numerous political rallies in the run-up election. We have to learn from the India experience because national elections 2022 wafts in the air. ***I thought I will not see it in my lifetime but it happened in nuclear India when people on the streets dropped dead beside another dead.*** Indeed, this virus dictates human response.

Came the much-awaited vaccines. Sadly it has quickly morphed into politicized commodity welded unwisely with the US-China global competition and the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea issues.

Just like any other Class, some would not like any vaccine from China and prefer the western vaccines if only to register resentment to China's bullying in the West Philippine Sea. The playbook of the policy of resentment somehow has planted fear on the Sinovac vaccine which eventually affected all other vaccines. Consequently the anti-China narratives of fear against the available China vaccine in town and the nightmarish experience of the deadly Dengvaxia vaccine in 2016 all contributed to more than half of the adult Filipino uncertain to take the vaccine. The threat of new viruses has the potential to render the Spanish Flu pandemic as non-event. The debate whether to take the China Sinovac lingered on here in our country unlike our Mistahs in the US who all took the US vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna or any other US vaccine. After all it's Pres Biden nationalism pitch for everything Made in America to re-energize the US economy, create more jobs, produce what US needs in the USA with what US has in its hands.

I asked the Class to take the first vaccine available so that all the Maagaps will have added protection against the viruses. After a year or 2, if new vaccination shall be required again then we can make fresh choices of much improved vaccines in the raft than what we now have. By this time, most of the Maagaps and mas Maagaps have taken at least the first jab of Sinovac. Mistah SND Lorenzana, Sammy Bagasin, Romy Alamillo took their vaccine shots in

Veterans Medical Center while Mistah Sec Sid Lapeña of Tesda, Ambassador Vidal E Querol, Christie Datu, Alan Cabalquinto, and George Uy took their jabs in Taguig City. Despite reports of serious side effects, the benefits of Astra Seneca and Johnson and Johnson far outweigh the risk of serious blood-clotting and thrombosis cases. And so with Pfizer and cases of heart inflammaton, and for that matter all vaccines on the table. Another scare erupted when Mistah Sec Lorenzana got the Covid but quickly recovered from it.

America, under Pres Trump, has lost tremendous grounds, some may be hard to recover, in international diplomacy and global leadership during the pandemic. President Biden is correct in firing all chambers now for the US to get the chance to be once again globally exceptional. Yes, the chance is now here for the picking but getting back USA as the exceptional nation may not come that easy. At home the foundation of US foreign policy is deeply embroiled in endemic social and political cleavages weakening the ability of President Biden to get the whole country to where he would like to take. In the midst of domestic challenges percolating in the USA, we are a bit concerned that after the destructive episodes of Black Lives Matter and siege of the US Capitol, unusually high incidents of Asian hate crimes recently struck across the US. Mistah Tito Angcanan, Romy Alamillo, US-based Maagap Bobby Aviso, George Ares, Sonny Divina, Rody

Luis and Pati Patawaran and Canada-based Maagap Lito Hernandez lengthily discussed racial discrimination and the hate crimes as well as the recent press conference remark of Pres Biden in front of Japan PM Suga on US Masters 2021 Champion, Hideki Matsuyama as "Japanese Boy coming over here". Such awkward remark could be all about the age of Pres Biden who may be forgetful of names just like some of us MAAGAPs. Another source of robust discussion is whether USA under Biden will drift towards socialism and join socialist UK, Canada, Germany, Spain, Australia and most of the top countries of the world.

The Maagaps are now closely watching what comes next of US moves against China in the South China Sea in the wake of US withdrawal from Afghanistan. After 20 years of "forever war" that cost 1.2T USD, and the lives of 2400 American soldiers finally America may once again declare that victory in Afghanistan has been achieved and the men and women in Afghanistan are going home. The withdrawal is a humbling experience and erodes American prestige internationally but America has no better option to a war which is impossible for America to win. Afghanistan is the "graveyard of empires". The American Red Queen in Afghanistan has been running furiously for 20 years in cycles of deaths, destructions and development around on the promise of brighter western-prescribed future for the Afghanistan people but sadly it is in



Gen George Ares in Beaumont Texas



SND Delfin Lorenzana



SEC Sid Lapeña

the same place now as it was before. And that's not the end of its tale; the notorious Taliban most likely will rule the land.


Despite the pandemic, the South China Sea continues to strike chords of nationalism or woke nationalism that roil the nation. It amuses many why those responsible for the gross blunder and eventual loss of Scarborough Shoal to China year 2012 are now the ones crying for Philippine "tough stance" against China. When they had their time to shed their blood in defense of our "sovereignty" in Scarborough Shoal, they ran away from that golden opportunity, shouting in the public markets through the "mediaphone" how brave and patriotic they were. They will not hear the commitment of the sitting President that there is a red line in the SCS issue that China must not cross, and to set the record straight there is not an inch of Philippine territory lost to China under President Duterte. Others consequently think that such vociferous denunciations to put the President to task is chicane smokescreen to their Scarborough Shoal snafu which resulted in huge strategic loss to the country. After the Philippine retreat from Scarborough without any shot fired, the famous scuttlebutt, "What agreement, Mr Secretary, there was no agreement." And the old man finally stepped backward and headed to the door thinking of the next narrative to save the day. Where in the name of Lapu-Lapu, Bonifacio, General Licerio Imapa Geronimo, General Emilio Aguinaldo did our leaders allow the US to negotiate with China for the Philippines? Were we spineless to face China even across the negotiating table? Then came out with narrative that China did not follow the 2012 US-China agreement on the Philippines? It brings us back to the US-Spain 1898 Treaty of Paris on the Philippines. Where is the 2012 US-China Agreement, could it be just in the scuttlebutt?

Maagap SND Delfin N Lorenzana has been in the forefront navigating the South China Sea problems listening to raw feelings of some and the erudite thinking of others. Some sinister political toolkit has been aiming to detect and magnify even the slightest or imagined divergence between Mistah SND and the President. Mistah Sec Lorenzana had to publicly announce the non-existence of coup and assure the public that the DND/AFP has been perfectly in line with the President's policy on the South China Sea issues. He said that what the DND is doing follows



Ambassador Vidal E Querol and Mrs Marieta Querol

strictly the policy of the President **"to defend what is rightfully ours without going to war and maintain the peace in the seas."** On Philippine patrols in West Philippine Sea, he said, "walang alisan" perhaps taking jab at how the Philippines scampered away from the 2012 Scarborough Shoal standoff it unwisely created in the first place. It is a herculean effort to squelch attempts to plant factionalism in the military and police ranks through disguised performative communications of the politics-driven

journalism. What a thankless job for Mistah SND to wilt and wither disruptive information by trolls flying all around carrying in its belly the ulterior motives of capturing political power in national elections 2022 under generous slather of woke nationalism. Yes its heavy drums and footsteps are faintly heard, still beyond the ridge. It will not be surprising to see retired Cavaliers hedging their bets in this rambunctious Philippine democracy. Did the MAAGAP hear that elections is our favorite national industry? 



Above is drive through vaccination of PGen Augusto Angcanan



AVELINO I RAZON, JR
President
WILFREDO V GARCIA
Secretary

Of late, the class activities had been focused on our continuing preparations for the PMA Alumni Homecoming and Golden Jubilee celebration in 2024.

Although it seems a little bit too far yet, we just wanted to make sure no stones will be left unturned so that each and every member including his family shall have an enjoyable yet memorable once in a lifetime experience.

Accordingly, Class President Sonny Razon had issued a series of instructions to put in motion plans for Hotel reservations, Class dinner, PMA donation, Class uniform, Class Directory and Golden Sword 74. In addition, he had called for Officers meetings to get progress reports.

So far, hereunder are the latest developments:

1. Hotel reservation and Class Dinner

A contract for hotel reservation and formal dinner between Hotel Manor and PMA CI74 has been signed by Gianne Santos-Besa representing Manor and Mistah Danny Abinoja representing Class 74. The signing, held at Coffee Bean, Festival Mall, Alabang on 11 Feb 2021, was witnessed by Mistahs Eugene Cedo, Class Treasurer and Ace Tolentino, PAF Coordinator. The agreement assures us of accommodation during the homecoming not to mention the use of facilities and services for the Class dinner. We could either dine on gourmet masterpieces by famed Chef Billy King at The Manor or have a special banquet arrangements at CAP Convention Center.

2. PMA Donation

The Committee for PMA Donation has been constituted and chaired by Mistah Ace Tolentino with the following members: Mistahs Eugene Cedo, Ricky Dela Paz, and Danny Abinoja. This committee will make necessary coordination with PMA and

make its recommendation to Class Officers for deliberation and approval.

3. Class Uniform

The Committee on Class Uniform was also constituted chaired by Mistah Ruben Garcia with the following members: PNP – Jun Noble, PA – Romy Tolentino, PAF – Ace Tolentino and Abroad – Vlady Punto. Likewise, this committee will make its recommendation on Class Uniform for submission to Class Officers for deliberation and approval.

4. Golden Sword 74

This one is probably the single most demanding part of the whole preparations. There are a lot of things to be considered and issues to be resolved yet, such as: its dimensions, order of pictures, arrangement, page allocation, contents, design, length of write-ups, etc.

In the meantime, Mistah Ruben Garcia, the Class Historian, had requested four (4) Mistahs to submit sample write-ups with pictures already arranged on the 2-page allocation to be used as reference in finalizing the format.

Unlike the usual coffee table books, Golden Sword goes beyond marking the 50th year since graduation of the Class

of 1974. This book is created to become a permanent reminder of our collective and individual efforts for excellence and leadership as shown in our milestone achievements.

Other Activities:

1. Feb 5, 2021 Zoom Meeting of Class Officers with the following agenda:

- Report of the Sports Coordinator – Ricky Dela Paz
- Secretary Report on Class Directory – Willy Garcia
- Treasurer Report – Eugene Cedo
- Golden Sword 74 – Ruben Garcia
- Hotel Reservations and Class Dinner - Danny Abinoja
- PMA Homecoming 2021 – Sonny Razon
- Other Matters

There was a Zoom Reunion for First Quarter on the last week of March 2021. Program and other details were tackled.

2. Jan 21-28 Games of Cavaliers at PNGC and VGC

Results:

Team Competition (Group A)

- Champion – Class 74
- 1st runner up – Class 72
- 2nd runner up – Class 71





Individual Competition (Group A)

- Champion - Jun Esperon
- 1st runner-up – Jun Noble
- 2nd runner-up – Ricky DelaPaz

Members of the Champion Marangal team who played were:

Ricky Dela Paz (Team Captain), Jun Esperon, Jun Noble, Eugene Cedo, Sonny Razon, Lito Gutierrez, Willy Garcia, Bobby Bayona, Pons Crucero, Jun Lopez, Ed Doromal and Damian Carlos.

3. First Quarter – Class 74 Zoom Meeting (Kamustahan)

On March 13, 2021 at 0900H Zoom Meeting was held hosted by President Sonny Razon with the following program:

- MC – Amy Tolentino
- 1. Opening Prayer – Bepbep de Luna
- 2. Roll call of attendees – Amy

Tolentino. Each attendee was given one minute to say something about himself or his current situation

- 3. Class Directory Update – Willy Garcia

- 4. EIC Golden Jubilee Sword Update – Ruben Garcia
- 5. Hotel Reservations and Class Dinner – Danny Abinoja
- 6. Free for all kamustahan

Even though it was only virtual, the meeting and kamustahan was absolutely worthwhile and nostalgic day of bonding among brothers. We were able to convey the progress of our Golden Jubilee preparations as well as catch up with old friends and classmates whom we have not seen or heard of for some time.

Having heard everyone sharing both the good times and the bad, we are delighted to know that we have been blessed after all.

As we move forward, we will continue to get together periodically hoping to get in touch with others still missing.



Congratulations!!!!

We are pleased to announce the election of Mistah Danny Abinoja to the PMAAAI Board of Directors for 2021-2022 during the recent General Assembly held in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. He will be serving for three (3) years in time with the Class Golden Jubilee celebration in 2024.

As a member of the board and the future Chairman and CEO of PMAAAI, the task ahead is quite challenging if not overwhelming. Be that as it may, we wish you the best of luck. We are confident you are capable of rising to the challenges of your job even as we stand solidly behind you. Congratulations!!!!

Birthday Celebrants

January: 01 - Abel Alonzo, Manny Carta, and Mike Lopez; 04 - Tito Cagurangan; 10 - Serafin Padilla; 17 - Boie Seville; 20 - Willy Dormitorio; 23 - Boy Bernal; and 31 - Pete Fernando.


February: 01 - Oscar De Guzman; 07 - Ace Tolentino; 09 - Jun Esperon, and Ed Doromal; 13 - Benny Cabrieto, and Romy



Mayo; 14 - Owen Luistro; 17 - Bert Sylim; 20 - Tanju; 26 - Oscar Valenzuela; and Pipos Valerio

March: 03 - Rene Elumbaring and Jun Lopez; 04 - Ricky Dela Paz; 05 - Rey Varilla; 08 - Bong Franco; 19 - Pewee Peralta; and 20 - Oscar Marinas.

