



The **CAVALIER**

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

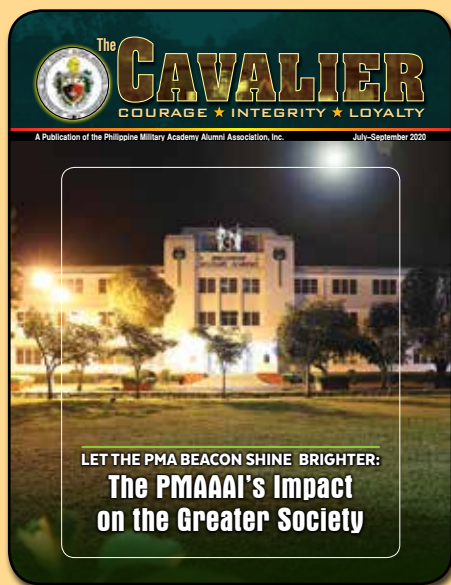
A Publication of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

July–September 2020



**LET THE PMA BEACON SHINE BRIGHTER:
The PMAAAI's Impact
on the Greater Society**

ABOUT THE COVER



The present chairman of the PMAAAI, Cav Edgar B Aglipay '71, exhorts all Cavaliers to give their best in their present vocations, to be mindful of their actions, to have a high regard for fellow alumni, to keep away from troubles, to be role models in their respective communities and to have considerable impact in nation-building, among others, in order for the PMA beacon shine brighter.

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The CAVALIER

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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.

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

Some articles have been edited to meet space requirements.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV EDGAR B AGLIPAY '71

Let the PMA Beacon Shine Brighter

In the last issue of the Cavalier, I wrote about PMAYers who successfully led our country's efforts in ending the Marawi siege and those now at the forefront of our continuing fight against the pandemic. I also wrote about the thrusts of the PMAAAI for the next five years bundled by the acronym PLEAD. My maiden piece for this column was intended to rekindle the ideals of our institution, the PMA and I hope I was able to achieve this purpose.

My peers at the University of the Philippines and the Ateneo College of Law defer to the PMA as a potent source of leaders. After it warmed my heart, the accolade drove me even higher in meeting their expectations especially the impact of our core competencies, security and safety, in nation-building.

We, the present and incoming leaders of our Association face formidable challenges in keeping the Beacon aflame even perhaps raise the notch a little higher. Our mission to **Preserve the PMA values, Lead in living the ideals, Engage our members, Allot our resources to PMAAAI Affiliate Organizations, and Deepen the commitment of the members, PLEAD**, is meant precisely to warm us up.

I surmise that all Association officers, be they class or chapter presidents or committee chairmen have a firm grasp of their assigned responsibilities and the need to accomplish them. They can only be selfless persons to take on these thankless jobs but almost all will never pass the opportunity, nay a bounden duty, to serve his Alma Mater.

A PMA Class President once came up to me for advice. He could no longer take the insensitive comments, sometimes bordering on insults, for the work he was doing for his class. This was the advice I gave him: *"Do not be disturbed by the adverse comments you are getting from a few. What is important is that you are well-meaning, doing your best for the larger majority of your Class. As to your problem: one – you do not know where those people are coming from, as they might be drunk, had an argument with their wives or are sick and are just fending off their frustrations; two – be aware also of your biases as you may be the one who has the problem, so make an assessment first of the situation from both sides before you take any action; and third – the prudent thing to do is to forgive the person so in this way you will not create enemies but maintain friends."* In short, I said, do not be judgmental and learn to forgive.

I urge all PMAYers - leaders in their own rights, that our Association made of people imperfect as they are, to strive and keep away from thorny situations and give our best in our present vocations and be keenly mindful of our behavior because people look up to us. We must continue to **"Let the PMA Beacon Shine Brighter"** so that more can see the light and be guided on the right path. For those who meander, it is never too late to acknowledge mistakes and make amends with those who've been hurt and offended. I hope that if there will be any of us who come short again, he should be quick to restore the honor of our Alma Mater by issuing a formal apology and have the humility to accept the consequences.

I would like to thank all the past Class Presidents and the PMAAAI Chapter and Association Chairmen and Presidents for the services and sacrifices they have rendered for our Association. For lack of space, I can only give special mention of a few PMAAAI Chairmen who were also the recipients of Cavalier Award for PMAAAI Affairs.

The more senior former PMAAAI Chairmen and are also Cavalier Awardees whom I have the privilege to work with are Cavaliers Fortunato Abat '51, Guillermo Pecache '51 and Carlos Agustin '59. The most recent personally known to me are Cavaliers Jose Ma. Solquillo '65, Anselmo Avenida '67 and Melchor Rosales '68 who are also Cavalier Awardees for PMAAAI Affairs.

Cavalier Abat provided wisdom and maturity to the Association. His distinguished professional record in the military, diplomatic and government services bestowed high honors to PMAAAI. His sterling leadership defined the singular role of a Cavalier, that is, Excellence.

Cavalier Pecache exemplified entrepreneurial leadership. His wide range of experiences in business and industry provided creativity and innovation to the Organization. His management acumen was tempered with legal expertise, being a lawyer.

Cavalier Agustin was very unassuming, an epitome of humility in action. Behind a humble façade laid the foundation of strength of character, a leader who easily got along well with superiors, peers, and subordinates alike.

Cavalier Solquillo was a workaholic and conscientious. A stickler for details, he performed things "according to Hoyle". His presence in PMAAAI events and activities always put everyone on his toes, always time-conscious.

Cavalier Avenida was an intellectual, passionate in his work responsibilities, characterized with propriety. He always came prepared in all PMAAAI activities. He led by example in substance and in form.

Cavalier Rosales as Baron of Class '68 projected a resolute leadership, exacting yet tempered with pragmatism. He encouraged democratic exchange of ideas but ensured conformity to the Robert's Rules of Order. He kept the Organization on track with the application of decisive leadership.

Again, I would like to reiterate that all former Chairmen of the PMAAAI can serve as role models in some facets of our life. The limited space given to me for this column, however, has forced me to write only about those who received the Cavalier Award for PMAAAI Affairs. But, I would like to specially cite my two predecessors, Cavaliers Jimmy delos Santos '69 and Rufo De Veyra '70, though not Cavalier Awardees for PMAAAI Affairs, because I worked closely under them as a member of their respective Boards. Their terms were characterized by challenges and difficulties that brought the PMAAAI to the brink of crisis.

Leaders of lesser quality at the helm during those times could have brought us into an unimaginably catastrophic situation. Leaders are either crushed by or defined in crisis situations. My two predecessors were not crushed but they defined themselves to be: **COMMITTED** to win over the challenges; **RESILIENT** through the pestering challenges; **INTELLIGENT** enough to thwart the political and legal thrusts of the other side; and **SELFLESS** by putting the interest of the Association, Country and God over their own interests. Their character is embodied in the acronym **CRIS**. They are like our Muslim brothers' **KRIS**, sharp and tempered and aimed at the jugular to resolve the situation decisively and definitively.

Cavalier delos Santos is a humble person, passionate in the accomplishment of his mission, easy to work with, and a man of substance. No wonder he became the first Filipino head of a United Nations Force, Commanding General, Philippine Army, most sought-after military lecturer and Member of the University of the Philippines Board of Regents. Many PMAYers studied first in UP before going to PMA; hundreds finished their Master's Degree in UP, a few got their Doctorate Degrees in UP but only one PMAYer became a Member of the UP Board of Regents, a distinction that may not be accorded to any other PMAYer ever.

Cavalier De Veyra was a UP Vanguard Officer, an Ayala Foundation MBA scholar at the Asian Institute of Management, SBEP at the University of Asia & the Pacific, and an MPA at the Harvard KSG. A former editor of The Corps magazine and my idol for literary matters he is always requested to draft very important public announcements on matters for our Association. Many PMAYers can write well but they are all in unison in giving the accolade to Cavalier De Veyra as one of the best, if not the best writer among them.

As Gen McArthur said, *"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."* For us PMAYers who have sworn to serve God, Country and People, this commitment must be punctuated by a special payback service to our Alma Mater and our Association in any capacity where our talents are most needed. At least before we fade away, we must endeavor to characterize the role model citizen of our communities.

May we all be witnesses all the time, and **"Let the PMA Beacon Shine Brighter."**





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV EMMANUEL B PERALTA '91

ATA of 2020- Trending Talk of the Town

Ever since the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 2020 was signed into a law last July 3, the Act has been receiving flak left and right. As of writing, 30 petitions have been filed against the law citing it as unconstitutional and has to be void.

As cavaliers, ATA may still be a concern for all of us as terrorism still lurks in our midst. Our very own fellow Cavalier, Senator Panfilo Lacson, co-authored this law saying that our country needs a strong anti-terror bill to repeal the Human Security Act of 2007. He said the anti-terror measure has been crafted to fight terrorists "for the benefit of the Filipino citizenry".

All of us in the Association had, in one way or another, encountered terrorism problems while we were in the active service. Aside from its impact on our economy, terrorism also increased our government spending, which could have been used in development programs and projects instead. We have been tackling the problem on insurgency and secessionism since time immemorial and the long arms of the law should be used to address the terrorism.

Thus, the approval of the ATA is a welcome measure and might be the panacea to the decades-old terrorism problem in the country.

The strong political will of the AFP Commander-in-Chief and President of the Republic of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte to sign ATA into law was welcomed and applauded by the legislators despite the mounting oppositions and pressure from different sectors. ATA of 2020 became the landmark legislation that hopefully would boost the country's drive against terrorism.

Despite the safeguards emplaced to prevent the perceived abuses during its implementation, still, the dissenters or the Duterte critics have been throwing varied lashings espousing the unconstitutionality of the provisions of the ATL.

Lately, in the news was the request made by former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza to join the legal fight against ATA of 2020 as a friend of court. He wants the Supreme Court to dismiss the petitions filed against RA 11479. Solgen Mendoza emphasized that for the Supreme Court to "exercise judicial power, there must be actual controversies which are legally demandable and enforceable, and to determine whether there has been grave abuse of discretion on the part of the respondents."

As of this writing, scheduled oral arguments have been set by the Supreme Court sometime in September. Last August 24, terrorism reared its ugly head again when twin bombs rocked Jolo, Sulu in successive motions killing military forces and injured civilians. Manhunt is ongoing against Mundi Sawadjaan said to be the local terrorist group leader. Our country really needs the Anti-Terror Law as terrorism continues to have devastating effects on our economy and our dignity as a nation.

At this time that the country is battling with an unseen enemy, that is the Coronavirus, the unity of the Filipinos must come into fore above all things if we are to stand as a nation. As Presidential spokesman Harry Roque puts it, the focus of the administration is addressing the concerns on COVID-19. We as part of the Filipino people and as Cavaliers we have to stand by and support our government in battling with terrorism and with the pandemic crisis in our own respective ways.





SUPE'S REPORT

CAV ALLAN FERDINAND V CUSI '86

PMA Honor System: Moving Forward

The Honor System is one of the most essential aspects of the PMA leader development experience. Thus, the nostalgia and emotion in dealing with the Honor code and system must be complemented with new realities in education and training while maintaining the sacred values of courage, integrity and loyalty. May we now update you on the results, challenges and innovations in the Honor system of our Philippine Military Academy.

As an overview, this paper intends to rediscover the history of the Honor system from West Point, the rough journey of the Honor Remediation Program in PMA, the mindset that has been fossilized in viewing the old Honor system and the cultural impact that now plagues the Academy. For the growth perspective, this work will illustrate how PMA intends to move forward away from being simply attritional into a developmental and formative education and training community. Consequently, an exposition of the improvements in the Honor system pamphlet, the Honor Probation program and the Honor handbook will follow.

LOOKING BACK

By 1981, a formal 4-year plan to professionalize honor education was made at West Point. Another series of reviews ensued and by 1989, the Nosvak report noted that some "violations involve mitigating circumstances, innocent confusion, inexperience, ambiguity of rules and genuine desire for rehabilitation" deserve attention. From placing every focus to the plebes since 1802, USMA developed the Cadet Leader Development System (CLDS) to provide a progressive and purposive education and training to every cadet that shifts from the fourth class system to the four-class system. In 1992, then Superintendent Graves declared Respect for the dignity of others as the second bedrock value of West Point. By 1998, USMA realized the need for Academy-wide effort in developing the cadets. Hence, the activation of the Center for Professional Military Ethic. In 2012, the center revised the CLDS into West point LDS to emphasize a community effort in the character development of the cadets. Today, an officer-adviser, along with other centers and committees, serves to guide the Honor committee.

Analysis of best practices matter. There are many things to learn from the USMA experience. For decades, the Academy constantly asserted its role in the overall development of every cadet. It saw itself as a place to grow and along with it, make and learn mistakes along

the way. And for it to be relevant, the Academy as an institution of the nation must be responsive to the best values of society. For the Superintendent, a father cannot just allow his children to their own justice system. In their early days, other American institutions like Princeton and Stanford developed peer-enforced Honor committees but with the development of social norms and legal systems, their institutions eventually supervised these systems to ensure justice is truly achieved.

No report or review at West Point has ever questioned the Code. Rather they constantly reaffirmed the Honor code as absolute and universal. The system, however, like any human system deserves dynamism. What USMA has gradually accepted is to align itself with the best values of the society. Lastly, cadetship is a shared responsibility of the institution and the individual.

On the PMA side, records show that Cadet First Class Senen Cleofe served as the first PMA Honor Committee chair in 1938. By 1971, the AFPRG 134-011 effectively provided discretionary powers to the Superintendent, PMA on honor violations. Learning from West Point, PMA's first attempt to move from fourth class to four-class system was manifested with the PMA CLDS in 1991. More than 10 years after, the Academy published "Turning the Corner", a look underneath the veneer exposing the arch nemeses of PMA, namely, mediocrity, bullying and dishonor.

By 2005, the Honor review formally recommended the Honor Remediation Program (HRP). This was given flesh by SOP Number 12 or the PMA HRP in 2006. In the same year, then Secretary Avelino Cruz approved PMA Roadmap 2015 where HRP was also included. With this, some cadets have been admitted in the HRP by 2007. In 2008, PMA reinvigorated its CLDS as a four-year development plan for every cadet. In the same year, gray areas in the HRP emerged: There were questions on the qualifications for cadets to be admitted to the HRP, the perceived degradation of Honor as lesser than regulation, the selective use of HRP for favored cadets, some remediatees allegedly did not even finish the program, the need for clearer definitions of aggravating and mitigating factors, that the PMA community was not ready to implement HRP and that more feedback system should be implemented. All these observations resulted in the revision of the SOP and subsequent publication of the SOP Number 06 or the revised PMA HRP. However, by 2009, a day before the graduation rites, the then Secretary Gilberto Teodoro

gave the “Honor is honor” speech. This construed the absolutism in the sanction system of the Honor code and thus effectively stopped the implementation of the HRP.

By 2011, a new pamphlet was published with emphasis on the Honor committee functions and organization. By 2014, PMA faced the Cudia case. The lessons from this case were manifested with the new 2015 pamphlet with emphasis on due process and non-ostracism. By 2019, another pamphlet was published highlighting the Code as a gentleman’s agreement among the cadets.

It must be understood that Supreme Court’s decisions for part of the laws of the land and therefore binds related actions. The Supreme court’s decision in the Cudia case forever affects the role and powers of the Honor Committee and the responsibility placed on the shoulders of the PMA administrators as it clearly delineated the Honor Committee’s role as an investigative body to determine whether or not the alleged offender has actually violated the Honor code. It is not blessed with the authority to order the separation of a cadet.

EVOLVING CONCERNS

Over the years, particular ways of viewing the Honor code and system has been fossilized into these three features: (1) The cadets have an exclusive ownership of the honor code and system; (2) Expulsion is the only sanction for violations; and, (3) Indoctrination is the primary means of learning the Code.

While these have produced great leaders of the land, these have also given birth to certain unfavorable practices that have been plaguing the Academy. Most striking of which is the buhayan system, mediocrity, dogmatic adherence to the Code, blind followership, flawed view of “take-life”, and simply following the code out of fear. To illuminate, the buhayan system deserves utmost attention. From an innocent and ideal perspective, the buhayan system is a simple effort of a group to help each other survive. However, like many traditions that start with the right intentions, certain mutations may also happen. This is manifested by not reporting offenses, whether on regulations or honor violations, hiding delinquency reports, paying silence by different means, punishing squealers and wrong view of keeping squad and company integrity.



As mandated by the Constitution and Supreme court jurisprudence, an institution of learning like PMA, cannot accept this sorry situation. True to its mission, its *raison de etre* is the character development of the cadets to become military leaders as well as to provide avenues for critical thinking, self-awareness and sense of initiative. Finally, PMA cannot just force cadets to submit to the Code but influence them to respect and love the cadet like life itself. This is with the sober understanding that PMA does not exist in a vacuum. It is an institution of the nation. As such, it must cherish and practice the best values of the Filipino society, the value of respecting human rights, due process, education and mentoring our students to the right path.

Numbers speak. While so many lives have been nurtured by the Code, many others, with their dreams and aspirations, also had to leave the thought of joining the profession of arms. From 1992 to 2003, 503 have been removed from the Academy due to Honor violations while 162 have been discharged due to regulation.

HONOR PROBATION: A NECESSARY INTERVENTION

PMA holds the conviction that in order for its graduates to offer extraordinary sacrifice and competent service to our country and people, the primacy of character development must govern their lives. With this in mind, the following are the salient revisions of the new Honor code and system pamphlet. Pivotal in this effort is the philosophy of the Honor code and system. While the Academy maintains that the Code is each cadet’s moral standard, it must also assert that the Code is a shared responsibility of the PMA community and the cadet corps as they are still students and are under training. And more than a basis of sanctions, the Honor system must be accepted as ultimately a basis for strengthening the core values of the cadets. Another innovation is the expansion within the realm of the Honor system. While indoctrination is a vital pillar, the developments in the field of education and psychology bring two new pillars: evaluation and reinforcement. Evaluation serves to measure how every cadet appreciates, understands and practice the Code. The results of which will help generate reinforcement mechanisms to deepen the cadets’ respect for the Code. All this will bring about the Core Honorable behaviors expected from every cadet. The output of which is a developed character and eventually



produce principled military officers for the AFP and the nation. If in any instance a cadet loses his way, a second chance is provided through the Honor Probation Program (HPP).

In a nutshell, the Honor Probation Program stands on the premise that PMA is an institution of learning. Therefore, it must be an optimum environment for the development of the character of cadets. It cannot simply be a place for restrictions and regulations of behavior. Rather, it should provide learning opportunities. However, this program is not automatic. It is only for those who manifest genuine repentance, reflection and restoration towards returning to and living in the PMA honor code. Like any effective program, it must undergo periodic reviews and assessments.

Who can be accepted HPP? The following criteria are items to be discerned by a deliberation board: admission, repentance, plan of resolution, duress at the time of violation, manner of reporting the violation (if it was self-reported), overall performance, prior honor report, intent and context of the case, other mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The class of the cadet shall also be considered as more is expected from them as they progress as upperclass cadets. It must be duly noted that willful violations of the Code, purely internal desires for personal gain, avoidance of disciplinary sanctions, laziness/avoidance of hard work and other analogous personal drives are not applicable to this program.

When will the HPP be implemented? Considering the legal statutes and Supreme Court jurisprudence, the process starts with the Honor committee investigating a case and concludes if a cadet is guilty or not guilty. In any decision, the PMA Board of Officers stands to scrutinize the decision and submit their recommendation. The SPMA then finally decides the separation or the admission of the cadet to the HPP. In cases where a cadet is found guilty and chooses to resign, his choice will be submitted to the SPMA for his approval. All this is a careful and thoughtful evaluation of a cadet's capability and integrity to continue being a cadet.

What happens during the HPP? Under the Input-Process-Output-Outcome (IPOO) model, a Cadet Under Provision (CUP) will be assisted to thoroughly reflect on various aspects of his existence with the purpose of identifying his areas of improvement by exploring his or her psychological make up, moral, ethical and spiritual spheres, social and relational aspects and overall conduct and character. The process starts with an initial assessment by the Cadet Welfare Office. Applying the Honor code means universally applying it in his or her activities in Character, Academics, Military and Physical Development activities. The output of which is a restored cadet and the outcome is a developed character. The Cadet under probation will be guided by four counselors, the overseer, tactical officers, chaplain and peer. They, as a team will assist the cadet enrich his character, academics, military and physical development activities as all these four are the pillars that make the complete PMA leader development experience. With this, a series of activities are prepared for a cadet together with other corrective measures to set the right environment that will run for three months. All these are done in his or her quest for repentance, reflection and restoration. Restoration happens when observable and clear behavior changes of habit are manifested in knowing, following, believing and leading the Honor code. After the program's assessment, the Command will decide if the cadet is worthy to be restored, extended, turned back or discharged.

Who will implement the program? The following will implement the program: The Honor Probation Board, Probation Counseling Team, CAMP Probation Team and the utmost cooperation of the Cadet under probation. They will all be under the supervision of the Superintendent, PMA.

WHY CAN'T WE GO BACK TO THE OLD HONOR SYSTEM?

Simply stated — because the rule of law must be followed.

Under the law, (Article 8, New Civil Code), Supreme Court decisions form part of the legal system of the Philippines. Put another way, Supreme Court rulings, so long as they have not been overturned, function on the level of a national law for all intents and effects. An act contrary to a Supreme Court Ruling then would be an illegality.

In the Supreme Court decision on the Cudia case, the High Court stated clearly that the Honor Committee functions as an investigative body and a guilty verdict is only a sort of indictment for an honor code violation. Thus, a policy leaving the administration of the Honor System exclusively in the hands of the cadets would be going against the Supreme Court decision- a law. And being an act contrary to law, it is illegal and all those responsible can be held liable.

Our government, of which the AFP and the PMA is part of, exists because of the Fundamental Law-the Constitution, which as members of the armed forces we have all sworn to uphold. In the Preamble, the Filipino people declare to achieve all aspirations and ideals of government under a Rule of Law. Going further, Art II Declaration of Principles and State Policies, Section 1 categorically states that the Philippines is a democratic and republican state - and one manifestation of this is that our government is a government of laws and not of men.

So it's not, for me, a question, choice or option between what is ethical, moral and honorable versus what is legal. The rule of law wholly uncompromised and unadulterated is the only option. It's our safeguard against anarchy, against chaos. It's part of the covenant the Filipino People have entered into upon the birth of our Nation. It's one of the pillars of the Constitution we have all sworn to uphold and protect.

MOVING FORWARD

As PMA intends to leave no stone unturned, other areas for improvement are being enhanced through the creation of an Honor handbook. It will provide lessons and discussion on the honor code, the processes, functions and management of the Honor committee, education, evaluation and reinforcement mechanisms and the details of the Honor probation program. All these are guided by the Academy's saga to teach, live and share the PMA core values to every cadet.

In summary, this paper has presented the Why, How and What is propelling change in PMA. PMA's constitutional and legal bases, bearing Supreme court's decision on the roles of the Honor committee and the PMA leadership and PMA's moral and ethical responsibilities as a school to follow due process and respect for human rights. Banking on prevalent education and training standards of military schools, the Academy shall move forward offering positive approach in mentoring the next AFP leaders through corrective, developmental and formative methods. PMA is reinvigorating the Code and its Spirit by Honor education, evaluation and reinforcement programs as well as a chance for genuine redemption in the form of the Honor Probation Program. This path is not an option. There is no turning back. This is a duty. We must move forward.

Finally, the Academy also takes inspiration from a note lifted from the Academy scribe about an article of the Honor committee of PMA class 1951 that states: *"We admit that every man who enters the Academy has been subjected to different environments which we cannot expect to change in a short time, but we must strive to help him."*





Baron's Dissemination



JAN HERNAN R PEREZ C-21238

Cdt F/Cpt 1CI CCAFP
Brigade Commander

About Face

The Academy has produced many of the great leaders that have created an impact in our country. All these great leaders have one thing in common: the character molded by our beloved Honor Code.

Looking back at the history of the Academy, every era had a different culture. In the past, letters were sent through snail mail, newspapers were main sources of information, until the time came when cellphones were around, and now, the advent of the information era, we now have smartphones and social media. These are just some of the few things that different eras have experienced. Despite these different experiences, one thing remains the same: *The Honor Code. We should never lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate among us those who do.*

Recently, we have come to acknowledge the shortcomings of the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines. The perception of "Take-Life" has become flawed, we have the "Buhayan System," the fear of the Honor Code, and to some, it has become a mere system to follow because it's a way to graduate.

However, this year marks a historic time for the Academy. The New Cadet Battalion, for the very first time, has achieved Zero AWOL, resignation, and maltreatment. The Honor Code is now being indoctrinated, reminding the cadets that maltreatment and shabbity are dishonorable acts.

Our Character in the Academy is shaped by the essence of the Honor Code. A way of life that promotes integrity as the Basis of our actions. Yes, it is shaped by the hardships we experience in our lives, but our character is only as strong as our principles. As the Military Professionalism says, we go without sleep or food, but we must always remember that these must be placed into proper context. Just as how we put these into proper context,

a leadership school such as the PMA must put premium on strategies taught to us by our Military Leadership Principles. Today, the CCAFP believes that bullying (maltreatment), mediocrity (shabbity), and dishonor, the three-headed nemesis, have no place in our home.


Along with the different cultures across different eras means a change in our system. The CCAFP will have its revisions, the First Class Policy Board will have amendments, and even in terms of our Honor System, new honor pamphlets will be made to replace the old. Systems and cultures will be ever-changing, but one thing will always be the same: the character of every person that finishes in the hallowed grounds of the Borromeo Field.

It is not the Honor System that distinguishes a PMA graduate. It is the character molded by our Honor Code, one that is held by the principle of integrity at its core. Regardless of time or of system, we are PMAYers because of our character, because of who we are.

Change is something that we must not be afraid of. Change is something that we must accept,

something that we must work with. The Cadet Corps is more than ever willing to accept change. Despite the many issues, problems, and obstacles that we have faced recently, we will rise, march, and run. The universe is unfolding as it should, it is all in God's plan.

Proverbs 24:16 reads, "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rises again..."

The Corps will become better not DESPITE of its shortcomings, but BECAUSE of its shortcomings. The corps will finally face about. 



CAVALIER NEWSLINE

CAV ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55

Gen Gapay appointed AFP chief

Gen Gilbert I Gapay '86 has been appointed as the new AFP chief of staff, replacing Gen Felimon T Santos Jr '86 who retired.

LtGen Antonio Ramon A Lim '86 has taken over as the new TDCS, AFP. Earlier, he was designated in an acting capacity.



Gapay



Lim

In the GHQ AFP, LtGen Franco Nemesio M Gacal '88 is the new TIG and MGen Juvymax R Uy '89, TIA, with MGen Greg T Almerol '89, J2; MGen Edgardo Y de Leon '88, J3; RAdm Alberto B Carlos '89, J4; MGen Samuel G Gotico, J5; MGen Adrian

D Sanchez '86, J6; MGen Benedict M Arevalo '90 J7; MGen Rene S Diaz, J8 and RAdm Ramil Roberto B Enriquez '88, J9.

MGen Edgardo A Arevalo '90 has also been designated as the new chief of the AFPETDC and MGen Ernesto C Torres '89 as chief, CRSAFP.



Gacal

LtGen Sobejana designated new PA chief

LtGen Cirilito E Sobejana '87 has been designated the new PA commanding general, replacing Gen Gilbert I Gapay '86. He used to be the AFP WestMinCom commander.

MGen Rowen S Tolentino '89 is the Army chief of staff, and MGen Gilbert F Saret '88, the inspector general.

Commanders of major units are MGen Generoso M Ponio '88, 1st Inf Div; MGen



Sobejana

Eric C Vinoya '87, 3rd Inf Div; MGen Andres C Centino '88, 4th Inf Div; and BGen Laurence C Mina '90, 5th Inf Div.

PLtGen Cascolan appointed PNP chief

PLtGen Camilo Pancratius P Cascolan '86 has been appointed by the President as the new PNP chief, replacing PGen Archie Francisco F Gamboa '86 who retired.

Cascolan is the most senior PNP officer, being formerly the deputy chief for administration. Next to him are PLtGen Guillermo Lorenzo T Eleazar '87, the deputy chief for operations, and PLtGen Cesar Hawthorne R Binag '87, the chief of directorial staff.



Cascolan

LtGen Vinluan designated as WestMinCom commander

LtGen Corleto S Vinluan Jr '88 has recently been designated as the new commander of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, replacing LtGen Cirilito E Sobejana '87 who has gone up as CG, PA.

He used to be commander of the 11th Inf Div, PA.



Vinluan

MGen Valenzuela assumes as new vice commander of the Air Force

MGen Pelagio R Valenzuela '88 has assumed as the vice commander of the Philippine Air Force.

The new chief of air staff is MGen Florante M Amano '90, and the new Air Force inspector general is MGen Fernyl G Buca '90.



Valenzuela

MGen Joselito B Ramos '88 is the new commander of the Air Logistics Command. The other new commanders of major units are MGen Connor Anthony D Canlas '89, Air Defense Command; MGen Simeon Z Felix Jr '88, Air Mobility Command; and MGen Arthur M Cordura '90, Air Force Reserve Command.

RAdm dela Cruz assumes as new vice commander of the Navy

RAdm Rey T dela Cruz '87 has assumed as the vice commander of the Philippine Navy.

Newly designated with him are RAdm Adeluis S Bordado '88 as chief of naval staff and RAdm Nichols A Driz '87 as the Naval inspector general.

Newly designated commanders of PN major units are RAdm Loumer P Bernabe '87, Phil Fleet; MGen Nathaniel Y Casem '87, Phil Marine Corps; RAdm Rommel Jason L Galang '87, Naval Sea Systems Command; RAdm Sean Anthony U Villa '87, Naval Education and Training Command; RAdm Eric K A Kagaoan '87, Naval Forces Western Mindanao; and MGen Ariel R Caculitan '89, Naval Reserve Command.



Dela Cruz

MGen Limoso elected as AFPMBAI president

Retired MGen Rinaldo B Limoso '86 has been elected as the new president of the AFP Mutual Benefit Association, Inc. He used to be the Army vice commander before he retired.

He replaced retired MGen Robert M Arevalo '85 as AFPMBAI president.



Limoso

MGen Murillo elected as AFPSLAI president

Retired MGen Roseller G Murillo '86 has been elected as the new president of the AFP Savings & Loan Association, Inc.

He replaced retired MGen Emeraldito C Magnaye '83 as AFPSLAI president.

Limoso and Murillo have been elected as president of AFPMBAI and AFPSLAI, respectively, following the annual membership meeting and election of trustees of these corporations. /ra



Murillo

ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

Nominees for Association Awards, AY 2020-2021

• **CAV AMADO T ESPINO JR '72**
Chairman, PMAAAI Awards Committee

The second stage of deliberations for the search of 2021 Cavalier Awards for outstanding regular members of the Association is now set. From the initial screening of different chapters (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, Navy, Police, and the Business Industry and Retirees) a total of 45 Cavalier nominees had been recommended for deliberation. They will be evaluated based not only from their manifestation of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, the epitome of values that Peemayers hold dearest, but each candidate must exemplify the best in his chosen field.

The Awards Committee is calling on all alumni and other interested parties to provide further inputs attesting to the character, excellence and qualifications of the different nominees. This information will help the Awards Committee to come up with the final list of principal and alternate recommendees for each category of award who truly represent the highest ideals of the Academy in terms of outstanding accomplishments and deserve the utmost respect of fellow cavaliers. The nominees for Cavalier Award are as follows:

Command and Administration

- 1 CAV DEBOLD M SINAS '87 PNP
- 2 CAV LOUMER P BERNABE '87 PN
- 3 CAV RENE P PAMUSPUSAN '88 PNP
- 4 CAV LEOPOLDO V LAROYA '88 PCG
- 5 CAV ERNESTO C TORRES JR '89 PA
- 6 CAV CONNOR AD CANLAS SR '89 PAF
- 7 CAV RHODEL O SERMONIA '89 PNP
- 8 CAV ARAUS F MUSICO '90 PAF
- 9 CAV AUGUSTINE S MALINIT '91 PAF
- 10 CAV ARISTOTLE D GONZALEZ '92 PAF

Staff Functions

- 1 CAV ELMO FRANCIS O SARONA '86 PNP
- 2 CAV PASCUAL G MUÑOZ JR '90 PNP
- 3 CAV ULYSSES S MARQUEZ '93 PAF
- 4 CAV GENITO B BASILIO '96 PCG

Special Operations

- 1 CAV PAUL ANTHONY V AVIQUIVIL '00 PAF
- 2 CAV SIR BYRON L DE OCAMPO '00 PAF

Army Operations

- 1 CAV YEGOR RP BARROQUILLO JR '92
- 2 CAV DON D TEMPLONUEVO '97
- 3 CAV LOUIE G DEMA-ALA '99

Air Operations

- 1 CAV ALAN D MACATINGRAO '98
- 2 CAV MARK PAUL E MENDOZA '06
- 3 CAV MARVIN D ALAMBRA '06
- 4 CAV LEOPOLDO B BACIERRA JR '07
- 5 CAV CLINTONE CARLO E CABILI '09

Naval Operations

- 1 CAV RICHARD N GONZAGA '92
- 2 CAV STEPHEN L CABANLET '96
- 3 CAV ASHLEY N NASTOR '00

Police Operations

- 1 CAV ROLANDO B ANDUYAN '90
- 2 CAV ROMEO M CARAMAT JR '92

Coast Guard Operations

- 1 CAV ARTEMIO M ABU '92

Private Enterprise

- 1 CAV NORMAN LEGASPI '81

Public Administration

- 1 CAV DELFIN N LORENZANA '73
- 2 CAV LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL '76
- 3 CAV JAIME H MORENTE '81
- 4 CAV EDUARDO B GONGONA '82
- 5 CAV EDUARDO M AÑO '83
- 6 CAV ROLANDO D BAUTISTA '85
- 7 CAV CARLITO G GALVEZ JR '85
- 8 CAV EDISON L NEBRIJA '91

Alumni Affairs

- 1 CAV JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS '69
- 2 CAV MICHAEL RAY B AQUINO '88


Special Field

- 1 CAV ROLANDO C MALINIS '71- Literature
- 2 CAV GABRIEL B RIEGO DE DIOS '81- Arts
- 3 CAV GREGORY H RAMOS '81
 - other endeavor: Catholic Priest
- 4 Loakan Educational Assistance Project (LEAP)
 - Other endeavor

The PMAAAI also confers the Lifetime Achievement Award for those who have rendered 50 years of distinguished, outstanding, exemplary and unblemished service to the country and the Outstanding Achievement Award to those who presently occupy the positions of AFP chief, PNP chief, PCG commandant, PA chief, PAF chief, PN chief, Senator, Speaker of the House, Cabinet members and Ambassadors.

The lone nominee for the Lifetime Achievement Award is:

- 1 CAV ERNESTO G CAROLINA '70

The Awards Committee members are CAV DANILO A ABINOJA '74, BIRC; CAV MARISOL C LACORTE-FULGOSINO '12, PA; CAV CONRADO P GONGON JR '91, PNP; CAV ROWAN L RIMAS '01, PN; CAV ADRIANO SJ DUADICO '94, CAV DONALD S FRIAS '08, and CAV PHILIP JUNE S CALIPAY '09, PAF; and CAV ROLANDO PUNZALAN '92, PCG. We are most happy to receive comments and information to make the selection more thorough. Inputs may be sent to PMAAAI Alumni Center at pmaaaai@yahoo.com. The nominees chosen by the Awards Committee will be deliberated on and confirmed by the PMAAAI Board in its meeting in December 2020. 

PA Chapter News



Col Victor D Tanggawohn Jr, together with other officers of PMAAA – ACCI, hands over the complete sets of PPE to LtCol Juan Nepumuceno V Anglo, Responsible Supply Officer and Building Administrator of Army General Hospital.

FORT BONIFACIO, Taguig, Metro Manila – The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc., through PMAAA – ACCI, has donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to military health workers of the Army General Hospital.

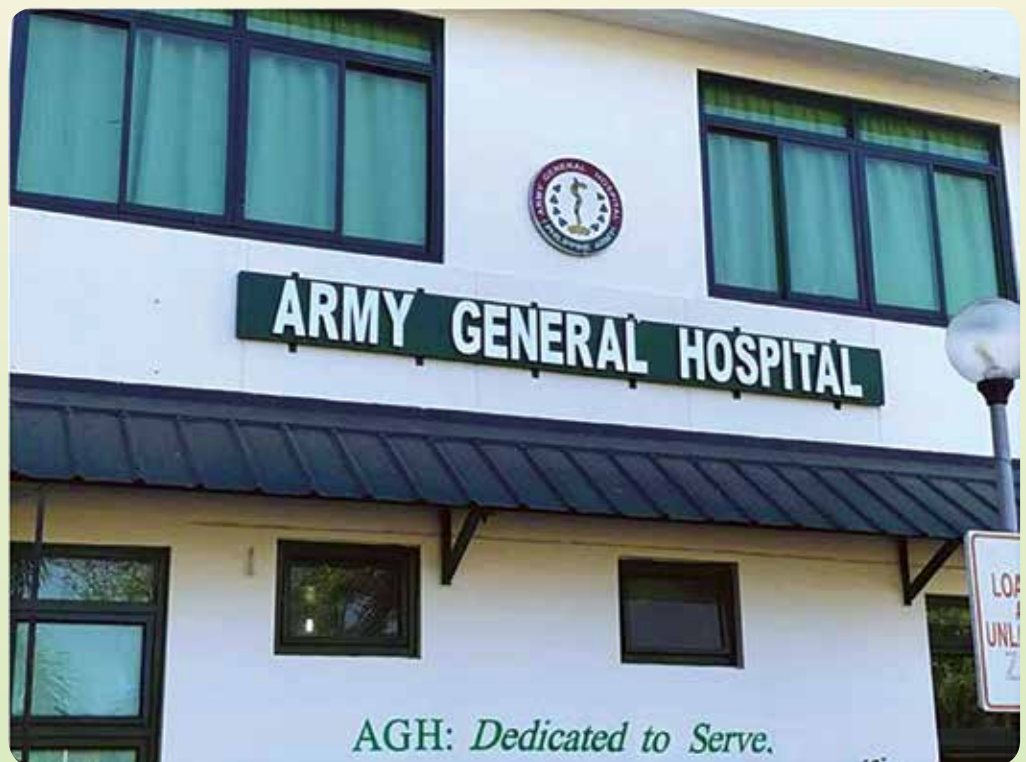
The donation was received on May 4, 2020 by the military hospital where suspected military personnel COVID-19 patients are being examined for confirmation prior to forwarding the positive COVID-19 patients to AFP General Hospital.

Proper turnover of 200 complete sets of PPEs transpired on May 4, 2020 where LtCol Juan Nepumuceno V Anglo, Responsible Supply Officer and Building Administrator of AGH, accepted the donations of PMAAAI from Col Victor D Tanggawohn Jr, President of PMAAA – ACCI.

LtCol Anglo expressed his gratitude to the organization since said donations will mitigate the probability of the military health front-liners to get infected of the disease. He also assures the public most especially our soldiers that they will continue serving our military personnel by ensuring the safety of our soldiers by early detection of the patients contracted with the COVID – 19 disease and contribute in the government’s goal of flattening the

curve relative to the COVID – 19 cases in the country.

In the same manner, PMAAA – ACCI is highly committed to serve the Philippine Army and its soldiers. Thus, they can further enhance their service to the Filipino people and the nation.



The Rule of Law in the War Against Terror

• CAV PANFILO M LACSON '71

“When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. ...Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice.” -Martin Luther King

Time and again, we have viewed terrorism as utterly evil, perpetrated by the forces of ill will that aim at nothing but cause widespread violence and destruction. Terrorism is both terrifying and overwhelming to every nation around the world.

The 2019 Global Terrorism Index reported that although the number of total deaths from terrorism has fallen compared to previous years, the impact of terrorism remains widespread, with bombings and armed assaults as the most common types of terrorist attacks over the past years. In 2018, 71 countries recorded at least one death from terrorism, which was the second-highest number of countries since 2002.

Lest we forget, the same report cites the Philippines as the only Southeast Asian country which ranked in the top ten countries that were most negatively impacted by terrorism.

Needless to say, terrorism and internal conflict are the biggest contributors to the global deterioration in peacefulness (Global Peace Index 2020).

Losing Ground

The concept of terrorism is evocative and emotive, instantly alluding to extreme fear, danger, coercion, and death.

Innocent, unsuspecting victims were instantly exposed to terrorism when extremists waged the Marawi siege, the longest urban battle in the country's modern history; when the series of bomb attacks dubbed as the 2000 Rizal Day Bombings terrified Metro Manila; when a foreign suicide bomber detonated a bomb inside the Jolo Cathedral in Sulu early last year; and when, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the proscribed Abu Sayyaf Group killed 11 soldiers and injured 14 more in an hour-long gun battle in Patikul, Sulu.

As once members of the regular force at the frontline, cavaliers know the atrocities of terrorism to an extent more concrete and personal.

In the many times that we had brushes with death and breathed alive again, the worst thing is not the feeling of fear nor anger. It is the feeling of loss. And often, it is the loss of our 'comrades-in-arms' in the service of our countrymen that we suffer the most.

We cannot easily forget the team of brave and gallant men from the Philippine National Police who died in the Mamasapano



carnage in 2015. Sixty-seven lives were lost in a mission to take down international terrorists Zulkifli bin Abdul hir alias “Marwan” and Abdul Basit Usman in Maguindanao. Among the casualties were what we now remember as the SAF 44, who refused to break the bond of brotherhood even in the face of certain death. Those men, heeding the call of duty, successfully neutralized Marwan and served justice to the undetermined number of lives lost from his acts of terror.

Then there was our lean troop of soldiers and conscripts, 168 of whom died, from the long-standing Marawi siege. I still vividly remember that fateful day in May of 2017 when I got the news that a firefight between government troops and heavily armed terrorists broke out in Barangay, Malutlut in Marawi City. That same night, President Rodrigo Duterte declared Martial Law in the entire Mindanao. Five dreadful months later, as he stood in the rubble of the fallen city, the President announced the liberation of Marawi. But just like any other protracted war against terrorism, it was a costly liberation.

Even as spectators, we endure and suffer from these losses whenever we hear of senseless terrorist attacks: loss of ‘freedom

from fear' aspired by our people; loss that we feel from the waste of thousands of lives of innocent people we had not even met; loss from the death of our fellow soldiers and policemen while fighting battles waged by the terrorists' corrupt ideology.

Despite these, men and women in uniform have pledged to serve and protect the people with nothing but their lives as capital and a grateful nation as a reward.

Struggling with a Dead-Letter Law

Within our borders, the acts of terrorism are utterly indiscriminate and atrocious, beyond all bounds of civility, extreme in destruction, and incomprehensible in character. These acts of terror highlight the legal weaknesses of the recently repealed Human Security Act of 2007.

To highlight the need to amend our country's law on terrorism, no less than former PNP Chief and now my colleague in the Senate, Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, recounted in his co-sponsorship speech how restrictive the repealed HSA of 2007 was. In 2013, when he was still the Police Director of Davao City, they arrested a suspected terrorist by the name of Mohammad Kiram Reza, a Filipino and a registered resident of Mindanao. Vigorous military and police intelligence, notwithstanding, they still could not provide sufficient evidence to build a strong case before the lapse of the allowable detention period under the law. To cut the story short, they were forced to release their suspect. Three years later, a video was made public showing the very same suspected terrorist with two other terrorists beheading some foreigners in Syria.

We know for sure that this was not an isolated case that uncovered the loopholes of effecting the Human Security Act of 2007.

The Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, hence, seeks to plug these loopholes and to make clear our swift, effective, and constitutional policy against these acts of terror.

Let me say this: I, as well as my legislative staff, in further consultation with counter-terrorism experts both local and foreign, notably from Australia and the United States, unarguably countries with strong democracies, burned the proverbial midnight oils so we could come up with a good committee report and prepare me to ably defend the measure on the Senate floor. As the principal sponsor and one of the authors of several anti-terrorism bills in the 18th Congress, I had to patiently and confidently respond to intense interpellations for seven straight session days, and another three days of back and-

forth period of amendments by many of my colleagues including such distinguished members of the bar such as Senators Franklin Drilon, himself a bar placer, Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, a bar top-notcher, Francis "Tol" Tolentino, Richard "Dick" Gordon, Pia Cayetano, Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, to name some of them.

To say the least, we won the legislative battleground - with the mission of giving more teeth and better foothold for our law enforcers against terrorism and its perpetrators, as well as providing safeguards to protect the fundamental civil and human rights of even the most probable suspected terrorists.

The whole time we were debating in plenary, the Bill of Rights as enshrined in our Constitution remained foremost in my mind, and I'm quite certain, in the consciousness of my colleagues, as well. Subliminal or not, we were mindful that the measure we were about to pass would face challenges from those who may not fully agree with the wisdom and rationale of having a more effective legal weapon that is at par with those in other jurisdictions in fighting and preventing terrorism. I thought it was time that our country would stop being the safe haven of terrorists in Asia, primarily because of our weak laws against acts of terrorism.

At the outset, I would like to veer away from discussing the merits of the pending cases filed in the Supreme Court relative to the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 and to simply narrate from my account as a Cavalier and former law enforcer, the need for a more robust anti-terrorism measure.

Defining Terrorist Acts

Terrorism, in its literal meaning, is deceptively simple and rife with political connotations and misconceptions. Under the repealed Human Security Act, literally, there are more provisions restricting our law enforcers from performing their duties in enforcing the law than bringing terrorists to justice.

In fact, there were only four instances for terrorists to be prosecuted under the old law. These were the commission of the actual crime of terrorism, conspiracy to commit terrorism; accomplice; and accessory. On the other hand, there were a total of 20 instances where law enforcers can be charged and penalized for violations of the Human Security Act of 2007.

Hence, in crafting the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, we recognize that terrorism, in all forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any



acts of terrorism are utterly criminal and unjustifiable - whenever, wherever and by whomsoever committed. These nature and concept of terrorism are stated in several United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR), to wit: UNSCR Nos. 1373, 1624, and 2396.

Under the new Anti Terrorism law, we penalize “inchoate offenses,” or preparatory acts that are deemed criminal even without the actual harm being done, provided that the harm that would have occurred is one the law tries to prevent, such as terrorism. Preparatory acts, as a rule, are not punishable unless these acts are punishable in themselves as independent crimes. It is for this same reason that the Revised Penal Code explicitly provides that the conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion, treason, insurrection, and coup d’etat are indeed crimes.

Thus, we added planning, training, preparing, and facilitating the commission of terrorism under Section 6 as “inchoate offenses” punishable under the law because these acts are being performed towards the accomplishment of the desired purpose, that is — terrorism. It is also under UNSCR No. 1373, which states that planning and preparation, among others, are established as serious criminal offenses in domestic laws and that the punishment should duly reflect the seriousness of such terrorist acts.

Calling a Spade a Spade

In any criminal proceeding, it is a rule among us to speak of the truth directly and accurately. In the words of a prosecutor, “let’s call a spade a spade. You did not borrow the money; you stole it.”

In our long history of being a hotbed of terrorism in Asia, we only have one recorded conviction of a terrorist. Our law enforcers may be on their toes in catching these perpetrators, but to convict them for the crime of terrorism is a different roadblock altogether. Imagine the mindset of a law enforcer: if suspected terrorists are charged and found guilty of say, murder, they will still be put behind bars. So why the need to charge them with terrorism if the penalty is the same but the odds are not even?

Having the more convenient recourse of charging suspected terrorists with any of the predicate crimes instead of violations of the Human Security Act itself without the risk of being imposed with an exorbitant fine of five hundred thousand pesos (Php 500,000.00) for each day of detention once acquitted renders our fight against terrorism futile and weakens our criminal justice system.

Hence, from the point of view of law enforcement, they would rather charge terrorists with a crime other than violations of the Human Security Act. It is high time we called a spade a spade.

We often overlook the direct implication in the management and handling of suspects of terrorism-related incidents within our penal facilities. As of October 2018, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) reported 735 high-risk persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) incarcerated in their facilities that are suspected members of terrorist organizations. However, they are not in jail for violations of the now-repealed Human Security Act. They were in prison for other crimes penalized under the Revised Penal Code. Hence, instead of implementing an efficient ‘deradicalization’ program by isolating these terrorists from common criminals, the tables are turned. Common criminals are radicalized to become potential terrorists once they are out of detention.

Abu Sayyaf members involved in the mass kidnapping of dozens of students, two teachers, and a Catholic priest in Basilan in 2000 also provide a representative sample. Fifty-two people were kidnapped, mostly young students. The priest was killed, and two teachers were even beheaded. The incident could easily be classified as terrorist acts. However, the 86 incarcerated for the crime were charged with kidnapping only. In December 2018, 66 of them were found guilty of kidnapping while 20 were acquitted.

To this end, we sought to give law enforcers a strong foothold to enforce the anti-terror law to its full extent. The so-called sword

of Damocles in the form of an excessive fine to be awarded to the suspect for an unproven charge of terrorism no longer hangs over the head of our law enforcement authorities. Nonetheless, a person illegally charged has multitudes of recourse, such as suing for damages under existing laws.

Evolving Technology, Evolving Terror

Our experiences from the Marawi siege tell us that the perpetrators of terrorist acts have learned to adapt to modern technology. Based on the reports of our security officers, the attack in the city was purportedly planned, staged, and sustained through the unconstrained terrorism financing using wire transfers from overseas, cash couriers, and even mobile payments.

Hence, we added under the new Anti-Terrorism Law a new provision on the designation of a terrorist group or association as a preventive mechanism to trigger the enforcement of targeted financial sanctions to terrorist organizations or associations, through an order issued by the Anti Money Laundering Council (AMLC). In the course of crafting this Law, we ensured that it is consistent with the existing provision of Section 11 of RA 10168 or the ‘Terrorism Financing Prevention and Suppression Act of 2012’, as well as with the UNSCR 1373 to prevent designated terrorists from accessing the funds they intend to use in carrying out an attack.

As former and present members of our country’s security forces, we put a high premium on the ability to gather intelligence information in order to provide protection and security to our communities effectively. To find a compromise between enhancing our intelligence gathering while still preserving our people’s right to privacy, the Law allows the Anti- Terrorism Council to authorize a law enforcement agent or military personnel to file an ex parte application with the Court of Appeals to conduct electronic surveillance of a suspected terrorist group or individual which, when granted by the Court of Appeals, would last for 60 days extendible to another period of 30 days. This would give law enforcement enough time not only to build an airtight case against suspected terrorists but also to monitor and keep track of any sleeping cells these terrorists may have in the pursuit of their evil design.


Protecting Expressive Freedom

As law enforcers, we know the glaring fallacy in claiming that ‘what looks, smells and kills like terrorism is terrorism.’ Hence, in expanding the definition of terrorism, we made sure that political dissent, freedom of speech, and expression as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights would neither be stifled nor restricted.

In all of our discourses in understanding the definition of “terrorism,” our general guide should be ACT + PURPOSE. We should bear in mind that “terrorism” refers to both the commission of any of the terrorist ACTS to fulfill any of the PURPOSES mentioned under the law.

Respect for the rule of law and constitutional liberties such as rights to due process should serve as the backbone of effective anti-terrorism legislation. This is the reason we crafted a bill that will not only protect our citizens but, most importantly, preserve our hallowed fundamental rights as a people.

The expanding scope and spectrum of terrorism across geographies continue to challenge the security landscape of every nation. We, as Filipinos, have already witnessed appalling acts of terror that caused senseless deaths and irreparable damages. Thousands of our cavaliers, among others, have fought this war throughout our nation’s history. With this landmark legislation, we hope to strengthen our guards to weed out terrorism that has made its roots into our motherland.

As members of the long grey line, let us continue to take on our duty as good men, dedicated to the protection of our people, and in the service of God and country. 

SND as concurrent AFP chief of staff

• CAV RAMON J FAROLAN '56

(This article was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on August 10, 2020)

It was a rough and shaky beginning for the new AFP chief, Gen. Gilbert Gapay. In his first press conference following his installation as armed forces commander, he proposed that the implementing rules and regulations of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) include provisions that would allow authorities to regulate social media. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, expressing surprise at Gapay's statement, immediately rebuked the AFP chief, saying that the ATA should not be used to regulate social media and added that any such provision would be a violation of the freedom of speech.

An old proverb comes to mind: "Big talk, big mistake, small talk, small mistake, no talk, no mistake."

My last column elicited a number of reactions from three groups: civilians, active military personnel, and retired officers. Most expressed concern with the revolving door situation and how the AFP was being utilized as an instrument of national defense and security.

Among the civilians, former senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. wrote to say that during his time he filed legislation calling for a fixed three-year term for the AFP chief of staff. It got nowhere although a number of his colleagues shared his views and sentiments on the issue. In view of the frequent change in the AFP leadership for the past 20 years—a situation that has never been clearly explained to our people — Jun Magsaysay suggested that the SND or the secretary of national defense as concurrent AFP chief would be a better option if only for the fact that his staying in position for a reasonable period of time had much better chances than anyone in the military establishment.

The case of Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay is perhaps the best example of a Cabinet member who was both policymaker and concurrent administrator. Magsaysay's primary concern was the survival of the nation in the face of impending disaster. In 1950, Hukbalahap (Huk) units had held the capitals of Tarlac and Laguna for several hours. They were on the offensive in Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, and Isabela. At that time, we were living in Caloocan and had to evacuate to Manila in view of reports that advance Huk elements were already approaching the city. Morale of the armed forces was at its lowest. Magsaysay got out of his offices in Manila and proceeded to move around, making unannounced visits to remote



units, giving inspiration and encouragement to the troops, while taking disciplinary action against erring officers and men. In his first 30 days, he ordered the relief and investigation of 20 officers for various offenses ranging from abuse of authority to involvement in money rackets. These are activities not usually expected of Cabinet members. But it was precisely his hands-on approach that endeared him to the soldiers and to the common citizens. If we cannot have military men as AFP chiefs with a decent tenure of office, we should be open to other possibilities.

The officers in the active service were for the most part, cautious and prudent in their remarks. I fully understood their position.

As for the retired officers, most were for a fixed term of office — from two to three years — for the AFP chief. An interesting case study is that of Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz, PMA Class 1979, who served as commanding general, Philippine Army. More than 30 years ago in 1990, a young captain Arturo Ortiz was awarded the Medal for Valor (MFV), the highest and most coveted award in the AFP "for exceptional courage and high degree of leadership in the field of combat." In 2010, he became the first holder of the MFV to be designated a major service commander. A few months later, he was offered the post of AFP chief of staff by President Benigno Aquino III, but he begged off saying, he "could contribute more to the organization if I would be allowed to remain as CG, Army so as to continue what I had started and undertake other plans and programs for the Army rather than be a short term AFP chief of staff." We should all keep in mind the sterling example of service above self shown by General Ortiz.

It is unlikely that in the remaining two years of the present administration, remedial legislation would be enacted to allow for a fixed term of office for the AFP chief. The last year of the presidential term would be devoted to the electoral campaign. But we must continue to let our voices be heard until the necessary reforms are carried out.



Comments on Senate Bill 1419

(Military and Uniformed Services Separation, Retirement, and Pension Act of 2020)

• CAV ARISTON V DELOS REYES '71

A. Introduction

1. Senate Bill (SB) No. 1419 primarily aims to transform the military and uniformed services pension system from non-contributory to contributory. At present, the military and uniformed services personnel (MUP) do not contribute to their pension while in the active service. Hence, their pension is funded through annual appropriation. The Bill seeks to require the MUP while in the active service to contribute to their retirement through monthly payroll deduction, as in the case of civilian government employees who are members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). The government as their employer pays its counterpart contribution to GSIS. The Bill, however, does not provide for government- subsidized compulsory life insurance and other benefits granted to GSIS members.
 2. Upon effectivity of the Act, pension indexing to prevailing base pay rate will be stopped. Thus, only the retired members of the judiciary and constitutional commissions will continue to enjoy such entitlement and for those still in the service, continue availing of a non-contributory pension system.
 3. The Bill also provides for other changes that the new entrants will have to bear considering that they tantamount to significant diminution of various benefits than the present retirees and those in the active service now are entitled. It will extend their mandatory retirement age from the present 56 to 65 years old; increase in the required number of years for optional retirement from 20 to 30 years and will only be entitled to monthly pension upon reaching the age of 60. (The minimum years of service for optional retirement of civilian employees is only 15 years.) Their retirement grade will be the rank on date of retirement and not one rank higher under the present system.
 4. The Bill is the embodiment of the continuing advocacy by the Department of Budget and Management and some government officials for the drastic changes in the MUP pension system due to its "huge budgetary implications".
2. The military's pension should be excluded from the coverage of SB 1419 and should remain non-contributory because it has constitutional and legal bases.
 - 2.1. Section 7, Article XVI (General Provisions) of the 1987 Constitution provides that "*The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans. Funds shall be provided therefor. . . .*" One of such benefits for the veterans which the government has already been funding since 1936 is the non-contributory military pension. Thus, an enactment that will make the system contributory and ultimately stop funding for it will be unconstitutional.
 - 2.2. Commonwealth Act No. 1 (S 1935) effectively established the military pension system as non-contributory and for which it initially allocated P300 million for 1936 and such amount or amounts annually appropriated thereafter.
 - 2.2.1. Section 97 provides budgetary items for pay and allowances of personnel, including the specific provision for "*amount or amounts annually appropriated for the pension and retirement fund for the army*".
 - 2.2.2. Section 98. Appropriation of funds for 1936 provided P300 million for the pension and retirement fund (including P200 million for the retirement fund of the Constabulary). It is apparent that such fund would serve as the seed money that should have been built up and augmented from then on through annual appropriation.
 - 2.3. After 1987, and in consonance with the Constitution, the government further granted additional non-contributory veterans' monthly pensions such as old age pension upon reaching age 65 (RA 6948 S 1990) and total administrative disability pension upon reaching age 70 (RA 7696 S 1994); thus, affirming further that veterans pensions are intended to be non-contributory in accordance with the said provision of the Constitution.
 - 2.4. Pursuant to RA 6948 S 1990 as amended by RA 9396 S 2007, all retired military personnel are considered veterans.
 3. The non-contributory AFP pension system is similar to and patterned after that of the United States Armed Forces except that the latter is indexed to cost of living adjustments (COLA). In the case of the AFP, Presidential

B. Comments on Main Issues

1. All pension systems that are non-contributory and indexed to the prevailing pay rate should be the subject of reform and not be limited to that for the MUP only. All other non-contributory pension systems such as those of the judiciary and constitutional commissions should likewise be reviewed. Otherwise, the planned Pension System will be discriminatory to the MUP.