“The older you get the better you get... unless you’re a banana.” – Betty White
“The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.” – Lucille

Happy Birthday Mistahs! Many many happy returns of the day... 



For the Makabayans, the first quarter of this year was supposed to be filled with happenings. The PMA homecoming alone would have made the alumni engrossed. But it went by seemingly unnoticed. Save for the golf tournament held in mid-January, known as the “Battle of the Cavaliers,” where the class garnered 2nd Place in Group “B” and 7th in the overall ranking among the participating classes, the erstwhile period would have been doldrums. Who would ever think that only one in our Class could attend the PMA homecoming activities? Yes, and this is true with other classes. Van Luspo is the Makabayan 75’s lone representative to the general assembly and during the parade due to the strict health protocols called in by the IATF and Baguio City LGU. The participants were limited to 300 cavaliers; the rest attended via virtual meeting.

Birthday Celebrants – Here’s a bunch of birthdays for Ronald Roderos’s

ubiquitous mantra, “extremely urgent” greetings for the months of April, May and June. We have 24 mistahs celebrating their natal days. Six birthdays, we celebrate *en memoriam* (*) as we reminisce our deceased mistahs, their life and memories forever dwelling in our hearts.

On the other hand, 18 mistahs are adding another year in their effervescent life, notwithstanding the pandemic. Mistahs, always remember to keep smiling and have a positive outlook on life, and everything is going to be fine. Happy Birthday!

- Jeffrey S Sodusta April 8
- Reuben S Crisologo April 12
- Romeo R Tropicales April 19
- Rene E Badilla* April 22
- Isagani L Garcia April 26
- Prudencio L Maligalig April 28
- Ruperto T Tumada III April 28
- Jose Monico G Garcia* May 4
- Raul M Subala May 5
- Walter S Villagonzalo May 6
- Willy T Bactad May 12
- Jovenal D Narcise May 18
- Edward P Tolentino* May 19
- Sofronio D Cabrera* May 23
- Rudy T Guligado May 27
- Richelieu T Logronio* May 28
- Lyle M Tugbang* May 31

- Fernando L Mesa June 2
- Alfredo G Pamong Jr June 9
- Arthur O Alviar June 12
- Joseph R Castro June 13
- Armando L Cunanan June 16
- Manuel V Gonzales June 17
- Antonio F Chanco June 27

Memorial Services for Tirso “Pip” Danga – The family of Pip Danga informed the class that they have scheduled an honoring activity on April 23, 2021, Friday at 6:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan, Libingan ng mga Bayani and the interment of the ashes the following day at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. However, due to the re-imposition of the ECQ in NCR, the services were postponed indefinitely. With regard to our other classmates who passed away during this pandemic and who were interred or inurned without appropriate honors, a special memorial services and honors will be held as soon as the situation allows.

2025 Homecoming Preparations - Every now and then, the class officers met to look over the preparations for the 50th Anniversary Homecoming. Holding anniversaries gives us a chance to look back over the years for the event we are marking, and reflect on how it has

shaped us. But anniversaries often elicit mixed emotions and there is the pressure of incredible expenses attached to it. It is inevitable albeit the cost, that we go through the process. This has been the posture being adopted by Raul Gonzales, the class president, and supported by the class officers.

Fund-Raising – The scheme which was articulated and devised during the homecoming in 2020 is still the main source of funds. As reported by Noe Wong, treasurer of the class, many among the mistahs generously responded, but there should be more in order to meet the target amount needed to defray the programmed expenses. Based on the latest update of the contributors, there are so far, 26 members representing merely 39% of the active members of the class. Further, Noe Wong requested the various vice-presidents to remind our mistahs, especially those based abroad, to remit their contribution.

Hotel Reservation – Among the anxieties and trepidations in the homecoming preparation that draws the onerous concern is the hotel reservation. It is for this reason that at the very first opportunity, Noe Wong has reserved rooms and cottages at the Baguio Golf and Country Club for the 2025 homecoming. In fact, a corresponding amount had been deposited with the hotel to ensure the reservation.

As envisioned, the class will pull out all the stops to make a repeat performance of the 2020 homecoming, if not better, in the aspects of uniforms, banquets, and attendance (there were 43 Makabayans and seven widows who attended the 2020 homecoming). The class leadership is endeavoring hard to reach out for classmates who have been out-of-reach for some time, here and abroad.

For the PA group, Ernie Boac reported that out of the 31 who graduated, 23 are living but only 11 are active in the Viber group. A feeling of nostalgia is in the air for army classmates Romeo Dayao, Ruperto Tumada III, Alex Aleo, Willy Bactad, Isagani Garcia, Benjie Gonzales, and Silverio Ilagan. It has been a while that the class haven't heard from them.

As for the PN Group, Pete Magno mentioned that most of the navy Makabayans are connected with the class through the class chat groups. Those who remained berthed in country are;



Anti Covid-19 vaccination of retirees and dependents at AGFO Hqs. Project of DND/PVAO/VMMC/AGFO

Pete Binuya (Corps of Professors), Adrian Espera, Manuel Gonzales, Sammy Samuya, Rico Borromeo, Cesar Carranza and Arthur Alviar. Three ended up staying in the USA namely; Antonio Chanco, Arthur Gosingan and Rey Ansay, a naval pilot who has been designated by the class president as the point man in the US and Canada. Carlito Claudio is in Toronto, Canada; while Walter Villagonzalo is in Victoria, Australia performing civic roles in the local government councils. Sadly, two Seadogs in our Class - Pip Danga and Pabby Pabuayon, passed away last year and have

rejoined the Creator; but fond memories mark their wakes.

The PAF Group gave a more thorough accounting of its members. Pete Cadungog said that out of 16 who joined the PAF, only three continued the military service until compulsory retirement; namely, Rene Badilla, Pete Cadungog and Willie Palugod; the rest resigned early in the career and joined the commercial airlines. There are two who died, Bernardo Julianda (2008) and Rene Badilla (2009). Romy Tropicales and Dempo Maligalig are



Raul Gonzales and daughter planting dragon fruit plant on a limited real estate property.

currently experiencing health condition inconveniences. Meynard Santiago is presently taking care of his ageing mother. KJ Quijano, on the other hand, is very busy tending to his vast track of farmland in Sibonga, Cebu. Sonny Calica is still training pilots as a flight simulator instructor in Clark Air Base. Of late, Mars Soriano joined our Viber group and since then an involved member. Jaime Silvestre lives in San Pedro, Laguna but frequents his farm in Tarlac. The USA-based air force group Osmundo Hernandez, Alfredo Pamong and Rudy Petican reveal their presence a bit in the class Viber chat group. However, Mike Rosales and Lucrecio Figueras, though in the USA, their numbers nor addresses remain unknown.

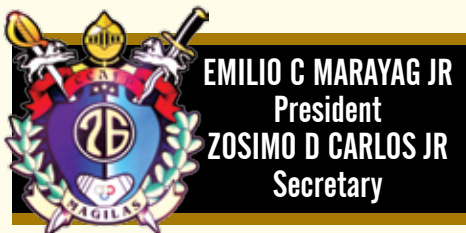
For the PNP group, Gerry Doria stated that there are 20 members, three died - Nap delos Santos, Richie Logronio and Denis Regis Jr., and the surviving PNP members who are enjoying their retirement days, only Ray Roderos is still up with the government as Assistant Director General,

National Security Council. Two PNP members, Van Luspo and Dante Ferrer, sit in as chairman and member, respectively, of the PMA Retirees Association Inc (PMARAI) Awards Committee. There are four honorary members and one associate member adopted by the Makabayans who were former PNP officers, namely: Larry Leyes, Corleto Lopez, Rene Aguinaldo, Domingo Manuel and Remberto Cataluna, respectively.

Other Activities – Last April 30, the first dose of the anti-Covid-19 vaccine slated for the veteran retirees and their dependents was given at the AGFO headquarters in Camp Emilio Aguinaldo. The second dose will be given on May 28, 2021. This activity was organized jointly by the DND/PVAO/VMMC and AGFO tandem. Two of the Makabayan 75 members, Ding Luna, as Undersecretary of the DND and Gerry Doria, the Executive Director of AGFO, were instrumental in this compassionate endeavor. The conduct of the inoculation was methodical and orderly

worthy of praise and esteem. According to Gerry Doria, some 300 retirees and their dependents availed of the free vaccine but only three among the Makabayans, Nap Cachuela, Raul Gonzales (in lieu) and Dante Ferrer and wife Lilly, took advantage of the jab. Kudos to Ding and Gerry!

During the very first meeting of the class last January this year, Raul Gonzales presented the idea that since most have been staying at home because of the pandemic, interested mistahs can write about how they try to dodge the boredom instigated by the lockdowns. The class president, true to his word, presented a proof what the long-drawn-out quarantine could render the better part of him, that is, leisure farming and bonding with his affable daughter, Khristine. *(For the next issue, we invite the class members to share their contributions to this corner by sending their write-up and photos to the class secretary at ferrerdt@msn.com)*



Hello Cavaliers. Greetings from PMA Magilas Class '76. We wish everyone peace, good health, and happiness.

In this issue, we emphasize on the **POSITIVE side of life**. The **Success and Achievements** of our Mistahs and their families in the past few months in the time of Pandemic.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to the following:

Mayor Pol Bataoil: 2021 Cavalier Awardee for Public Administration.

Rev Sin Hung Ju for being inducted as Honorary member of PMAAAI.

Rev Emil Lucero for being promoted to Deacon in the Archdiocese of San Francisco, California.

Nelson Allaga's designation as class representative to the PMARAI.

2LT Jan Hernan Perez (son of our late mistah, Nanie Perez), for graduating in the Top Ten and as Class president and Baron of Masaligan Class 2021.

2LT Hector "Tom" Gatdula, USAF (son of mistah Tanggol Gatdula), for finishing his Officer Training School, and subsequent flight training with the US Naval Air Station.

CONGRATULATIONS also to the following Mistahs:

For recently reaching the good, young age of 70 years old: Alex Yapching, Joey Salvacion, Vic Boco, Sandy Javier, Joseph Bernardo, Nonong Cayton, Epoy Lagdamen, and Baby del Mundo. Soon to be 70 also this year are Peter Labiano, Eppie Comahig, Willie Lino, Jigs Dasallas, Sluggo Nano, and Tony Fontanilla. Advanced **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**.

Pres Epoy Marayag and the Board of Trustees, for continuing to steer the class forward in the right direction towards the future, especially during these trying times.

Mon and Rani dela Cruz in New Zealand, for being blessed with their first grandchild recently.

Usec Raul Caballes, for continuing to look out for the Veterans' welfare in PVAO.

For actively keeping the Class informed, entertained, and inspired thru the Magilas Viber groups: Toto Golez, Mon Punzalan, Cholo Carlos, Alex Yano, Bong Ibrado, Tyrone Ty, Rey Ramirez, Joe Solidum, Arman Rodriguez, Wilson

Young, Gerry Defensor, Jimmy Caringal, Chris Tanabe, Abner Cabalquinto, Lhen Calderon, and Ely dela Paz among others.

Paul Mata, Rev James Sin, Rev Emil Lucero and Edong Acuna for their continuous prayers for the class.

Mayors Jeff Soriano and Pol Bataoil for the continued public service in their LGUs.

Jogie Fojas, Doo Maligalig, Sendong Ferrer, Archie Armada, Jess Verzosa, Efen Daquil and the rest of the Magilas golfers, for inspiring everybody to keep fit and continue outdoor exercises.

Macky and Suzette Maclang and the bikers group; Sammy Narcise on his regular jogging routine. Fitness buffs.

Louie Ticman for his never ending contributions to the Rotary Club and Rizal community.

Paco Francisco, Gerry Tenazas, Alan Bontuyan, Caloy Caga-Anan, Manning Busa, Sammy Tayag, Art Segovia, Alex Resngit, and Edwin Ditangco for their updates pertaining to US news and activities.

Congratulations also to all other Mistahs not mentioned; to the wives and partners; to the Magilas Children for their continuing contributions to society, and to the Magilas Grandchildren (more than 200 of them), who keep the lolos and lolas happy and feeling young.

GET WELL SOON, Nat Legaspi.

WE MISS YOU: Gibo Teodoro, Joe Gamos, Adiong Abadiano, Sonny Cachuela, Ben Dolorfino, Cesar Agcon.

2nd Quarter Birthday Celebrants

MAY: 16-Toto Golez, 19-Rey Ramirez, 23-Sammy Narcise.

JUNE: 1-Gerry Tenazas, 3-Nat Legaspi, 3-Tanggol Gatdula, 9-Rody Maclang, 10-Epoy Marayag, 13-Alex Yano, 14-Gibo Teodoro, 19-Joe Solidum, 20-Cesar Agcon.

Again, wishing everyone good health and happiness. May we never cease to thank GOD for the gift of life.



CAV LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL '76

His relentless dedication to public service, dating back when he was in the Philippine National Police to his stint as outstanding member of 15th, 16th and 17th Congress where among others, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, he was able to help in the upliftment of the veterans' benefits and the improvement of the medical facilities of VMMC, until now that he serves as a local chief executive of his hometown, is pervaded with formidable achievements. More importantly, his townsfolk could attest to his outstanding service. No surprise then that he is aptly known, especially among his constituents, as the Lingkod ng Bayan. Hence, Cav Bataoil deserves the 2021 PMAAI Cavalier Award for public service.



REV SIN HUNG JU

Recommended by PMA Class of 1976. He is a Korean national. He is currently the Dean of Academics for Foreign Students in Shalom International School in Baguio City. Rev Ju has associated with the Class of 1976 since 2010. He initiated the donations to the PMA of various Information Technology and Medical Equipment and is instrumental in the exchange program of PMA cadets with the Korean Air Force Academy. He also paved the way for the installation of Solar Power Generating System in principal AFP military camps and bases thru an MOU with the Koreas Ministry of Trade and the Department of National Defense of the Philippines.



PMA GRADUATION "MASALIGAN" CLASS 2021
CADET 1CL JAN HERNAN REBADULLA PEREZ
C-21238 CCAFP

COMPANY: HAWK
 BRANCH OF SERVICE: PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
 ADDRESS: ALABANG HILLS, MUNTINLUPA CITY
 AGE: 21 YEARS OLD
 HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT: COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE
 COURSE: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LIFE SCIENCES
 UNIVERSITY: ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
 HONORS RECEIVED:
 COLLEGE: DEAN'S LIST
 OTHER AWARDS:
 CHIEF OF STAFF SABER
 PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE SABER
 AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE AWARD
 AIR FORCE PROFESSIONAL PLAQUE

CONTACT INFORMATION
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RIC A DAVID JR
Pangulo
VIXI ABAT
Kalihim

•ALUMNI AFFAIRS

1. Homecoming activities in Loakan.
2. Raffle draw at Alumni Center inside Kampo Aguinaldo.
Trio “Cuevas - Sunglao - Supapo”, ticket #2598, wins the 7th prize HP deskjet printer. Ediwow!

•TSIKENKLAB

Linked tsikenklab zoom meets. Sari-saring talakayan. Turok’ed 📝 mistahs are happy and well. We all long for better and safer times.

•FELICITATIONS

1. Gerard Palad MD, son of Per and Jo Palad, passed the Phil Board of Orthopedics Qualifying Exams 2021.
2. Mabuhay to Nes and Mayie Ochoa! Mayie’s brother, PGen Guillermo Eleazar ‘87, is appointed Chief, PNP. The class wishes Gimo well.

•OCCASIONS

1. CUARESMA (Lent) is a time to refresh our weary soul and reboot our spiritual life.
Pillars of Lent - “AFP”:
•Almsgiving (limos)
•Fasting (ayuno)
•Praying (dasal)

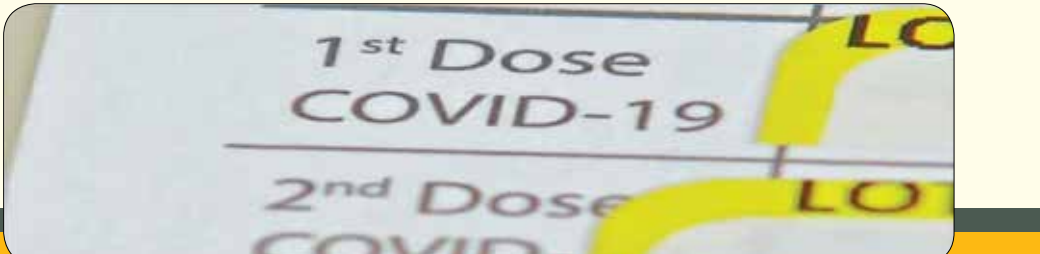
2. MOTHERS DAY

Cheers to all Masikap mothers! 🙌
pag-aruga na walang kapantay.
pag-unawa na hindi masusukat.
pagmamahal na walang hinihintay na kapalit.

•OBIT 📄

The Class offers condolences to the families.
1. demise of Conrado III, son of Don and Carmen Miñano.
2. demise of Arturo Ferrer ‘51, father of Deng Ferrer.
3. demise of mother of Dads Domingo.
4. demise of Kutchie, son of Nong and Alita Gammad.

Jolly Masikap retirees are coping with the pandemic.
Rollout ng bakunas.
Iturok 📝 na yan!





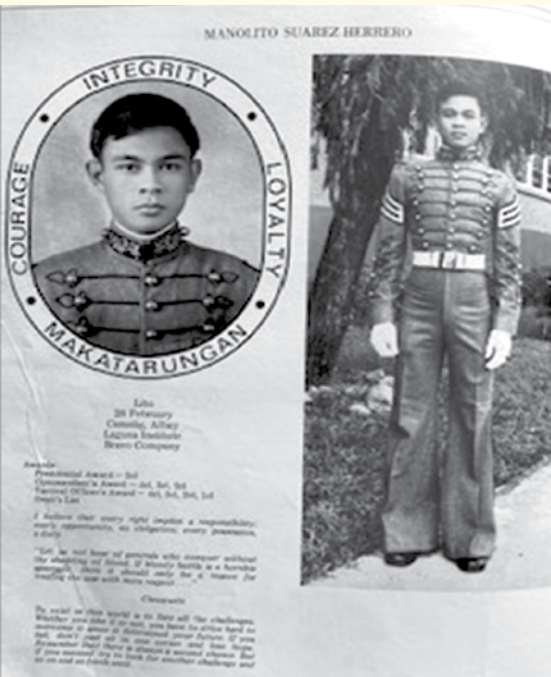
RODOLFO Y MAGTIBAY
President
FELIPE HB BUENA JR
Secretary

Warm greetings and best wishes to our birthday celebrants for the 1st Quarter. **January:** Jaime Calungsud, Pete Sinajon, Jess Fajardo, Joe Gaverza, Sunny Ho, and Adrian Munar. **February:** Rolie Abad, Gustav Atencia, Romy Prestoza. and Jong Valencerina. **March:** Felix Angue, Rudy Artuz, Rolly Belen, Ernest Villareal, Tom Decena, and Abe Purugganan.

The Class had its Annual Membership Meeting and Elections of Trustees last Feb 18, 2021 via Zoom. Our new Class Officers/Trustees for 2021-2022 are CAV Oca RABENA as Chairman, CAV Rudy MAGTIBAY as President, CAV Cho SABBAN as Vice President, CAV Pipes BUENA as Secretary, CAV Efen TEDOR as Treasurer, CAV Joe GAVERZA as Auditor, and CAV Sam TUCAY as PRO. Other Trustees are: Rolly DETABALI, George PIANO, Boysie ROSALES and Art TABAQUERO.

The traditional Quarterly Makatarungan Golf Fellowship was held last March 13 at Philippine Navy Golf Course. The game was followed by a lunch and socials.

We commemorated the 2021 Remembrance/Memorial Day in honor of our early departed Mistahs last 11 April via Zoom Mass and Fellowship. It was last April 11, 1978 when we had our first casualty, 2LT MANOLITO HERRERO PC.



- 1 of 9 PC Officers assigned to 56th PC Battalion with 2LTs Pipes Buena Jr, Louie Palmira, Butch Mabutias, Chito Diño, Lani-o Nerez, Boogie Mendoza+, Boying Radovan+ and Ben Fokno+.
- Reported for duty and reached Camp Seit, Jolo, Sulu last 4 April 1978.
- Succumbed to gunshot wounds at the lower back and arms 11 April 1978 during our battalion operations against MNLF in Kalingalang Kaluan, Jolo.

The other departed Mistahs are Dante Grafil, Tito Abat, Sulpicio Bernardo IV, Brian Pacheco, Albert Majini, Danilo dela Cerna, Renato Yap; Rosello Radovan, Robert Jugao, David Sabido, Cesar Maneclang, Nestor Fernando, Leodigario Adalem, Dionisio Disonglo, Voltaire Calzado, Ignacio Antonio, Herbert Aviñante, Sales Zaragosa, Daniel Costales, Rudival Cabading, Florante Martinez, Zamiel Carlos, Francisco Lanuza, Delfin Bangit, Demetrio Andrada, Marcos Badilla Jr, Benedict Fokno, Leovic Dioneda, Florencio Caccam Jr, Rodolfo Mendoza, Evaristo Rio, Orencio De Asis Jr, Cornelio dela Cruz, Odette Boquiren, Danny Lim, Andres Laurilla and Butch Calayo.





ARIEL QUERUBIN
President
TATTU SANCHEZ
Secretary

We're back! After a long period of silence, you're reading us again, and definitely, we are here to stay and remain relevant and committed to the ideals of the Academy and the PMA "Matapat" Class of '79.

After a couple of attempts to hold our long overdue General Assembly and Election of Officers, we finally had it last 27 March 2021, though it was done through a virtual meeting due to the stricter pandemic restrictions. A total of 33 Matapats were present: seven from the Navy, 11 from the Air Force, three from our Constables, and 12 from the Army. Also present were mistahs from abroad, including Maxwell Oligane from Pennsylvania, Tony Reyes from Texas, Conrad Sumera from California, and Gene Calonge, the Philippine Ambassador to Iraq.

One of the most significant matters taken up during the Assembly was the ratification of the new Constitution of the Class which included, foremost, a shift from the former "Council of Presidents" type of leadership organization to the usual "set of Class Officers" who shall be elected by the Class. The Class was formerly run by the Council of Presidents comprised of the presidents of the four (4) major service groups. The Council was headed by a Class Presidents elected and rotated by Branch of Service every two years. As provided in the new Constitution, the present set of Officers shall be "interim" in status and their tenure of office will be for two (2) years. The next set of Officers shall be elected by the Class during its General Assembly and whose term will be for two (2) years unless re-elected. The new set of Officers is composed of:

- President – Ariel Querubin
- Vice President – Art Ortiz
- Secretary – Tattu Sanchez
- Treasurer – Raul Leyritana
- Class Historian – Leo Santiago

Likewise, the four (4) major service groups of the Class have elected their respective presidents:

- PN President – Bobby Balanon
- PAF President – Tattu Sanchez
- PNP President – Leo Santiago
- PA President – Tristan Kison



Kudos to our new set of Officers and all our new major service Presidents. Good luck and more power to all of you. Congratulations to our outgoing president, Mark Supnet, and all the members of the Council of Presidents; President Cip Gundao – Air Force Group, President Rex Recomono – Navy Group, President Leo Santiago – PNP Group, and President Tristan Kison – Army Group. All praises and our gratitude for all your accomplishments and for a job well done.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS and felicitations to the following Matapats who are celebrating their birthdays this quarter. We wish you all good health, more blessings, and many more years to come:

April: Pancho A, Steve C, Jinggoy G, Jojie Cruz+, Bong G, Pete S, Boy E, Alex D, Willy T, and Ric B.

May: Jolu A, Bing D, Alex E, Rene A, Bonnie DC, Jojo Espina+, Edwin Arana+, Jerry D, Tony A, Danny G, Romy F, Maning

June: Mel H, Diego C, Raul L, Jun V, RollyA, Pete D, and ChuckD.

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to the following Matapats and their Katapats. We wish you all a lifetime of happiness together.

April: 24-Boygee and Grace Pangilinan, 25-Bong and Ping Garbo

May: 1-Roly and Helen Tenefrancia, 10-Tattu and Annie Sanchez, 16-Art and Cindy Ortiz, 26-Ed and Toton Oban, 30-Romy and Mayette Fajardo

June: 6-Ric and Flor Banayat, 8-Titan and Blessie Kison; Mark and Maloli Supnet, 14-Noelo and Cyril Albano, 24-Dj and Neth De Jesus; Elmir and Liza Dela Cruz, 30-Rene and Babylyn Abella

OUR PRAYERS AND CONDOLENCES to the bereaved families and loved ones of Frank Villaroman and Romy Bambao.

Rest in peace mistahs in the loving arms of our Almighty.



CONGRATULATIONS to our MATAPAT '79 golfers for bagging the Championship trophy Group Bat the "Games of Cavaliers 2021" last 25 and 27 January at VABGC and PNGC, respectively, and for being the Group Champion at the Retired Cavaliers Golf Fellowship hosted by Class '72.

Special mention to Benjie Gorres for winning the Lowest Gross Award, but more especially for patiently organizing the team, including its practices.