Decree No.1638 S 1979 granted pension indexing to the prevailing base pay rate. Years later, the military pension system was adopted for the other uniformed services which all turned out to be even more generous as maximum pension for PNP, BFP, BJMP (RA 6975 S 1990), and PCG (RA 9993 S 2010) is 90 percent as compared with 85 percent for the military. Then such pension indexing was likewise adopted for the judiciary and constitutional commissions at 100 percent of pay and allowances (RA 9946 S 2010).

4. The framers of the 1987 Constitution introduced the provision on benefits of veterans to be funded by the government and was subsequently ratified by the citizenry; hence, it is a gift of the Filipino people to soldiers who serve the country with honor and devotion to duty, and when called for, even at the risk of life and limb. It is therefore unconscionable that such gift will be unjustifiably recalled through enactment of SB 1419. Let it be known that the soldiers perform multifarious tasks and historically they have performed them well as enumerated below.

4.1. They are in the forefront of national defense and internal security operations.

4.1.1. During World War II, though ill equipped and lacking in preparedness, they fought gallantly against the Japanese invaders in Bataan and Corregidor; suffered the Death March then continued fighting the war through guerrilla warfare. At present, though still with limited capabilities, they occupy islands in the Kalayaan Island Group to show the flag and our determination to defend our territories.

4.1.2. They have been engaged in anti-dissident campaigns against the Hukbalahap, Kamlon uprising, CPP-NPA, MNLF, MILF, ASG, BIFF, and other terrorist groups.

4.2. They undertake United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. They fought in Korea in the 50's when a total of 7,420 military personnel were deployed with 114 of them killed in action and 229 wounded. They had also been deployed in Vietnam, East Timor, Liberia, Haiti, and Golan Heights.

4.3. They perform non-military tasks such as humanitarian assistance and disaster response to include supporting the ongoing war against COVID-19; building of roads, bridges, and school buildings in far flung areas; election duties; and even law enforcement when called for.

In order to perform these multifarious tasks, they are on duty on 24/7 basis without overtime pay, and usually, in places of assignment away from their families. They do not have security of tenure. They are not only covered by the Revised Penal Code but also by the more stringent Articles of War under the military justice system in order to instill military discipline.

5. Recommendations

5.1. The Military Pension System should remain non-contributory and continue being funded by the government pursuant to the 1987 Constitution and Commonwealth Act No.1. It should be excluded from the coverage of SB 1419. However, the indexation of their pension to prevailing base rate may only be terminated if such will also apply to the pension for the judiciary and constitutional commissions.

5.2. An alternative bill to SB 1419 may be considered which will stop pension indexing to prevailing pay rate for all non-contributory pension systems, effective after the implementation of RA 11466 (Salary Standardization Law) SSL 5 which is already the basis for pension adjustments of the retired members of the judiciary and constitutional commissions. Thus, all non-contributory pension systems will be indexed to inflation either annually or only in years when future salary standardization laws will be in effect for those in the active government service.

C. Comments on Certain Sections of SB 1419. The following concerns are indicative that the proposed pension system is not suitable for the military and possibly, also for the other uniformed services.

1. **Section 5** - Adjusting compulsory retirement from age 56 to 65 years or equal to that for civilian employees will likely result in more military personnel being assigned in the field at old age and may find it difficult to perform combat duty.

2. **Section 6 and Section 10. b.** - The years of service required for voluntary retirement shall be increased from 20 to 30 years. A soldier who enters the service at age 20 will have to serve until age 50 for which he will be entitled to 18 months lump sum only then wait for eight and a half years before he will receive monthly pension. Military personnel who prefer to retire early for various reasons will find it difficult to do so because of these mandatory provisions. These provisions to include that under Section 5 will result in probable difficulty in future military recruitment since the additional benefits for serving the military as compared with civil service employees will be stopped by the Act. Whereas, civilian government employees are entitled to pension benefits upon reaching the age of 60; provided, that they have served in government for at least 15 years only.


3. **Section 16** will terminate pension indexing to prevailing base pay rate upon effectivity of the Act. The provision is discriminatory because same indexing will continue to apply to the pension of retired members of the judiciary and constitutional commissions. The bill may well be considered a class legislation.

4. **Section 19. a.** provides for mandatory contribution not only by new entrants but also by active members upon

effectivity of the Act at 5 percent of their monthly base pay and longevity pay as personal share for the first three years; 7 percent for the next three years; and 9 percent thereafter which is equal to the personal share of civilian employees under RA 8291 (The GSIS Act of 1997). This provision will adversely affect the morale of those already in the active service as the new contribution will be felt as significant reduction of their present take- home pay, particularly at the lower ranks and among those who have just entered the service before the effectivity of the Act. Meanwhile, the government will have to appropriate annual additional budget for its share which will be a considerable amount that will compete with the other budgetary requirements. Moreover, it will be a very long- term investment the return of which is indeterminate because the Bill is silent on when the accumulated retirement fund may already be utilized for its intended purpose. It is further noted that the members shall not be entitled to life insurance coverage and burial benefit which are granted to GSIS members and yet, the government share (18 to 22 percent) is well above that for the pension system under GSIS which is only at 12 percent. The active members, upon effectivity of the Act, should be exempted from the mandatory contribution since it will impinge on their vested right to the prevailing non-contributory pension system.

5. Title VII creates the MUP Fund Authority, the equivalent of GSIS; however, the Bill is insufficient in its provisions to make it a comprehensive charter for the Authority such as but not limited to the lack of provisions for administration of the Authority; specific powers of the Board; investment of funds; adjudication of claims and disputes; records and reports; exemption from tax, legal process and lien; differentiated penal provisions for offenses arising from violations of the provisions of the charter; and, oversight function of the Insurance

Commission. It is apparent that such details will just be left at the discretion of the framers of its IRR. In this regard, the GSIS Charter under RA 8291 could serve as reference in crafting that for the Authority and which should form part of the Bill.

6. Section 23 providing for recall to active service by the AFP is deemed not necessary. Section 68 of the AFP Reservist Act of 1991 (RA 7077) already provides penal provision for failure of reservists to respond to the call to compulsory training and service. The contemplated termination of retirement benefits is discriminatory to veterans and should not be made an additional penalty for an offense committed after retirement.
7. In summary, the new entrants from the uniformed services may just be covered under GSIS in lieu of the proposed Authority, which activation will entail more administrative costs and probably suffer initial “birth pains” particularly, in investment of funds. Over many decades, GSIS has gained expertise in investing and managing insurance and retirement funds of government employees. Hence, under GSIS, the new entrants should be entitled to compulsory life insurance, burial and other benefits to which the members of GSIS are entitled. The contribution should also be 9 percent of their base pay and longevity pay while the government will contribute 12 percent. The fund to be generated from such contributions may be separately managed by GSIS. It should further be noted that GSIS is not new to this system of coverage of uniformed services personnel. Prior to effectivity of the DILG Act of 1990, the members of the Integrated National Police (INP), firemen and jail personnel had been covered by GSIS not only for their retirement benefits but also for their government- subsidized compulsory life insurance. Whereas, the military personnel to include those from the Philippine Constabulary had been covered under GSIS for compulsory life insurance only. 



Muling Panawagan

Payabungin ang Filipino

• CAV FREDELINO S BAUTISTA '66

PASIMULA

Ang tema ng siping ito ng The Cavalier Magazine ay tungkol sa kahalagahan ng PMAAAI sa isang progresibong lipunan. Sa higit na malawak na pananaw, maaari itong bigyan ng iba ngunit hindi malayang interpretasyon – ang kahalagahan ng PMA alumni sa pambansang kaunlaran. Ito ay dahil ang PMAAAI ay binubuo ng mga nagsipagtapos sa Akademya Militar.

Marahil, ito ay pang-apat na pagkakataon mula noong taong 2011, na ang isang sanaysay na nakasulat sa wikang Filipino ay nalathala sa Cavalier Magazine, propesyonal na publikasyon ng PMAAAI, na nagsusulong ng pagpapayaman ng Pambansang Wika. Sapagkat ang buwan ng Agosto ay sakop ng siping Hulyo-Setyembre, ang artikulo ay isang pagpapahalaga sa Buwan ng Pambansang Wika pati na rin kay dating Pangulong Manuel L. Quezon, kinikilalang Ama ng Wika na ipinanganak noong ika -19 ng Agosto 1878 sa Baler, Quezon

Ayon sa mga kilalang manunulat ng konsepto ng pambansang kaunlaran, ang isang pambansang wika ay kinakailangan upang magkaroon ng pagkakaisa na siya rin makakatulong sa pag-unlad ng isang bansa. Ilang halimbawa – Amerika, Britanya, Hapon at Timog Korea. Kasama na rito ang Tsina na bagamat maraming dialekto sa bansang ito na may pinakamaraming mamamayan ay may isang wika na naiintindihan ng karamihan kung hindi ng lahat.

LEGAL NA BATAYAN NG WIKANG PILIPINO

Ayon sa Seksiyon 6, Artikulo XIV, "ang wikang pambansa ng Pilipinas ay Filipino. Samantalang nililinaang ito, ay dapat payabungin at pagyamanin pa salig sa mga umiiral na mga wika ng Pilipinas at sa iba pang mga wika. Alinsunod sa mga tadhana at sang-ayon sa nararapat na maaaring ipasya ang Kongreso, dapat magsagawa ng mga hakbangin ang Pamahalaan upang ibunsod at puspusing itaguyod ang paggamit ng Filipino bilang midyum ng opisyal na komunikasyon at bilang wika ng pagtuturo sa sistemang pang-edukasyon."

At upang ipatupad ang probisyong ito ay inaprobahan ni Pangulong Corazon C. Aquino ang Atas Tagapagpaganap Blg. 335 noong ika – 25 ng Agosto 1988, na nag-aatas sa lahat ng sangay ng pamahalaan na gumawa ng mga hakbang upang magamit ang Filipino sa mga opisyal na transaksyon at komunikasyon.

RESPONSIBILIDAD NG MGA PAARALAN

Maliwanag na malaki ang responsibilidad ng mga paaralan, kasama na ang PMA, ang Alma Mater ng mga kasapi sa PMAAAI, sa pagpapayabong ng pambansang wika. Ang mga sumusunod na talata ay reproduksiyon ng mga piling bahagi ng nabanggit na sanaysay upang isulong ang Filipino sa PMA.

Filipino sa PMA: Bakit Kailangang Payabungin?

• CAV FREDELINO S BAUTISTA '66

(Reproduksiyon ng ilang bahagi)

...Ating ipinagmamalaki na ang PMA ay siyang pangunahing dalubhasaan o sanayan sa pamumuno. Kung ating susuriing mabuti at isasalin sa maikling pangungusap, ang layunin ng PMA ay ito: ang makapagpatapos ng mga 2Lt / ensign na maglilingkod sa hukbong sandatahan bilang mga pinuno ng mga pulutong. Upang maging mabisa ang isang pinuno, kailangan niyang maging mahusay sa pakikipagkomunikasyon, lalong – lalo na sa larangan ng pakikipagtalastasan. Dito sa ating kultura at maging sa ibang dako ng daigdig, hinahangaan ang isang taong may kakayahang pag-alabin ang damdamin ng mga nakikinig. Ang kakayahang ito ay isang makapangyarihang kasangkapan ng isang karismatik na pinuno, tulad ni Hitler ng Alemanya.

Ang tanong: Sapat ba ang kanilang husay sa pagsasalita sa wikang Filipino sa kanilang pakikipag – ugnayan at pakikipagtulungan sa mga mamamayan at ahensya ng gobyerno sa iba't – ibang dako ng Pilipinas na kinakailangang gawin ayon sa bagong Internal Peace and Security Plan (Bayanihan) ng AFP? At bakit wikang Filipino at hindi sa wikang English na higit nilang nalalaman ang kailangang gamitin sa kanilang talakayan? Ang mga katanungang ito ang siyang tampulan ng sanaysay na ito.

Sa aming palagay, ay hindi matindi at malawak ang pagsunod ng mga opisina ng gobyerno sa tinatadhana ng batas. English pa rin ang higit na nakakalamang sa mga opisyal na komunikasyon hanggang ngayon pagkatapos ng dalawampu't tatlong taon. May



mga departamento na upang makatupad kahit pahapyaw lamang, pinagsamang English at Filipino ang kanilang isinulat sa kanilang stationery letterhead.

Sa mga paaralan, English pa rin ang pangunahing wika. Kung ang kurso ay teknikal, ito ay kauna – unawa; talagang mahirap isalin sa Filipino ang kanilang mga aralin at mga termino. Ngunit may mga kursong akmang – akma ang Filipino lalo na ngayon na maaari nang hiramin nang buong - buo ang mga salitang banyaga o isulat sila ayon sa bigkas, (halimbawa: medium – midyum) tulad



ng mga nasa History, Law, Social Sciences at marami pang iba. Maging sa PMA, di pa malayo ang narating sa pagpapayabong ng wikang pambansa kahit may mga kursong Filipino sa kurikulum.

...Hindi naman talagang nagkulang ang pamunuan ng PMA sa pagtupad sa itinatadhana ng mga batas tungkol sa wikang Filipino. Sa katunayan, noong di pa gaano katagal na pinairal ang Atas Tagapagpaganap 335, kasama na sa kurikulum ang Filipino na itinuturo sa unang taon ng pag – aaral. Ang Filipino I sa unang semester ay tungkol sa “mga uri ng pamamahayag, paglalarawan, pagsasanay, paglalahad at pangangatwiran.” Ang Filipino II sa pangalawang semester ay ang Panitikan – bilang pagkilala sa katotohanang wala sa wastong balarila lamang ang pagkatuto ng wika kundi sa wastong paggamit nito sa mga makabuluhang karanasang dulot ng panitikan...(tuluyan at patula)...”

Sa kasalukuyang kurikulum, ang mga kursong Filipino ay naging Fil 131, Sining ng Pakikipagtalastasan at Fil 132, Retorika. Ang una ay nagbibigay tuon sa “Filipino bilang wikang dinamiko na kasangkapan sa komunikasyong pasalita at pasulat. Nililinaang dito ang apat na makrong kasanayang pangwika: ang pakikinig, pagsasalita, pagbabasa at pagsusulat...lilinangin ng kursong ito ang kaalamang pangwika ng kadete sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaroon ng **kaalamang panggramatika upang magamit ito sa mabisang pagpapahayag ng mga kaisipan at saloobin.** Sa kabuuan, ang batayang kaalamang pangwika sa komunikasyong Filipino ay bibigyang tuon sa paniniwalang **higit na magagampanan ng isang kadete ang kanyang tungkulin bilang isang tagapangasiwa, lider ng karakter, kung sa pagsulong ng bansa at kasapi ng AFP sa hinaharap kung siya ay may katatasan sa pagsasalita at may kasanayang sumulat ng wasto.”** (*Ang mga salitang higit na maitim ang limbag ay ginawa ng may akda upang mabigyang diin*)

Ang Fil 132 naman ay Retorika – “Ang liliinang ng kasanayan sa pagpapahayag nang pasalita at pasulat sa mga kadete bilang isang indibidwal, bahagi ng isang etnikong grupo ng komunidad at higit sa lahat, tagapagtanggol ng bayan. Pagtutuunan ng pansin dito ang pagiging malikhain ng mga kadete sa mga gawain sa larangan ng apat na paraan ng pagpapahayag: ang paglalarawan,

paglalakad, pagsasalaysay at pangangatwiran...inaasahan din ang mga kadete na **makagawa ng isang sulating pananaliksik upang matutugunan ang pangangailangan ng isang institusyon o organisasyon...”**

Ang PMA Graduates at ang Filipino

Ang mga layuning nabanggit, kung magagampanan ay lubhang napakagandang makamtan para sa isang nagtapos sa PMA at maitalagang pinuno saan mang larangan ng AFP, saan mang dako ng Pilipinas. Saan mang dako, sa Luzon, sa Bisaya, sa Mindanao, kahit sa kasulok – sulukan, ang Filipino ay naiintindihan na, kahit ng isang batang musmos. Ito ay magbibigay sa kanya ng isang pangunahing katangian na kailangan ng isang matagumpay na lider – husay sa komunikasyon, di lamang sa pagsulat, kundi sa pananalita. Di lamang kailangan ito sa pagbibigay ng atas sa mga nasasakupang sundalo sa araw – araw kundi sa pakikipag – niig sa mga mamamayan sa pagganap ng mga tungkulin sa ugnayang sibil – militar na binibigyang diin sa bagong IPSP Bayanihan ng AFP.

Hindi lamang sa pagiging lider ng mga sundalo mahalaga ang kakayahang magsalita sa Filipino. Kahit na sa pagharap sa midya bilang tagapagsalita, sa pakikipagpulong sa mga Peace Order Councils, sa pagtatalumpati bilang isang panauhing pandangal sa kapistahan sa isang barangay, kasama na sa pagdalo sa mga congressional hearing bilang mataas na opisyal magagamit ang kanyang husay sa pananalita sa Filipino. Higit siyang hahangaan at paniniwalaan at maipaparating niya nang maayos sa mga nakikinig ang kanyang mensahe.

Subalit, lubhang nakakalungkot. Kalimitan sa mga pagtitipong nabanggit ay wikang English ang karaniwang ginagamit, kundi man ay “Taglish” na nakakasira sa kadalisayan ng wikang Filipino. Sa pagsasalita ng English, di rin kahusayan ang ating mga nagsipagtapos, kung ihanay sa mga sibilyan na abugado, mambabatas, propesor, at manunulat, sa kadahilanang hindi tama ang kanilang bigkas na pabugso – bugso at pautal – utal (kuha sa plebe year). Kaya’t sa pagharap sa media, maliban sa ilan na nagsikap maging mahusay na mananalita), mukhang ang ating mga PMA graduates ay nahuhuli sa labanang talakayan.

Pangwakas: Panaginip o Posibilidad?

Darating kaya ang panahon na dito sa ating bayan, pormal na Filipino, hindi Taglish, ang mangingibabaw na opisyal na komunikasyon sa gobyerno at midyum ng pagtuturo sa edukasyon? Mangyayari din kaya na ang mga pangunahing pahayagan sa Metro Manila ay nasusulat sa Filipino?

Sa mga masidhing nagsusulong sa wikang Filipino, ang mga nabanggit ay isang napakagandang panaginip. Sa simula, mukhang napakahirap mangyari dahil lubhang napakalalim ang pagkakatanim ng English sa ating kultura. Ganoon pa man, ang PMA ay maaaring manguna sa adhikaing ito, at mapataas ang antas ng husay ng mga kadete sa pagsasalita at pagsulat sa Filipino. Ang dahilan: Ito ang wikang nararapat sa pagganap ng kanilang tungkulin bilang namumuno ng mga pulutong, sa kanilang pakikipag – ugnayan sa mga mamamayang Pilipino.

Kongklusyon: Mga Panukala

Ang pagpapayabong ng Filipino sa PMA ay nagkaroon ng balakid. Noong ika - 15 ng Mayo, 2013, pinirmahan ni Pangulong Benigno S. Aquino ang Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 (RA 10533), lalong kilala bilang K-12 Program. Sa ilalim nito, nadagdagan ng dalawang taon ang mataas na paaralan, ang Grades 11 at 12. Ang mga kursong FIL 131 at FIL 132 sa PMA ay nailipat sa mataas na paaralan.

Hindi naman katapusan ng mundo ng wika ang pagkawala ng Filipino sa kurikulum ng PMA. Kahit hindi pa naipapatupad nang lubusan ang mga layunin ng Saligang Batas, malawak na ang narating ng Filipino sa Pilipinas. Sa mga program ng radyo at TV, Filipino na ang ginagamit sa usapan. Maging sa Kongreso marami na ang nagsasalita sa Filipino. Sa mga interbyu ng mga TV anchors

sa mga tao sa malalayong dako ng bansa, karamihan, kung hindi lahat, ay nagsasalita sa Filipino.

Sa PMA, maraming paraan para magawa ang pagpapayabong sa Pambansang Wika, na nasabi na sa sanaysay noong 2011. Isa na rito ang pagiging liberal ng mga tactical officers, instructors at upper class sa interpretasyon ng “familiarity”, na ang ibig sabihin, Ingles ang gamitin sa pakikipag-uusap ng “junior” sa “senior” at kadete sa mga opisyal.

Sa silid-aralan maaari din na Filipino ang gamitin sa mga “non-traditional subjects”, tulad ng mga asignatura sa “socio-humanistic disciplines.” Sa Parade and Review, na kung saan Filipino ang mga mando (Ex. Pasulong Na), bakit hindi wikang Filipino rin ang gamitin ng emcee sa paglalarawan ng mga nangyayari?

Sa hanay ng mga kadete, mainam kung ilang artikulo sa Corps Magazine ang isulat nila sa Filipino o kaya magtatag sila ng Filipino Klub. Dagdagan din ang mga aklat sa aklatan na nakasulat sa Filipino, kasama na ang mga diksyonaryong Filipino at Sining ng Pakikipagtalastasan.

Bilang wakas, masasabi na hindi na mahirap ang sumulat at magsalita sa Filipino. Ang ating pambansang wika ay hindi na Tagalog, kundi Filipino na pinayamang bokabularyo na binubuo ng maraming diyalekto: Tagalog, mga salitang Bisaya, Ilocano, Bicol, Tausog, Maranaw, Ibanag, pati na Ingles, Espanol, Arabo, Tsino at marami pang iba. Hindi pa nga lamang kumpleto ang buong diksyonaryo Filipino.

Tandaan lang ang kasabihan “kung ano ang bigkas siyang baybay.” Kaya ang mahuhusay sa Ingles, magiging mahusay din sa Filipino sapagkat sa kasabihang nabanggit, maaaring gawing Filipino ang salitang banyaga (Ex: idiosyncrasy – idyosingkrasy; stratification – estratipikasyon; diagram – dayagram).



A Profile on Leadership

(Condensed from “Quo Vadis AGFO, Where Do You Belong?” by the author 2017)

• CAV CHRIS R FRANCISCO '68



Pleasant events are chapters in our lives that remain in our memories. I had the opportunity to attend the fellowship meeting of the Association of General and Flag Officers (AGFO). Many issues were brought out. One is the membership issue on who are qualified to join the association. For being a general is not only prestigious but a name associated with honor, pride, dignity and respect. Generals are considered gentry in a civilized society.

The Star of a General

As Sun Tzu, the great Chinese philosopher and author of the 'Art of War' considered as the mother doctrine of warfare and human endeavors, had emphasized: "the survival of the nation is a matter of life and death which is totally dependent on the quality of the leaders... A general who devotes more time in education, training, and deliberate calculations in the planning process is a superior general worth a thousand men... A morally upright and educated general is a statesman of the republic". Indeed, a general is a glittering star of society. Entrepreneurs consider the 'Art of War' as their bible from boardroom to the intrepid avenues of competition.

The Story of Three Generals.

This is the untold story of three generals who applied for admission to heaven. They are **General Impression from the Republic of Laforma**, **General Entertainment from the Republic of Kalabasha**, and **General Knowledge from the Republic of Maharlika**. Since they were generals, the guard at the heaven's gate granted them a pass to Saint Peter.

"Welcome generals, what can I do for you? Your honor, the most holy and gracious gate keeper of heaven, we wish to have your final blessing for us to enter heaven," says General Impression who was the most senior. ... "As you know your honor we were respected leaders and generals in our mortal world and hence we deserve to enter heaven." "Well, gentlemen I shall consider your application...

*There is one formal requirement; I would like you to present a five minute briefing before a panel where I am the chairman. The topic is **Leadership**. You may go back to your respective mortal world to make a research, and in three days you come back to do the general presentation..."* Saint Peter instructed.

After three days, the three generals reported back as instructed. "**General Impression**, you have a very impressive report submitted with a colorful cover page... you are now ready to do a briefing, we would be glad to listen," Saint Peter commented.

"Oh yes, your honor, in fact when I went back to my mortal world, my staff were intact and they did a good research for me... As you know, I am a general who takes care of my subordinates' welfare. But, I normally do not do the briefing because my chief of staff was the one I have assigned to do a briefing for me in all occasions. He was my alter ego; an indispensable staff throughout my career," General Impression responded.

"Perhaps, you can tell us in a few sentences the content of your report on leadership... I believe you must have read your own report that you signed with your name," Saint Peter answered.

"Your honor, I have not yet read the content of my report due to lack of material time, which usually my chief of staff asked me to sign without me reading it. But to me leadership is a leader in the ship.. 'capitan del barko'."

"**General Entertainment**, are you now ready to brief us on leadership?"

"Your honor, I do not have a report because when I went back to my mortal world, all my staff were gone and no where could be found...; you know just like General Impression, I do not do this kind of work because my efficient staff do the work for me. It is called a completed staff action and my job was to sign without thinking or taking a look at the content. I have their confidence at all times. Since I am a talented entertainer, I could be a troubadour in your chamber and bring in here an entertainment musical band. This is indeed my

forte... Anyway, in my limited knowledge of the subject, leathership is the art of making belts..."este el arte para obrar los pajas ..."General Entertainment responded.

"General Knowledge, I do not have your report... but are you ready to brief us?" says Saint Peter.

"Your honor I did not go back to Earth because I do not have to. I have with me the ideas about the subject since in my mortal life, I had been a hard working officer who considered every opportunity as a natural gift to learn ... I had a well-rounded career both as a field commander and staff having subscribed to a cycle of education-learning- application process in order to deliver efficiency in my work. I knew my shortcomings and had always able to overcome them by way of a continuing education, research and consultation with other professionals who are experts in their own fields... Here are my ideas and thoughts about leadership."

General Knowledge had the following presentation before Saint Peter and panel:

Leadership Definition

"Leadership, as traditionally defined, is the art of influencing human behavior and being able to imbibe in their mind the rationality and aspiration of a purpose so as to get their wholehearted support, dedication, and commitment toward a common endeavor".

- a). **Leadership is compare to a tip of an arrow that blazes through difficult trails and leaves indelible footprints in the sand of time.** The sharp apex of an arrow represents knowledge, qualifications, expertise and wisdom to overcome challenges and problems. The body of the arrow represents resources at hand. It must be strong that would not break easily. It has both tangible and intangible attributes that can withstand tribulations and calamities. The feather is the moral guide that provides direction. Without the feather – rudder the arrow cannot penetrate and drive at the target. Above all, the arrow must have a soul that energizes the spirit of achievement. Making use of and properly exploiting resources at hand is a leader's personal ability that varies from one person to another.

As great men emerge from the encounter between excellent opportunities and brilliant ideas, an accomplished leader always leaves a legacy to be remembered; 'an indelible footprint in the sand of time'. Shadow of popular persons and celebrities vanishes at sunset. Shadow of great leaders remains through the night. Adversities are common for a sailor in a smooth sailing is not a good sailor. Great leaders



suffer so much that even the gods in Mount Olympus have to watch how these leaders fought triumphantly over the forces of evil.

- b). **Leadership is action. It is a calculated risk on situations where the odds may not be favorable.** But with cunning and brilliance, difficulties are overcome and positive result is attained. Leadership cannot be delegated. A leader who allows to be manipulated is a 'eunuch'.

- c). **Leadership is a continuing education which is indispensable.** A prince in the waiting cannot remain lax or complacent but has to fully develop himself (intellectually, morally, spiritually, and physically which are the triad dimensions of human resource development) in order to take over the throne. God-given talents and attributes must be developed to the fullest to become integral parts of a leader's profile.

Some unqualified leaders were miserable failures because they had been sleeping and did not do their homework. They thought that leadership is mere popularity and the position acquired through sycophantism. A leader must know that "the first line of defense is the capacity to reason." A humiliated human being must take the challenge to get better and improve. If not even with several stars in their uniform and with material wealth, deep in their heart they remain insecure. Many of them are the weeping guys of the social media.

- d). **Excellent leadership is stratagem.** Imagination is not enough. As a dynamic leader, you must know your position relative to your competitor or enemy. Your first hand knowledge is vital, and reactive intelligence information is a good alibi for failure. Simulate options by putting yourself in the mind of your enemy. Be intuitive and never stop crafting and refining your strategies. Do a simulation for all possible outcomes. Develop a good staff and spies. Information technology is an important resource. Create alliance. Be young at heart. Good leadership is also a song. It can melt and wake up a dumb heart.