AIRFORCE "Mandirigma" UPDATE:

A silver lining in the pandemic lockdown is having closer ties with one another. Since the Pandemic, the "Mandirigma" and their "Nandirigma" spouses have been very active in connecting with each other. Cip Gundao, our former BOS President, has been persistently ringing the PAF "Mandirigma" Viber/Messenger Chat Group. Though most of us are connected 24/7 on the internet, being tech savvy as expected having been in a hi-tech branch of service, not everyone was always available. There were a couple of Zoom meetings held by the group which even lasted past midnight because of all the laughter, and no one wanted to bid goodbye first.

During the recent PMA "Games of the Cavaliers 2021" where the MATAPAT Team emerged as the Champion in Group B, the Team was ably represented by our very own golf pro, Diego Cruz, and Tete Villarete among others.

As to our whereabouts, Yaggie, home-based in Caloocan, lives with his brother Paul. Noelo Banong Albano is still with PLDT Aviation doing both desk and cockpit duties. Ric Banayat is shifting to agriculture in Pangasinan after serving CAAP as ADG. Steve Castro, finally, is full time with his family in Taguig. Diego Cruz continues to till lands in Tarlac. DeeJay De Jesus is enjoying cool Lipa, Batangas with his extended family. Bong Garbo is done flying and is now enjoying the comfort of his home in San Juan. Cip Gundao served happily as our Chief for the past two years, but unhappy to be our lifetime President. Ed Oban continues to lead the Air Cavaliers Credit Cooperative after he was re-elected as its Chairman for another two years. Maxwell Oligane, our computer wizard, resides in the US with his family. Tattu Sanchez, who has been busy doing carpentry and iron works at home, will soon shift to a more noble job of serving the MATAPATS. Tete Villarete intends to be a single handicapper and spends most of his time in Golf Clash or actual fairways whenever there is an opportunity.



PC/PNP GROUP UPDATE:

The PC/PNP group of Matapat PMA class remains to be dynamic and strong. Covid 19, however, did not exempt them. Instead of being defeated, cowed and desolate, the PC/PNP group turned the situation into opportunity. Farmer Atty. Jhun Khu diligently push forward with his farming in Mindanao knowing food will be needed especially at this time of pandemic. Multi-talented Atty. Sammy Pagdilao took time to hone his musical talent and continually plays the trumpet during bible studies and class gatherings. Praise and worship music through trumpet is among Sammy's many forte.

Sweet and caring Rey Lañada, on the other hand, gathered his apos and spent lots of time with them together with his bunkmate, Lady Malou.

Our highland golf aficionado, Pinewood Amor Bumanglag had another hole in one, unfortunately, not during a tournament. It was one of his many and he is aiming to have more. Matapat golf trainer Benjie Gorres flew to the US of America to be with his beloved, Mary Anne. Tiger Arne Delos Santos improved his golf handicap in spite of the pandemic. He is now hovering to single handicap player. Tammy Tamayo and Pio Domantay stay in the province counting and sharing the blessings given by our Lord Jesus. Paco Manalo, swabe as ever, Rolly Añonuevo is having his sabbatical having a comorbidity due to past reams of imported Marlboro. Our dashing Druz Bolodo is enjoying Cebu. Edwin Corvera is a dedicated DBM (driver, bodyguard ni Madame Yolly). Gil Paguio,

Nilo Wong and lately, Garick Garcia, are mysteriously avoiding our news scan.

ARMY GROUP UPDATE:

Early morning of January 31, 2021, Matapat Brother Romulo Bambao joined our Creator after a bout with a lingering disease. The Class arranged a eulogy on Friday, Feb 5, the night before his burial in La Union. Because of the restrictions of COVID-19, only Matapat Bumy Bumanglag was able to attend and represent the MATAPATS. In his eulogy, Bumy reminisced the good old days as plebes when they got slugged for scagging (as a plebe scagging-very brave) and slept and left the cigarette lighted which almost caused the building to burn down. Maximum punishment of 45-90-90.

The following day, on Feb 6, Matapat Brother Romy was laid to rest with full military honors conducted by the Special Forces Regiment. Matapat Art and Cindy Ortiz joined the burial.

Mistah Romy, we will miss your smile and laughter. 'Til we meet again,bok.

NAVY GROUP UPDATE:

Ariel Querubin is now the President of PMA Matapat Class of 1979. He is presently the Vice President and Special Assistant to the President of SMC. Bobby Balanon has been elected as the Navy Group President. With this, he is now very busy with everything, aside from Their and his apostolic duties. Raul Leyritana, after his 2nd retirement from AFPMBAL, is now a homebody, enjoying the simple things in life in the company of his family

and loved ones. Jolu Alano – after having fully stepped down from public service, organized a foundation for policy advisory and development. They just completed a webinar series on maritime issues, entitled “Kwentong Mandaragat” and are currently putting together a new project. US-based Tony Reyes, who is now retired after 25 years in the telecommunications industry, focuses on his health, family and service to God. Alex Pama is now connected with SM Prime Holdings Inc. as consultant for disaster resilience. He is also serving as a member of the Board of Directors, and a Trustee in some private corporations and foundations. Alex is also with the academe as an Adjunct Professor in the Asian Institute of Management and a visiting lecturer in Ateneo de Manila University in their post-graduate courses on Disaster Risk Reduction and Crisis Management. Ramon Liwag joined the Asia Security Education and Consultancy (ASEC) as its president. He is also currently a member of the BOD of Harbor Star Shipping Services and continues to be president of Cabiao National High School Alumni Association. Rex Recomono joined the private sector as an individual security consultant teaming up with other mistahs. Together with former colleagues at OTS, they formed DEFCONREDALERT, a security consulting and management company where he currently serves as its President and Managing Director. Tony Agtual, after his stint with AFPSLAI and later with the Bureau of Corrections, is now enjoying what he calls a simple life with his wife Tess, family, loved ones, and friends.



As of press time, we have not yet gotten word from other Navy-mates but from what little we know, Harlie Llave seems to be busy with his new-found careers as a painter, homebound agriculturist, social media commentator and an active civic citizen. Adolf Inductivo, now a dedicated religious leader, is a certified inventor with the approval by the FDA of his invention of an herbal medicine to cure a number of physical ailments. John Martir is in Cavite enjoying his retirement, but still busy training his international practical shooting champion, his wife Marly, who has been gathering honors for the country. Pancho Alvarado is in Baguio enjoying the cool weather and his retirement with his family. Ram Alivio is in Canada and is a regular member of the

’79 Shepherds’ prayer group. Bong Golez is in Los Angeles and continues to be a prosperous businessman. Conrad Sumera is in California, as well, and occasionally joins the Matapat 79 Shepherds’ Bible Study and Prayer group. In the meantime, Chuck Dizon and Leo Orpilla are in the New York/Pennsylvania area. Roy Rondie Ruiz is still in Chicago, enjoying sincerely his time in the golf course with his OAO Ellen. We are up to now still searching for Jinggoy Garingo who we last heard was somewhere in the US of A.

We are also very much saddened by the recent passing of three Navy Matapats: Orwen Cortez, John Apostol and Ronnie Bacolod. May they rest in eternal Peace with our Lord.



Hail Mapitagans! We hope and pray that everyone is safe including our respective families, relatives and dear friends. God indeed bless us!

Recently, all of us I presume celebrated “Mother’s Day” with our respective beautiful and beloved “mistahs” and families. This part of our lives can never be replaced, right? Yes!!!

It has been a while since we have meaningful class activities, particularly in the middle of this pandemic. But we manage somehow to gather in small groups here and there, observing and maintaining

safety standards and protocols. Of course, we don’t lose hope that in the very near future we can get back together to resume our long delayed nostalgic reunions, lunches, dinners and chit-chats.

In times like this, a mindset shift can be powerful. This is the time to turn our negative thoughts into positive ones, mga mistah. We will all get through this tough time together and become stronger as a class and a community.

Fun times like our regular birthday get-together lunches are seldom these days for obvious reasons. But in certain occasions though, we get to have the chance to push it.

The last class birthday fellowship was held on Feb 21, 2021 at the terrace of the VMMC Golf Club hosted by February birthday celebrators Tony B, Bongda, Bogs and Jayvee attended by 22 mistahs. This was a follow up to the Feb 7 blowout of Noel C and Doc Frank who are also February born. Both celebrations were

preceded by a round of golf. The March, April, May and perhaps the other birthday boys for the rest of the year will have to wait before they can host their respective fellowships.

Congratulations to the Mapitagan winners of the 2021 PMAAA Raffle Bonanza during the Alumni Homecoming. Noel M-7th prize HP Deskjet Printer and Sec Ed- 5th prize Samsung Tablet. Unfortunately, the Homecoming was downgraded because of the pandemic where only a few mistahs led by Pres Nick attended thru virtual. The usually jolly and jam-packed grandstand was reduced to a sorry sight of around 100 attendees, academy staff included.

For a change and to escape the choking Metropolis, Herbert arranged a golf fellowship at the Luisita Golf Course in Tarlac last March. The gang came in full force: Emil, Larry, George, Dante B, Noel, Bongda, Ces, Paco, and Bogs. The tandem Nick and Benjardi joined during lunch and enjoyed the corny bolahan.

Another Mapitagan was called from retirement to help the central housing authority of the country. Zyril Carlos assumed as Undersecretary of the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development to assist our mistah Sec Ed Del Rosario particularly in the supervision of the Department's support services. With Zyril around, Sec Sayong can relax a bit in his very hectic schedule.

For Covid update, some mistahs have already been vaccinated with their first dose and now waiting for the 2nd. George Regis is the first Mapitagan in the country to complete his vaccination last April

followed by Gerry Layug. In the US, Obe Antonio already completed his vaccination in January while Noel Dominguez, Timmy Garrido, and Del Lorenzo in March and April. Still, some are in the wait and see mode.

Here's wishing bai Edmun the best as he starts his service as Director of PMARAI (BIRC) replacing Juni C who performed exceptionally well during his tenure. Good job Juni.

Birthday greetings.

March: 2 - Mike Asuncion, 7- Tom Orbos, 8- Deo Madriaga (+), 11 - George

Regis, 14 - Ted Torralba, 14 - Bert Yambing, 15 - Raymond Yap, 16 - Nick Bartolome, 18 - Nars Llano, 21 - Danny Saberon, 29 - Obe Antonio, 31 - Cecil Sandalo.

April: 3 - Jake Estrada, 3 - Nabil Tan, 7 - Pong Arroyo (+), 7 - Efren Yebra, 11- Raoul Reyes, 12 - Dante Costes, 19 - Dicta Sugon (+), 20 - Leo Kison, 23 - Jojie Segovia, 30 - Larry Dela Cruz, 30 - Joey Zubiri.

May: 3 - Danny Siongco, 4 - Sandoval Ricky, 5 - Marvin Garbo, 7 - Bobby Calleja, 10 - Cesar Yano, 11 - Nelson Nario, 14 - Manding Guzman, 17 - Jardi Mantele, 19 - Tino Pereyra, 27 - Raffy Torres, 27 - Pol Palacio, 28 - Emil Sarmiento.

June: 4 - Onyok Revilla, 11 - Ric Pasamba, 14 - Chuck Chiaco, 17 - Jess Lomeda, 17 - Del Lorenzo, 20 - Roque Ramirez, 22 - Dante Talino, 25 - Gil Meneses.



Identify whose size is S, M, L, XLhehehe. Btw, in our not so busy days, Gil, Dante and Jeff organized a small group to render service as property consultants. Dante is an experienced and licensed real estate broker and Gil, an exceptionally brilliant and methodical lawyer. NickBart, our well-rounded and astute business consultant.



George after getting his 2nd dose of vaccination



It's Summer time once again and this is the second time we will spend it in pandemic/quarantine conditions. But we are still grateful that we have surpassed the challenges that came our way during these trying times.

Grateful also because we were able to celebrate our 40th Graduation Day Anniversary in simple but meaningful fellowship with Mistahs, the Manlulupigs and a few brats, in attendance. This was held last March 14, in the open areas of Riviera Clubhouse. With the help of Cav Norman L, we were able to reserve

the venue for this activity. Of course, strict health protocols were observed in compliance to regulations, but more importantly, for safety of everyone, since most if not all already belong to the vulnerable sector (Senior Citizens).

The Celebration was divided in two parts. The first part was the Golf Fellowship in the morning, with 34 players (10 flights) in the Couples and Langer Courses at the Riviera Golf and Country Club. While the non-golfers had their breakfast gathering at the Clubhouse, followed by a lecture/presentation by Dra Des Dolojan on COVID 19- related topics which include, its symptoms, treatment protocols, availability and effectiveness of vaccines, and others. Mistahs who cannot attend physically, specially those who are based abroad, also had their chance to view and participate in the activities virtually, via Zoom.

The second part was the lunch fellowship, awarding of prizes of the golf winners, and raffle. The program proper started with a thanksgiving prayer led by Cav/Pastor Richard L, followed by the remarks by our Class Prez Cav Alan L. He expressed his congratulations to the members of the Class for having reached this 40th Anniversary milestone. He also extended his appreciation to those who helped in the preparation for this activity despite some quarantine concerns. After lunch, Trivia games were added to the program to make the event more lively and participative. Winners were also given special prizes.

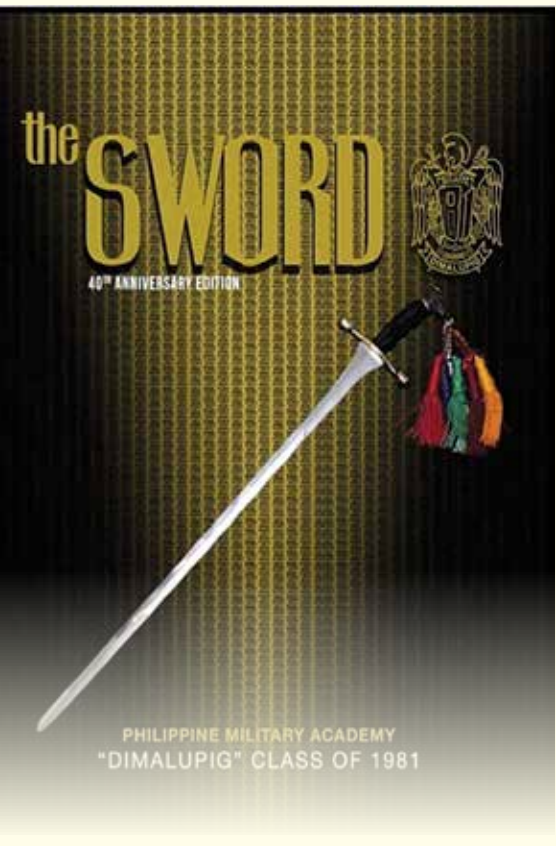
This was followed by the awarding of the Golf fellowship tournament. The winner of the Team Competition is the PAF Group followed by the runner-up, the PNP Group. The Lowest Gross Champion is Cav Don M. Individual trophies courtesy of

Cav Dong D were also given to other top players in their respective categories. We also took this opportunity to acknowledge the birthday celebrants for the 1st Quarter, who were given individual cup cakes with candles to blow, courtesy of Kim Lagrana.

The event was culminated by numerous photo-ops and the singing of the PMA Alma Mater Song. Everyone was truly thankful for being able to meet and have fellowship after a long while. We would like to announce that the Class Sword 40th Anniversary Edition is in its final phase of completion. To the editors, writers, members of the Sword Committee and those who contributed to the conceptualization up to the printing of this book, our most profound gratitude.

Likewise, we would like to thank the donors of the raffle prizes and give-aways for their support to this Anniversary celebration. Much appreciation also to those who oversaw the preparations, coordination and execution of this much awaited activity. We hope and pray that we could celebrate another one in a more grand fashion in the future (after the pandemic). In the meantime, let us all get vaccinated for extra protection, and let us continue to pray for one another so that everyone will be safe from this pandemic.

Again, Happy 40th Anniversary to the Dimalupig Family!





As the pandemic continue to ravage the country, the class, through the graces of God, tried to do its best to stay strong and committed to doing what is best and right. In this quest, our indomitable spirit continues to shine on.

But before we can do anything to help the others, we have to first embellish our coffers. To make this possible, we embarked on fund raising initiatives to fill it up and ensure that it would be far from dwindled. Despite the challenges brought about by the limitations of the health protocols, we were able to muster an enviable assembly of the right ingredients for a very successful raffle. By strange quirk of fate and unmentionable display of generosity by one of our Mistah, one of these events gained the moniker “the Accent Raffle Saga”: Owing to the type and model of the car up for grab [a Hyundai Accent] and the unfolding of events that made it a story comparable to Odysseus’ quest for the golden fleece. Suffice it to say that we have taken a double shot for the value of the car as we subject it to a raffle twice. Long and Short of the Story, we laughed our way to the bank and our distinctly lucky classmate, Rolly Asuncion added another piece of metal in his garage to polish.

As we gathered the much-needed financial steam, we then ensured that all members of the class will be amply supported when unexpected events



harm our ranks. Albeit only to the extent modestly possible in terms of financial support, we make sure that we cover all classmates with a policy that ensures compensation in the event of loss of life or limbs through a Special Group Term Insurance with AFPMBAI. The coverage is sizeable enough to answer for the essentials and very reasonable in terms of cost. Relatedly, we also launched a campaign for all our class members to be in good standing with the PMAAAI. This didn’t escape the attention of the Association officials and caused them to decide to grant a lifetimepay discount across the board which most members of the Association are now availing. Save for a few with some specific issues, we have attained an almost perfect roster and have grounded the number to a single digit to date.

Having fended our domestic concerns, we then ventured on the most of what we can do to the proverbial least, the last and the lost in the middle of the COVID 19 scourge. Admittedly, it’s a challenge to be generous in the ocean of unaddressed needs. As we started shifting our gaze to the needy, we were transfixed by the overwhelming tasks we have voluntarily set before us. The massive dispossession, dislocation and the lack of opportunity have redefined what we originally conceived to be enough to share... We had to take a higher moral ground to do what we just can. Phrases like “it’s not about what we can do to all humanity that counts but what we can do to a particular human...” and that “some may call our efforts futile, but we have to do what’s good anyway” resonated in all of us as we pursued our humanitarian efforts.



We turned over to the Joint Task Force NCR assorted goodies amounting to almost P400K as our modest share to its community pantry project.



Turnover of 305 bags of ten-kilo premium rice to the VABGC for distribution to caddies tee boys/girls and maintenance personnel of the club.

We were tentative at first to include it here in our portion lest we might be construed of parading our kindness which is the least of our intention. But after some hearty dialogues among the movers, we thought it best to share so we may encourage others to do the same.

In addition to these, we have done similar gratuities to the Philippine Navy Golf Club targetting the same recipients with 1000 cans of Mega Sadines, 1000 sachets of noodles and 30 sacks of premium rice. Similarly, the same token was also extended to the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club where we gave P83k and 40kg 10 sacks of premium rice.

Yes, they may be modest to the standards of some but from the meager resource that we have it can be likened to giving our all. This did not pass unnoticed by providence. With our efforts, we stood to reap some blessings. There are innumerable events to express our gratitude for, but among those that were officiated were: Our gaining the Overall Championship Award in the Retired Cavaliers Fellowship Golf (the sizeable financial gain may not have to be mentioned to keep the spirit of humility) with some of the players featured in the individual categories, Alex Ignacio for the lowest net, Dennis Canoy as the overall Class A Champion and Tom Bañas as the runner up; in deference to the performance of the other class that defies the excellence of world golf events, we manage to get the 2nd runner up in the Games of the Cavaliers; our



Turnover of P37K cash donation to the Kagitingan Golf Club to benefit the caddies, tee boys/girls and maintenance pers of the club.



Donation of 65" Sony Bravia Smart TV to our namesake 83rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army.

successful effort in getting one of our long-standing Mistah to finally be sworn in as an associate member of the PMAAAI [pa boodle fight ka naman maski through grab]; and, finally the garnering of his fourth Outstanding Cavalier Award (a record in terms of number received) of our very own Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, Eduardo Año. Indeed, there are so many reasons to be thankful as we look back to the period that just passed. The future continues to be just a vision for us, aware that there will be challenges that await, but we look forward to the rewards, expectant that with the Matikas Way we shall continue to chart on with our distinct glorious cadence.





SALVADOR MB MISON JR
President
FRANCIS B ALAURIN
Secretary

On the Road to the Championship
Cav Gerry P Amante

"What does it take to become an expert or master performer in a given field? 10,000 hours of practice."

Although this rule of thumb popularized by Malcom Gladwell in his bestseller *"Outliers: The Story of Success"* has been debunked by many gurus in businesses or sports, it was the simple guiding strategy of the *Maharlikan* golfers in quest to finally win the much-coveted, highly elusive PMA's Battle of the Classes championship. Held in January, the activity was one of the highlights of this year's PMA Alumni Homecoming. For many years, the *Maharlikan* golfers were in pursuit of this honor, most often frustrated to end as runner ups, mainly attributed to the lack of material time for practice due to the demands of the uniform service. Golf proficiency evaded many *Maharlikan*s, except for a handful few who advanced in the sport while serving as golfing buddies to their seniors and bosses, who gained proficiency of the game even before entering the Academy, or who pursued the sport thru the PMA Cadet Golf Club.

Now all comfortably retired, *Maharlikan*s have more time to re-focus passion and energies to the game. Starting with 24 regular golfers in 2014, the number surged to 56 in 2019, the year the last Class member bowed out of the service. We witnessed a rapid growth in the skills set of our golfers, further enhanced by already-proficient classmates who willingly shared their talent to the budding neophytes.

In March 2019, the Class organized the PMA *Maharlika* Golf Club. It assumed the lead role to manage fellowship games, which are venues to friendly, yet tightly contested games. Addressing the need to enhance competitive golf, the Club later added inter-battalion tournaments, whose

Battle of the Cavaliers

PNGC and VAGC - 22 and 27 January 2021

Ron Santos
Ding Ferrera
Joel Pagdilao
Pat Morales

Ernie Lopena
Mike Perez
Ronnie Estilles
Gene Cerbo



Manny Prieto
Jerry Alfante
Jiri Amante
Elmer Quiros

Lito Domingo
Yaweh Monilla
Noli Taliño
Bob Aliggayu

Philippine Military Academy

Maharlika Class of 1984

Overall Team Champion

Maharlika Golf Club Officers

Joel Cantos Pres/F Rep	Noli Taliño VP/B Rep	Reddy Diaz Sec/D Rep	Mar Constante Treas/A Rep	Dino Diño Aud/E Rep
Corny Barrios Charlie Rep	Noel Albano Charlie Rep	Ernie Lopena Golf Rep	Bob Villanueva Golf Rep	Jojo Gentiles Hawk Rep

Battle of the Cavaliers

Villamor Airbase Golf Course - 27 January 2021



At times you may feel like David fighting Goliath but remember ...

David did win!

first legs were held in public/military courses of Metro Manila. The succeeding tournaments were held in private courses outside Metro Manila. The Club measured its continuing success by extending invitation to other *Maharlikan* golfers from the country's other geographical regions of Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, who had to play simultaneously with the main group in Metro Manila where the tournaments were actually taking place. Never outdone are the foreign-based golf enthusiasts who played in Taiwan and Continental USA. They remain actively involved in Class activities.

The Company's bragging rights evidently surfaced in these monthly tournaments, and were the primary motivation for most *Maharlikan*s to elevate their games. During these extraordinary times when quarantine measures are enforced, *Maharlikan*s always find a way to hone their golfing skills – virtually, in real golf courses or even tele-conferencing. With more exposures to daily practices and Class-initiated tournaments, *Maharlikan* golfers have seen tremendous improvement in their handicaps. These tournaments also provided the venue to select the members of the "Dream Team" who would banner the PMA *Maharlika* Class of 1984 to future competitions.

We also have quite a number *Maharlikan*s who made it to the exclusive Hole-In-One Club, and the list just keeps getting longer.

Finally, the *Maharlika* Golfers won the Overall Championship in the Battle of the Classes Golf Tournament, besting the perennial champions - the *Dimalupig* Class of 1981 the *Matikas* Class of 1983, and the rising stars of *Tanglaw-Diwa* Class of 1992 and *Madarangan* Class of 2003.

We look forward to more conquests of PMA's golfing greats in the coming years. In the meantime, we continue to pray that the Lord will "...make our play of every game, whether in mere sports or in life's mightier struggles, where our desire to win is second only to the love of the game itself" - GOLF.



Battle of the Cavaliers

Villamor Airbase Golf Course - 27 January 2021



Team Maharlika

**All for one and one for all.
United we stand, divided we fall.**



01 February 2021
Maharlikan's Onward!

TEAM AT INDIVIDUAL AWARDS NG BATTLE OF THE CAVALIERS, HINAKOT NG MAHARLIKANS

Bukod sa pagiging Overall Champion ng Team Maharlika, halos ubusin din ng grupo ang mga individual awards. Sa unang ulat, Overall Champion si Ron Santos at Champion ng Group C (Classes 81-86) naman si Manny Prieto. Sa follow-up na balita, nakuha rin pala ni Ernie Lopena at Pat Morales ang 3rd at 5th Place nang nasabing category.

Matatandaang nakuha din natin ang pinakamataas at ikatlong award sa guest division, Ding Ferrera at Jerry Alfante. Hindi pa nakutento sa trophies, si Reddy Diaz, nanalo pa ng raffle. When it rains, it pours bwa ha ha ha.

Proud to be
MAHARLIKAN



JOSE CHIQUITO M MALAYO
President
RODOLFO S AZURIN JR
Secretary

For this issue, we will focus on the updates of our Army Group who has produced five Division Commanders, namely: Juvymax Uy, 6ID; Jun Torres, 10ID; William Gonzales, 11ID; Efren Baluyot, Armor Division; and Greg Almerol as Commander, 2ID who has since relinquished his position to become the Commander, Eastern Mindanao Command.