- e). **Leadership is followership, collective aspiration, and personal leadership or self-discipline.**

In an organization where the aspiration is the same for every member as those at the top echelon, there is a commonality of aspiration which is a collective leadership bounded by a common oath of sacred obligation. It is binding and no room for 'elitism of who is who'.

Self-leadership is personal discipline and leading by correct example. A leader is a towering figure of inspiration. *Because there is no limit to an inspiration but only a degree. Enthusiasm must be a contaminating virus initiated by the leader and staff.*

- f). **Leadership is both efficiency and economy.** In Economics, the terms economy, and efficiency represent the two sides of a coin in confronting a given problem. Economy is being able to maximize operational effectiveness with a fixed amount of resources. It is a way of getting the most of your investment. Efficiency, on the other hand, is being able to accomplish a given task or mission at the least cost or casualty. This is 'supreme excellence in war,' according

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 

Voices from the Barracks

(This new segment aims to connect future members of PMAAAI (cadets) to the mainstream alumni community. In here, questions, issues and other matters are raised by our younger brothers and sisters who are still "inside barracks." Answers/responses to these questions can be addressed to the editorial staff for review and eventual publication next issue.)

1. Some cadets perceive Testimonial Parade and Review (TPR) as duties of low importance because of its time consuming nature and its frequency which is conducted almost every weekend. This would further result in dozing cadets during noon mess speeches that would cause punishment and mase-mase especially for underclass cadets. For alumni, how important is TPR and is it essential to be conducted every weekend in the Academy, Sir?
2. Given the unfortunate circumstances that had happened in the year 2019, the cadet corps was subjected to changes to adapt to the current trends but still, there was less support received outside the four walls of the institution. Why is it that there are still alumni who insist on inappropriate traditions rather than positive change?
3. How is the spirit of the Honor Code manifested in the life of the alumni?
4. After graduation, we will become a part of the alumni community.
 - a. As alumni, what are the meaningful ways to effectively contribute to our Alma Mater (PMA)?
 - b. What is the role of the alumni community in improving the PMA?
5. The AFP Chief of Staff admitted that there is a need to catch up with the latest technology. Also, with all the modernization program he is hoping that we can attain our objective. Can the alumni community consider to provide modern and state-of-the-art equipment and laboratories to the cadets?

FROM PAGE 21

to Sun Tzu; to win the war with minimum casualty; a way of defeating or subjugating your opponent through psychological means or projected sense of formidable superiority. According to the first US President George Washington, "to be prepared for war is to maintain peace", and hence project a psychological victory or deterrence over your probable enemies. According to Lord Palmerstone of Great Britain, "... in international relation, there are no permanent friends or enemies; only permanent interests." Indeed, to adhere to peace but remain weak is self-treason! Thank you so much," General Knowledge concluded.

"General Knowledge that was an excellent briefing and in fact among the best we had... We have learned new knowledge and indeed you are worthy to enter the kingdom of heaven...What organization do you belong in your mortal world Earth? What is this **AGFO** stands for in your biographical data and application?" Saint Peter curiously asked.

"Your honor, our organization is known as the **Association of Good and Formidable Officers** or acronym '**AGFO**'..."

- **We are binded by a common aspiration to continue serving our country and people. We are the communitarians endowed with community spirit to make the place better to live with dignity and honor. Rizalism is our way of life as we have subscribed to the ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal; the pride of the Malayan race, a statesman, and a national hero idolized by the youth of the land. We have always in mind his provocative proposition that "life not concentrated to a great ideal is like a stone casts into many fields without**

becoming a part of any edifice..." and that the highest ideal is unconditional service to God, country and people. For it is better to die in the flower of youth than to exist like a sheep living, dying, and unknown.(Mabuti pang mamatay sa kagitingan ng kabataan kaysa mabuhay na kagaya ng isang tupang duwag, namatay at walang pakinabang saban sa)...

- **We are dreamers and doers. We move forward through the long caravan of life. Our ideals and aspirations never die for our members continue to live in the spiritual world in the great gulf of eternity. Their names are written in the book of great men ... " And so where is AGFO heading; quo vadis AGFO?" Saint Peter asked.**

"Yes your honor... we in **AGFO** are positive thinkers. We are visionary and dreamers; although there can be no concrete dreams without vision. We look forward beyond the horizon of our limited sight. We continue to move along the path of the innumerable caravans of life toward a destination carrying with us the idealism of Dr. Jose Rizal. Miseries are but illusion to brave men but neither hindrances or frustrations to **AGFO**. During times of extreme crisis, we do not despair. We do not think that everybody is hard up and miserable. On the contrary, that is where we can separate the men from the boys; the women from the girls. The boys and girls easily get drown at the slightest wave and sign of tempest. The men and women survive the tempest of time. Among them emerge the two percent exceptional and outstanding. **AGFO members are two percenters which truly make them elite members and gentry of a civilized society. That is where AGFO belongs!**" General Knowledge concluded.

Cav Leah Lorenzo-Santiago '97

Inspiring Journey in the Army



Cavalier Leah Lorenzo Santiago is a well-known lady officer who received numerous awards and distinctions in recognition of her invaluable contributions to the military service that made an impact on women's role to a male-dominated field. Her story started when a colleague in University of the Philippines filled-out a PMA application form on her behalf. Expecting that her application form was an invitation to all women of her age to take an exam in PMA when it first opened its doors to aspiring female military leaders, she willingly took the test. She was later accepted as one of the first female cadets to be admitted in the prestigious military institution that changed the path she had taken. Her journey as a PMA Cavalier might be unforeseen but her fate brought her to where her soul indeed belongs.

Being one of the first female cadets to graduate in the Philippine Military Academy in 1997, Cavalier Leah Lorenzo-Santiago did not only vow to surpass the rigid military training and nerve-racking physical and academic activities. She also fervently desired receiving equal treatment in a male-dominated environment. Unsurprisingly, being an extraordinary woman, she graduated with flying colors and was named as the second cadet in the PMA history to receive Summa Cum Laude award. She, receiving numerous distinctions, proves that women, however harsh the conditions in the field while bearing the intricacies of a female body with physical constraints, can excel even in a regimented military training system that was once designed only for men.



However, the real challenge only began when she joined the Philippine Army. Knowing the ugly truth that males in the military service were not really fond of being led by women, it was a tragic dilemma for a female officer to earn the trust and confidence of her men when it comes to her leadership skills. Despite the odds, she was able to break the stereotype and proved that female military leaders are assets to the Philippine Army.

When she led the Bravo Company of 30th Infantry Battalion, she was skeptical that her men would not take commands. However, she eventually gained their trust after she took responsibilities on her men's actions and showed her profound concern to them. Her strong determination, resilience, and sincere comradeship made her a successful infantry officer. Cavalier Lorenzo commanded 81 soldiers, over 60 Moro National Liberation Front integrees and over 200 Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Unit members, which were fielded in the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, and Marawi City. Despite numerous combat encounters and other atrocities that she faced, none of her men perished under her commandership. Consequently, she was awarded with the Gold Cross Medal for the successful operation against rogue elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that led to its neutralization and recovery of assorted high-powered firearms.

She did not only exhibit her prowess in battlefield; she also led her troops to initiate community activities thereby integrating the efforts of local government units, agencies, and the private sectors that alleviated its economic condition. Having a natural charisma and effective speaking skills, she smoothly instigated different community works that brought her heart closer to the people. Her efforts became a template emulated by various military units.

Being a lady officer who was given various key positions in the Army, Cavalier Santiago has proven enough that females can also do what men are doing yielding an equal quality output or even better. She was known to handle key positions as first female to be designated as such in the Philippine Army's history. However, she once again raised the lady officers' flag when she became the first woman to lead an Army Artillery Battalion as the Commanding Officer. After surpassing the Command and General Staff Course,



stakeholders in the area such as the donation of classroom desks made from artillery ammo boxes to indigent schools.

Evidently, her exceptional contribution to the Philippine Army has paved way for the organization to give Filipina soldiers equal opportunities to grow and to excel in all aspects of military. Today, their roles are not only confined in administrative and clerical functions; they are given a chance to rise and show brilliance even in the battlefield. Cavalier Santiago became an inspiration to the younger generation that gender is never a hindrance to achieve great things in life. Her attitude towards the service, her dedication on her assigned tasks, and her willingness to sacrifice for the Filipino people are confirmations that every woman in the Army can lead and do the work just as great as her male counterpart, if not more. In retrospect, Cavalier Santiago aided in establishing an organization that recognizes women's role, hones their full potential, enhances their abilities, and builds leaders among them. Definitely, she is an epitome of a servant leader who lives to the ideals that she learned from her beloved Alma Mater. Her deep sense of enthusiasm and professionalism inspired everyone, especially women in arms like her.

With these merits, one thing will never change: she is a mother and a wife. Despite having strong and fierce personality, Cavalier Santiago reserves a soft spot in her heart, a nurturing mother and a loving spouse. She may be tough, but her woman's instinct will always be her greatest ability. No matter how career-oriented Cavalier Santiago is, she still gives enough time to her two sons. Despite of her busy schedules, she still devotes quality time to her family to ensure that her kids will grow better. She may be is a working mom, but she never fails to show her love to her boys and to her husband. Cavalier Santiago may be feared by the enemy, but to her family, she is someone who exudes extra rays of light in their path.

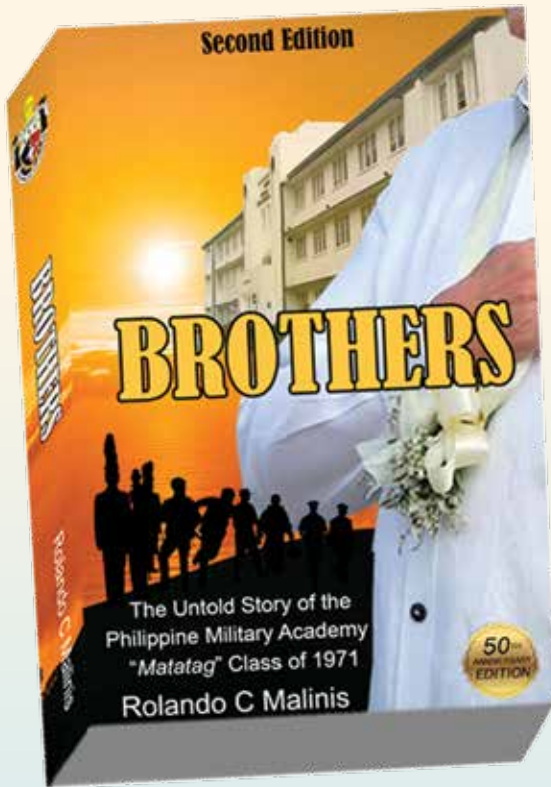
She is Cavalier Leah Lorenzo-Santiago, a pride of PMA "Kalasag-Lahi" Class of 1997, a pride of Philippine Military Academy.



she was then designated as the Battalion Commander of the 9th Field Artillery (FIRESTORM) Battalion (P), Army Artillery Regiment, Philippine Army which is attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team. Notwithstanding the threat of leading a combat support unit that was assigned to a heavily inflicted terrorist haven, she was able to command and supervise a total of 645 fire missions in support to the maneuver units in Sulu Province that contributed to the neutralization of three Abu Sayyaf Group members and permitted the voluntary surrender of three rebels. She also served as the Fire Support Coordinator of the Joint Task Force Sulu and acted as an adviser to her superiors responsible for directing all Fire Support Operations. She also facilitated the conduct of various Civil-Military Operations in partnership with different units and



Book Review



BROTHERS: The Untold Story of the Philippine Military Academy “Matatag” Class of 1971

• CAV ROLLY C MALINIS ‘71

and friends were very encouraging and inspiring. Excerpts from selected reviews and endorsements are reviewed here.

Book Review of the First Edition

Gemma Nemenzo, managing editor of Positively Filipino.com and editor of the book BROTHERS.

“I edited this book so I’m biased, but take my word for it, it offers a fascinating and comprehensive coverage of what it means to spend four years in the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). The Class of ‘71 is notorious or famous, depending on which side of history you’re on. Some of its well-known members initiated the military rebellion that led to the EDSA People Power Revolt of 1986; many of them staged failed coups against the Cory Aquino administration. This checkered history doesn’t take away from the outstanding service many of the class’ quieter members have rendered to the country.”

Jesus B. Duller, PMA ‘69

“Your story of the Matatag’s close involvement in the 1986 People’s Revolution and the unfolding coups and struggles after that historical event was a significant collective revelations unique only to your class and will surely go down in generations to come to have a defining, profound effect onto what the country has and will become ...”

Book Endorsements (First Edition)

Late Commodore Carlos L. Agustin PN (Ret), former President, National Defense College of the Philippines (2001-2010)

“... A story of a Philippine Military Academy (PMA) class, masterfully written, in itself relating the individual and collective paths of the members of the controversial class. This is a book that students and researchers of history, current affairs and socio-political issues in developing countries will find extremely enlightening and useful.”

CriseldaYabes, book author and journalist

“This book tells us stories of beginnings, of the innocence that was among the cadets, given their chance to mark their future. It is in these stories that make us understand the Philippine military, to fathom crucial decisions they make, to laugh with the jokes and anecdotes shared among men molded to become leaders.

The first edition of the book “**BROTHERS: The Untold Story of the Philippine Military Academy ‘Matatag’ Class of 1971**” was launched on February 26, 2015. The book was written with the end in view of enshrining in book form the unadulterated life story of the members of PMA class 1971. Secondarily, the book can serve as the *Matatags’* legacy to their children and grandchildren. Finally, to inspire, hopefully, PMA cadets to learn from the experiences of PMA Class 1971.

Jake Duller, PMA ‘69 has commented, “*The book [first edition] should be a required reading for members of the Cadet Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (CAAFP). The collective and individual adventures of the Matatags could provide inspiration in terms of the value of military life. And more importantly, of life itself and all the benefits of their career, family and country.*”

The book BROTHERS is about the untold story of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1971, arguably the most controversial class to emerge from the Academy since its founding in the early 20th century. Though it may not be as comprehensive in scope, it reveals the truth. As my *mistah* Marte Chioco said, “*Some members may have not submitted their narratives for some reason. Thus, the book may have not captured all. Some untold stories may remain unshared or to be kept only among the brothers. A few may keep their own opinions based on personal beliefs and experiences. But, by and large, from the tedious process of collation of information, ideas and suggestions from the members of the Class, it is clear that the book is solely a product and legacy of the Class.*”

BROTHERS provides insights and perspectives, through the lives and careers of its members; of what really happens to cadets within the walls of PMA; how military career evolves and ends; and how rebels are created. Reviews from prominent personalities

Class of '71 has had its reputation of fame and notoriety. This book has less of that; it tells us more about dreams and the kind of survival that changed their lives and the honor with which they want to serve the nation. Many classes have gone through similar paths, but the Class of '71, for what it's worth, has forged its place in our country's recent military history."

Winston G. Arpon, PMA '64

"... For the story of this class, individually and collectively, from the day they took their oath as members of the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1967 to this very day is, on several planes, the story of PMA, the AFP and the country.

As one reads through the chapters of the book arranged—quite understandably so—in some time sequence of events that transpired in the last four decades, the conclusion becomes inescapable that Malinis, through this interesting and captivating book about his PMA class, has contributed more than a page or two to Philippine history."

Gregorio B. Honasan PMA '71, Philippine Senator

"This book is the story of the 'MATATAGS.' It is the most detailed and factual account to date of PMA Class 1971. It was written and lived in sweat, tears and sacrifice by Rolly Malinis, a MATATAG, with all members of the class – as brothers."

Panfilo M. Lacson PMA '71, Philippine Senator

"An array of human travails and fate – starting with their cadet days from 1967 to 1971, all the way to their retirement more than three decades later, the Philippine Military Academy 'Matatag' Class of 1971 exemplifies a multi-faceted experience of an interesting mix of men worthy of a book in contemporary history ... PMA Class '71 has a great impact on Philippine history. Its class members are visible in government, business, and community services even to this very day ..."

Ambassador Marciano A. Paynor Jr, PMA '71

"The author's narrative shows his keen sense of observation and his even better ability to retain details of things that happened close to half a century ago. A very good read for the members of the class, but even better book for those who think they know of its members. This is an unadulterated narrative of what was, and is about the famous or infamous PMA Matatag Class of 1971."

Edgar B. Aglipay, President, PMA Class '71 and Chairman, PMA Alumni Association Inc. 2020-2021

"It is in the way the author, Rolly Malinis, has conveyed the awesome attainments and the exhilarating experiences of the subjects in the penned stories of the members of PMA Class '71 that lends immutability in the minds of the readers. What PMA Class '71 has accomplished that the readers construed, grasped and empathized with as Rolly has scribed it is important, but what counts the most is what the readers effectuate to better the world where we and future generations live."

What to Expect from the Second Edition?

The first edition of BROTHERS narrates stories of PMA Class 1971 covering the period from 1967 to 2013. From 2013 to mid-2020, many stories involving the class have happened. Some exciting stories that happened in the early part of their military career were left out. So, to update our story the class commissioned the author to write the second edition of BROTHERS (also known as the golden anniversary edition) - to be published in 2021 coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of PMA Class '71.

More than half of the chapters in the first edition are retained. So, from the 23-chapter first edition, the second edition has risen to 35 chapters.

What's New?

The second edition of BROTHERS depicts a slightly different story plot. It tells the varied stories of the journey of mistahs of PMA Class '71 towards the fulfilment of their military careers. The journey went smoothly until some obstacles were thrown along the way. But true to form and the commitment of the class as a united front, they have strived to passionately overcome these obstacles.

The second edition is being edited by Ms. Gemma Nemenzo-Ver, wife of Cavalier Irwin Ver '70. Gemma, a freelance writer and editor, is presently the managing editor of Positively Filipino, an online magazine published in California.

Certain basic concepts and confluence of events have been laid down in the second edition of the book. The four-year rigorous military education in the PMA provided the graduates the basic and broad military skills, the education, and the character so they can venture into a successful, progressive, and professional military career path. This well-tested path has been the gateway of many alumni to attain the much-coveted rank of general.

Alongside the traditional role of the military, the individual members of Class '71 evolved from young lieutenants fighting the CPP/NPA Maoist insurgency and the MNLFB rebellion to lieutenant colonels commanding battalions, provincial commands, and captains of PN ships. The path to a successful career from 1971 to 1986 was on track until some dysfunctions in the political-socio-economic system of the Philippine state began to emerge. It was a test as to how class '71 would collectively and individually discern these events and upheavals as they influenced the country and their service careers.

In 1986, many members of Class '71 chose to break from the traditional role of the military by triggering the historic February 1986 People Power Revolution. The active participants of the Revolution became instant heroes with more promising military careers ahead of them. Unfortunately, the participation of a number of the class in the failed military coups in 1987 and 1989 against the person installed at the helm of power during the historic February 1986 Revolution created a dilemma, a true-to-life-conflict that could waylay the successful and progressive military rise of *Matatags* to star material. At this point, their otherwise glorious military career became uncertain.

As Greg Honasan, the authentic hero of the People Power Revolution, said, *"We all paid the price and our dues in varying degrees; and continue to do so as long as we live."* Despite the stigma of the several coup attempts, one thing has remained unchanged though, that is the class remains steadfast in its vision to serve the country and the people.

Would the stigma caused by the coup attempts spell the end of the world for PMA Class of '71?

The second edition of BROTHERS focuses on how the Class of '71 has risen, collectively or individually, to the challenges that blemished their reputation and endangered the professional military career growth of those still in the service.

As the saga continues, class members who were still in active military service and those who have pursued careers outside the military have fought hard together to bring back their old glory days. It has been a long and tough battle lasting for almost three decades.

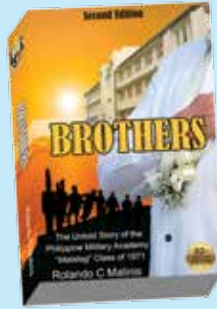
Has PMA Class '71 succeeded in restoring the good image of the *Matatags*, and thus that of PMA and the AFP?

BROTHERS (second edition) shall provide the answers.



BROTHERS

Second Edition



As an adage, a good fight deserves another round, a good season justifies an adaptation, so, too, a good book merits a sequel.

Perusing First Edition of “Brothers”, the book about the legendary life of PMA Class ‘71, at once nostalgic, historical, inspirational and true-to-life, is like “eating peanuts” – once you get started, you can’t stop, so they say. Likewise, an inquisitive reader will always chase the end of the story for the denouement and the self-satisfying feeling having experienced the way of life no less of the protagonist!

Second Edition of “Brothers” is opportunely billed “the best this time around”. So it is! It unravels more guarded stories of members of the class who are keeping them to themselves, stories that are unbelievable seemingly but it did eventuate, and stories that turned unassuming young lads into accomplished men for God, Country and People. It is the Filipino book version of “Saving Private Ryan,” a modern-day story of Captain Jesus Villamor of the World War II Pilot Hero exploit, and a variant of the Filipino TV teleserye, “A Soldier’s Heart”, portraying the new graduates of the PMA in their baptism of fire in Mindanao.

PMAyers in a particular class are always proud to say their class is the best class, or at least the second best. Nonetheless, they nurture deep in their heart that theirs is a class that has accomplished the utmost they are proud of ever. By the same token, it is a common knowledge that PMA Class ‘71 has earned the coveted distinction in playing a meritorious role in the EDSA People Power Revolution ‘86, in representing beyond reproach the Filipino People in the Senate for the last two decades, and in providing at the forefront for the period 2020 – 2021 unparalleled unifying services to all PMAyers by way of best practices and good governance as the template for the incoming classes to exercise leadership in turn.

It is in the way the author, Rolly Malinis, has conveyed the awesome attainments and the exhilarating experiences of the subjects in the penned stories of the members of PMA Class ‘71 that lends immutability in the minds of the readers. What PMA Class ‘71 has accomplished that the readers construed, grasped and empathized with as Rolly has scribed it is important, but what counts the most is what the readers effectuate to better the world where we and future generations live.

The commitment of the PMA Class ‘71 to donate 300 Books of “Brothers” to the PMA as reading materials for First Classmen and five copies each for the major Philippine Universities’ libraries will ensconce an indelible imprint in the minds of future Filipino Leaders – the PMA Class ‘71 legacy of Love of God, Country and People personified as written by Rolly Malinis!

Mabuhay ang PMA Class ‘71!

PGEN. Edgar Batalla Aglipay PNP (Ret.)
 President, PMA Class ‘71
 Chairman, PMA Alumni Association Inc. 2020 – 2021

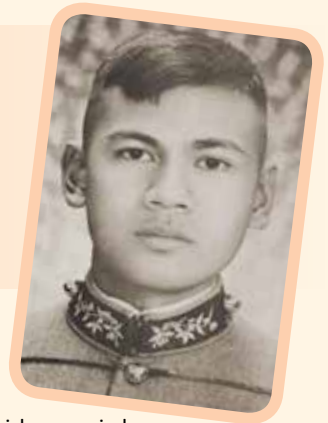
Remembering My Mistah Jose Ramos Briones, Jr.

• CAV DOMINGO C CARBONELL JR ‘80

‘Not the triumph but the struggle’ ...this phrase was the dedication of Jose “Jun” Ramos Briones, Jr. below his picture in our class year book “The Sword 1980 ” . I think it clearly describes what he had gone thru during our cadet days which metamorphosized him from a young and determined teenager into a true son of our Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). Yes, Jun is greatly missed, and almost forgotten... except for a lonely street in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, named in his honor. Allow me to share “flash backs” of my fond recollections of Lt. Briones’ life as a cadet and albeit short, as an officer and some Mistahs who had been part of his life.

It was a fine, cool morning of April 01, 1976, 142 young men, ages 17 to 21 years old, who were members of PMA Class 1980, marched to Borromeo Field for the “reception” rites. One of them was a seventeen-year old named Jose “Jun” Ramos Briones Jr., from Marilao, Bulacan. Jun and I were squadmates with four others namely: Ricardo Rainier G. Cruz III, from Novaliches, Quezon City (Q.C.); Angelito N. Pacia, from Pampanga; Benjardi H. Mantele from Cavite; Romeo L. Gapuz, from La Union and me from Q.C. Among the six of us, Jun was the youngest in our squad (we found out later that he was the youngest in our class).

Jun was about 5 feet 9 inches tall, but lankily built and could barely carry the grand rifle during road runs. I initially thought that he would not last long. I was wrong, he managed to finish summer camp. Aside from his firm determination, Jun had strong pair of legs.



After two months of summer camp, we were “incorporated” (fourth classmen joining the upper class corps) into the cadet corps, assigned to Bud Daho company, (formerly “delta” coy) which occupied the second floor of Regis Hall. I still recall it was very challenging for us as fourth class cadet since we experienced the “daylight saving time (d.s.t.)”. The time was adjusted one hour earlier to maximize sunlight and save on electricity. We had to wake up at 0400H (0500H d.s.t.). Also lack of water was a problem in the barracks. We would wash our cross straps at the swimming pool and take a shower there as early as 0400h. Sometimes we were ordered to get water from the sun dial to flush the toilets at the barracks.

One day, around the middle of June, 1976, when I was the ACCQ (Assistant-Cadet-in-Charge), I was surprised to see Jun wearing civilian clothes. He said that he was “clearing out” (which meant that he returned his issued rifle and items of uniform to the supply office). I asked him where he was going and he smilingly replied that he was one of the candidates for the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), with three other classmates. They were told to report to Manila for processing. With a little bit of envy, in my mind, I said “Buti ka pa hindi na magro-rot!” Nevertheless, I wished him “good luck, Mistah.”

However, to my surprise, about one week later, when I was again the ACCQ, Jun reported back to barracks for “clearing in”. When I inquired what

happened, with a sad countenance, he said that the USAFA decided not to accept candidates from the Philippines that year. Jun confided that he had second thoughts of coming back to join us again as plebes and wanted to resign and will just give himself one week and if he can not catch up with the training he would resign.

But Jun hurdled plebe life! He had the mental and physical toughness to tackle the rigorous training. He placed 3rd in the cross country run in our intramurals. Moreover, with his good memory, academics was no problem for him and he could flawlessly memorize the plebe knowledges and names of upper class cadets in the guard details, so much so, that upper class cadets in our table would castigate other fourth class table mates of Jun, like me and Melchor A. Fajardo, for mumbling when reciting plebe knowledges and guard details for the day.

When we were yearlings (second-year cadets) we had our weapons training in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija. Jun was one of the lucky ones who survived the accident unscathed when the 6x6 truck we were riding fell over the ravine. He was situated at the front of the passenger area with Segundo S. Bolo and Delfin G. Lorenzo. They were able to hold on to the truck's front railing and were somewhat compressed forward by most of us, who were catapulted out of the truck when the truck hit a pile of sand in between the ravine and the river bank. Four of our classmates and a security escort died in that accident.

Jun was an achiever, not only in academics but also in sports. He did not go on Christmas break when we were first class cadets just to practice running middle distance. He had set the PMA intramural record in the 5,000 meter run. With his powerful karate kick he fractured the left hand of Nicanor A. Bartolome, his sparing mate, in our physical education class. He graduated number 5 in our class and received the Philippine Army Award.

He was a very serious and diligent person. He did not smoke and avoided drinking beer, a trade mark of "Bud Daho" cadets. After graduation, we had our Scout Ranger Orientation Course (SROC) training in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. On one week end leave, Emmanuel I. Amat and I were looking for a place to drink beer before going back to Tanay, Rizal. We bumped into Jun, somewhere at a Balintawak bus station. He had just come from his home in Bulacan for the week end. We invited him to join us for some beer but he declined and said he had to go back immediately to Tanay. Amat and I cajoled him for not giving in to our invitation but we found out later that he was carrying the mess allowance of the Army group, more than ten thousand pesos, and did not want to be delayed bringing it to Camp Capinpin for security reasons.

After graduating from SROC training, we were distributed to the different units of the Army. Jun was assigned with the Special Warfare Brigade (SWAB) based in Fort Magsaysay. Months later, when I was in Fort Bonifacio on a mission, I chanced upon Jun and three other classmates: Eduardo D. Del Rosario, William C. Campos and Herbert S. Yambing. They were undergoing the regular Scout Ranger Course. In the Ranger training, Jun again exhibited his superior stamina in long distance running when he was pitted against the best enlisted man in their Ranger class. He easily beat the enlisted man in a cross country race by a "proverbial mile".



In the 1981 Alumni homecoming in PMA, our class was proud that we still had no casualties in combat, not like previous classes who already had one or more casualties before the one year period after graduation had lapsed. During the Alumni parade, Jun was in front of the alumni who trooped the line, marching proudly since he was the youngest alumnus. But I could sense that during our picnic after the alumni parade he was somewhat uneasy hearing our stories of our experiences in the "front lines" while he had nothing to share about his "field experience" since he was still doing garrison duties in Fort Magsaysay. Apparently, this prompted him to request for an assignment in one ranger unit in Mindanao for combat duty.

On the early morning of 22 July 1981, I received a phone call from one of my Navy classmates, Zyril D. Carlos, informing me of the shocking news that Jun is dead, killed in an encounter with New People's Army rebels, somewhere near Mount Apo in Mindanao. His remains will be flown to Manila on that day. I hurriedly dressed up and joined Zyril and Delfin Lorenzo to the domestic airport and sadly waited for Jun's body. When the plane carrying Jun's body landed, we noticed one of our Mistah, "Washington" JV" M. Javier (who was assigned with a P.C. battalion in Davao) sporting shoulder long hair, alighting from the plane. He volunteered to escort Jun's remains from Davao airport to Manila. JV directed the ground crew to bring down the wooden crate containing Jun's body and be transferred to the waiting 6x6 truck. Del Lorenzo and I volunteered to ride in the truck to escort Jun's lifeless body to the funeral parlor. After more than an hour at the funeral parlor, we were wondering why there was no one attending to Jun's body. I was still in shock seeing Jun's body lying lifeless, when Del, whom I never saw get mad when we were cadets, suddenly blew his top and demanded that somebody attend to Jun. Finally, because of Del's outburst, the funeral staff began to "work" on Jun's body so he could be brought to the mortuary in Camp Aguinaldo.

The three of us then proceeded to Marilao, Bulacan to inform Jun's relatives especially her mother who was close to us since she would bring macarons she personally baked, to PMA when she visited Jun. When we located the home address, we opened the gate and entered and was about to knock at the front door of the house when his mother appeared, already crying, before any one of us could utter the bad news. Her other son, Danny, who was from PMA class 1982, called her from PMA, the day before and informed her that something very bad happened to Jun but did not specify what it was.

After informing Jun's relatives, we proceeded to Camp Aguinaldo mortuary where the wake was held. I kept vigil, with some relatives of Jun, for the first night since Zyril and Del, had to attend to their Naval duties. The following morning at around 0600H, other Army classmates from "Bud Daho" company, Rustico C. Francisco and Mario A. Mendoza arrived. Other upperclass men and high ranking officers later came to pay their last respects to Jun.

Upon the behest of his family, Jun was laid to rest at their family's burial site in Manila North cemetery. It has been more than 39 years after Jun's tragic death ... but his short but inspiring life journey as a cadet and second lieutenant will forever be an indelible part of my PMA memories for he had struggled, endured and triumphantly "raised a song" emblazoned with Courage, Loyalty and Integrity for our Alma Mater ! Proud of you Mistah!!!



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

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

CLASS CALL



I am forwarding this amusing anecdote as article for your Cavalier Magazine in memory of the great men from PMA Class 1941.


In their twilight years, the last five veteran PAF pilots from PMA Class 41 regularly met every week. These former

WW2 flyboys met for breakfast in Villamor Air Base Golf Club. One was my Dad. Since he could no longer drive, my younger brother drove for him to the meeting. All had impaired hearing having flown non-pressurized C47 in their early years. They talked to each other in loud voice but with so much laughter. One "mistah" ordered "boneless bangus". When the order came, he got upset and confronted the waiter with the usual "God dem" and said I did not order "boneless bangus", I ordered "tocino" in angry voice. While the waiter was insisting he delivered the

correct order, another mistah tried to correct the situation. He said no "mistah" I heard you ordered "longganisa". We all could not stop laughing when my brother narrated the story.

Shortly after, these war vet flyboys made their last flight to heaven one after another. It took several years when my Dad also took off at age 95.

He was the curtain closer of PMA Class 41.

Rafael S. Diaz, Jr
(representing the sons of PMA 41) 



SALVADOR M MISON
President
VANGIE P RIVERA
Secretary

On class activities

The class 65th graduation anniversary dinner scheduled on 21 March 2020 at the Milky Way Restaurant along Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) in Makati has been indefinitely postponed due to the quarantine and lockdown imposed on all of us, especially the elderly, effective middle of last March, to prevent the spread of this corona virus disease during this pandemic. We don't know when will this end.

No class activities since then.

And now, **the sad news**. We learned that our classmate Abe Baladad passed away on 25 July in Gerona, Tarlac. We conveyed our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to his family. The class could not pay its last respects on him in Tarlac. We can only pray for the eternal repose of his soul. However, Buddy Mison and Johnny Sanchez were able to go to Gerona on 28 July to pay their last respects to Abe and to deliver the class abuloy to the children. They did not attend the necro later in the evening, but Johnny delivered a short message during the mass.



From L-R: Johnny Sanchez, Buddy Mison handing the check to Jesus Baladad (the eldest), Abraham Baladad Jr, Grace Baladad and Aurelio "Leo" Baladad.

That leaves the surviving members of the class to now only eleven, who have remained where they are, except for Tante Ochoco who has been confined at the VMCC for several years now, they have remained in their respective homes during this quarantine period, hopefully healthy and strong. They are Poncing Allanigue, Ros Alquiza, Louie Amigo in US, Rene Ecarma, Buddy Mison, Tante Ochoco, Johnny Sanchez, Porfing Santos, Noli Santua in Iloilo, Romy Solina and Rene Tanseco.

No change in the status of the ladies. They have remained at home, hopefully also

healthy and strong. Same with the second and third generation members.

We would like to congratulate our third gen scholar who recently graduated with Juris Doctor from the UP College of Law. She is Therese Noche Ravina, only child of 2nd gen Ernie and Amor Ravina. She used to be our PDFI scholar when she was taking her undergraduate course also in UP. We congratulate also another 3rd gen member who graduated from UP with a BS in Clothing Technology. She is Kathleen Ninette Ilagan Estrella, granddaughter of the late Jimmy Ilagan. And her brother James is also



Ravina



Estrella



Our treasurer, Bing Miranda, seated, receiving the check from Ching Mariano of PAFCPIC.

graduating from Ateneo senior high school. We wish everybody, confined at home during this quarantine period, to stay healthy, strong and safe always.

On Class 55 Foundation matters

The annual membership meeting and election of the Class 55 Foundation, Inc. was supposed to be held on the 3rd Sunday of March, which falls on 15 March, as provided for in the Bylaws. Anyway, the class decided to move it to 21 March, to coincide with the class 65th graduation anniversary, but as mentioned earlier, it was indefinitely postponed.

The members of the board and the officers have remained in their respective

positions, on a hold-over capacity. Buddy Mison is still president, Johnny Sanchez, vice president, Ros Alquiza, corporate secretary, and Bing Miranda, treasurer. Members of the board are Rene Tanseco, Grace Alcaneses, Sally Arceo, Binky Regalado-Ordonez, Aaron Allanigue and Allan Munoz.

We finally received the P500,000 money of the Foundation invested in PAFCPIC in the name of the late Muni Munoz, who died on 1 Nov 2019, plus P88,224 dividend, the delay caused by documentary requirement problem.

The income initially computed at savings interest rate, amounting to only P19,000, was reconsidered by PAFCPIC chair Pacoy Paredes on our appeal at dividend

rate, considering that the termination was not voluntary but due to death. The PAFCPIC accordingly amended its 2005 resolution that gave only savings interest to now dividend rate computed up to date of death. The money can now be reinvested in AFPSLAI.

The release has been delayed already for nine months, resulting in loss of possible income. Same is true on the dividend of Rene Tanseco due last Feb yet amounting to about P144,000, as he has not gone out to personally get it from PAFCPIC.

Some of our Class Foundation funds were reinvested as time deposit in AFPSLAI in the name of the Foundation. // **Ros Alquiza**



With the Covid pandemic hovering everywhere since February this year, the class went on lockdown and stayed isolated from one another- no conniving, no boodling and socializing in any form. During the first six months of lockdown, two mistahs, Rod Ordoyo and Mac Macabasco, bid goodbye to the class as quietly as possible, not due to the current pandemic, but from old age disease that they had been suffering from sometime past. Both mistahs are 89 years old, were roommates from Charlie Coy, CCAFP, and died of stroke.

Ordoy, as we fondly call him, had a stroke years back that paralyzed his torso and restricted his movement within his bedroom and bathroom only. He gave way on 14 May 2020 after being taken care of by his son, Lt. Gen. Cesar Ordoyo, AFP, Retired (PMA Class 1980) on most of his needs during his last

few remaining days. He has a large family of eight children and 21 grandchildren.

Mac was attacked by a stroke on 18 July 2020 and was rushed to the hospital for treatment but was unsuccessfully revived. He stayed in the hospital for the night and moved to St. Peter for cremation. According to his wifey, Aida, he left word that his burial be the simplest which was complied. Mac could be remembered as our mistah who declined to be the chief of a civilian government agency due to strings attached. Mac has six children with happy families.

Ordoy and Mac, like Rudy Canieso and Rudy Tolentino, now all gone were four of our mistahs who were Battalion Commanders in Mindanao whose units were in the thick of the firefights during the MNLF uprising in Mindanao in the 1970's.

The 18 surviving members of the class are in fairly good shape with the oldest two (Mike Aparri and Ching Corachea) at 90 years old and the youngest six (Filo Arevalo, Olac Lazo, Romy David, Boy Paiso, Mon Farolan and Tony Fernando) at 86. With their children mostly married and having their own families, they are reverted to where they began, just the two of them. Of the 18,

only 2 (Boy Paiso and Tony Fernando) are bachelors, still scouting for drags that could cheer and excite the remaining years of their lives. Five are under direct control and care of their respective wives due to the effects of strokes or Parkinson's disease: Paul Canalita, Tom Manlongat, Olac Lazo, Badong Lara and Mike Aparri.

The AFP has another brand new Chief of Staff (CS) this August and will have another one early next year, too expensive in turnover ceremonies and cocktails, not good to look at and cheapens the highest position of the AFP. The frequent turnovers benefit only the person concerned in terms of retirement pay but not his productive service contribution to the AFP. If the AFP is big business like San Miguel or SM, the frequent turnovers of CEOs will be look upon with adverse speculations and suspicion. Big businesses attained their healthy growth and bigness from being run by stable and long-serving CEOs not by short term serving ones. Our PMAers in Congress should extend the necessary assistance to amend the retirement law to give the AFP CS a fix tenure of duty for the sake of the AFP.





ORLANDO B SALIENTES
President


The good thing to report is that there is no COVID 19 casualty of the class. I would urge all class members to have a Facebook account and befriend all classmates. In this

way, all of us are in touch with each other. I am now Facebook friends with Ernie Arzaga, Pong Panes, Fred Lardin, Nestor Lim, Roy Aguilar, Pete Sistoza, Monchi Sta Clara, Joseph Asanza, Marcelo Blando and Julpha Maniquiz. To survive, all of us must adapt to the situation. My four grandchildren in Manila now go to virtual school so their academic education is not on hold.

My cousin Monina Marti Bas passed away 13 Aug 2020. Her husband Bill Bas got sick more than 20 years ago. By sheer discipline and physical exercise, he has regained his health. Logic also suffered a

stroke many years ago. He now stays in Bohol to recover his health. One classmate moves around with crutches. One classmate moves around with an oxygen bottle in hand. Two classmates have heart pacemaker implants. One classmate has an acute eyesight problem. All par for the course of our group who are now in our early 80s. We thank God for this gift of old age.

The PMAAAI office told me that there are 2nd quarter Cavalier Magazines undistributed in their office. You can pass by anytime to get your copy after the lockdown.

/Loven C Abadia 



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

For this quarter, class activities are still virtually on a lockdown. The pandemic that is COVID 19 continues to beset the whole world and the Philippines is not spared. Class president Nano is active in the Council of Class Presidents presenting the class position on the Cadet Honor Code issue at PMA in its meeting via Zoom. Classmates, though, continue the class roll call contacting each other through the phone or the internet. Alas, one classmate will not any more be able to answer the roll call.

Farewell to Rogelio "Roger" Luis. Our classmate who will not any more be able to respond to the class roll call is Roger Luis. He passed away last 7 June due to complications of pneumonia. He had just turned 82 on 2 June. Because of the COVID pandemic, there was no wake and he was cremated the next day. Inurnment and memorial services

will be later. Because of the extended community quarantine, none among his classmates was able personally condole with the Hedy and family. We could only send our condolences and sympathies through the internet. However, some of us participated through Zoom in the daily prayers. Roger although he graduated from the USMA at West Point is an original member of Class '62. He entered the PMA as a plebe, joined the "plebe reception", suffered "beast barracks" but before Incorporation Day received the information that he was appointed for West Point, having topped the West Point exams he took before entering the Academy. He later would write to his tentmates – Boy Enrile, Pabling Perez, Benjie Valenton, Romy Landingin, Gerry Valderrama, and Tito Rimando that his experience at PMA was helping him cope a lot as a USMA plebe again. He rejoined the class upon his graduation in 1962, joined the Corps of Engineers, and had a successful military career. His engineering and management expertise led him to various positions as Executive Director of the Presidential Management Staff, Head Executive Assistant of NISA and after retirement as President of PNCC, and later as President of PNOCPDC. Done with government and corporate activities, he founded with his wife Hedy an architectural and engineering firm, the

Luis and Associates. Oh yes, he was also an accomplished baritone singer and was active in class activities being at one time its vice-president. The class mourns his death and extends its sympathies and prayers to Hedy and their spiritual sons Thomas, Vincent, and Eymard.

Birthday greetings. We cannot meet. We cannot have our quarterly socials where we honor our birthday celebrants. This will be the new normal for some time. We join everyone in greeting our birthday celebrants for July, August and September a warm "Happy birthday!!! Boodle fight Sirs and Ma'ams!" The birthday celebrants here and in heaven. **For July:** Jaime Aguilar, Alex Bacalla, Bayani Panahon, Mitz Templo, Jun Estrella, Mon Doreza, Linda Meana, Mara Enrile, Eliza Diamos, Ellen Villanueva, and Betty Carreon. **For August:** Augie Dela Cruz, Manny Salimbangon, Silver Silverio, Nonie Zabala, Luz Doreza, Linda Estrellado, Tess Tigulo, Consuelo Dela Cruz, Hedy Luis, Perla Agbayani, Rosalinda Almagro, and Vicky Ramon. **For September:** Dave Alimorong, Bay Almagro, Danny Avellanosa, Rene Cardones, Kit Carreon, Divine Divinagracia, Gerry Flores, Rami Ramiscal, Tito Rimando, Flor Zabala, Boots Zapatos, Mike Fontanilla, Chona Perez, Lolit Bringas, Olga Ramiscal, Ching Lumibao, Beth Cruz, Violy Abadia, and Bobby Cortez.### (JRRIMANDO) 



GUILLERMO R RUIZ
President
RENE LEANDRO P EBRO
Secretary

In the Matindi Class 1963 logbook, the events in the last seven months of 2020 are as follows:

21 January

The PMAAAI Annual General Membership was held at the Reception

Hall, Philippine International Convention Center. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was the guest of honor and speaker. After the registration, the flow of the conference began with the review and approval of 2019 minutes. It was followed by the resolution of matters arising minutes, report of PMA Superintendent and President, respectively, ratification of all resolutions and acts of the board and management as well election of directors and discussion of other matters. The event culminated with the fellowship dinner after the adjournment. Representing

Matindi Class 1963 were Class President Bill Ruiz, Class Secretary Rene Ebro, Class Treasurer Rudy Javier, Bob Manlongat, Danny Delgado, Ed Batenga, Big Boy Adriano, George Aquino, Kid Medina, Ardy Abaya and Rene Garcia.

26 January

No host Sunday lunch was held aboard the Philippine Navy Golf Club at Naval Station Jose Francisco. BNS, Taguig City.

We were saddened by the demise of Hermie Dulinayan, wife of Former

Ifugao Governor and BGen PAF Idefonso Dulinayan.

13 February

80th Birthday of Billy Enerio and House Blessing at their residence in AFPOVAI.

23 February

Sunday lunch aboard the Philippine Navy Golf Club Naval Station Jose Francisco, BNS, Taguig City hosted by former Vice President Jejomar Binay.

29 March

No host lunch aboard the Philippine Navy Golf Club Naval Station Jose Francisco,

BNS, Taguig City was duly cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic Enhanced Community Quarantine.

2 April

Captain Peregrino Casaquite, born on 5 May 1938, passed away at Veterans Memorial Medical Center. He was a month short from his 82nd birthday.

15 June

General Arnulfo G. Acedera Jr., former Chief of Staff AFP, Commanding General, Philippine Air Force and former Class '63 President, born on 19 December 1941, joined his Creator at Makati Medical Center.

He was 78 years old. He was laid to rest on 20 June 2020 at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, Taguig City.

5 July

General Dick Flores, Philippine Army, born Ricardo Peredo Flores on 7 July 1940, an outstanding and one of the longest Engineer Brigade Commanders passed away on July 15, two days before his 80th birthday at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. He was laid to rest in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental.

The turn of events this year may have changed the way we live abruptly. However, it is imperative for each of us to express gratitude, to adapt to changes in ways we can, to be informed, to remain optimistic and to keep the faith, all will turn out for the best. May each of us remain healthy and safe in the days ahead. God bless us all endlessly. (18121605)





CLEMENTE P MARIANO
President
WINSTON G ARPON
Secretary

No, that is not a typo. Yes, the name of **Orlando T. Cabanlig**, a permanent fixture of Class Calls for as long as we can remember, has been changed. We were “volunteered” to take his place by a conspiracy of the Class President and his Vice President **Rey Reyes**. Unless and until this act – to us, a commission of disappointment – is rescinded or overturned by a higher Commission of Appointments still unborn as of this writing, this designation will have to do for this issue and for the foreseeable future.

Orly, perhaps for the first time in his long tenure as Class Secretary, was unable to meet the call for manuscripts for this section of *The Cavalier* on the set deadline, August 15. On this day at 1pm, he had to answer to a higher call from his Creator.

Big Brother **Eduardo Cabanlig**, PMA Class of 1961, was more than your typical Survivor Officer, taking immediate charge of all the arrangements for the last week on earth of his kid brother, **Captain Orlando T. Cabanlig**, O-4823 Philippine Navy Retired - from the Makati Medical Center to the funeral home in Quezon City, to the chapel of the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani and Orly's final resting place at LNMB, inarguably not an easy task in these COVID times, even for a Marine General.

Four of Orly's mistahs, all NCR residents – **Clem Mariano**, **Billy Villareal**, **Ding Odon** and **Garc Garcia** – were at the chapel to pay their last respects to their fallen comrade and brother, as well as at the gravesite for the interment the following day.

As we were preparing this manuscript,



“rallying,” in Loakan-speak, an old copy of *The Sword* of 1964 caught our eye. And this, we found when we naturally turned to the page of **Cadet Captain Orlando T. Cabanlig**, C-2136: “..... **a contender for the Presidential Saber.....**” Indeed, he was, missing that coveted prize for being class topnotcher by only three notches.

Meanwhile, life must go on. And **Orly** himself would have said this to the 15 surviving members of the class of 35. So, a roll call of sort, thanks to the blips of info on the reliable radar of **Rey Reyes**, plus some tidbits of our own culled from various source:

- o **Abe de Guzman** and **Terry de la Cruz** recovering from recent surgery in Florida and Makati, respectively, and on the mend.

- o **Rey and Sandy Reyes** opting for their old home in Lipa instead of their new home in San Pedro, Laguna to tide over COVID quarantine; a wise decision, as it turns out, as Rey is able to go to the driving range at Fernando Air Base, plus the prospect of a golf game at our side of the

town in Malarayat Golf and Country Club and hopefully, in a threesome with **Garc Garcia**.

- o **Ding Odon**, still having no intention of slowing down, let alone, giving up on his advocach, PSB, Para Sa Bayan.

- o **Jorge Agcaoil**, reporting from Chicago, Illinois that he finally succeeded in tracking down **Ben Labre** who has long been unheard of.

- o **Jimmy Valeros**, with Glory in tow – or possibly, the other way around - after a recent sentimental visit to his hometown of Alitagtag – without informing us transplanted Batangan of his presence in our neck of the woods - now, back in his Baguio domicile working feverishly to finish a project the details of which we haven't been given permission to disclose.

- o **Santi Bunoan** still insisting on his self-imposed silence despite the recent 6.6 magnitude earthquake in Masbate where he has taken residence with Nida, though still maintaining his home at Fairview where he lived with his late first wife Amy.



MANUEL P ESPEJO
President
FREDELINO S BAUTISTA
Secretary

PAMBUNGAD

Kung inyong mapapansin, ang paglilimbag ng *Cavalier Magazine* ay minsan na lamang sa loob ng tatlong buwan (Quarterly). Dati, tuwing dalawang buwan (Bi-monthly). Dahil dito, ay hindi nai-uulat sa tamang panahon ang mga naganap sa Klase. Kaya sa siping January-March, ang ating naiulat ay ang pagdalo ng ilan sa atin

sa February 2020 Alumni Homecoming sa PMA. Hindi naisama ang pagdalo ng ilang sixty-sixers at mga maybahay sa Fiesta ng Sto. Nino sa Tanay, Rizal.

AN ADVENTURE IN TANAY

On 18 January 2020, a Saturday, 13 sixty-sixers and ladies motored to the Sierra Madre Resort of fellow member Sid Fajardo, on his invitation to attend the celebration of the Feast of Sto.Nino. Passing through the winding mountain roads of Antipolo and Teresa, the group arrived late afternoon and immediately enjoyed the breeze and cool atmosphere.

Sid and wife Dra Maria Isabel Fajardo prepared a sumptuous dinner at their well

designed and strategically located rest house within the resort compound. From the balcony, the sight was fascinating - a panoramic and unrestricted view of the Sierra Madre Mountains, with their green slopes dotted with trees of all kinds. According to Sid, somewhere out there is part of the proposed Kaliwa River Dam which allegedly would solve the water problems of the NCR. He also said that there are other retired officers and personnel who have settled in the area and they formed an association to help less privileged people living there. This is perhaps one of the reasons why they are well - known and respected in the mountain community.

The next day after breakfast, the group joined the traditional two-kilometer procession whose participants, one of whom was Mrs. Fajardo, were dancing while walking and holding statuettes of Sto. Nino. Expectedly, the sixty-sixers rode in golf carts, one driven by golf aficionado Bert Sabularse. After the procession, the participants converged to the large convention hall of the resort where a mass was held. Here, children of Dumagats and other indigenous groups were baptized. The sixty - sixer visitors stood as sponsors. This is one project of their association aimed at giving children of natives a legal personality. At one point, former CSAFP Alex Yano who was around and looking like a true gentleman farmer, approached and greeted everyone.

The mass was followed by another very healthful and delicious meal at another spacious building, attended by other guests. There, the visitors were joined by Robert Santiago '68, another homeowner of Tanay. But what made the sixty-six delegation feel that they were not only visitors but participants of the event, was the requested role of the males as members of the Board of Judges of the high school drum and bugle corps competition, one contingent of which came from far away Quezon Province. All told, they were impressed by the quality of the martial music, smartness and precision of the young performers. Truly, the short stay at Tanay proved as an unforgettable adventure, thanks to Sid and Dra Fajardo.



To recognize those who devoted one weekend to visit a member of the Class who is not often seen in the lowlands, let us cite their names, in the order shown in the picture above, from left to right: Sylvia Agudelo, Bert Sabularse, Fe Sabularse, Noli Espejo, Leonor Espejo, Tess Reyes, Paz Bautista, Fe Cuison, Alice Alba, Sid Fajardo (the host), Susan Gador and Fred Bautista.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

Happy birthday to the following seniors!
July - Jimmy Bantolo (25), Rod Clautero

(27), Troy Dumadapat (20), Gene Parrenas (10), Cel Espejo (10), Iyay Urgello (11), Patri Cordova (21).

August - Fred Bautista (25), Bing Rivera (02), Higidto Gay-ya (27), Alice Alba (15), Portia Varona (22), Sylvia Agudelo (28).

September - Jacie Aquino (11), Serge Belleza (09), Ric Tanedo (19), Lysias Cabusao (24), Jesli Lopus (12), Tita Belo (02), Lulu de Leon (06), Dolly Lachica (20), Puri Eco (30).

Our birthday wish - Peace, joy, health, wellness.



CLASS ACTIVITIES

A. Had we been allowed by COVID, the following Dimasupil Monthly Forums (DMF) would have been held for the April - August 2020 period:

April - to be hosted by Nenie Abendan, Alice Averilla, Ernie and Dinsay Dionisio, Rody and Graisie Gaerlan, Mar and Mel Gatmaitan, and Bert and Ruby Torres.

May - to be hosted by Joy Casillan and Vic and May Garcia.

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

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

August - to be hosted by Sergs and Zeny Austria, Fred Encarnacion, Ed and Myrns

Espinosa, Vir and Marina Odulio, Mar and Beth Santiago, and Orly and Reem Tucay.

B. If allowed by COVID, we hope to have the following activities for September 2020 onwards:

September - DMF to be hosted by Romy and Merle Odi and family.

October - DMF to be hosted by Aging Alino, Joe and Myrna Andaya, Ching and Papoose Ballecer, Vic and Mely Corpus, Andy and Meds Reyes, and Sammy and Cora Tomas.

November - DMF to be hosted by Cords and Myrna Cordero, Ben and Lea Libarnes, Bernie and Aying Patino, and Vic and Evelyn Villacorta.

December - Remembrance Day, Christmas Party, and Election of Class Officers.

UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS

Rody Gaerlan successfully underwent gall bladder surgery last June. This happened while his son Mau was confined in the same hospital for brain aneurysm. Rody is now recuperating at home.

Orly Tucay suffered a stroke last 5 August and was rushed to the provincial hospital in Dagupan City, Pangasinan where he is still confined in ICU. At first he was believed to be comatose, but now (as of 15 August) he can already open his eyes and move his left leg. Let us keep praying for him.

On 8 August 2020, the Manny Dalipe Farm in Zamboanga City celebrated its 32nd Anniversary. The farm boasts of producing reliable fighting cocks, dwarf Thai coconuts and giant lakatan bananas. Congratulations, Mistah!

UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES

Let us offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the speedy recovery of Mely Corpus who went through the following ordeals during the recent months (as gathered from Vic and reported by Cords Cordero):

1. She suffered a fall and fractured her left pelvic bone;
2. She was sent to VMMC for treatment but had to wait for six weeks before she could undergo her procedures due to the backlog of patients awaiting complex or similar treatments;



Birthday celebrators, Jun Avenido, Bobby Lastimoso, Mina Cordero and Myrna Espinosa.

CLASS TRIVIA

Last 18 January, Jun and Ronnie Ibay celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, with a Holy Mass at Saint Joseph Church, Camp Crame, and a reception at the AFP Museum, Camp Aguinaldo. When Jun Avenido was called to give a few remarks as representative of the Dimasupils, who came in full force with their ladies, he commented that it

would take some courage to get married but it would take much more courage to get married twice to the same partner. Ronnie interjected that they had been married five times already. For what they had done, Jun A concluded that they deserved to receive a Medal of Valor!

Did you know that the wedding car of Vic and Mely Corpus was the very new car of Edong Galang at the time? Please don't ask who drove the car!

Regarding COVID-19, Abe Din remarked that because of it, we now have "lots of time for cleaning the house and doing our apostolic duties."

Mabuhay tayong lahat!



3. She contracted COVID-19 but has since recovered;
4. She underwent the needed procedure for her fracture;
5. She is back in their condo and can now stand on her feet and is undergoing physical therapy.

Mely Corpus is really a fighter, as expected of a true Dimasupil.

Maurice Gaerlan, son of Rody and Graisie, was rushed to the hospital last 24 April for severe headache which turned out to be a brain aneurysm. After undergoing several delicate medical procedures, including "coiling", he is now in his recovery period and is having his rehab/therapy which may take months. Let us continue praying for his full recovery.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

Best wishes to the following Dimasupils and spouses who celebrate their birthdays in July, August, and September: Reina Young (2 July), Vic Laurilla (8), Alex de Guzman (10), Ben Samonte (15), Tita Fragante (19), Romy Villanueva (20), Oying Pinto (21), Mandie Sibal (22), Pol Aliac (24), Glo Parena (24), Archie Balboa (26), Jovy Sales (28), Aying Patino (2 August), Marina Odullo (3), Sergs Austria (11), Orly Tucay (16), Mar Santiago (19), Vic Buaquen (21), Vir Odullo (23), Nanding Perez (25), Ed Espinosa (27), Titong Enriquez (28), Graisie Gaerlan (28), Fred Encarnacion (29), Arleen Brawner (2 September), Elen Reventar (2), Lettie Baula (3), Claude Francisco (7), Baby Sales (12), Jake Caruncho (23), Tina Quiambao (27), Romy Odi (28), and Ruby Torres (28).

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.

50th Golden Wedding Anniversary of PMGen and Mrs Rufino G Ibay Jr with Class 67 members and spouses.