We likewise have produced five Assistant Division Commanders with Bagnus Gaerlan at 1ID; Joey Narciso, 6ID; Wibo Mamawag, 8ID; and Don Bajao at 9ID. Manny Sequitin has since moved from ADC, 11ID to lead the CRSAFP.

Lincoln Tagle is still the Commander of Special Forces Regiment; while Mao Licudine, Camilo Ligayo and Lowell Tan are Brigade Commanders of 402Bde, 801Bde and 803Bde, respectively. Nono Plaza is the Deputy Commander of ARESKOM while Mel Recaido is the Commander, 7RCDG based in Cebu.

Quite unique is the present status of Bayani Fernandez as a Major in the Australian Army with the position of SO2 INFRA, HQ 2 DIV tasked as Support to JTF COVID 19.

Back in HPA, Rowen Tolentino is still the Chief-of-Staff, PA; Ramil Bitong is the Commander, Installation Management Command (IMCOM) until 07 June 2021, his retirement day; Marvin Licudine is the Army Adjutant; Bong Doctolero is the Chief,



Cav Jun Torres receiving the Cavalier Award for Command and Administration during the Alumni Homecoming 2021.

Governance and Strategy Management Office (GSMO), IMCOM; and Rod Batang is the Deputy Chief of IG,PA.

At GHQ, Alex Luna is the J2 (Intelligence); while Omet Brawner is the chief of the newly-organized J10 (Financial Management). Others at GHQ are Ariel Felicidadario as Chief, AFP Peace and Development Office; and George Lalaquil as the Commander, GHQ and HSC or fondly known as Camp Aguinaldo Governor.

John Oberio has already retired from the service on 29 March 2021 as the Deputy Chief, ISAFP; Nick Suemith is the CS, CEISSAFP; while Joshua Santiago is still the Deputy Commander of JTF-NCR.

Those who are enjoying their early retirement in-country are Francis Baldazo, Danbar Barotilla, Ace Esmeralda, Bernie Langub, Eman Magpayo, Tom Sedano, Joji Raymundo, Mike Taningco, Roger Migote

and Alex Tuprio. While Kiram Grajo is making tremendous progress in golf.

Other retirees in-country are Alan Cordova, the Vice Mayor of Dumaguete City; Rick Bayhon, General Manager and Security Consultant, Armor Guard Negros Security Agency (AGNSA) which has a nationwide coverage; Dan Olay is the Head Security Management of DMCI and concurrently the Commander, 1305RRIBN, NCRCDG, ARESKOM; Nick Pongos left PAL as a pilot and is now the Director of Multi-Air, Inc; and Leo Ramoran is the SVP, Innovative Vantage Finance Corporation. Their company provides financial assistance to SSS and AFP Pensioners and also assists them in building their home with the latest technology using cold formed steel.

Those who decided to retire abroad include Leo Asuncion and Ricky Carlos in Australia; Emil De Leon and Jess Rosete in



Makatao Fellowship and Christmas Party hosted by Cav Greg Almerol at the Makatao Lounge in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal on 27 December 2020.

Canada; Mon Tampil in Ireland; and Alan Borlasa and Bookie Oandasan in the US.

The honorary members of the group are likewise doing very well in their respective field with Pacoy Ortega as Governor of La Union, supported by Rolly Rulloda as the PDRRMO; Jun Morales is with AXA; Medel Raquel, Arnel de Guzman, Ram Catadman and Jojo Solomon show up in class activities and fellowship every once in a while.

Gov Pacoy and Rolly wish to inform the class that the Makatao Lounge is ready to entertain us in our next visit to La Union.

Thirty-two years really flew very fast...not too long from now the "last man standing"

among us would finally bow out of the active service. By then we will all be joining the retired rank, the civilian sector. In preparation for that, Ramil, Rowen, Jun T, together with Ariel C and Conner, made the bold decision to take-up the Motorcycle Riding Course conducted by the PNP-HPG where Rowen stood out as the Best Rider. Congratulations! Ride safe always!

Congratulations likewise to Jun Torres for being recognized as the Cavalier Awardee for Command and Administration during the PMA Alumni Homecoming 2021.

And finally, our salute to John Oberio

and Rex Dela Rosa who recently retired silently from more than three decades of exemplary service to our country. The class officers organized a simple yet very meaningful ceremony to recognize and honor them. Hoping that the pandemic will be over soon, so that we can render the usual honors for retiring mistahs and give due recognition to their families, too.

For now, let us all stay strong and healthy as we pray and await for the moment when we can be altogether again to celebrate physically each other's wonderful company...maybe for the Alumni Homecoming 2022.



As part of the effort of the SAMBISIG APMA Class of 1991 to give back to the service a sense of Social Responsibility, the class donated a room enhancement at the AFP Education, Training and Doctrines Command of a model Seminar Room to be

used by Officers undergoing the Command and Staff Course. The model seminar room would enable student to experience the use of modern technology found in a world class classroom that tend to increase their learning skills.

The blessings and ribbon cutting event was led by the Vice Chief of Staff AFP Vice Admiral Gaudencio Collado and Commander AFPETDC Rear Admiral Bordado with Class 91 President Boy Peralta.





JOSE MELENCIO C NARTATEZ JR
 President
BERNARD M BANAC
 Secretary

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.
2 Corinthians 4:17 KJV

The Philippine Military Academy Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992 Association Incorporated elected Cav Jose Melencio C Nartatez Jr, as the new Class President.

Elected to other positions were: Leo Francisco, Vice President; Bernie Banac, Secretary; Jonnel Estomo, Treasurer; Wes Obinque, Auditor; Ronald Lee, P.R.O.; Eric Noble, Asst. P.R.O.; and Mario Reyes, as Business Manager. Likewise, elected as branch of service representatives were: Seig Tubalado – PA; Tony Francisco Jr – PAF; Jojo Ramos – PCG; Dodz Albalate – PN; and Uly Cruz – PNP.

As the country continues to battle the pandemic due to Corona Virus (COVID-19), the Tanglaw-Diwa Association Inc., resolved to grant financial support to its members who got afflicted with the said virus. The resolution approved by the new Board, provides that members who yielded a positive result of COVID-19 and hospitalized along with other family members who also got infected will be provided with Php30,000. Members who will be found positive and hospitalized due to COVID-19 with no other family members infected will receive financial aid of Php20,000. While members positive with

COVID-19 who are either in Quarantine Facilities or Isolation Facilities will be given an amount of Php5,000.

Stars will soon fall on the shoulders of our PA mistahs as they have been installed to the following key posts: Pete Balisi-Commander, 1st Mech Bde; Rey “Jack Baron” Alemania - Commander, 2nd Mech Bde; Aldwine Almase - Commander, 903rd Inf Bde; Eugene Boquio - Commander, 1103 Inf Bde; and Demar Pauly - Head, Academics Group, PMA.

As for our PAF mistahs: Tony Francisco Jr - Chief of Command Staff, Air Mobility Command, BGBNEAB, Mactan; Joannis Dimaano - AFIA, PAF/ CJVAB, Pasay City; Fermin M Carangan, SMA to PRRD, PSG; Julian Llorenas, Deputy Wing Commander, 15th Strike Wing, Sanglely Point, Cavite City; Pedro Francisco III - Deputy Commander, Air Defense Command, AFC, Clark, Pampanga and concurrently Chairman, PAFBAC, CJVAB, Pasay City; Edgar Torres, Deputy Wing Commander, 300th Air Intelligence and Security Wing, CJVAB, Pasay City; Erick Escarcha - Chief, AFP Command Center, CGEA; Gerold Gagan - Deputy Wing Commander 410MW, CAB, MC; Malaya Francisco - AC of AS for RRA, A-9, HPAF, VAB, Pasay City; Josel Zuñiga - C, FLD, OJ2, CGEA; Aristotle Gonzalez - Wing Commander, Tactical Operations Wing Northern Luzon, AFC, Clark Air Base; Jeffrey Vilela - Wing Commander, Tactical Operations Wing Eastern Mindanao, Davao Air Station, Old Airport, Brgy Sasa, Davao City; Pablo Rustria Jr - Wing Commander, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, CJVAB, Pasay City; Bien Casaclang - Wing Commander, 220th Airlift Wing, BGBNEAB, Mactan; and Rommel Roldan - Deputy Commander, Air Logistics

Command, AFC, Clark Air Base, Pampanga. By the way, for mistahs planning to visit El Nido, Palawan, give Wawee Peñamante a holler and he would be more than willing to tour you around as he is the Head of Operations, INAEC Aviation Corporation.

TD 1992 Cavaliers in the Coast Guard service continue to ascend to the top echelon of the PCG Command. Recently designated to Three-star (Vice Admiral) positions are Art Abu as Commander, Maritime Safety and Services Command and Doy Punzalan as Commander, Marine Environmental Protection Command. Doy is also the Commander, PCG TF BROF vice Jojo Ramos. Cris Villacorte remains as the Coast Guard Inspector General. Cris is currently taking up International Officers Leadership and Ethics Course at NETSAFA International Training Center, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, USA. Designated to two-star (Rear Admiral) positions are Jojo Ramos as Commander, Human Resources Management Command and Rudyard Somera as Director, Coast Guard Strategic Studies and Internal Affairs Center. Mon Lopez is the very competent Deputy Commander, Human Resources Management Command and Jov Fabul serves as the Commander, Coast Guard Finance Service. He also is also designated as the Chairman of the PCG Oversight Committee overseeing the robust and genuine reforms of PCG Logistics and Finance Systems. Not in the active PCG service: Toti Borja is a consultant to Oceana, Jun Gilbang works as a Senior Security Officer, Pollard Banknote Limited in Canada and Jing Baldonado is an IICU RN at Stanford Hospital in the USA.

As for our Sailors and Marines in the PN: Dodz Albalate PN - Deputy Commander for


Marine Opns, NFWM; Greg Hernandez Jr - Deputy Brigade Commander, 4th Marine Brigade; Dado Caluya - Commander, Naval Logistics Center; Buddy Lavapie Jr - Deputy Commander, Naval Forces Southern Luzon; Lem Espartinez - Deputy Commander for Fleet Operations, Fleet Marine Ready Force; Lloyd Casis - JC9, AFPETDC; Mac Raul Racacho - Deputy Commander, NSSC; Franc Tagamolila Jr - Deputy Commander for Fleet Operations, NFW; Rey Lopez - MNSA student; Tony "Chuck" Mangoroban Jr - Deputy Commander for Marine Operations, NFW; Eric Macaambac - Marine Corps Inspector General; Bimbo Quemado - Commander, Coastal Defense Regiment;

Joe Orbe - Commander, Offshore Combat Force, Philippine Fleet; Bronx Gabor - Chief Mobilization and Utilization Division, OJ9; Rhid Gonzaga - Fleet Inspector General; Bimbo Quemado II - Commander, Coastal Defense Regiment; and Alan Javier - Deputy Commander for Fleet Opns/CNTF 61, NFWM.

Meanwhile for our PNP mistahs, TD92 is celebrating another milestone as one of its members was recently designated to lead the entire Bicol Region. The class congratulates Jonnel Estomo for having been designated as the new Regional Director, PRO 5 following the designation of Ronald Lee as RD, PRO-COR. The PNP

group also produced 3 more star-rank officers in the first quarter of 2021 with Uly Cruz on January 5, 2021, Maeng Yu on January 15, 2021, and Wes Obinque completing the line-up of 18 PBGen on March 2, 2021.

Mga mistah, let us pray matapos na ang pandemic as we are all excited to see each other again at the Borromeo Field on our 30th Homecoming next year. In the meantime, let us all stay safe, strong, and truly free! May God bless and protect us all!

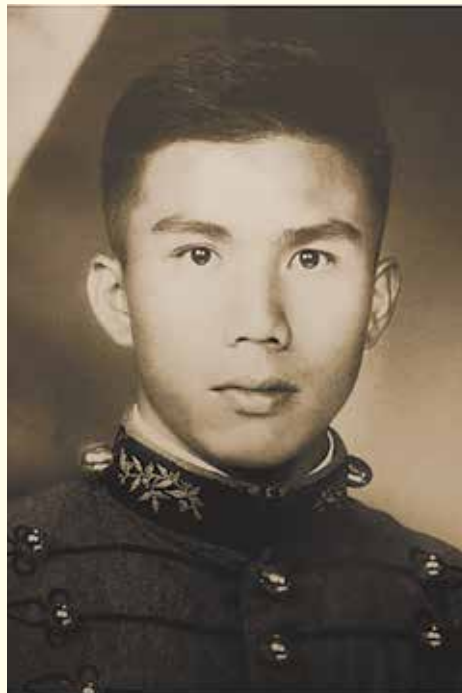
Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992...GOD first. /CGA'92 



The emergence of new variants to SARS-Cov-2, which forced Filipinos to stay mostly at home, has inadvertently given MAALABs the chance to fully reflect, among other things, about the topics to be written in their Class Call. Endless discussions from the chat groups led to the synthesis that there ought to be a more deliberate - MAALAB - way of arranging 900 well-chosen words so that the whole would always be equal to the sum of its parts.