ARTURO B CARRILLO
President
HECTOR M TARRAZONA
Secretary
Wilfredo G Nuqui
Guest Writer

COVID-19 and the economy

I. Introduction and context

This short narrative describes the unfolding experiences and responses of Class members as induced by the current COVID-19 crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most catastrophic events which has visited our country since the CYs 1984-1985 foreign debt crisis. It derails the graduation of the Philippines into a high-middle-income economy after a decade of unprecedented growth. Public health, millions of hungry poor and near poor families, and stunted children, thousands of OFWs, education and self-confidence are the biggest victims. Some 7.5 million Filipinos were rendered jobless as of April 2020.

The pandemic brought much and great stress to 86 per cent of Filipinos (SWS Survey, July 2020). Increased domestic violence and unwanted pregnancies are reported. The experience economy is another victim. Philippines ranks 69 out of 156 countries in the Human Happiness Index in CYs 2016-2018. Events which bring people together such as family reunions, group travel, sports, in-school classes and Class1968 activities are restricted. High value human experiences leave shared memories and lasting footprints on our lives.

II. Pre-COVID situation

Class 1968. We are a social family and SEC-registered legal entity. We jubilantly celebrated our golden anniversary in PMA and launched our *Fifty Years and Beyond* book under very favourable conditions. Class interaction remains very encouraging with 24 CMs in either regular or occasional contact. They are Art C, Volts, Alex, Hector, Bobby, Nori, Sonny, Rudy, Patrick, Oscar, Mel, Willy, Diomeng, Abe, Rene, Mon, Tony Sierra, Ying, Art J, Art G, Cris, Jing, Boyet and Tony Siapno. They represent 70 per cent of all live CMs (32+2). Many spouses communicate among themselves as well.

Six couples and two other ladies enjoyed Boracay's beauty and sea food in late February 2020. They narrowly avoided the quarantine in March 15. A planned Class *Visita Iglesia* and lunch trip to Pampanga in



March and scheduled family spring visits to the U.S. including those of Volts to attend the graduation of his grandson from the US Air Force Academy in April 2020 were all aborted. Travel restrictions prevented sharing of the bountiful harvests of tomato, avocado, dragon and other fruits from the not too secret gardens of Nori and Bobby

Economy. The Philippines was one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia in recent years. It became a net creditor to IMF in 2011. It extended its US\$1 billion loan until end CY 2020 to enable IMF help other economies in distress. Gross international reserves amounted to an all time high of US\$93.3 billion as of end-June 2020 (BSP). The debt-to-GDP ratio—a reflection of a country's ability to pay its obligations—was down to 40% in 2019 (DoF). The family poverty incidence fell to 16.7 percent in 2018 which lifted almost six million Filipinos out of poverty (PSA). The country faces the pandemic in very good fiscal and financial health.

III. Survey of family conditions and responses

A special survey of individual family health and other conditions was proposed by Sonny in July 2020. It further aims to help those in extreme need. The Class chat group captures behavioral responses which include those from formerly unheard Class and family members.

1. Compliance and adjustments. The Class President reports that on the whole CMs and their families are well and in good health. A few CMs and ladies report health issues which are manageable and expected in our age. A couple was traumatically affected by COVID in the United States. It has recovered and is back to health. Two CMs and two ladies had successful orthopedic operations. Four CMs are undergoing special medical attention.

There is strict compliance to public health protocols. Stay at home activities

include reviewing legal documents and food recipes, baking, watching Netflix choice movies, listening to favourite songs and decluttering. Cris finished the publication "Attorney Vicente C. Pangantihon: Outstanding *Panayanon*." Immunity building and weight control are led by age appropriate physical exercises, gardening, healthy food, water therapy, vitamins and immunization against flu and pneumonia. Wine, beer and *soju* bring cheers at home.

2. Compassionate acts. These timely actions consist of: a) a CM's visit with his lady and personally bringing donation to at-risk *Katutubos* in Tanay, b) donation of personal protective equipment to VMMC, c) donations to an orphaned CM daughter in need and *Lingkod Kapamilya, Kapuso and* other foundations, and d) faith keeping, building and sharing. Three CMs and three ladies temporarily moved to safe homes in *Lilo-An (Cebu), Alaminos (Pangasinan), Taytay, and Tagudin* to join some of their children.

3. Inclusive accounting of CMs and their families. Feedbacks from largely unheard CMs were obtained through intensified contact tracing. Many of our children are in touch through FB and other means. Our e-chat group now has more members. But the situation of a remaining few CMs is still unaccounted for.

4. Intensified use of digital technology. All families including those in the U.S., Canada, Germany and New Zealand remain in online contact. There is a popular demand for more virtual Class events. More schools are using digital learning management systems and tools. The future of health, work, education and leisure is going to be greatly influenced by new technologies which hopefully will have minimal job replacement effects.

5. Family economic challenges. The extended Class 1968 family consists of four generations. Our children of working age face unprecedented livelihood challenges.



These consist of retaining their jobs, working from home, seeking other sources of income and reinventing themselves for new jobs as done by those of us who left military service early. Pensions and passive incomes serve as collective economic and social protection.

6. Valid concerns on education. The 2018 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), administered to 15-year old learners in 79 countries revealed Filipino children belong to the near bottom of the lowest decile in Reading, Mathematical and Scientific Literacies. Total student enrolment for SY 2020-2021 is below expected levels and disturbingly much lower in private schools. These have negative and inter-generational implications on human development, income distribution and social equity.

Distance learning of our grandchildren such as on line classes face issues of feasibility, poor internet access, availability of learning materials, co-sharing of teaching duties with parents and quality of learning results. Two ladies are engaged in this critical occupational and pedagogical challenge. Their advice is welcome anytime. You Tube, Google Classroom and other learning platforms and systems are very valuable.

7. Humor relieves stress. Initial Class video *pilyoships* reveal hard to conceal ageing, quarantine induced long hair and smiling but unshaved faces. The lockdown pictures of our playboy CM from *Tagudin* include young and pretty ladies. What are the similarities between the symptoms of COVID and those triggered by your wife's checking your phone? CMs should not complain that their wives' cooking is tasteless. Otherwise, they will be reported

to DOH and quarantined for 14 days. A CM is extremely worried that anti-coronavirus vaccines won't likely work in handsome guys.

8. Spirituality is a refuge in crisis.

Mass, rosaries, more prayers, thanksgiving and good deeds are a part of our lives. We include in our prayers CMs and ladies under special medical attention and anti-COVID workers. *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12"*. The Lord is good and full of kindness. We shall overcome.

IV. COVID-19 and economic recovery

Balancing public and economic health is exceedingly challenging. *"The Philippine death rate of 12 for every one million Filipinos is only one-sixth of the world average of 71.5. This is the prime indicator of the damage done by the pandemic to the nation's health. The Philippine rate of 2.5 deaths per 100 cases is also much better than the world average. It is much lower than the rates in Japan and Indonesia, and almost as low as that of South Korea. It is clearly not as low as the deaths per 100 cases in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Taiwan"* (M. Mangahas, PDI July 10, 2020). Only 59 percent of Filipinos keep a safe distance when outside their homes. More are compliant on always using a face mask (76 per cent) when going out of their houses and 65 percent wash their hands several times a day (SWS Survey July 2020).

There are 29 types of candidate vaccines using various platforms in clinical evaluation. Another 138 candidate vaccines are in pre-clinical evaluation (WHO Aug 13, 2020). There are questions on vaccines being developed in China and Russia where regulatory systems are far more opaque than those in the West.

The economy shrank by 16.5 per cent in 2020 Q2 and 9 per cent in the 1st half of

2020 (PSA). An estimated 20.9 per cent or 5.2 million Filipino families experienced involuntary hunger (SWS July 2020). The economy is now in recession. Poverty has definitely risen due to the pandemic.

Health and economic recovery efforts are supported by a) economic stimulus and tax reform bills aimed at increasing investments and employment, b) highly concessional ODA loans and grants to support anti-COVID measures, c) reduced bank reserve requirements by BSP to sustain bank lending at lower interest rates, and d) targeted cash and food assistance to the poor. The pre-COVID global average country debt-to-GDP ratio was 226 per cent in 2018 (IMF). The projected ratios in the Philippines in CY 2020 and CY 2022 are 53.9 per cent and 58.3 per cent, respectively (DoF). Economic growth is projected to resume in CY 2021 if the coronavirus is effectively arrested. The return to a broad based growth trajectory is a precondition to sustained poverty reduction.

V. The Class looks forward to

1. Continuing contact tracing of unheard CMs and families and updating of the Class directory
2. Improved Class-wide usage of free and digital platforms
3. Utilization of the Class Fund particularly for those in extreme need
4. Self-written biographies to inform and inspire our next generations
5. More jokes, humor, fun and physical activities to keep us young
6. Sharing of best pictures before and today at age 70s
7. Regular recording and filing of notable Class events and other information for our 55th graduation anniversary information product, and
8. A thanksgiving mass when COVID-19 is no longer a public danger.





JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JUSTO P MANLONGAT
Secretary

Suaviter Activities to Cope with Pandemic

How we spend time during COVID afternoons and evenings.



Cleo and Vivian Erfe are based in Virginia USA They are avid sportsman and bikers, as you can see their gears are top of the line.

Jus Manlongat is one of the best bridge National players, he also manages local and international tournaments. Due to the pandemic he copes up with the game on line.



Jus M. playing Bridge online - 3 nt

Ike begonia has become an accomplished farmer with the quality of his produce in his Tagaytay farm.



Avocados and bananas from the same farm!



And of course, if quarantine times are accommodating, the golfers rush to the fairway FORE.



EDGAR B AGLIPAY
President
JOSE C LALISAN JR
Secretary

We are still in the Covid 19 pandemic period. It has been almost six months that this catastrophic virus affected so many countries, killing millions and affected so much the economies worldwide. Everybody, every country at that, is looking for a vaccine that will at least lessen the impact against health and lives of people, hoping that this will be discovered soon, even sooner since time is of the essence. As of the latest, Russia has been reported to have “come upon” a eureka vaccine which they termed as sputnik V vaccine. Being the first discoverer as the Russians claimed,

their doctors named it after their sputnik satellite that went on record as the first satellite that orbited earth during the Cold War. It was their “sputnik moment”, so to speak. Since Russia is open to international cooperation, the Philippines is one of the countries participating in the Phase III of population trial. However, it remains to be seen how safe and effective the product is. Hopefully, this is it!

Virtual Zoom Meetings

Considering that mass gatherings are not yet allowed during the pandemic situation, the “new” normal of conducting meetings are now via Zoom Cloud or face time or Google Meet. As people tend to adapt to the new technology, the seniors of the Matatags and Mas-Matatags have levelled-up in their knowledge on the use of their CPs, laptops, and table computers. Thanks to the kids and “apos”, we learned, albeit quite slowly at first and eventually

we were able to adjust by reason of necessity. The Matatags had several virtual class meetings and truly, it was fun for all of us. Excited as we were, some etiquette in the conduct of these meetings was learned. The hot topic of these Zoom meetings was about the conduct of our Golden Anniversary on February 2021. As discussed, the situation being fluid due to the Covid 19 virus, the tentative plan is to have a blended celebration, meaning selected or designated representatives of the four companies will attend in PMA while the rest will join and watch virtually via Zoom and others thru the FB live streaming. In fact, this scenario will be applied by PMAAAI during their trial run in the coming months. Hopefully by 1 October 2020, PMAAAI Board can already announce the final scenario on February 2021. Be that as it may, it was announced by our Class Prexy Egay Aglipay that the Matatags can already have their





measurements for the uniform, *matuloy man o hindi and pag-akyat sa Baguio City.*

Golden Coffee Table Book

After several months of preparation, the coffee table book (CTB) project of the Mas–Matatags has progressed considering that most of the mistahs had already submitted their photos and write-ups. The format was already approved and also the cover and title. There was a request though from the CTB Task Force, as the ladies call themselves, for better pictures which should be the original ones and not photocopied from an album. These photocopied pictures are “pixelated” photos which will not be of quality image when printed. There were actually 21 bugos who were identified. They were requested to submit original pictures. BTW, the members of the CTB Task Force are Mawie Aglipay, Aleli Belonia, Verna Albano, Tessie Paynor, and Celia Lalisan.



Hampas Lupa '71 Golf Sorties and Ayuda for the Caddies

When the pandemic situation improved, the Hampas Lupas took advantage of the GCQ status and played in Beverly Golf Course in San Fernando, Pampanga, in Northwoods in San Rafael, Bulacan, In the Navy, Villamor, Aguinaldo, and Intramuros Golf Courses in the National Capital Region, and, in Orchards and Riviera Golf Courses in Cavite. In all these sorties, the health protocol was observed strictly as required by the IATF and the respective golf managements. Those who participated were Tex

Balmaceda (HL71 President), Egay, Rey Acop, Dan Belonia, Rey Alcasid, Rey Rivera (a California based mistah but overstayed here due to the lockdown), Doy Francisco (another mistah from Canada but he was able to fly on the first flight available last July), Bing Alano, Oca Martinez, Dong Tabamo, Jerry Albano, Teody Viduya, Rex Piad, Jimmie dela Cruz, Rollie Garcia, Ed Matillano, Boy Castellano, Tito Legaspi, Joey Lalisan, Jun Fabros, Dan Perico, Rene Paredes, Popop Ocampo, Twiggy Zubia, Bay Seron, Narcing Abaya, and Amba Jun Paynor. Former Bulacan Governor Obet Pagdaganan, our adopted member,

hosted the despedida golf tournament for Rey Rivera in Northwoods Golf Course. In all these golf courses, some assistance or “ayudas” were given to the caddies who, in one way or the other, will alleviate their flight to survive the pandemic.

Quote for this Issue

When you forgive someone, when you are generous, when you withhold judgment, and you love, when you stand up for injustice – you are in that moment bringing Heaven to earth. ROB BELL/ jcl/15 Aug 2020





It has been seven months since the Covid 19 spread its deadly virus globally. Until now it is far from over and we don't see any bright prospect of containing it. The world continues to agonize, short of complete surrender and slowly embracing the "abnormal" lives. Health scientists and experts are trying to discover the antidote vaccines that will ultimate stop the raging Covid. For the meantime, we have to adhere to the health protocol to minimize infections if not eradicate the virus. Let's continue to pray imploring Lord's intervention so to speak.

Having said those, we are very thankful and grateful to the Lord for protecting the Masigasis family against the virus. As of this writing, we are Covid free so we exhort all to do our part for the interest of safety and being healthy all the way. *Sabi nga nila, "nasa tao ang gawa, nasa Diyos ang awa"*.

ANTI-FLU VACCINATIONS

For updates, we have cancelled our social activities, except for the anti-flu vaccinations. Those coming from the south had their doses last June 20 at Boni Naval Station Hospital while those from the north had theirs last June 28 at Bahay Alumni, UP, Diliman respectively. A total of 81 Mistah and dependents availed of the vaccinations. Of course we have to thank the tandem of Dra Melba and Pilar who painstakingly administered the vaccinations amidst the threat of Covid. Kudos also to Manny Teodosio and Choly and Manong Ben who volunteered and arranged the venues at



BNSH and Bahay Alumni, UP respectively. Aside from venue arrangement, Manong Ben provided snacks and refreshment while his son and daughter provided administrative assistance that contributed to a well-organized and successful event. I also shared the freshly baked ube pandesal and bread courtesy of my wife Fe. We also appreciate the "omnipresence" of Bing Valencia, who was there in both events. He is always there, *tagalang maaasahan*. He also provided snacks and drinks for the Southerners.

CLASS OFFICERS/BOT MEETINGS

From June to August, there were three class officers and trustees Board meetings. The first one was last June 12, then July 28 and August 4 in that order. The first meeting was via Viber group with some invited Mistahs in attendance. That was the first time the class met virtually and it was a sort of confusion. Everybody was talking, obviously not conversant of the rules and procedures for that kind of meeting. It ended up in disarray since some of the attendees lost contacts and were unable to reconnect.

The second and third meetings were via Zoom and this time there was semblance of orderliness and degree of success compared to the first one. In summary, the following were the highlights of the said meetings:

--Prez Espines reported the current activities of PMAAAI such as the creation of the Council of Class Presidents and the merging of three subsidiaries. He likewise gave updates on the status of PMAAAI investment to ACES and actions being taken to recover it. CIDG, PNP is presently conducting an investigation to file charges against those involved on the ACES mess.

--Class Officers and other Mistahs in attendance expressed their opinions and comments on how to deal with the Honor System and Honor Code base on the existing set-up. He requested the attendees to send their comments/suggestions to him or to the Class Sec via email.

--On the cooperative as proposed by PMAAAI, it was agreed that the Class will shoulder the membership fees after we have read and evaluated the Articles of Incorporation of the proposed cooperative.

--With regards to the publication of Golden Sword, Manny Teodosio assured the attendees that the Editorial Board is on target of their timeline.

It was agreed to allocate four pages for each member (widows/widowers) and two for active honorary members. Prez Espines suggested for the Editorial Board to meet and finalize the format and substance for approval of the Board.

PPE DONATIONS

-- Prez Espines donated 500 PPEs and face shields worth 200K to Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the name of the Class. The said donations were officially turned over to VMMC by Mistah OG Buenaventura and Melba last May 1,2020 representing Prez Espines. Dr. Wilfredo Mejia received the donations in behalf VMMC Director. Bing Valencia facilitated the




procurement of the PPEs and arranged the turn-over of donations.

--Yaric Yarcia worked for the donation of 150 rapid test kits for the class, of course with the initiative of his daughter Jackie. The test kits are with Bing for sake-keeping. Those wanting to avail of it (dependents included) may contact Bing.

--Mistah Roger Quevedo donated also PPEs thru PVAO as well as other Mistahs who pledged their cash donations intended for PPEs (My apology for not mentioning their names. Honestly I don't have the list.)

To our Mistah Samaritans, we thank you, in behalf of Masigasig for your kindness and caring hearts. We will win as one.

Before I end, let me share to you a quotation by Emily Dickinson: *"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and, sings the tunes without the words and never stops at all."*

Till next class call, stay safe and healthy....Class Sec. 



The pandemic forced the Maagaps to accept change with the coming of the 4IR, that knowledge in digital technology is no longer "nice to have but need to have" even as we waxed sweet memories of how good was The Old Honor System for us, beyond the portals of our Alma Mater.

Given the restraints imposed by lockdowns and more restrictions on Maagap age group (60 years old and above), the Maagaps and Ladies used the Zoom technology to "socialize in cyberspace" when in-person meeting was no longer tenable. And we had more Class meetings via Zoom than we had before the pandemic. It used to be that phone-in participation in class meeting was looked down with consternation, but since the pandemic, virtual presence was the preferred mode for Maagaps' birthday parties, wedding anniversaries and all, to the delight of hosts who saved lots of money otherwise spent if held in restaurants, hotels or in picnic outings.

One victim of lockdown in both New York City and Manila was Mistah Rody Luis who had an unexpected extension of vacation in Manila. All the while it would mean more golfing days with Mistahs in the Philippines but it went the other way; the golf courses were closed and sadly the

extended vacation was palpably thrown in dumps (including us natives) with no places to go. Like the rest of the Maagaps, Mistah Rody sheltered in place, hunkered down with the indomitable plebe spirit with life's monotony. Finally, after more than a month of waiting and testing one's sanity, Mistah Rody flew the repatriation flight back to New York city on 31 May 2020. He might have missed the sad New York City spectre of frozen Covid-19 cadavers in refrigerated container vans.

Those of us living in big city row houses or condominium were confronted with greater dread of infection than some of us who got in the scuttlebutt of impending lockdown fled the city and stayed in the provinces where living spaces are much wider and the air more refreshing than the city smog. Unfortunately, the exodus brought with it the virus to the provinces.

Quarantine was not totally bad. God throughout the ages had a way to make beautiful use of time even during the pandemic or biblical plague. We learned new skills like cooking, baking and gardening to beat such sense of isolation. Many Maagaps discovered the rapture in listening to the daily TV Mass, especially those celebrated abroad which were pure enriching encounter with religious ministry devoid of distractive politicization. As acts of charity during the pandemic, Mistahs Nestor Sanares, Jose Reyes and Romy Alamillo distributed packages to the needy in Batangas to alleviate the hardships generated by the lockdowns on the Filipino families. Maagap Ladies through Madam Marieta Querol shared rice to the jobless caddies of Royal

Northwoods and those living in underserved communities in Bulacan.

Cavalier Walter Besas went fishing and harvesting shrimps in Quezon. On land, his dragon fruit farm is teeming with juicy delicious red and yellow varieties. Mistah VQ went on to write, ASEAN: The Relevance of Multilateralism Amid the Pandemic and Beyond which went out in Manila Times 08 August as 2-part series, and subject of his Remarks during a Webinar on global multilateralism.

To the Maagaps, there are two major national events that gave so much pride to our Class: the pandemic and the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Law. In both, Maagap SND Delfin N Lorenzana has been in the forefront and performing creditably among the Cabinet Secretaries.

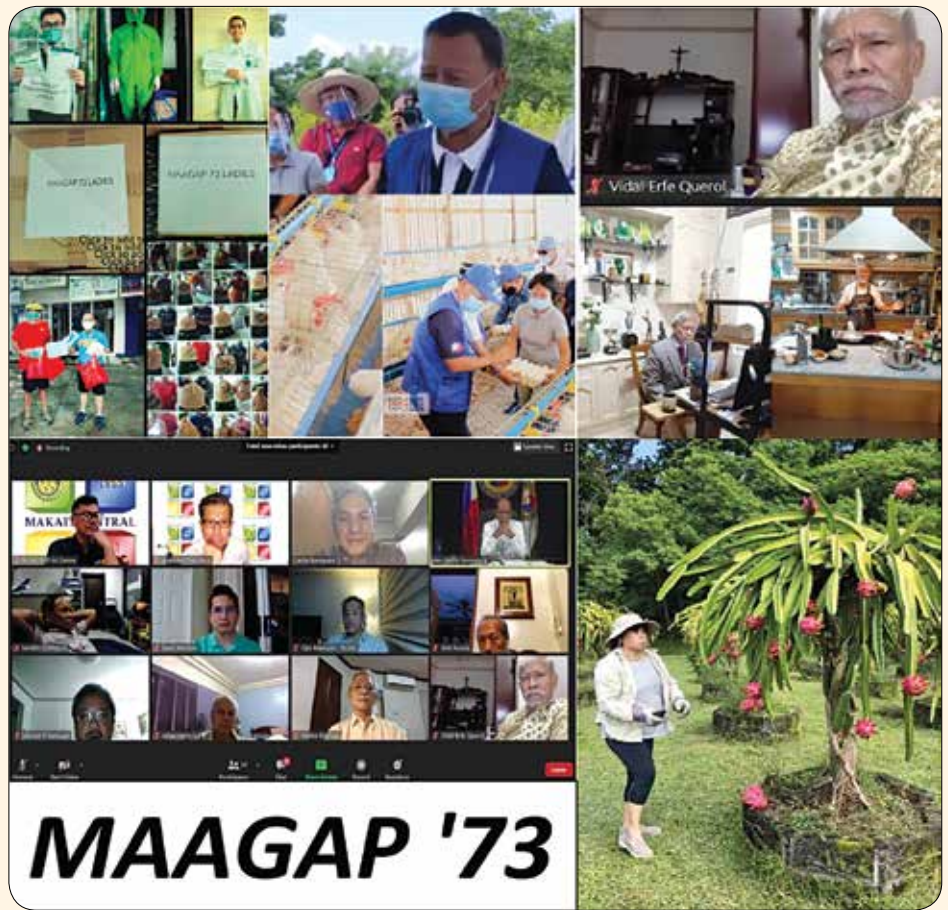
The Anti-Terrorism Law encountered protests from the traditional political opposition and the sector belonging to the political left of center. Mistah Del as SND again went around town on radio, TV and Zoom webinars to argue against fears of government abuse offering as good example the Marawi experience of Martial Law in Mindanao with him as the Martial Law Administrator.

In similar manner to support government efforts to win the communist rebels back to the folds of the law, Mistah Sid Lapeña as Director-General of TESDA, on 22 August visited the Leyte Peace and Prosperity Village for former rebels. Here the FRs engage in livelihood projects such as farming of high value crops, raising poultry for eggs and meats and production of seaweeds.

On the pandemic as Chairperson of the National Task Force to fight COVID-19, Mistah Del had to balance saving life against saving livelihood and social cohesion. The pandemic since WW2 has become the greatest national security threat in absolute terms exempting no one, no class strata nor status of life. Government response to fight Covid-19 was “Whole-of-Nation” approach putting for the first time the health sector in the battlefield. Many responded, a few dodged expectedly for obvious reasons. In six months, it infected more than 190,000 Filipinos and killed more than 3,000 or a mortality rate of low 1.6%. The lockdowns to save lives as expected consequence devastated livelihood with shuttered businesses and industries, sent millions out of jobs, and thus created a budget gap of P202B and widening; it puts national GDP to likely shrink 5.5% this year. In one fell swoop, the pandemic laid waste to years of robust economy and national savings, sent the economy in recession and the people in depression.

While the virus determines the timeline for government response, the lockdowns and other draconian measures down the road had one veritable purpose, to buy time for government to ramp up its healthcare systems so it might not be overwhelmed by the inescapable surge of Covid-19 cases in big cities. What else, but the ubiquitous “pasaway” which is part of the territory. Right now, we are in the stage where greater national efforts are focused on saving livelihood and social cohesion while continuing to save lives, too. And we may be on our way as forecast by the IMF and WB for Philippine economy to roar back to robust economy year 2021. We take pride on the sterling performance of Mistah SND Del as he also steered away from the shame and scandal besmirching government efforts to combat the pandemic.

Not to mention the fact that Mistah Del has been steering the country safe from the



burning issues of the South China Sea amidst the pandemic and in the bowels of big power global rivalry between US and China. His statecraft as Defense Secretary guides Philippines response with historical ties in mind and the acceptance of present-day realities and the bulwark of geography in the politics of global rivalry. He has to balance the romance of history with grim reality. On various Zoom webinars, Mistah Del spoke of putting our country's national interests, first and foremost when dealing with USA, our historical ally and China, our great neighbor, stressing emphatically that our

country is friend to all and enemy to none. He would mince no words to protest China unlawful actions in the West Philippine Sea even as he beefed up facilities in disputed islands we presently occupy, and increased the frequency of naval patrols in Philippine territorial waters and even in international waters where international law permits.

As Cavaliers, the most significant event so far was the advent of the New Honor System simply because the Maagaps are proud products of The Old Honor System when Cadets had no personal keys to lock individual property inside the Cadet Room.



Since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, due to lockdown, the class has been unable to meet nor was able to conduct any activity. Nevertheless, we still tried to maintain contact through social media platforms to keep everyone well-informed. Lockdown has led our life to focus on new endeavors. It has given us opportunity to try new

things, rediscover old hobbies and do what we really wanted to pursue. These include farming or growing plants or trees combined with raising livestock. It is probably the best hobby to pick up given the present situation as it could help calm our mind, perk us up and keep us occupied. More so, it gave us a chance to be able to exercise while working with nature and learning new skills.

Class President Pons Crucero took the lead in this endeavor. He has since moved to his Tanay farm to personally oversee it especially now that the trees he had planted several years ago are now bearing fruits. The yields of durian, mangosteen, marang,

all of Davao variety, taste as good as the original. Hardwood, mahogany trees planted years back have matured and are ready for harvest. Vegetables and herbs abound on the farm as well.

Sonny Razon has been spending a lot of time on his Sunny Hill farm in Lipa City. He has just wrapped up Barako coffee produced from the farm's yields for commercial purposes. Sunny Hill is a mixed farm of plants/crops, fruit trees and livestock. He breeds all sorts of animals including wild boar (baboy damo). We have tried on some occasions, lechon wild boar and found it more delicious, and healthy than ordinary

lechon. At his home's front yard, he has a vegetable garden planted with alugbati, okra, lagundi, taragon, kamatis, ampalaya, kalabasa, sibuyas, sili, and luya.

In Palayan City, Romy Tolentino has put up a well-developed poultry farm. He had been staying there for sometime already that he calls it his second home. Complementing the poultry are vegetable and fruit gardens which are being fertilized using poultry's manure (organic farming). He has thus learned to live with animals so to speak. He has to do so, in part, because of the large amount of investment thrown in it and that sustaining business requires personal supervision and loads of work. The business is making good though. He's getting his return of investment on time.

Adjacent to Romy's area lies Jun Esperon's farm. Although still at an early stage of development, he had already grown dragon fruits in abundance. His development plan includes planting of myriad of fruit trees and plants of all sorts and raising animals. Hopefully, he would be able to push through with this plan when he finally retires from public service.

Over in Mindanao, Lito Tanju had purchased a property in Davao Norte long ago which he had developed into a fruit orchard that provides him regular supply of rambutan and lanzones, etc. all year round. He visits the farm regularly at weekend for maintenance, relaxation and exercise. Just like the others, the farm gives him a deep sense of pride, satisfaction and fulfillment.

There are many more others who have been engaged in hobby of farming and growing plants at the backyards and idle lands. They cannot be included here yet for lack of details.