Proud MAALAB Ako! With the Araw Ng Kagitingan still in our minds, every Class call will henceforth feature a MAALAB Hero who has offered the ultimate sacrifice or has made an indelible contribution in the service of this great nation. We begin with our first MAALAB Hero, **2LT JUANITO ZAMORA DE VERA JR (INF) PA**. Barely three months into our deployment in the late afternoon of October 23, 1993, our DAVONG as platoon leader of Charlie Coy, 7IB, 3ID received an order to augment an isolated patrol base in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental which intelligence reports identified to be a target of the enemy's tactical offensive. Wasting no time, our DAVONG organized an infantry squad and hastily proceeded to the objective on board a Kennedy type jeep under cover

of darkness. Our DAVONG reckoned that one critical part of the travel was negotiating a meandering river that was to be crossed several times. Little did our DAVONG know that it was already raining hard in the upland areas further north of the patrol base, causing the tributaries to deliver cascading waters downstream. Darkness provided little observation as our DAVONG and his men crossed the river. In an instant the rampaging waters smashed and overturned the vehicle. Our DAVONG and the driver managed to swim to safety but sensing the rest of his squad being swallowed by the currents our DAVONG instinctively went back to try to save his



Lt De Vera

men. It did not take long for the river to claim them. Needless to say, the driver lived to tell the story of our DAVONG's selfless act of sacrifice.

Designations. While emerging developments in the West Philippine Sea have caught the country's imagination, MAALABs have quietly positioned themselves to immediately undertake any mission in support of national policy. **FABIE PEDREGOZA** commands the 5th Fighter Wing complemented by **IKE ENRIQUEZ** of the 220th Airlift Wing and **THAD CANDELARIO** as Deputy of TOW WEST. Modestly speaking, it took **ROMMEL CORDOVA**, Topnotcher of CGSC 58 and MNSA RC 55 to fully study the ramifications of the Grey Zone Strategy and how it could be nipped in the bud. Complementarily, **MIKE LOGICO** facilitates the conduct of regular exercises to enhance our knowledge in joint and combined operations and this early, a protagonist's soft underbelly - akin to its COG - has been identified. Of course when push comes to a shove **BOB APOSTOL** as DBC of 3rd Marine Bde will be ready. In the meantime Coast Guard MAALABs provide sufficient deterrence in the country's maritime domain, with **RONNIE GAVAN** (CGWCWIS Command), **CHARLIE RANCES** (CGLS Command), **JUNENRIQUEZ** (CGETD Command), **LOUIE SIBAYAN** (CGDNEM) and **ED YBANEZ** (CGDEL). But the secret sauce to any WPS recipe may be found nautical miles to the east where CUCS **RODNEY INTAL** patiently waits for a miscalculation, before unleashing all that he learned in his CGSC near the Great Wall. Aply checking

on him is **JUN ABAD** who cut his teeth in geopolitics and national security from the only continental, albeit island-nation.

With the ongoing mopping up operations in Luzon and Visayas, MAALABs have practically shifted to Mindanao where Communist Terrorist Groups have also been immobilized and methodically decimated. What used to be CTG sympathizers have seen through the deception and propaganda, quickly shifting their support to the government. Massive Community Support Program operations identified and converted mass base areas into development enclaves where infrastructure as well as other socio-economic projects are being implemented through the NTF-ELCAC. Bereft of popular support, NPA terrorists barely escape from armed clashes with government troops, weakened and wounded, fully realizing that in society governed by the Rule of Law, crime does not pay.

What is more, former EMC U3 **RONNIE BABAC** has assumed as CS,10ID and joins **LENNON JOHN BABILONIA** (CS, 3ID), **JAYSON ALMAGRO** (CS 1ID) and **CHRIS TAMPUS** (CS, 11ID). **LUTZ CARIN** (DBC 1003 Bde) thrives in the enormous responsibility of being a heartbeat away from an O7 destiny, a disposition he shares with fellow DBCs **ALI LUIS MACAWARIS** (603 Bde), **MARIO JACINTO** (1103 Bde), **LEROY DAANTON** (1101Bde) and **GREG NIEVERAS**, (101Bde). **AMBO RUSTIA**, likewise, assumed additional duties as Commander of JTG Kutawato (6ID). Other MAALABS in WESTMINCOM include **CUCS TEX SUDERIO**, IG **JUN MANDANAS** and U6 aka Chief Technology Officer **JIGZ GESOLGON**. Other Army MAALABS in Mindanao and Visayas are **ARSING SADURAL** (IG, EMC), **JUN ESPUELAS** (IG, 4ID), **TONY DULNUAN** (GSMO, 4ID), **MIKE LICAYO** (GSMO, 10ID) and **JOEY ESCANILLAS** (IG, 3ID).

MAALABs are equally ecstatic about the latest designation of **RANNIE SEVILLA** (CS, SOCOM, AFP) **ARTHUR ROMANILLOS** (Army Attache to USA) **VINCE SIBALA** (XO, OJ1, AFP), **MONIB MAMAO** (DIR, CFEDC and GSMO, AFPETDC), **DENCIO IDDOBA** (G4, PA) and **RUDY MAGALLANES** (DEP, AGSMO, PA). Equally important to note **PEDRITO CABIGUIN DULANAS JR** of the Philippine Navy (Marines) earned the distinction of being the first MAALAB to



Retirement of Col Dulanas

ever complete compulsory service in the AFP, punctuated by untold acts of valor, professionalism and patriotism that makes everyone he led in the field of combat strife to ask, "WHEN COMES ANOTHER?" PUBLICATION. We end this Class Call by announcing, with deep sorrow, the

untimely demise of **RONALDO MUJE MACALINTAL** in a vehicular accident and **ROMMEL JOHN ISLETA MENDOZA** on account of SARS-Cov-2. Rest well brothers! We will see each other again when we eventually join the Long Grey Line in Heaven.





TED C CEREZO JR
President
MARISSA LIBRANDO MANGAHAS
Secretary

Greetings and welcome aboard from the PMA Kaakibat Class of 2001! *For I know the plans I have for you, “declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jer 29:11).* As we have celebrated our 20th glorious graduation anniversary this year in the new normal, let us look into the whereabouts of our “D’ Doom” classmates and enjoy their sweet endeavors in their respective field:

Navy Group: Philippine Navy Kaakibat Group is all out to serve the country’s maritime domain. The following are the latest roll call of members: Umbac - Director FORTEG, FTDC-PF; Cerezo - OF3 HPF; Donga - RSPN NPMC; Murito - OJ1 GHQ - UN Contingent; Basco - NTF Against Covid 19 IATC; Valdez - OJ4 GHQ; Marcelo - MFO CEISAFP-GHQ; Tabo - CO MBLT4-PMC; Rimas - CO, MBLT10-PMC; Pola - CO, MBLT2-PMC; Maslan - CO, MBLT5-PMC; Olaso - CO, MBLT7-PMC; Torres - CO 1st PB Div LCF-PF; De Vera - CO, PC390 LCF-PF;



Colita - CO, 3rd Boat Attack Missile Division LCF-PF; Ruiz - CO, LC297 SAF-PF; Lopez - CO, 4th PB LCF-PF; Sandalo - CO, LC289-PF; Pilar - CO, 391 SAF-PF; Parpan - CO, LC288 SAF-PF; Hechanova - FF150 OCF-PF; Ilarde - Ex-O, 1st BA Division LCF-PF; Simeon - C, MARPATCON32, NAW-PF; Coloma IG, NAW-PF; Resuello - C, LUPS31, NAW-PF; Marquez - GC, NASEG 60, NAW-PF; Cayabyab - NLC; Pantaleon - CO, HSU,LCF; Mosuela - SAF-

PF; Bosch - GHQ and HSC; Plaza - PS39 OCF-PF; Tanag - NAVMETOC-PF; Mabbagu - CS, NICTC; Butac – Marinas - NIC; Pane - PSG; Librando - Mangahas - N9; Pre - RSPN NPMC; and for those outside the PN: Timbang - PCG lateral ongoing CGSC; and others in private and public quasi group: Tamba - CPG Property Mngt SM Prime Holdings Inc; Perez - Country Sec Manager of Multinational Supply Chain Co; Elumba - Country Sec Mngr of Global Supply Chain; Fajardo - Pretila- Australia; Rosos - US; Babang - PDEA, while Pontejos Toolkit, Daquilanea - Uncharted Earth Adventure Travel/Amazon and Laborte - Private IT Company.



Air Force Group: The PAF Kaakibat is steadfast on its sworn commitment to serve the AFP and the Filipino people. The following are the updates: Almost all of the PAF Group members are now GSC graduates and are occupying key positions. The last batch are members of CGSC 68 and 69. For CGSC 68 - Cabalquinto, Gador, Parugrug, Dauz-Cadungan, Chan, Buan, Eugenio, Balico, Tolentino; for CGSC 69 - Medroso, and Aguhob; Castro – CGSC Korea; Piquero – ACSC, USA. PAF Active Officers: Hallara – CO, 6th ARCEN (Zamboanga), Baquiran – CO, 4th ARCEN (Palawan); Tabutol – GC, TOG2 (Cauayan); Olave – Cmdt, NCOS (Lipa); Benitez – GC, 450th MSG (Mactan); De Leon – HEA,

CGPAF; Somera – C,RDD, OJ3; Sevilla- GM, GHQ Pro-Fund; Quiming – CO, PAF ALEN (Lipa); Ty – C, JCTD, OJ8; Lacbain – U6, WESCOM; Isla – Blackhawk Pilot, 205th THW; PDEA - Alvarino and Plaza; Grande – DD, TESDA; PAL - Vergara, Marinas, Magluyan; Ret/Resigned (PAF reserves in civilian/business sectors): Hussein, De Guzman, Penaflorida, Caronongan, Vasquez, Carandang, Macarubbo, Fabric, Asis, Anonat-Daniels, Matias, Ariola, Bajesta and Rosete.

Army Group: On Kaakibat ground warriors: Solamo - CO, PE, PSG; Mapalad - CO, PG, PSG; Garcia - C, OFM, PSG; Estolas - 6ID; Baldomar - CO, 6CMO Bn; Desingaño - JSWC, AFPETDC; Villanueva - CGSC CL-69; Cadiente - CO, 33IB, 6ID; Villar - CGSC CL-69; Guillermo - CGSC CL-68; Abdullah - CO, 2FSSU, ASCOM; Calilan - G3, 5ID; Torcelino - SIF, ISAF; Panaligan - CS, AFPCEs; Tabas - CGSC CL-69; Sabado - CGSC CL-69; Ramos OC-CGSC CL-69; Hamlag - CGSC CL-69; Calero - CGSC CL-69; Diasen - CGSC CL-69; Panganiban - CO, SSBn, 3ID, PA; Cahayon - G2, 3ID, PA; Salayo - EX-O, 301Bde, 3ID, PA; Depayso - EX-O, 302Bde, 3ID, PA; Estrada - CO, 12IB, 3ID, PA; Cariño - CO, 15IB, 3ID, PA; Apresto - Aviation Regiment, PA; Domingo - Ex-O, 1Mech Bde, AD, PA; Caranguian - GM PA Prov Fund; Cordero - GSMO/AG3 FSRR, PA; Perlas - CO, 10SBn, ASR; Frivaldo - Cmdt, Tas; Dayata - CO, 4SRB, FSRR, PA; Guda - G3, SFRA; Rugayan - G1, SFRA; Ignacio - G4, SFRA; Caido - CO, 6SFBn; Gernale - CO, 3SFBn; Somar BG - 2SFBn, SFRA; Marvida RC - Ex-O, APMC; Rayman – CGSC-68; Arojo Ndo - H, RDD, SITS, ISAFP; Degay Jr - Ex-O, 803Bde, 8ID; Dalangin - CGSC - 68; Gawiden - CGSC -68; Bautista M. - CGSC-68; Candelaria F - CGSC -68; Encarnacion - CGSC -68; Pulmano - CO, SSBn, 2ID, PA; Ilanga - AU 53EBde, PA (22k); Ramos OC- CGSC Cl -69; Mugot - DG1, 4ID; Reano - G7, 7ID; Vicente - G3, 7ID; Quigao - Cmdt, PKOS AFP PKOC; Antonio - CO,29IB,4ID,PA; Buyuccan - CO, 75IB, 4ID, PA; Barrientos - CO, 4SBn, ASR,PA; Cabunoc - Ex-O, 6RCDG, ARESCOM, PA; Munar - CO, 66IB, 10ID; San Agustin - AFP PKOC – UNMO; Batingga - AFP PKOC – UNMO; Noche - CO, 44IB, 1ID.