According to Wendell Berry, *"farmers farm for the love of farming. They love to watch and nurture the growth of plants. They love to live in the presence of animals. They love to work outdoors. They love the weather, maybe even when it is making them miserable."*

Overall, the lockdown has given us enough time to do an activity which we have long been wanting to pursue. We have found a really fruitful way to fritter away idle time at the same time prepare ourselves better mentally and physically against the pandemic.

From environmental perspective, hobby farming or backyard gardening, no matter how little, impacts pollution and degradation of soil, water and air. Moreover, should food supply get knocked off track because of pandemic or any unforeseen crisis, sure, farmers would be called upon to help.

We are hoping to continue spending more time and be committed to this



Photo taken at Isagani Galang's Farm in Tagaytay City.

absolutely admirable undertaking even when the lockdown has been lifted.

25 Elbon Jun Noble, 27 Damian Carlos, and 27 Sonny Razon.

Birthday Greetings

Birthdays mean a fresh start; a time for looking back with gratitude at the blessing of another year. It is also a time to look forward with renewed hope for more significant benefits. Wishing everyone good health and happy life as you face your next milestones. Happy birthday! Cheers!

Celebrants:

July - 03 Jack Binuya, 22 Lito Gamit and 22 Nick Pasinos.

August - 01 Pete Cruz, 02 Rogie Calunsag, 02 Pons Crucero, 02 Lito Gutierrez, 03 Jun Abueg, 06 Lakay Lagasca, 21 Aji Gutierrez, and 24 Romy Tolentino.

September - 06 Gene Cedo, 10 Oscar Mallabo, 12 Allen Querobin, 18 Joe Barbieto, 22 Skeet Nano, 23 Bobby Bayona,

What's Up?

1. PMA Class 74 has signified its sincere intention to join the Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative. We fully subscribe to its objectives and advocacies directed towards the well-being and benefit of its would-be members. The officers behind the project are proven professionals with distinguished services in the AFP/PNP/PCG that translate into sound management, due diligence and financial integrity. (Please signify if you are interested to become a member of the Cooperative.)
2. We will be having soon a special anti-Covid jacket with face mask and towel designed by our certified fashion designer, Jun Esperon, shown in the photo above. (Please order to Jun Esperon if you have not done so. Thank you.)



Gene Cedo at his backyard farm.



Pons Crucero showing marang harvested from his farm in Tanay.



EMILIO C MARAYAG JR
President
ZOSIMO D CARLOS JR
Secretary

**WEAR MASKS, WASH YOUR HANDS,
AVOID CROWDS, KEEP HEALTHY**

Covid19 Pandemic:

For the last few months, life has been a lot different for everybody. Gone were the days of get togethers, celebrations, frequent travelling, and even eating out. In spite of this, some mistahs still find time to play golf in CGEA, Navy, Villamor, but with very strict protocols. Mistahs Toto Golez, Alex Yano, Rey Ramirez, Efren Daquil and a few others have lost a few pounds with their regular exercises and push-up challenge. Working from home continues for Asec Raul Caballes, Joey Salvacion, Mon Punzalan, Alex Yapching, Epo Marayag, Nelson Allaga and those with employment. Mayors Pol Bataoil and Jeff Soriano are busy keeping their respective LGUs' safe and orderly. Enjoying the fruits of farming in the countryside are Boying Alarcio, Jimmy Caringal, Jess Verzosa, Louie Ticman, Abner Cabalquinto, Sonny Cachuela and Cholo Carlos among others. Other mistahs who are lucky and away from NCR include Armand Rodriguez in Palawan, Sendong Ferrer in Subic, Peter Labiano in Baguio, Romy Hilomen in Pampanga, Adiong Abadiano in Cebu, and Tui Deemongkol in Thailand. The members of Magilas class and their families try to cope up. Avoiding getting sick is still the most important goal of everyone.

SOME LATEST NEWS:

Welcome back to our long lost mistah, Cesar Agcon, who is in Talisay, Cebu. Cesar is now connected to the class via our Viber group, but only after announcing that he had lost his wife, Imelda last June 28 due to health complications. **Condolence**, Mistah. **Congratulations** to Bong Ibrado for being elected once again to the Board of Trustees, AFPSLAI.

Welcome back to our long lost mistah, Cesar Agcon, who is in Talisay, Cebu. Cesar is now connected to the class via our Viber group, but only after announcing that he had lost his wife, Imelda last June 28 due to health complications. **Condolence**, Mistah.

Congratulations to Bong Ibrado for being elected once again to the Board of Trustees, AFPSLAI.

3rd Quarter Birthday Celebrants

JULY: 4 –Mon Punzalan, 9-Raul Caballes, 11-Maning Busa, 16-Nelson Allaga, 22-Licinius Abadiano, 29-Alex Resngit, 31-Joe Gamos

AUG: 1-Edong Acuna, 2-Tony Fontanilla, 11-Nanie Perez, 27-Edwin Ditangco,

SEPT: 2- Sendong Ferrer, 11-Chris Tanabe, 16-Cholo Carlos, 19-Joel Goltiao, 23-Peter Labiano

Again, wishing everyone good health and happiness. Let us keep praying and may we never cease to thank GOD for the gift of life.

Latest pics of Magilas Cavaliers in their special face masks, courtesy of Toto Golez.





RIC A DAVID JR
Pangulo
VIXI ABAT
Kalihim

DEVELOPMENTS

1. Class supports Anti-Terrorism Act.
2. Through the initiative of president Ric DAVID, the class commits P10,000 to the PMA Council of Class Presidents for its seed capital.

TSIKENKLAB

We miss our regular weekly frolics. Senior "freedom fighters" are coping with LCQ (lockdown, curfew, quarantine).

GREETINGS

2019 Bar passers.
 Congratulations to our new lawyers!

1. Robert Charles Estioko - son of Bobby and Cel ESTIOKO
2. Renmarie Tagao-Morales - manungang of Dick and Edith MORALES

OBIT

Taps sounds for Carlos TAGANAS on Aug 11 in the US. He rests in peace. Condolence to Lyssa and her children.

MASIKAPs are PRAYING:

Lord Jesus, we ask for peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit.
 Heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives.
 Let your peace reign in our families and everything we lay our hands on.
 In Jesus's name.





RODOLFO Y MAGTIBAY
President
FELIPE HB BUENA JR
Secretary

Warm greetings and best felicitations to all Class Members who celebrated their birthdays in the 2nd Quarter! **For April** – Julna Carillo, Jun Cayco, Nilo Dela Cruz, Arnel Gonzales, Vic Panganiban, Vic Porto, Cho Sabban, and Art Tabaquero! **For May** – Chay Holganza, Rory Hormillosa, Nerio Ignacio, Robert Lee, and George Piano! **For June** – Efren Tedor!

Part of our social responsibility and giving back project, the PMA “Makatarungan” Class 1978 sponsored the refurbishment of two (2) rooms in Ward 10 of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. This Class Project also included furnishing the rooms with basic appliances such as TV sets, refrigerators,



air conditioners, sofa beds, dining tables and chairs among others.

The Project culminated in a simple blessing and turnover ceremony of Rooms 110 and 115 in Ward 10 (Oncology) of VMMC last July 28, 2020. In attendance were Dr. Dominador M. Chiong, Jr, VMMC

Director, Fr. Emigio A. Paredes, Class Chair Oca Rabena, Class President Rody Magtibay, USEC Ray Mapaggu, Directors Sam Tucay and Rollie Detabali, Cavaliers George Piano and Rolly Abad.

This Project certainly made every Class Members honored and proud!





NICANOR A BARTOLOME
President
JEFFREY R TUPAS
Secretary

The PMA Honor Code and Honor System have been the focus of discussions among the alumni of the Academy, in so many fora. The Mapitagans, represented by its Class President, Nick Bart, verbalized the position of Class 80 on the issues, during the August 7, 2020 Zoom Meeting of different stakeholders, to wit:

*“The Honor Code and Honor System is **ABSOLUTELY FOR THE CADETS, OF THE CADETS AND BY THE CADETS**, and no higher authority should repeal nor amend it”.*

Can it be more brief and direct to the point!!!! Kudos, Pres Nick.

How the Mapitagans tackled COVID-19 (or vice versa?)

Sammy Diciano was locked down in the US and may remain there until he is sure that US President Trump is defeated in the polls come November 2020. Bobby Ramos is still in Korea – Ano ginagawa nya dun? Jun Ancheta and Jess Lomeda are still out of the country, but are eager to come home to share our experience of a traffic-free EDSA.

Two (2) classmates, Emil Sarmiento and Gil Meneses, squatted on the lots adjoining their houses by planting vegetables and other edible plants, of course, with the permission of the lot owners. Emil cooks what he harvested, while Gil comes to the picture only during meals.

The Mapitagan Golfers – Jorge Regis, Ranier Cruz, Bong de Asis, Bong Cabantac, Jojie Segovia, Paco Francisco, Larry Cruz, Obe Antonio, Emil Sarmiento, Bai Lleno,

Emil Sarmiento, Hermie Colina, Bogs Abogado, Ces Ordoyo, Herbert Yambing, Noel Coballes, Manding Guzman – are now able to regularly play golf. It is suspected that after the 18th hole, they proceed to the 19th hole ‘The Garden’ for the “pilyo-ship”, and enjoy overflowing cobbler.

The Mapitagan Music Lovers – Mai Mendoza, Bai Bolo, Emil Sarmiento, Ben Mantele, Orli Beltran, Gil Meneses, Junie Carbonell, Romy Prado, and Dante Costes –



*Joint Fellowship Lunch, May 23, 2019, Gloria Maris Greenhills.
Host: April and May celebrators*

with their discordant voices, still manage to share old hits and sweet music to reminisce the good old days.

Nicky Bart, during this pandemic, has undergone three months of rigorous boxing regimen (jab-straight-duck-uppercut) to hone his boxing skills under the tutelage of a professional boxer whom he quarantined during the same period. *Mukhang may pinaghahandaang laban!*

Jeff Tupas, JV Javier, Tony Baraquiell and Ager Ontog are busy with their “Apostolic” missions, under the scrutinizing eyes of Tett, Jojo, Neva and Len.

Let us not forget to hail and recognize the contributions of our OCD Director mistahs - Dante Balao (Region 2), Bong Cabantac (NCR) and Buboy Salazar (Region 7) – in the over-all government efforts against COVID-19.

Thanks, too, to Doc Chuck, Sec Nabil, and Danny S (stranded in Zamboanga) for providing us with their insights on how to stay sane during this trying episode.

The following birthday celebrants for the 3rd quarter, 2020 owe us the privilege of inviting the class to a “boodle fight” at Gloria Maris, Greenhills after the virus finally bids goodbye.

JULY

Joel Marayag – July 7, Ed Escueta – July 11, Arnold Perez – July 11, Jun Ancheta – July 13, Gene Enriquez – July 17, Van Solomon – July 24, Ariel Bernardo – July 27, Jufel Adriatico – July 28, Tony Joco – July 28, Noel Manabat – July 29

AUGUST

Gelo Palmones – Aug 8, Ed Tamayo – Aug 13, Emil Gupana – Aug 15, Manny Amat – Aug 17, Balsy Aquino-Cruz – Aug 18, Ager Ontog – Aug 21, Bobby Ramos – Aug 21, Mon Muyargas – Aug 31

SEPTEMBER

Nolet Ojeda – Sep 2, Gene Velasco (+) – Sep 6, Ranier Cruz – Sep 6, Ces Ordoyo – Sep 8, Gerry Layug - Sep 12, Hermie Navarro (+) – Sep 15, Alex De Guzman – Sep 16, Bong Cabantac – Sep 18, Nes Bernardino – Sep 19, Dante Balao – Sep 23, Paco Francisco – Sep 24, Juni Carbonell – Sep 25, Ige Rodriguez – Sep 28



*Fellowship Lunch, June 27, 2019, Easy Tiger, Uptown BGC.
Host: June celebrators.*



*Fellowship Lunch, August 29, 2019, PN Officer's Club.
Host: August birthday celebrators.*



Book Launch on February 12, 2020 at AFP Theater of JLo's "A Time To Heal".



ALAN R LUGA
President
OSCAR P LOPEZ
Secretary

Five months into the COVID 19 pandemic, the members of the Class are thankfully well, healthy and energetic as manifested in the active participation and lively discussions in our viber group, on various topics that affected most, if not, all of us. This crisis prevented us from moving about and doing what we normally do, but it gave us a lot of time to bond with our families, and reconnect with friends and classmates, via the social media. Since we now belong to the “vulnerable sector” of the community, many of us retreated to areas where we feel it safe and secured from the virus.

Most of us also did our regular exercises in the comforts of our home during the quarantine period. But during the lull (GCO), quite a number of Dimalupig golfers took time out to recharge and bring back their old swing, while maintaining of course the minimum health protocols as required. Unfortunately, the most awaited match-up of Cav Art V and Cav Onyot M did not materialize because of quarantine restrictions. We did not get to see the effects of the Golf Simulator on ArtV’s game. Maybe during the next time-out from ECQ.

The Class would like to thank Cav Harold O for coming up with a very comprehensive response to the request for PCOCP for inputs in the study being made in connection with the review of the PMA’s Honor System. Cav Harold was able to articulate the ideas and recommendations of the members of the Class, in the most professional and incisive manner. Snappy mistah! To those who participated in the lively discussions, maraming salamat din sa inyong mga pananaw. Also, we would like to extend our appreciation to Cav Gabby D for regularly hosting the Zoom Sessions of the Class. We encourage those who have time to participate and join in the bolahizing.

As we continue to prepare for the Dimalupig’s 40th Anniversary Celebration in February 2021, these



uncertain times brought about concerns on the proposed changes in the date of the Homecoming, thus affecting our billeting reservations and other Class activities in Baguio. Cav Yerson D, the Chair of our Billeting Committee, has been continuously talking and negotiating with the management of these facilities to be able to make the necessary adjustments, hopefully without additional costs on our end. Moreover, our “Sword 40 Years”, is already in the pipeline and members of the Class are reminded to submit their pictures ASAP to Pres Alan L. Again, for those who

have not received the materials for the suit, kindly contact our Class Pres on where you can most conveniently get them.

Before we forget, let us congratulate another Dimalupig, Cav Bobot Laciste for being appointed as one of the Assistant Secretaries at the Department of Agriculture. We wish you good luck and success in your new post.

In the meantime, while waiting for the end of this pandemic, we pray that all members of the Dimalupig family will be safe, healthy and productive. God bless everyone. Keep in touch!





JEFFREY F DELGADO
President
ANGELO GC VALERA
Secretary

During the past Quarter, we saw Covid-19 cases in the country rising with no sign of slowing down soon. Already, some mistahs have been affected. But Covid-19-related or not, the passing away of someone we love and hold dearly in our heart is always a painful experience that those left behind have to go through. Last July, Caesar T's loving mother crossed the Great Beyond. And early last August, Winky Bueno's younger brother also met with his Creator. To Caesar and Winky, our sincere condolences for the passing away of your dearly beloved ones.

Likewise, the Class condoled with Joey S. for the sudden demise of his son last July also. On a brighter note though, we thank the Lord God Almighty for taking care of our mistah, Mrs Nelia V., during her stay at VLGH while recovering from Covid-19, also during the same period. In the cases of Joey S. and Nelia V., we thank the kind and generous hearts of the Sandigan Class for the financial assistance and prayers given for both of them. Through all these, may we all beseech God's mercy and seek God's loving protection as we strive to bring normalcy back to our families' daily lives.

At the forefront and attempting at new normalcy, of course, would always be our Sandigan Golfers who still persist with their regular Weekend Fellowship Golf, which, more often than not, are held at the CAGC. There, we have the regulars, particularly the stalwarts of the "Hold the Line" Group who have discovered their entrepreneurial streak. Among them, we have Gordon and



his salted eggs and Chris' tone-toneladang fresh hipon, which, according to him, increases one's prowess and intensifies one's endurance, whatever that means.

In one of these regular weekend fellowships, our new set of Class Officers took the helm of the Sandigan leadership during the turn-over conducted last 12 June 2020, as follows:

PSAI Board of Trustees (AY 2020-2021)

- PNP: Elmer S., Danny C., Chris L., Mike L., Jimmy S. (Honorary)
- PA: Chito T., Rolly B., Willy B., Ivan S.
- PN: Jess M., Elson T., Rey Y.
- PAF: Jeff D., Geo V., Nic V.

Class Officers (AY 2020-2021)

- President: Jeff D.
- Vice-President: Ivan S.
- Treasurer(s): Elson T. and Danny C.
- Corporate Secretary: Geo V.

Congratulations to our indefatigable Board of Trustees and Officers! May you continue to lead in keeping the Sandigan fervor burning bright!

Other enterprising mistahs have discovered the richness that Mother Nature gives back to us if we take good care of her. These include our farming magnates like Don Henry L., Ed G., Danny P., and Ninoy A., among others, with newcomers like Bong J. and Max C. discovering the joys of farming. Already, Bong J. offers a taste of his produce to mistahs that may pass by his kingdom in Batangas. On the same note, Rudy I.'s wife has also been into backyard gardening nowadays. We hope that they would serve as inspiration for others to also engage in these worthwhile activities.

Our reliable Sandigan better halves have also kept themselves busy in helping provide food for the table during these hard times. Engaging with renewed purpose in small business enterprises include Luz M., wife of Ric M., in the profitable rice business, Rosa A., Jiggie's wife, for their Zamboanga sardines family business, Loida C., wife of Dexter C., and Mary Ann N., wife of Romy N., both in the food catering business, Rowie C., wife of Bien C., in the real estate development business, and Ruth M., Jimmy M.'s wife, in the quality water production and delivery business, to name a few.

In other worthwhile endeavors, we note with pride the good works of our elected public servants, Sta Teresita, Cagayan Mayor Rambo DG and Baguio City Mayor Benjie M., in attempting to stem the tide of this pandemic from adversely affecting their constituents. Already being noticed for his stellar performance as one outstanding mayor, Benjie M. was featured on One News Documentaries, which aired last 02



August. Earlier last July, Benjie M. was in Cebu City to help the Visayas LGU officials there setup a structure that is systematic and scientific in its investigative approach to contact tracing, similar to the structure he set up in Baguio City, which was noticed and recognized by the international community as a truly effective approach in combatting this Covid-19 pandemic. In recognition of these accomplishments, Mayor Benjie M. was appointed by PRRD as the "Contact Tracing Czar" for the Philippines, bringing his expertise as a local official to the national contact tracing system. Congratulations,

Mayor Benjie M.! You truly are a Sandigan giant that stands tall and clean above the rest. Magaling... magalang... Magalong! May our nation continue to be blessed with your integrity and genuine concern for the public you serve, long beyond your current term as Mayor of Baguio City.

In Cebu, we likewise commend with pride the noteworthy activities of the PMA Cebu Squad, a local organization composed of Cebu-based former cadets and graduates led by its current President, Bitoy C. and active member John B., who are working

on acquiring a vacant building in Centcom for the PMAAA Central Visayas Chapter. Truly, the Sandigan way – no fanfare, just full-swinging action, as described by John B. Snappy, mga mistah! Just make sure to stay safe always.

In closing, do allow me to share a verse for us to contemplate on, particularly during these times, of a promise from 2 Chronicles 30:9b... "For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn His face from you *if you return to Him.*" (Italics, mine, for emphasis.) **-JimMonta82-**



'Bucket List'

The novel coronavirus emerged just as when we, *Maharliks*, were already riding the smoothest sail of our retirement years. Nearly six months after it first struck the Filipino Nation in late January this year, the war against this pandemic remains unrelenting and has critically impacted our lives.

From what we may have been used to - decades of defense/military/patrol/sail campaign planning and strategy management - we are now practically reduced to the next three days when we can logically plan and set out for the family groceries; otherwise, we will unnecessarily be exposing ourselves to the dangers of this pandemic.

The 'old normal' may not come very soon, or it may not come at all. Not much material time is left to perform our remaining duties and responsibilities before this health issue will be over. We may need to reflect, decide and allocate our most valuable time and resources for our most valuable priorities. It is time to write our 'bucket list'.

For members of the Long Gray Line, the 'bucket list' is composed of things we want to do 'before our last taps is sung'. For the National Statistics Office, these are what we want to accomplish before we reach the age of 69, the Filipino's mortality age. Western countries are more brutally frank to say that these are the things we want to do 'before we die'.

Digging deep into the *Maharlikan* mindset is now a special interest to know what priorities and concerns predominate him, particularly, in a period of extraordinary

time. We invited our Class members to submit their 'bucket lists'. We carefully studied them, identified, sorted, and tabulated common areas, yielding the following:

We would allocate nearly half (**42.33%**) of our time in pursuit of family/spiritually centered plans. We would embark (**16.78%**) on activities for inspirational and bigger-than-life advocacies. More than thirteen percent (**13.13%**) of us would spend time cementing permanent relationships with Class members and friends. At least **11.67%** of our time will be allotted to travel both locally and internationally. Nearly ten percent (**9.48%**) of us would allocate time to sports to stay healthy. Around **5.1%** of us will pursue another career in pursuit of financial stability. And, around **1.45%** of Class member's time would be allotted to maintaining a healthy sex life.

Below are the details of the submitted 'bucket lists'.

Family/Spirituality

Go home, retire in the Philippines. Regularly visit my daughter in Australia. Allow my children to finish professional careers. Live long, happy and spiritually contented lives. Spend time with family, and grandchildren. Take care of my old mother. Build, expand, repair my family home. Retrace family roots, and go back to the faith of my ancestors. Pay off the car loan and mortgage.

Inspirational/Advocacy

Write poems, songs, play instruments, write a book. Be a best-selling author. Advocate projects to protect environment, address garbage problem, clean and renewable energy source. Preserve





Maharlikan leadership turning over rooms to the VMMC administration under its Adopt-A-Room Project.

endangered species. Provide at least five college scholarships to deserving, less-fortunate children. Establish a foundation to improve rice harvests of farmers, and advance Filipino nationalism. Propagate Lisa Robot. Build a giant rosary in PMA.

Travel

Visit famous religious sites abroad - Italy, Turkey, Israel, Yerushalayim, Travel to Australia, Europe, Spain, Portugal, England, France, South Africa (Safari), New Zealand, Alaska. Go on a luxury ship cruise with family. Visit all beauty spots in the Philippines, Amanpulo. Drive from Luzon to Mindanao with family.

Sports/Health

Live a simple, healthy life up to age 90. Go biking, deep sea scuba diving and play tennis. Luzon-Visayas-Mindanao duathlon with my Son. Be the fittest mountain biker of Class 84. Play all golf courses in Mindanao, Visayas, and Luzon. Buy a sports fishing boat.

Friends/Class

Play golf, tennis, deep sea scuba diving with Maharlikans, friends. Donate P20,000

monthly to the *Maharlika* Class in the next ten years.

Career/Money

Become a Bestselling Author. Establish stable businesses that could be handed over to my children. Make a model Rabbitry Farm.

Sex

Maintain a healthy sex life.

The 'bucket lists' of retired Maharlikans have some interesting caveats.

First, our life balance is now heavily tilted in favor of the family dealings and concerns. The **42.33% vs 5.10%** (family vs work) ratio speaks clearly of this dramatic shift in our priorities. Embarking on family, spiritual, inspirational and patriotic advocacies have, in many instances, substituted our want to pursue an 8am-5pm or 24/7 second career.

Second, with the **16.78%** chasing new inspirational pursuits and bigger-than-life advocacies, we set aside the notion that we have totally retired

from public service. Rather, we are only changing what used to be our traditional career with new ones, this time on our own terms, pace and wanting. Downright submission to retirement is admission of dormancy and insignificance, which is, characteristically, un-Maharlikan. Class members who take exemption from this are those of extraordinary managerial, leadership, and administrative skills who continue to be invited to run the affairs of the Filipino Nation; however, they will soon decide in favor of family, health and personal pursuits and advocacies.


Third, cementing permanent friendship (**13.13%**) is more enhanced if jointly undertaken with sports, health and travel pursuits (**34.28%**).

Fourth, family cohesion guarantees harmony, fulfillment and, therefore, long life. This is more assured when closely integrated with inspirational and bigger-than-ourselves advocacies (**16.78%**), travels (**11.67%**), sports (**9.48%**) and maintaining closely knitted friends/Class members (**13.13%**) and healthy sex life (**1.45%**), or a **94.9%** assurance.

Fifth, 'bucket list' could be very personal to some and should be taken with utmost confidentiality. It could also be inspirational to learn from other 'bucket lists' and adopt them as our own.

On the larger context, this health problem made us reflect that mankind cannot destroy nature; it will always remain, outlive him, and survive cataclysmic events, such as the dinosaur extinction, homo sapiens evolution, ice age, ecological disasters, etc.

What comes next after this pandemic? We should be ready to adapt to the digitized world such as internet of things, cryptocurrency, block chains, on-line transactions, etc. We need conscious collective effort for a better future.

Every Maharlikan WILL be ready. 



It has been months already since the outbreak of the coronavirus and we all hope and pray that you are consistent in helping out suppress transmission of

the virus by keeping yourself from being infected and following the appropriate health protocols. Since mass gatherings are not allowed if not limited, class meetings were put to minimum. We will provide you with the updates on our class projects soon. For the meantime, here are some information bits:

- **26 July 2020-** PMA rendered a testimonial parade to the AFP Chief of Staff, Gen Felimon T Santos Jr to recognize his 38 years of military

service. As part of his visit, he also graced the incorporation rites of PMA Class 2024.

- **03 August 2020-** Lt Gen Gilbert I Gapay succeeded Gen Felimon T Santos Jr as the Chief of the AFP. The Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana presided the AFP Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony at AFPCOC, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Congratulations sa inyo mga mistah!

- Please let us continue to remember Mariel and Jovic in our prayers that they may recover the soonest and come back stronger.

* **Birthday Greetings:** No virus can stop us from wishing you all the happiness, peace and joy as you celebrate another year of being wiser! Happy birthday everyone!

Name	Birthdate
Cav Milfredo M Melegrito	05 Jul
Cav Manuel C Delgado Jr	06 Jul
Cav Antonio N Gardiola Jr	06 Jul
Cav Ferozaldo Paul T Regencia	07 Jul
Cav Melvin Ramon G Buenafe	11 Jul
Cav Edwin C Roque	12 Jul
Cav Krestofel A Kiamco	15 Jul
Cav Pablo M Lorenzo	15 Jul
Cav Cezar O Mancao II	22 Jul
Cav Ronaldo S Diego	23 Jul
Cav Noli A Romana	29 Jul
Cav Joselio F Imperial	30 Jul
Cav Lemuel G Cantillas	01 Aug
Cav Ismael L Magtoto	01 Aug
Cav Noel A Baraceros	03 Aug
Cav Felimon T Santos Jr	03 Aug
Cav Felicisimo C Budiongan	06 Aug
Cav Allan T Varela	06 Aug
Cav Bienvenido R Datuin Jr	07 Aug
Cav Elpidio B Misolas Jr	12 Aug
Cav Adrian D Sanchez Jr	20 Aug
Cav Arthur M Biyo	23 Aug
Cav Rolando S Acop	29 Aug
Cav Leonardo L Mananghaya Jr	30 Aug
Cav Archie Francisco F Gamboa	02 Sep
Cav Guillermo A Molina Jr	05 Sep
Cav Arnel M Duco	08 Sep



Cav Adriano M Gimutao	08 Sep
Cav Eddie B Benigay	09 Sep
Cav Elmo Francis O Sarona	10 Sep
Cav Eliseo T Rasco	13 Sep
Cav Aurelio C Trampe	16 Sep
Cav William Y Rigor	17 Sep

Cav Bismarck D Soliba	20 Sep
Cav Irving D Fajardo	22 Sep
Cav Timoteo G Pacleb	23 Sep
Cav Bayani Gerard E Campos	24 Sep
Cav Wenceslao I Tapawan	28 Sep
Cav Benjamin M Castro	30 Sep





LUISITO P MAGNAYE
President
NOEL A VESTUIR
Class Historian

Nasa ika-anim na buwan na tayo ng COVID pandemya ngayong buwan ng Septyembre 2020, ang buong hanay ng Sambisigs ay patuloy pa ring masigasig na naglilingkod sa Sambayanang Pilipino. Sa ibat-ibang posisyon ng responsibilidad ang mga Sambisigs ay nakatalaga sa mga sumusunod:

A. PNP

- BG Vic Danao - RD PRO 4A
- BG Fil Escobal - RD PRO 11
- BG Mike Dubria - RD PRO 12
- BG Boy Peralta - DD, SPD, NCRPO
- BG Jun Acorda - Ex O, DI
- BG Robert Rodriguez - Deputy Dir, DPRM
- BG Oraks Bega- Ex O - DC
- BG Sayong De Leon - DRDA, PRO 11 (Bastonero Ni Fil)
- BG Tony Yarra - DRDA, PRO 4A (Bastonero Ni Kiwi)
- Stb BG Benjie Santos - Director, MRF
- BG Yoyong Nadal Agnilla - Ex O DIPO Phil
- Stb BG Rommel Marbil - CS, CSG
- Stb BG Neil Federer Alinsangan - Attache Sa Mga Singkit
- BG Jimili Bmw Macaraeg - DRDA, PRO CARAGA
- BG Patrick Agassi Villacorte - DRDA PRO 6
- Stb Dir Chito Singlemalt Magnaye, Stb SAF Director
- BG Rad Gongon - Ex O DIPO N Marcher 91 Retiree
- Golden PSI Senator Baldevarona - Director SARCOM
- Col Alex Borja, Retired and in love 4ever Inspector Ruello Palapar - Agent 008 SOCSARGEN
- Col Rommel Estrada - 1st Captain, Phil Airlines
- LtCol Allan Parekoy Servida - Chairman and Manager, Security Incorporated Phil.