Last but not the least, let us also remember our mistahs who have gone before us: ABAYGAR, ANGULUAN, GABRIEL



and FRONDA. Just like what we utter in our Cadet's prayer during our cadetship, which should be enshrined always in our hearts – “May we never fail to measure up

to the ideals of profession we have chosen through life to follow”. Stay safe and healthy KAAKIBATS!

“Kaakibat sa Pag-unlad”

*“Nasa Kabataan ang Pag asa ng Bayan”,
‘yan ang wika ng bayaning si Jose Rizal.*

*Isang katotohanan na hindi maaaring di aksyonan,
Para sa isang bayan, na nag-aasam ng kaayusan.*

*Dalawampung taon ang lumipas na ang PMA Kaakibat Class;
Nagsanay at Nagtapos mula
Mula sa sintang Akademya;*

*Batang Opisyal puno ng Idealismo at handa para sa hamon ng serbisyo;
Bagito kung maituturing ngunit sila ang pipilit sa pag asa ng sinusungkit.*

*Kaakbay at kabalikat yan ang itinuring sa grupong ito na syang
Di wawaglit;*

*Siguradong aalala sa mga maling sistema, bulok na pamamalakad
Na dapat isiwalat;*

*Sulit ang serbisyo siguradong iaalay mula sa Kaakibat na katapatan sa sintang
watawat.*

*Dalawampung taon nang magsimula, para sumubok sa pag-asang ipinunla;
Mga bagitong may dala- binhi ng pagbabago, hindi lamang sa sarili pati na sa serbisyo;
Kaakbay n’yo sa tamang direksyon, kabalikat sa totoong pagbabago;
Kaakibat ng serbisyo sa pagtupad sa wika ni Pepe.*

*Panahon ang humuhubog para sa grupong tutuhog,
Tutuhog sa direksyon ng totoong susukob.
Yayakap at gaganap ng totoong pagbabago,
Pag asa sa bayan sa serbisyo iaalay.*

Likha ni: Vampire ‘01 



REYNALD JV BALANAY
President
NOEL SM MARZAN
Secretary

**PMA CLASS 2003:
LIVING UP TO THEIR CLASS NAME**

Eighteen (18) years after that regal day we have consistently justified the name of being the *Mandirigmang may Karangalan* or "*Mandarangan*" in our respective fields. We, the **PMA MANDARANGAN CLASS OF 2003** reached numerous accomplishments despite the COVID-19 pandemic. We exemplified how to be warriors with honor by extending our hands to implement the guidelines to control the spread of the virus. Efforts, initiatives and creativity are the key movements that helped our class or as individuals conduct COVID-19 initiative/activity to dedicate a portion of our livelihood for the destitute/ donations to frontliners alike. This, however, does not

only demonstrate a warrior of honor but a deliverer of hope.

Current designations coupled with vital responsibilities are but manifestations of our silent yet excellent service both outside and inside the Armed Forces.

In the Army, LTC MABBORANG and LTC MARIANO are current Battalion Commanders and LTC DE GUIA and LTC DEMAFELIX are in acting capacity as Battalion Commanders as well.

In the navy, Seadogs presently Commanding Officers of Navy vessels are CDR MA-AO (PC383), CDR PARAS (PC392), CDR BASILIO (LC290), CDR BINALLA (PC380) and CDR GUEVARRA (PC393). They are deployed in the vast waters of the archipelago.

In the Air Force, LTC OMBAO and LTC MALANO are Group Commanders. Also, LTC AMORA as acting Chief, AFCC and LTC ACOSTA as Ex-A CAS.

On a lighter side, despite the overwhelming demands from our work, the class allots ample time for team-building activities. We see to it that our class would have time to play the gentleman's game of golf. The catching up and the close interpersonal communication that one gets

from every game is incomparable to any other sports. Just like how golfers stick to their flight mates through the eighteen holes in the fairway, the mistahs from *Mandarangan* stuck with each through life's ups and downs. This is a simple analogy of how we worked hand-in-hand as we climb up the ladders of our respective careers.

We succeeded as mistah's, thicker than blood, heavier than any medal and deeper than any commendation. Nevertheless, we proudly congratulate all the promotees this year, the Army group promoted to Lieutenant Colonels!

Let us also not forget to acknowledge the class achievers in the field of academics. Some of our mistahs are undergoing MNSA and CGSC schooling, locally and abroad.

Today, we continue our journey with each other's shoulder. Encouraged by the years of commendable hardship, the organization looks up to us for 18 more years of vivid and laudable service, not just for the AFP, but for our countrymen. Surely, the Alma Matter is hailing for her sons and daughters who have unfailingly flaunted how it is to lead with **Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.**



LAST CALL... from IBC

pulmonary arrest at the Manila Doctors Hospital. Wake and necrological service were held at the Phil. Coast Guard Chapel from 2-3 April and he was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City on 4 April. He left behind his wife Maita with whom he has three children, Mayumi, Vinzon and Rafaelo Allen.

COL HERCULES T GALON '66
22 April 1940 - 03 April 2021

Cav Galon passed away after a lingering illness at the Lung Center on 03 April. The necrological service was held last 03 April at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Inurnment was held the next day at St. Michael's Chapel, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. His last position held with the AFP was as the Adjutant General. He was survived by his wife Margie, children: Hedda Marie, Hazel Marie and Jude Hercules.



CPT RONALDO M MACALINTAL '93
26 August 1969 - 02 April 2021

Cav Macalintal passed away on 02 April of acute myocardial infarction. Wake was

at La Bien Funeral Homes, Cavite and finally laid to his resting place on 6 April at Silangan Memorial Garden, Bacoor, Cavite. He left behind his wife Ednaly with whom he has five children: Jhon Royce, Cyril Anthony, Ronaldo, Allynna Nicole and Alliah Cassandra. His last position held in AFP was as S3, 59IB, 2ID, PA.



BGEN CIRIACO S RECONQUISTA '60
13 October 1935 - 17 April 2021

Cav Reconquista died of cardiac arrest on 17 April 2021 at their residence in Alabang, Muntinlupa. His last position held in the AFP was as Commander of the PAF 570th Composite/ Tactical Wing in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. He left behind his children: Ricardo and wife Genelle, Commo Aaron and wife, Mary Paz; and Gladys and husband Jay. Wake was held at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat Paranaque from 17-22 April 2021 and burial at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City on 22 April 2021.



CAPT ROMMEL JOHN I MENDOZA PN '93
14 October 1965 – 2 May 2021

Retired Navy Captain Mendoza died of acute myocardial infarction on 2 May 2021. Wake and necrological service were held at NBC Mortuary, BNS, Fort Bonifacio on May 4-8, 2021 and finally laid to his resting place at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on May 9. He is survived by his wife Melchisedeck and children, Jesus Sebastian and Gelo. Cav Mendoza was a Director II of MARINA Regional Office, Tacloban City, Leyte at the time of his passing.



BGEN FLORENCIO F MAGSINO (USMA) '51

16 November 1926 - 3 May 2021

Cav Magsino USMA '51 passed away on 3 May at the age of 94. He was the oldest surviving Filipino West Pointer. A soldier-scholar, he has served as Superintendent, PMA and President, NDCP. He was married to Caridad with whom he has two children: Marirose and Loudette.



*“Be strong and courageous,
for the Lord will be with you
wherever you go.”*

LAST CALL

2LT MARK ANTHONY L CAABAY '18

12 September 1996 - 16 January 2021

Cav Caabay was one of the fatalities in the helicopter crash in Brgy. Bulonay, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon on 16 January 2021. Wakes were held on: 17 January 2021 at the BGBNEAB, Cebu City; 18-20 January 2021 in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; and 20-24 January 2021 in San Jose, Roxas, Palawan. He was laid to rest on 25 January at the San Jose Cemetery, San Jose, Roxas, Palawan. He left behind his wife, Krischelle.



COL CLARO JRG UNSON '89

20 August 1964 – 26 January 2021

Former Deputy Head of Dean of Academics, PMA, Col Unson '89 passed away on 26 January 2021 of cardiac arrest at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center. He left behind his loving wife, Liberty and son, John Carlo. Wake and necrological service were held on 18 and 19 February at the Libingan ng mga Bayani mortuary. Burial was at LNMB on 20 February.



PLTGEN ROMEO O ODI '67

28 September 1938 – 28 January 2021

On 28 January 2021, Cav Odi passed away in the ICU of a hospital in Metro Manila. Because of the pandemic, the wake and memorial services were done virtually. He is married to former Merle Dela Cruz with whom he had four children: Tygran, Raisa, Alexandra and Katrina. After retirement, Cav Odi served as director of the National Power Corp. and United Coconut Planters Bank. He was also Chairman of the Board of the Maguindanao Skycable in Cotabato City.



CPT WODROOW P SAGADRACA

2010

06 May 1987 - 29 January 2021

Cav Sagadraca, a member of PMA Class 2010, passed away on 29 January 2021 at the Victoriano Luna Hospital, Diliman, Quezon City due to hospital acquired pneumonia. Wake was held at their residence in Brgy Consuelo, Floridablanca, Pampanga from 29 January to 1 February 2021. He was finally laid to rest on 02 February at the Eternal Covenant Memorial, San Jose, Floridablanca, Pampanga. He was the Executive Officer, Aerodrome Operations Squadron, 5th Fighter Wing PAF at the time of his passing.



He left behind his parents: LtCol Elmer C Sagadraca (Ret), Mrs Aida P Sagadraca, and siblings: Cpt Mayleen Sagadraca-Salvadora (CE) PA, Elmer P Sagadraca Jr., and Margie Rose P Sagadraca.

MGEN ROMULO M BAMBAYO '79

21 January 1957 - 31 January 2021

Cav Bambayo, former Commanding General of SOCOM, passed away on 31 January 2021 at Lorma Medical Center, San Fernando, La Union. Wake was at Acao Residence, Bauang, La Union from 31 January to 6 February. Cav Bambayo was buried at Taberna Cemetery, Bauang, La Union on 4 January. He is survived by his wife, Dr Roveleine Veluz Bambayo; daughter, Regine Angela and son, Michael Adrian.



PBGEN RODOLFO J GARCIA '69

13 January 1944 – 11 February 2021

Cav Garcia succumbed to the dreaded disease after a long off-and-on bout with it. His PMA mistakes managed to pay their last



homage to Cav Garcia, this was conducted through a virtual memorial service with short eulogies. A retired PBrig and former Dept. of Transportation MRT Line 3 General Manager, Cav Garcia has three children with his wife Lilia Lasam Garcia: Monica, Alvin and Rodolfo Jay.

CAPT GILBERT G VILLAREAL '98

22 September 1975 – 21 February 2021

Cav Villareal passed away on 21 February 2021 of Myocardial Infarction at the Marikina Valley Medical Center. His sudden death left behind his wife, Paulin Donna and children: Shania, Selina and Sophia. Necrological services were held at the BNS Mortuary and burial on 26 February at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Cav Villareal was the Deputy Commander of NISF at the time of his passing. He was also a recipient of the PMAAAI Cavalier Award for Naval Operation in 2019.



RADM ANTONIO E SIBAYAN '63

7 February 1942 – 11 March 2021

Cav Sibayan celebrated his birthday on 7 February, sadly a month later, on 11 March he passed away in his residence at Quezon City. He is married to Norma, whom he had three children: Sonny, Joseph and Ampy Sibayan-Coronel. Wake was at St. Peter, Commonwealth Ave Q.C. from 15-16 March and burial on 17 March at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.




CAPT ALLEN T TORIBIO '90 PCG

19 January 1967 - 31 March 2021

Cav Toribio, former Commander of the Marine Environmental Protection Command, passed away on 31 March 2021 of cardio-



Continued on page 80 




Independence Day Message

This year, we commemorate the country's 123rd Independence Anniversary. We pay tribute to those who dreamt and fought and strove to provide the freedom that we enjoy today. We remember that at one point in our country's history, our ability to pursue our collective dreams and aspirations, and our inherent right to chart our own path as a nation, was almost taken away from us. But most of all, we honor the Filipino people's defiance against those who threatened our liberty.

But history have also taught us that freedom comes in many forms and can be threatened in as many ways. Everyday, scores of fellow Filipinos are prevented from pursuing their dreams and aspirations. Poverty, illiteracy, sickness and injustices have held our fellow countrymen back from becoming who they can be. Pockets of our society are still bound by these chains. And much like the Philippines of 123 years ago, our time at present calls on our people's defiance against these threats.

The PMAAAI enjoins every Filipino to keep the same spirit of defiance as we celebrate our Independence Anniversary. To uphold, not only our own freedom, but more importantly, the rights of those who are weak. To continue dreaming and fighting and striving for a country where all are free to become who they can be. To recognize that true Freedom and Independence is sought, fought and won everyday.


CAV AMADO T ESPINO, JR '72
Chairman, PMAAAI