B. PAF

- BGen Ting Malinit, WC, 580 ACWW
- BGen Ax Parreño, Dep Cdr, ALC



- BGen Ed Libago, in WC, 710 SPOW
- BGen Bai Bailon, WC, 205
- BGen George Blanco, WC 355 AEW
- BGen Rene Honasan, AJ4
- BGen Jeff Hechanova, AJ5
- BGen Mon Guiang, CO AFP PS
- Col Gerry Soliven, WC TOWEST
- Col Banny Banaag, WC TOWSOL
- Col Dennis Estrella, Dep Cdr AETDC
- Col Dodong Dirilo, WC 300 AIW
- Col Rey Bes, Dep Cdr AFRC
- Col Rj Perez, Dep C, AFP PDO
- Col Jogs Gamido, UC 7, SOLCOM
- Col Lloyd Cabacungan, C, PPD J9

C. MARINE CORPS

- Col Doroteo Jose M Jalandoni - Ex-O, J8
- Col Romeo T Racadio - CS, WESCOM (Western Command)
- Col Vicente Mark Anthony P Blanco - Ex-O, J2
- Col Edwin E Amadar - Supt, MCFDC (Marine Corps Force Development Center)
- Col Jimmy D Larida - CS, PMC (Philippine Marine Corps)
- Col Eric E Nicanor - Cmdr, AFPSEO (AFP Systems Engineering Office)
- Col Francisco Domingo R Fernandez - Deputy, AFPCC (AFP Command Center)

D. PA

The members of Sambisig Army group are now deployed all over the entire archipelago in different capacities

and designation. Each and every Sambisig member has great contribution in the accomplishment of the AFP mandate of securing the people and the state.

In Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), we have Danny Benavides, Angel Madarang, William Penafiel, Jono Pasamonte, and Dennis Pacis.

In SOLCOM, we have Alex Rillera, Erwin Alea, Norwin Tolentino, Naq Penafiel and Bernardo Fortez.

At GHQ, the Sambisig Army group is headed by JEM Niembra, our 1st 2-star Sambisig, Buboy Reyeg, Paji Pajarillo, Ceasar Molina, Erwin Lamzon, AJ Papa, Toto Vestuir, Arnel Morada, Ed Palma, Al Jaji, Shalimar Imperial and Denie Mar Clemencia.

At AFP SOCOM, we have Monico Abang, Armand Arevalo, and Moises Nayve. Leandro Abeleda and Oriel Pangcog is at PMA and AFP PKOC, respectively. Inyong Batara is now at his home in Nueva Viscaya, recovering from his illness.

At HPA, Joel Paloma, Mark Moro, Vic Tanggawohn, Florante Sison, Nap De Vera and George Cabrerros. At Light Armor Division are: RJ Atencio, Anton ABrina, and Alex Aduca.

At ARESKOM, we have Nonoy Zuniega, Jemar Aseron, Febie Lamerez, Jerry Borja, Richard Ruffy and Jose Tianco.

In the Visayas area (CENTCOM), we have Marion Sison, Odie Edralin, Inno Pasaporte, Mike Samson, Vincent Iringan, Zosimo Oliveros, Pitong Penaredondo, and Lenart Lelina.

Going down to Mindanao, in EASTMINCOM, we have Poten Camba, Ted Dumosmog, Oliver Maquiling, Glenn Calambuhay, Ed Gubat, Jake Fuerte, Allan Hambala, Tweet-tweet Barandon, and Jun Balaoro.

In WESTMICOM, we have Leonil Nicolas, Leo Pena, John Divinagracia, Bong Patrimonio, Tony Bautista, Joel Mariano, and Gio Franza.

Our mistahs who are deployed abroad as DAFA are: Nhel Patricio, Jojo Canieso, Virgilio Luna, Shalimar Imperial and Rod Sosmena.

Being spread all over the country, each and every Sambisig Army group will always be a reliable ally in the overall effort in our fight against COVID-19 pandemic in whatever capacity we can, the best way we can.

MABUHAY SAMBISIG!#





LEO M FRANCISCO
President
BERNARD M BANAC
Secretary

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
-Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

Greetings, Tanglaw-Diwans!!! I pray that everyone is safe from Covid19. These past few months have tested all of us and thankfully God is still in control of the destinies of man. Just a quick update on our mistahs who have recently been promoted in rank and/or position during this pandemic which is something to be truly thankful for.

For the Air Force: Pablo Rustria - WC, 250 PAW; Aristotle Gonzalez - WC, TOWNOL; Pedro Francisco III - DC, ADC; Erick Escarcha - C, AFPCC; Joannis Leonardo Dimaano - C, AFIA; Bienvenido Casaclang - WC, 220HAW; Jeffrey "Bagets" Vilela-Actg WC, TOWEM; and Fermin Carangan - SMA to the President.

For the Army: George Banzon - C, 1003Bde; Krish Mortela - C, 701Bde; and Andre Santos - C, Army Aviation Regiment PA.

For the Navy: Joe Anthony Orbe - DC, NSSC; and Romulo "Bimbo" Quemado - C, CDR (P).

For the Coast Guard: Doy Punzalan - CS, PCG; Art Abu - C, CGETDC; Chris Villacorte - C, CGIAS; Jojo Ramos - CG-6; and Rudyard Somera - C, Strategic Studies. By the way, Doy and Art are the first Rear Admirals (2-stars) of the class!

For the PNP: Bernie Banac - C, PIO; Matthew Baccay - Dir, Legal Service; Jonnel Estomo - Dir, AKG; Romeo "Bong" Caramat - Dir, PNPDEG; Ronald Lee - Dir, IMEG; Steve Ludan - Ex-O, DRD; Belli Tamayo - Ex-O, DPRM; Mario Reyes - Ex-O, DL; Leo

Francisco - Ex-O, DO; Tony Cirujales - Ex-O, DHRDD; Sidney Hernia - Ex-O, DPL; Maffy Bazar - DRDA, PRO7; Sidney Villaflor - C, SOSIA; Incoming... Uly Cruz - PCADG; Jose Melencio Nartatez - DDA, FS; Wes Obinque - Dep, FEO; Maeng "Lolong" Yu - DRDO, PRO1; and Eric Noble - DRDO, PRO3.

For the BIRC: Wawee Peñamante - Chief Pilot (Helicopter) INAEC Aviation Corporation; Conrad Dieza is still developing his real estate and constructing housing for ISF, mid and high-income segments of our society as Chairman/CEO of CDJ Group Const. and Devt. Corp.; Teody Valdez is a Captain of A320/321 Cebu Pacific Air; Sam Sagun is enjoying his retirement by organizing communities in IP areas; Sam Pallorina took his 2nd retirement in the hotel/accommodation industry and is now on R&R; George Dominguez is the Security Manager, Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRT1); and Jun De Vela is discovering the tricks of the trade as Professional Security Manager in running his own Security Agency.

John Manuel Bacolet Ramos III Graduates from USCGA

Last May 20, 2020, John Manuel Ramos III graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, USA with a Bachelor of Science



in Operations Research and Computer Analysis. P/ENS Ramos is the third child of Commodore Juan Manuel DF Ramos PCG and Hazel B. Ramos. John is a product of San Lorenzo Christian School in Sta. Rosa City and Sta. Rosa Science and Technology School. He is now undergoing the Coast Guard Officers' Course in Bagac, Bataan.

The entire Tanglaw-Diwans celebrate the achievements of P/ENS John Manuel B. Ramos III...truly a chip of the old block! Go Bears!!!

Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992...GOD first. /CGA92



Mga mistah, let us all stay strong, healthy and fit as we fight Covid19!



JOEY A ESCANILLAS
President
RANDY O REMONTE
Secretary

Make no mistake Cavaliers, we are still very much into the pandemic! And while the silver lining appears to be forthcoming with vaccine trials in several countries, we need to constantly remind ourselves with the old school mantra,

that an ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure. That is why on 07 May '20, MAALABS, in coordination with their PNPA counterparts, donated 240 face shield to units of the Philippine Army and Navy. This represents a simple token of our collective appreciation and support to the tireless efforts of our military front liners to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Needless to say, this contagion has inadvertently positioned MAALABS to where the action is. Alex Musngi as Army G3 has figured prominently in HPA's nationwide COVID-19 response by ensuring that all

PAMUs strike a balance among efficiently providing response options in coordination with the different Inter-Agency Task Forces, insulating the troops from the clutches of the virus and maintaining the momentum of mission accomplishment. This is perhaps best exemplified by the *Kontra COVID*, *Kontra KOMMID* response framework in Caraga and Northern Mindanao coined by a MAALAB PAMU G3 (ahem, ahem!). Pat Amata, meanwhile, as Army G7 personifies due diligence in supervising the charting of the Army's CMO imperatives and the crafting of media products that complement

each other to project the Army's STRATCOM messaging for COVID-19.

Of course Rommel Cordova as Army G5 has been quite a busy as well studying COVID-19's ramifications not so much to provide a vaccine but to better understand the disease and formulate a framework towards a New Normal for the Army. In fact, aided in no small measure by the Quarantine period, Rommel and his team, composed mostly of fellow Cavaliers, completed in record time a primer entitled, *Philippine Army Operating Instructions on the New Normal*. A COVID-19 mitigation masterpiece, the primer explains the urgent need "to adopt strict mitigation measures and other health-related protocols which have considerably disrupted and altered established processes, conventions and standard operating procedures" only because "(T)hese modifications, when not properly codified and integrated, have the potential to negatively affect mission accomplishment and the effective performance of functions of the organization."

For quite some time, this used to be the composition of the New MAALAB Normal at HPA, with Rey Ga as the International Military Affairs Chief, Pete Burgonio as DRC AIR(P), Vic Llapitan as Deputy G7, Nick Quemado as Ex-O Inspector General's Office as well as good neighbors Mars Gayat as Deputy, CMOR and Dencio Idobba as IG, ASCOM.

But with continued uncertainty provided by the pandemic, Providence has deemed it best to further reinforce MAALAB's ranks in Fort Bonifacio with the designation of Randy "Uncle Bobo" Remonte as Army Provost Marshal, perhaps to remind troops of the need to maintain a high degree of military discipline even in the face of a very risky health situation. And as this article was being written, Ed de los Reyes assumed as Army G8 in a fitting recognition of a lifetime of field assignments and training experience. A certified PhD, Ed had to work hard to become a "Doctor" while a Hawk Hunter mistah was simply born to be one, Cavalier Aldrin Doctor!

Advance congratulations to the MAALABS who will complete the dreaded MNSA next month, albeit with subdued euphoria as the course has morphed to become more of a professional enhancement and less of a career advancement.

To the rest of the MAALABS making their indelible marks in the different PAMUs, specifically pursuant to ELCAC, be assured that you are not forgotten by this Class Call, as its next edition will be reserved solely for you. Uncle Bobo 93's promise!





MA. NOEL T TOLENTINO
President
IVAN R PAPER
Secretary

**THE MABANGIS BANTAY LAYA
FATHER AND SON
"A Chip Off the Old Bloc"**

It would be undeniable that most military fathers would want his son to follow his footsteps and continue his legacy of serving the country. In fact, most military men dream of sending his son to PMA, being one of the most prestigious military institutions in the Philippines and even ASIA. And for some, they decide to finish their college before finally joining the military service, and enter through other sources of officer commissions just to follow the footsteps of their father.

After more than 25 years, some members of the Bantay Laya Class of 1994, finally have reached this milestone and dreams. For several years, the class have proudly witnessed and supported our members who sent their sons and daughters as plebes in PMA, going through the same rigorous and challenging experiences that we all have shared. We have seen in the faces of our Mistah, the mix emotions of pride and anxiety, proud of knowing not everyone have the physical and intellectual capacity to enter PMA. But fearful, knowing his dearest son or daughter will face the mental, physical, and psychological challenges of plebehood, and the tough academic rigors from yearling to first class.

We also have our mistahs worked hard to send their sons to school and pursue their college educations, then eventually deciding to join the military service and follow the footsteps of their daddy "idols".

In this article for Class Call, allow us to proudly give tribute to our Mabangis members, the proud fathers of recent graduates of PMA, US Air Force Academy, and NOQC. From 2018 to present, we already have four mistahs, whose sons successfully finished PMA and two mistahs whose sons now joins us in the different Branches of Service.

The AGATEPs



Kim CL 1994



Gabe CL 2019

A great man walks in the footsteps of a greater man. CAV KIM ERIC ALEXANDER D AGATEP Class of 1994 is a model officer and pilot. With his stellar military career, he inspired his sons to join

the military. On 30 May 2019, his son CAV KIM KENRIC GABRIEL O AGATEP graduated from the United States Air Force Academy and now joins in in the Philippine Air Force aspiring to be a pilot like him. And now, his youngest son CDT KIM KENDRIC URIEL O AGATEP walks the same halls both predecessors walked, their alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy.

The OMARs



Jun CL 1994



Jaafar CL 2018

"My Father did not tell me how to live, he lived, and let me watch him do it." - C. Kelland, this is held true for the Omars. Inspired by his grandfather and father's military spirit and endeavors, 2Lt Jaafar Omar (PMA Alab-Tala 2018) decided to follow their footsteps. Colonel Jun Omar (PMA '94) was among the enthusiastic and dedicated cadets of PMA Bantay-Laya Class of 1994. He later became a distinguished member of the Philippine Air Force. With the years of leadership shown and accomplishments, achieved by Col Omar, these brought inspiration for Jaafar to heed to the calling of military service. He had his academic and physical training from the same Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy. Now, he is a member of one of the country's military elite...the few, the proud, The MARINES! Courage, integrity and loyalty for the Omars are not only mere words...but truly a way of life!

The VENTURAs



Ace CL 1994



Francis CL 2019

The term "a chip off the old block" may date all the way back to the 1600s, but its rendering and meaning remains intact up to this day.

Neil Francis is every bit the great man his father, Fernando "Ace" is. Just as his father did in his younger years, he left the comforts

of civilian life to enter the Philippine Military Academy and join the ranks of our country's most renowned vanguards and leaders in history. Neil Francis belongs to the MABALASIK Class of 2019. Soon after graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Philippine Air Force and would go on, just like his father did, to undergo Military Pilot Training in Fernando Air Base, Lipa City.

Indeed, this son is an obvious chip of his old man's block. Both charged with the security of our country, the safety of its people, and sovereignty of our territory.

The CUSTODIOS



Armand CL 1994



Arjay CL 2020

The Custodios shares so many things, the names, the looks (though Arjay is really the corrected version), but most importantly, they share the same passion to serve and protect our country. The newly graduated CAV ARMANDO C CUSTODIO JR of MASIDLAWIN (Mandirigmang Isinilang na may Dangal at Lakas Upang Maging Tanglaw ng Inang Bayan) CLASS OF 2020 has been looking up to his father, CAV ARMANDO B CUSTODIO OF BANTAY LAYA CLASS OF 1994, and his profession since he was a young boy. He would sometimes wear his father's shako and say "I'm a cadet," while pretending to

march. Now his childhood dream has been fulfilled and he's following the footsteps of his father.

The DAVIDS



Dabong CL 1994



Dabong NOQC 2018

Apple never falls far from the tree. This common phrase might be cliché as it may seemed, but it is utterly true in the case of the Davids. CAPT RICHARD M DAVID PN(GSC) is a proud member of the Bantay Laya Class of 1994. In which, he vehemently joined the Philippine Navy. As a father, he allows his children to freely dream for their own and never forced them to follow his footsteps. But with his decades of utmost commitment and unwavering passion he invested to our service, it is close to impossible to be unseen by his own son. Eventually, ENS ANDROBERT T DAVID, decided to take the oath of the profession of arms and chose to be a naval officer like his father.

As a Naval Officer CAPT DAVID believes that a father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but serves as a lighthouse whose love shows us the way. This is despite sailing on the same course, he encourages his son to always mark a different waypoint.



"MALIYAB on the Floor"

Maliyab Trivia

To refresh the memory on happy cadet life, I will be sharing "alright" stories that will make my mistahs say "Sino kah!?"

One day in the Land of Kings, a female first class Yaber cadet posted as Floor Inspector and stood at the end of the hallway waiting for TAPS. Then the bugler started playing. It was past the middle note when a jolly stout Yaber came out from the sink wearing the proper bathing uniform. He came from authorized duty so he managed to clean up before going to bed (hayufz, bed).

He was walking leisurely at the hallway as if there is no tomorrow. It was too late when he realized he is still far from his room which is few steps away in front of the beautiful F.I. He dashed and dashed trying to beat the last note of Taps but he slid with his back on the floor, baring everything he's got to his composed but overly happy mistah. When he looked up to touch their door, he was still few inches away so he crawled with his arms reaching out to touch any part of his room just to make it before the end note or else he will be rendered absent from Taps inspection. Everything happens so fast for this gallant Yaber, he can only feel the coldness and the rush of air on the parts of his body that he can no longer claim private. There was nothing else in his head but to beat the last note, he forgot he was showing his own dark notes (with size unknown) during his struggle. As for the female Yaber, she lives happily ever after. The End... Sino kah?!

Maliyab Update

Correction to our last article, the Navy Yabers were recently promoted to the rank of COMMANDER. A rank they can only wish to maintain when they are at home with the real ones.

I am not a Navy nor a Marines, but I have heard some concerns of my sailor and mighty classmates about their career in the fleet. I was not allowed to speak on their behalf, so i am writing on their behalf. I know this is not the proper forum but I also believe that the ones who really care are reading this article. So I hope it will not be too much to ask our upperclassmen to help my sailor mistahs with whatever that is troubling their minds amidst their recent promotion.

On the Air Force side, the handsome and not so handsome but-all-the-same boastful Yabers are doing great! One phenomenal victory is by the CGable Jayson "Wagwagen" Sibayan who recently defeated Covid19!!! He was found positive with the



Acero



Afable



Gallaza

virus last May, and declared negative after 14-days. Wagwagan Jayson is one concrete proof that Corona virus will only affect good looking people. But I am not saying he is not good-looking, he is my mistah! I am only saying, Covid left his body, thanks God!

As for the Army guys, no recent movements aside from Ali Sumangil who is now with OTIA. Jomar Pipes already graduated from his GSC and is now on a self-declared holiday. The Rangers and Special Forces are still the same - guguapona, yayabang pa! One word of advice to the single ladies out there, when you see them coming, run! Or else, you will fall in love like you never did before. The armor and intel guys may ask "what about us?". Well, you were so fast no one can tell the tales. Make it slow next time, or better yet, stop introducing yourselves as SF or Ranger to the girls.

For other Maliyab updates, I am very proud to announce that we already have nine GSC graduates. Ervin Lagodgod (Korea), Leo Villamor (Australia), Paul Carbajal (China), Toto Gallaza (Brunei), Joemar Pipit (Indonesia), Serge Ronquillo (New Zealand), Ronald Urbano (China), Endrik Ocampo (Thailand), Angel Afable (Australia) and one on-going, Ruel Acero (Korea).



Lagodgod



Ocampo



Ronquillo



Urbano



Villamor

To all Cavaliers, let us stay safe and healthy this time of pandemic. There may be hundred precautions posted on the internet,

but let us not forget we have One Great God who can protect and heal us if only we let Him.



*“Be strong and courageous,
for the Lord will be with you
wherever you go.”*

LAST CALL

BGEN FELIMON S AGUSTIN '61
11 March 1935 - 2 June 2020

CAV AGUSTIN passed away on 2 June 2020 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. His remains were laid to rest at the Loyola Marikina on June 7. His last assignment with the AFP was as Provost Marshal General, AFP. He left behind his wife Gertrude and only son, John Cesar.



COL ROGELIO L LUIS (USMA) '62
2 June 1938 - 7 June 2020

CAV LUIS passed away last 7 June due to complications of pneumonia. He had just turned 82 on 2 June, he was cremated the next day. Although he graduated from the USMA at West Point, he is an original member of Class '62. He rejoined the class upon his graduation in 1962, joined the Corps of Engineers, and had a successful military career. Done with government and corporate activities, he founded with his wife, Hedy, an architectural and engineering firm, the Luis and Associates. He left behind his wife Hedy and their sons Thomas, Vincent, and Eymard.



GEN ARNULFO G ACEDERA, JR '63
19 December 1941 - 15 June 2020

CAV ACEDERA who served as AFP Chief of Staff from November 28, 1996 to December 31, 1997 passed away on Monday, June 15 at age 78. Appropriate final honors were rendered, including the 21-gun salute, and the taps and volley of fire during his interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on June 20.



Before he was laid to rest, Cav Acedera was accorded necrological rites in Camp Aguinaldo during the last day of his wake on Friday. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Stella R Acedera, his son Arnulfo Jose and daughter Ana Marie.

MAJ MARVIN A INDRAMOG '06
9 September 1980 - 29 June 2020

The late CAV INDRAMOG of the Philippine Army from Tanudan, Kalinga Province was buried on 8 July 2020 at the Good Shepherd Cemetery, Mapaoay, Ipil. The commanding officer of the Army's 9th Intelligence Service Unit was slain with three other soldiers on June 29 in Sulu by alleged policemen.



His remains were first brought to the St. William's Cathedral for the funeral mass.

Cav Indammog left behind his wife, Jen and daughter, Thalia.

CPT IRWIN B MANAGUELOD '09
12 December 1986 - 29 June 2020

CAV MANAGUELOD, a field station commander of the Army's 9th Intelligence Service Unit from San Pablo City, Laguna was slain with three other soldiers on June 29 in Sulu by alleged policemen. Wake was at first at the LNMB and later transferred to Pinagtung Ulan, Lipa City, Batangas. Cav Managuelod was buried at the Haven of Infinity in Lipa City. He left behind his wife, April.



COMMO REX C ROBLES '65
02 May 1943 - 05 July 2020

CAV ROBLES, who was part of a group of rebel soldiers that plotted to overthrow the Marcos dictatorship in its twilight years, died of cardiac arrest on 5 July 2020. He was 75. Cav Robles was born on 2 May 1943 in Iloilo City. His survivors include his wife, Marilyn Robles; a daughter, Penny Robles; two sons, King and Mikael; and two grandchildren.



COL FRANCISCO T SAN MIGUEL '51
14 October 1927 - 04 July 2020

CAV SAN MIGUEL, 93, died with his family by his side on 4 July 2020 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. He was cremated and his family is waiting for undetermined date for wake and burial after the COVID pandemic. He was a former Secretary General of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines and Director of the Philippine Veterans Bank.



Cav San Miguel was born on 14 October 1927 in Morong, Rizal. He is married to the former Ofelia Javier with whom he had four children: Ma. Ofelia, Edwin Francisco, Linda Jocelyn, Ma. Theresa.

BGEN RICARDO P FLORES '63
7 July 1940 - 05 July 2020

CAV FLORES, an outstanding and one of the longest Engineer Brigade Commanders, passed away on July 5, two days before his 80th birthday at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. He was laid to rest in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental.



BGEN FEDERICO A MACABASCO '56
6 October 1931 - 18 July 2020

CAV MACABASCO was attacked by a stroke on 18 July 2020 and was rushed to the hospital for treatment but was unsuccessfully revived. He stayed in the hospital for the night and moved to St. Peter for cremation. Cav Macabasco left behind his wife Aida and children: Ma Cynthia, Cesar Arvin, Ditas and Evelyn.



PBGEN RAFAEL T SANTIAGO JR '86
20 May 1964 - 21 July 2020

CAV SANTIAGO passed away on 21 July 2020 at the Capitol Medical Center, Quezon City due to complicated urinary tract infection. His last assignment with PNP was as Regional Director, PRO 10. Wake was at the Loyola Chapels in Commonwealth, Q.C. and buried at the Himlayang Pilipino on August 4. Cav Santiago is survived by his wife, Cristina and children, Irina Christine and Anne Christelle.



CAPT FIORELIO D BERNARDO '10
28 December 1988 - 25 July 2020

CAV BERNARDO died 25th July after a helicopter crash in Cauayan, Isabela. His funeral services were held on 25-28 August at the St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Naga City followed by internment on 29 August at the Eternal Gardens, Naga City. He is survived by his wife Lumibien and son, Lucious Feodore.



CAPT ORLANDO T CABANLIG '64
2 February 1941 - 15 August 2020

CAV CABANLIG passed away on 15 August at the Makati Medical Center, leaving behind his wife Dely and children, Noel and Patti. His remains were laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on August 20.





PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

PMA Alumni Center, A.Luna Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 912-5074/913-3937 Fax: 912-9318 Catex: 774-4724 E-mail: pmaaal@yahoo.com

16 June 2020

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
Office of the President
Malacañang Palace, Manila

Thru: **SECRETARY DELFIN N LORENZANA**
Department of National Defense
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Dear Mr. President

On behalf of more than 220,000 retired military and uniformed personnel (MUP) and veterans, I have the honor to express once again their sincerest gratitude for your approval of Joint Resolution Number 1 series 2018 (JR1) which authorized the resumption of pension indexing to the prevailing rate and which you ordered implemented in 2019 using available government funds. Undoubtedly, said adjustment has been a great boost to their morale and uplift of their welfare.

Mr. President, once again, I would like to take the opportunity to request another favor and this concerns the funding for the MUP pension indexing in 2018 amounting to P38.4 billion. It may be recalled that JR1 suspended the pension indexing to the new base pay rate of those in the active service which would automatically be lifted on 1 January 2019 or upon activity of a pension reform law, whichever comes earlier.

The lifting of the suspension of pension indexing also automatically entitled the retirees arrears for pension indexing for 2018. Thus, in 2019, concerned MUP agencies included the amount needed in their proposed budget for 2020. However, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) declined to fund same, alleging that the retirees are not entitled to pension indexing for the duration of the suspension even if it was already lifted effective 1 January 2019.

The said refusal by DBM contravened the earlier pronouncement by former DBM Secretary Benjamin E Diokno as our Guest Speaker during the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Incorporated (PMAAAI) Annual General Membership Assembly and Convention on 27 January 2018. In his speech (attached), he expounded on the provisions of the JR1. In the later part of his speech and to the delight of the audience, he declared that the government owes the retirees P38.4 billion for pension indexing in 2018 and would already include it in the proposed budget for 2019. Hence, the Association finds no cogent and justifiable reason for the sudden reversal of the DBM's position on the matter after the incumbency of Secretary Diokno.

Hence, respectfully request your kind favor of ordering Secretary Wendel E Avisado to include the amount of P38.4 billion for 2018 pension indexing in the proposed Presidential Budget for 2021.

Very respectfully yours,

PGEN EDGAR B. AGLIPAY, PNP (RET)
Chairman and CEO PMAAAI

cc: Secretary of the Interior and Local Government

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Tel: 982-5640 Fax: 911-6211
By: J. Akello
Date: 26 Jun 2020
Time: 12:43
Tracking No. _____



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT
GENERAL SOLANO STREET, SAN MIGUEL, MANILA

Ref. No.: 2020-DB-0045358

AUG 25 2020
SECRETARY DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Department of National Defense
Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Dear **Secretary Lorenzana**:

This pertains to your request for the release of funds in the amount of P23,015,954,810.12 for the payment of FY 2018 pension differentials of retired military personnel due to the implementation of the Joint Resolution (JR) No. 1, s. 2018. Said entitlement was referred to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for opinion.

The DOJ took note of the Congress deliberations in the passage of JR No. 1. Secretary Guevarra concluded that said deliberations merely pertain to suspension of payment of indexation in FY 2018, but not the entitlement thereto. Moreover, DOJ rests its opinion upon the doctrine that retirement laws are liberally construed in favor of the retirees. Parenthetically, the DOJ Opinion favors the MUP Retirees.¹

However, the said requirement was not included amongst the items appropriated for pension under Republic Act No. 11465, the General Appropriations Act of FY 2020 (GAA). In the absence of any available funding source in the current budget against which the request is to be charged, as well as the significant reduction by Congress in the appropriation of the Pension and Gratuity Fund from P125.538-Billion as proposed by the DBM to only P90.863-Billion, we cannot favorably act on your request at this time. We wish to assure you, however, that we have included an amount for the purpose in the proposed budget for FY 2021.

Meantime, we are placing your request on active file for future action. Thank you and God bless.

Very truly yours,

WENDEL E. AVISADO
Secretary

cc: **Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra**
Department of Justice

Office of the Executive Secretary
Office of the President

¹ dated July 17, 2020, Opinion No. 31, s. 2020 signed by the DOJ Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra