



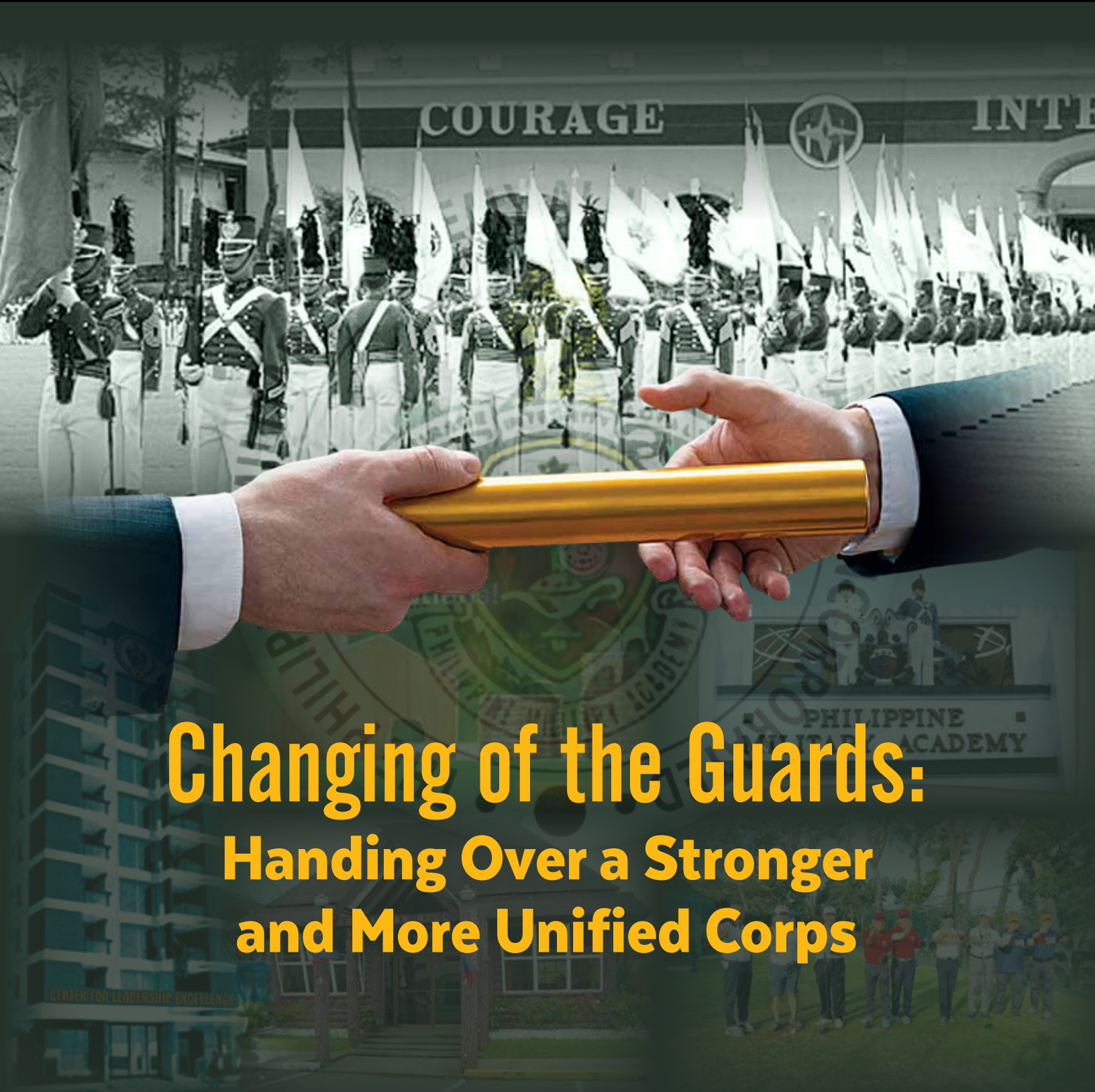
The

CAVALIER

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

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

JANUARY – MARCH 2022



Changing of the Guards: Handing Over a Stronger and More Unified Corps

ABOUT THE COVER



The PMAAAI Association Year ends every first quarter of the year. During this time, changing of the guards, so to speak, takes place. The outgoing PMAAAI Board worked hard, leaving no stone unturned, to hand over a stronger and more unified corps to the incoming set of officers. It is expected that the tradition of excellence will continue to pervade as a lasting legacy to whoever will steer the Association to greater heights, allowing the PMAAAI to evolve into a dynamic organization as expected by the Cavaliers composing it.

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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.

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



The CAVALIER

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Some articles have been edited to meet space requirements.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV AMADO T ESPINO JR '72

Cavalier Leadership: Serving Humanity Beyond PMA

We have gathered once again to celebrate the trailblazing milestones we have achieved through the years – in the portals of our beloved Philippine Military Academy (PMA), as we cross our military career, and as we wind up to our respective paths as Cavalier leaders in our respective communities.

Our 50th PMA anniversary celebration provides us an opportunity to reconnect with the institution that nurtured us to become noble men and women today. This event serves as a recollection point for us to refresh

the good memories of past; more so, replenish our commitment to consistently uphold our ideals: Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

“Turning on a new chapter of Cavalier leadership, let us continue to strengthen our 5-year PMAAAI Strategic Plan (2020-2025).

As we chase work hand-in-hand to address the needs of our growing membership, and of the people in communities we serve.”

In the midst of the challenges today, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, we see ourselves in the forefront of addressing problems through our capacities and means. Truly, the brand of PMA leadership transcends the tests of time.

This brings me into reminiscing our good old days in the PMA until we graduated and continued with our engagements in the field.



PNP Multipurpose Building



Muslim Cadet Prayer Room

It was an experience of a lifetime which gave us bitter-sweet memories, feats of heroic deeds and a fountain of hope which are worth remembering and telling to the young generations.

Allow me once again to use this opportunity to thank our association and all of you for the PMAAAI Cavalier Award bestowed on me twice, a rare achievement of a Cavalier, as they say. I am personally humbled to have



Longayban Hall Extension at PMA Baguio

received these (Cavalier Award as Military Professional in Police Operations, 1976; and Cavalier Award in Public Administration, 2016). These two remind me of the lessons and realizations while serving humanity beyond PMA.

As a Military Man

The numerous awards and recognitions I received along the way validate our consistent and solid performance in military and police service. How we have formulated, and reinforced strategies to promote and

preserve peace and order in our respective communities reflect the learnings and ideals we uphold as Cavaliers.

My military/police career may have ended prematurely, but as I saw myself in the moment of silence, self-realizations renewed my confidence and strength as a public servant. Trials may break us down, but life has to move forward. Life has to continue as it keeps surprises along the way.

As a Politician

Serving Pangasinan the best way I can, I am proud to have inspired Pangasinenses to work in unison with the provincial government in translating into reality our vision for our province ‘The Best Place to Invest, Work, Live and Raise a Family’ and the Mission ‘To Make Pangasinan Number One.’

The ‘Golden Age of Pangasinan’, which started in our helm of provincial leadership, may not have come to realization if not with the approval, toil and efforts, aspirations and drive of key players in local governance starting from Capitol workforce, local government units and the rest of bureaucracy, community sectors, down to households. Thus, a shared inspirational leadership from 2007 to 2016 have led us into nurturing our development agenda made felt and observed in urban communities and in far flung villages in the province.

We are also instrumental to the passage of vital pieces of legislation in our country. As a former lawmaker of the second district (2001-2004, 2004-2007) and 5th district (2016-2019) of the province, we have authored 92 House Bills, co-authored 417 more, eight of which are now laws of the land to include the RA 9165 (Dangerous Act of 2002), and RA 9372 (Human Security Act or Anti-Terrorism Bill).

These feats, I believe, are given marks of a Cavalier. Routing other leadership journeys, my fellow PMA graduates are also successful in carving their own legacies.

Let us then continue sprinting the extra mile, inspire and guide the new and younger Cavalier generations, for us to continuously mark the brand of Cavalier leadership in various layers of governance. Mabuhay tayong lahat!





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV STEVE B LUDAN '92

Time flew fast. Before we know it, our term is about to end and new set of officers and directors will replace us. Humbly speaking, we wasted no time setting into motions projects and programs lined up before us based on our PLEAD thrusts. We accelerated in full gear what we had to accomplish so we could leave a solid legacy to the Association.

Serving the Association has been a rewarding experience. This has been an opportunity for us to show our all-out support for the great job being done by our fellow cavaliers, both active and retired, in reforming ourselves as a nation and as a people. The Association has been a great factor in unifying all the graduates of our beloved Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy. While we have been nurtured with discipline during our four-year stay in the Academy, we learned the ropes of being professionals outside the Academy. The challenge for all of us is how to live by, imbibe and breathe life into the ideals of "Courage, Integrity and Loyalty."

Let me mention in passing what the Board had made our hands full during our term.

As mentioned in the last Cavalier Magazine issue, the PMAAAI can enjoy the perks and privileges of having its own home in the nearest possible time as the Association was granted, thru a usufructuary agreement with the Philippine Army, a parcel of land where the building would be constructed. The PMA Alumni Center project, dubbed as Center for Leadership Excellence, is a collaborative effort of immediate past and current Board of Directors in their endeavor to conveniently place the PMAAAI in a permanent home of its own. Construction will be sponsored by the Megaworld Foundations amounting to a P300 million building.

At the headquarters of PNP in Camp Crame, you can find the Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative inaugurated last October 8, 2021. The Cooperative is optimistic to contribute something in leveling up the members' (and other men-in-uniformed services) quality of life as well as their economic and financial well-being, by offering better interests in savings and lower loan interests. This cooperative will have a lasting impact among Cavaliers and other members of the uniformed services.

Again, we are proud to say that under the committee of Cavalier Danny Abinoja, the 2021 PMA Alumni Registry saw its completion. The last issue, the 2015 Registry, saw its print six years ago. A great number of cavaliers could have received their copies as of presstime.

At PMA, the Board also made remarkable contributions too in the Academy's fruitful endeavors, like the newly inaugurated Kabunian Hall, an extension of the Longayban Hall, its landscaping works and amenities, to include furniture and appliances, were funded through the PMAAAI Payback Scheme. The extended hall, inaugurated last 20 November 2021, would serve as a receiving area for key personalities, alumnus, guests, and other visitors who will be visiting the PMA.

We continued extending donations, in kind and in cash, to fellow cavaliers affected by the pandemic, supported the education of highly-qualified dependents of some departed cavaliers through scholarship, among others. We donated medical equipment to various hospitals and facilities. We sustained our coordination and communication efforts to our fellow cavaliers who are geographically distributed in different parts of the globe to keep them abreast in the ins and outs of the Association's activities. We are gratefully indebted to some very generous cavalier benefactors whom we can definitely rely on through their benevolent support and assistance to various endeavors undertaken by the Association.

We also took a bold stand in various issues affecting the patriotic image and sentiments of Peemayers like the removal of the pictures of World War II heroes (Gen Vicente Lim, Josefa Llanes Escoda, and Jose Abad Santos) in our Philippine one thousand paper bill replacing them with the picture of the

Philippine eagle and the controversial verbal feud between Department of Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade and Admiral Leopoldo Laroya '88.

Always thinking of the bigger picture, we continued the concept of Assembly of Service Academies School Alumni Association of the Philippines and sustained the agreed provisions. Chairmanship of the Assembly usually runs for a year and shall be rotated among Alumni Associations, which include the PMMAAI, PNPAAL, PAF Flying School Alumni Association Inc., MAAP Society of Alumni, Officers Candidate School Alumni Association Inc., and the CG Officers C Alumni Association Inc, to include our very own PMAAAI.

During our term, we really pushed hard to involve young cavaliers by featuring their accomplishment in their individual field of concerns through the Association's quarterly-maintained Cavalier Magazine. We also gave prominence to female cavaliers who have their shining moments in their military career, by publishing their stories also in the same magazine. We deeply involved our fraternal and affiliated organizations in the undertakings of the Association, inviting them to the Association's conferences or by attending their meetings either via face-to-face or video tele-conferencing. We also allotted pages in the publication regarding PMA and cadets' updates and involvement as a world premier training institution and future leaders of the country, respectively.

We also engaged in golf tournaments to raise funds and to exercise and energize our ageing bodies. The experiences, both serious and comical ones, during the conduct of the golf tournaments added to the colorful and funny anecdotes and stories shared and reminisced during bonding moments.

We raised the morale of civilian workforce of the Association by providing conducive working atmosphere, adopting new alternative working schedules due to the pandemic still besetting our country and recently, simple Christmas get-together where everyone went home with a full stomach and with major and minor prices to bring home, too.

In all modesty, we have accomplished many tasks because of the strong affinity forged between and among Cavaliers, as well as with the leadership and cadets in the Academy. Without the trust, confidence, support and cooperation of every team player of the Association, we could not get this far. Board of Directors and officers constantly engage in brainstorming sessions to come up with best courses of actions in executing our plans and programs laid out during our term period, in all social media platforms available or even when physically feasible.

In all these, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to all members of the Board, to the Vice Chairman, and most especially to our hardworking Chairman Cavalier Espino, who contributed their energy, resources, wisdom and knowledge to set in motion what we had embarked to do. Special thanks also to the different committees and to all council presidents who extended to us their whole-hearted support and cooperation. Thank you for being team players all.

All things must come to an end. After 365 days, we have to take our exit and welcome the entry of new ones. We are confident, those who will assume stewardship of the Association's operations and management would be equally or may be more than exceeding the present Board's legacy. To the incoming Board of Directors, this early we give you our thumbs up approval. We hand over to you the reins of leadership and the call is all yours. Rest assured we could be easily tap and we are just call away for any assistance we could extend to all of you. As we end our tour of duty, we can only take a bow and with a grateful heart, we say, "Agyamanak kadakayo amin nga awan labas na!

Dios ti Agngina!
Agbiagi ti PMAAAI!"





SUPE'S REPORT

CAV FERDINAND M CARTUJANO '88

PMA's Core Mandate: Excellence in Learning

On the occasion of the PMA Alumni Homecoming 2022, the PMA graduates will return to the Academy for a great Homecoming. The Classes with a year ending in 2s and 7s will celebrate their anniversary reunions. Homecoming is an exciting time for cadets, faculty, staff, and PMA alumni, who always look forward for “rolling homes” moments in the Academy. The PMA community will always look forward to welcoming you back as we celebrate our long gray line heritage. Reassured that we are making every effort to do our part to create a safe and healthy environment. The COVID-19 pandemic is still prevalent, and we will exert all efforts to abide by the safety protocols. My gratitude extends to each one of you as we celebrate another year with dedication and utmost pride.

The Academy traced its roots to 1898 when Emilio Aguinaldo decreed the establishment of the *Academia Militar* in the Philippines. The present Academy serves as a national historical landmark for historical contribution and its long and unending line of quality military education. This year's theme, *Changing of the Guards: Handing Over a Stronger and More Unified Corps*, represents the determination and unwavering commitment of the Cadet Corps, in spite of the pandemic, in the fulfillment of our pledge to become a more integrated unit; to become fully prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation.

For more than eight decades now, the Philippine Military Academy has served as the training institution for future officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The PMA's vital role is even more highlighted with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Curriculum has been significantly disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the capacities of PMA education systems to respond to the crisis by delivering remote learning and support to the cadets have been greatly challenged.

The Academy surpassed all of these challenges and remained committed to providing the cadets with quality education due to its academic resilience. Academic resilience means that the cadets achieve good educational outcomes despite the challenges. Behind it is the Academy's resolve to engage in strategic planning and detailed instruction, involving the entire PMA community, on how to best provide the cadets with quality education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the growing necessity of broader notions of academic resilience that recognize the importance of strategic innovation in our education. We never let the pressing situation hinder us from performing our mandated tasks. PMA continually does its best to provide quality education to the cadets, coined in a real-time and academically stimulating environment that addresses uncertainties and chance. The effective implementation of our blended curriculum is framed under the C.R.E.A.M. framework, which stands for, capable faculty, responsive curriculum, enhanced facilities, advanced references, and motivated learners.

PMA believes in the philosophy that the *“quality of education provided to the cadets depends largely on the qualifications and competencies of the faculty members.”* We continually train our faculty members to be more adept at the new-normal class trend. The Academy's strategic innovation in providing a responsive curriculum also addresses the cadets' and stakeholders' changing needs for responsive educational technology and andragogy of the hybrid and module type learning. We have innovated to transform the mode of instruction from face-to-face to blended learning in line with safety protocol. We also ensure our education's quality assurance process with the ISO 9001:2015 accreditation of the Academic Group, the conferment of the PMA Road Map A.F.T.R.I.P. proficiency stage, and the institutionalization of our quality assurance manual are manifestations of our quality assurance in education. To complement interactive and collaborative teaching, PMA has improved its educational technology landscape, facilities, and equipment through the P.M.A.N.I.S. program. The inclusion of our e-library in our network system also ensures that cadets could get access to up-to-date and relevant information, books, and journals. As such, all command efforts are directed towards making the cadets well prepared as maneuver leaders with character in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Despite the seemingly insurmountable challenges, the Academy's resolve and core purpose remain the same – that is, to instruct, train, and develop cadets to become future leaders in selfless service to the Armed Forces and the nation. Excellence in learning remains at the core of the Academy's mandate in the face of exceptional circumstances. As we transitioned back to the old normal, the Academy is confident that we will hand over a more robust, dedicated, and unified cadet corps to the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Aside from the Command team, we surpassed these challenges because of our cadets' noble efforts and perseverance, whose passion and commitment have also been tested amidst these trying times. They have stepped up to the challenge of adjusting to the new normal learning mode. They have shown the will and passion for achieving exemplary training and academic performance given the rigorous military training.

As we continue to deal with the challenges of times, the Academy is all the more persistent in maintaining excellence in molding the character, academics, military, and physical of cadets; to uphold the pursuit of initiatives to achieve an institutionalized status, and to uplift the morale and welfare of its personnel. Together, we will work tirelessly to attain our mission and strategic objectives. Let us continue to live up to our core values of honor, patriotism, professionalism, commitment, and excellence and continue realizing our vision of becoming a world-class military training institution.

Welcome home, Cavaliers!





Baron's Dissemination



DIRK KIRYL A DAVALAN
Cdt F/Cpt 1Cl
"B" Company, CCAFP
Regimental Commander

More Than Just Swords and Handshakes

Three years ago, the Corps wasn't what I expected it to be back then, nobody did. Maltreatment and dishonor were rampant. In cadet's lingo it was "like hell." We were at a breaking point; we had lost three brothers-in-arms, dishonor intertwined with 'buhayan' persisted, and the SND had threatened to discharge all upperclass cadets because of these. Many were separated, discharged, and others were suspended. It wasn't the prettiest wake up call, but we needed it because we were blinded. But because we now knew that there was a problem, and that we needed to correct something. We didn't have the time to find out where it all began. And we didn't have the time for pinpointing fingers at whose fault it really was. We just needed to fix it. It became a shared responsibility and that's what set us in the right direction.

From that point, a lot of changes have been implemented; segregation of the classes being the main highlight. It's a great challenge to the Corps, especially on how the upperclassmen are able to lead their men in that kind of situation. And with the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the challenge became tougher.

Many have said that the Corps is deteriorating. But let me tell you that all of these changes are for the better. We have gained the momentum against the Academy's nemeses of *Bullying, Mediocrity, and Dishonor*. The challenge now for the next classes is to sustain it. Soon, the Class of 2022 will be leaving the portals of the Academy, and young blood, as it always has, shall carry on.

"*Though its leaders, come and go, the Cadet Corps shall continue to carry on.*" are the words of the Speakers' Board during the Corps' Change of Command Ceremony. The ceremony, known as *The Changing of the Guard*, is where the Graduating Class officially turns over the leadership of the Corps to the Second Class Cadets. This military tradition ensures that the unit and its soldiers is never without official leadership, symbolizes a continuation of trust, and

We will be leaving behind a Corps composed of men and women of Honor, Excellence, and most importantly, Respect. A Corps that no longer tolerates maltreatment and bullying, exemplifies honor, discipline, and excellence in everything that they do.

signifies an allegiance of soldiers to their unit's new commander.

To the Immaculates, it is one of their last moments as Cadets on the hallowed grounds of PMA. After they handover their swords and receive their diplomas, they will no longer be called cadets, they will be known as *Cavaliers*; the dashing young officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines—ready to take on their new roles as the newest members of the AFP.

And for the Cows, they will be at the helm of the Corps' Leadership—a step closer to achieving their dreams. But accepting the sword is more than just a symbol of the transfer of power. It means accepting the responsibility of being a cadet officer—ensuring that they accomplish their mission

and look out for their subordinate's welfare. They will carry on the Immaculates' accomplishments as the foundation for their own accomplishments.

In closing, as the Class of 2022 inches closer and closer to Graduation Day, the Changing of the Guards will once again be taking place. We have played our part in fighting the *Three-headed Nemesis*. When we turnover the responsibility over the Corps to the Class of 2023 in May 2022, we will be leaving behind a Corps composed of men and women of *Honor, Excellence, and most importantly, Respect*. A Corps that no longer tolerates maltreatment and bullying, exemplifies honor, discipline, and excellence in everything that they do. And most of all, a Corps that respects one another. These are the manifestations of a stronger and more unified Cadet Corps, one that we hope future generations will continue to nurture. From the words of the Speakers' Board: "*With the change of command, the outgoing class' legacy is passed on as foundations for future achievements of the Corps.*" But this is not just our Class' effort. This is the Corps' effort. This is also the effort of the past classes that once dreamed that someday the Corps will be better than what it used to be.

Dirigma Hanggang sa Wakas — Bagsik Diwa!



The Wonder Years

COURAGE

INTEGRITY

LOYALTY

RETIRES SECTION

• **CAV VIDAL E QUEROL '73**
Chairman, PMARAI

• **CAV JOB NOLAN D ANTONIO '82**
Director for Public Relations

The Association Year In Review

Trivia. The annual membership dues of the Business and Industry Chapter (BIC), PMAAAI, in 1979 was PhP50.00. At the end of 2020, it was PhP1,241.80, taking inflation into account! So, there you have it, ladies, gentlemen, and fellow retirees, it would be a lot cheaper to pay our lifetime membership dues of PhP2,000.00 than shelving PhP1,200.00 annually!

Association Year 2021 – 2022 in Review. The Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) recently concluded its Annual General Membership Meeting and Election (AGMME) last 14 January 2022. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Cav Vidal E Querol '73.



Picture 1.1. The Chairman Calling AGMME 2022 to Order and Asking for Proof of Due Notice and Determination of Quorum.

After the Minutes of the 2021 AGMM were approved, President Cav Danilo A Abinoja '74 delivered his report to the Assembly. Highlights of the Association's Accomplishments are as follows:

1. On Ethics and Professionalism –

Conducted four Quarterly Webinars to develop, promote, and enhance the general welfare of our members. Distinguished Resource Speakers were invited to share their knowledge on trends and issues that would help the professionalism and well-being of the retirees.

2. On Selection of PMAAAI Cavalier Awardees –

Four PMARAI members were included in this year's Cavalier Awards. Cav Benjamin B Magalong '82 for Public Administration, Cav Crispiniano G Acosta '82 for Private Enterprise, Cav Michael Ray B Aquino '88 for Alumni Affairs, and Cav Erwin Rommel R Luga '82 for Special Fields.

3. On Membership, Morale, and Welfare –

Collected a total amount of PhP384,000.00 for the membership dues of 192 new registered members. To date, the PMARAI has a total of 1,269 registered members. Last 10 December 2021, the Association hosted a Virtual Christmas Party with the end view of fostering a strong connection amongst the retirees and maintaining camaraderie.

4. On Ways and Means –

The PMARAI has partnered with Liberty Insurance Corporation which offers non-life insurance products, and for every member availing of any of these products, 10% of the sale will go to the Association. Additionally, the PMARAI and the PMAAAI have jointly conducted two fundraising activities, the Games of the Cavaliers Golf



Picture 1.2 The President delivering the President's Report.

Tournament and the Raffle for a Cause.

5. On Financial Management –

The Association has already collected PhP2.9M share from the previous joint fundraising activities of the PMARAI and the PMAAAI. Our Fund Balance as of 31 December 2021 is PhP5,958,550.74.

6. On Public Relations –

The Association has created two Viber Communities, the PMARAI FORUM where members can post, share, exchange ideas, and interact with one another, and the PMARAI Post where information, announcements, and events are posted and disseminated by the Admins only. The PMARAI has, likewise, managed a Column entitled "Retirees Section" in the Cavalier Magazine. The column contains information, updates, and activities conducted by the Association.

7. On Assistance to PMAAAI –

In his capacity as Chairman of PMAAAI Ways and Means

Committee, Cav Querol '73, with the assistance of the PMARAI Officers and members and especially PMAAAI Chairman Cav Amado T Espino, Jr '72, was able to initiate and pursue the following projects, Joint Fundraising Projects, Publication of the 2021 PMA Alumni Registry, and Construction of the PA-PMAAAI Center for Leadership Excellence (future home office of PMAAAI and PMARAI and Affiliate Foundations). (The detailed Report of the President, PMARAI Annual Report for AY 2021 – 2022 will be made available in the BIRCI/PMARAI site of the PMAAAI Website.)

This was immediately followed by the Treasurer Cav Alejandro T Camagay, Jr '77 with his report on the status of the Association's funds.

The following **Significant Acts** and **Resolutions** by the Board were ratified:

1. Authorizing the update/change of corporate name of Business Industry and Retired Cavaliers Inc (BIRCI) to PMA Retirees Association Inc (PMARAI) and designating new check signatories in the Development Bank of the Phil. (DBP) - Aginaldo branch and the Armed Forces And Police Savings & Loans Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) - Board Resolution No. 21-01.

2. Approving the Issuance of the Statement of Support for the National Defense Secretary Delfin N Lorenzana through the Chairmen PMARAI and PMAAAI - Board Resolution No. 21-02.

3. Approving the opening of a Corporate Account in BDO UNIBANK under the name of PMA Retirees Association Inc. (PMARAI) and Designating Signatories for the said account - Board Resolution No. 21-03.

4. Authorizing the treasurer as the approving authority for the check and cash vouchers and other financial transactions PMA Retirees Association Inc. – Board Resolution No. 21-04.

5. Elected the following Directors as Officers of PMARAI for AY 2021-2022: Chairman – VE Querol; President – DA Abinoja; Vice President – VD Luspo; Corporate Secretary – NN Allaga; Treasurer – AT Camagay Jr; and Corporate Auditor – FH Buena Jr.

6. Appointed the following Directors as Committee Chairmen of PMARAI for AY 2021-2022: DA Abinoja – ExCom; AT Camagay Jr – Finance; VD Luspo – Awards; NN Allaga – Membership, Morale, and Welfare; TM Kison – Ethics and Professionalism; JND Antonio – Public Relations; FH Buena Jr – Ways and Means; and EC Tan – Nomination and Election.

7. Held a quarterly Webinar to enhance the professionalism and well-being of the Retirees with distinguished resource speakers.

8. Started a regular Department or Column called the “Retirees Section” in the CAVALIER Magazine last 3rd Quarter (July – September 2021).

9. Approved the engagement of Mateo Ramos Celestino Ilona & Co., CPAs, to audit the organization's 2020-2021 Financial Statements.

10. Endorsed nominees for the Cavalier Awards in the following categories: Private Enterprise, Public Administration, Special Fields, and Alumni Affairs.

11. Hosted a Virtual Christmas Party last 10 December 2021 for members through Zoom with lots of games and raffle prizes.

12. Partnered with Liberty Insurance Corporation.

13. Assisted the PMAAAI on the following special projects:

a) Jointly conducted two (2) fundraising activities: GAME OF THE CAVALIERS GOLF TOURNAMENT and RAFFLE FOR A CAUSE

- b) Publication of the 2021 PMA Alumni Registry
- c) Building the PMAAAI Center located along Lawton Ave., Taguig City

Cav Edmund C Tan '80 explained the procedures and mechanics for the election of Officers and Directors for AY 2022 – 2023. The following Cavalier Retirees were nominated by their respective Classes:

NOMINEES FOR THE PMARAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR AY 2022-2023, AS RECOMMENDED BY THEIR CLASS:

PMA CLASS	NAME
1973	CAV VIDAL E QUEROL
1974	CAV DANILO A ABINOJA
1975	CAV VAN CORNELIUS D LUSPO
1976	CAV NELSON N ALLAGA
1977	CAV ALEJANDRO T CAMAGAY JR
1978	CAV FELIPE H BUENA JR
1979	CAV TRISTAN M KISON
1980	CAV EDMUND C TAN
1981	CAV ROMEO V POQUIZ
1982	CAV JOB NOLAN D ANTONIO
1983	CAV FLORENTINO P MANALASTAS JR

Picture 3.1. Nominees for the PMARAI Board AY 2022-2023.



Picture 3.2. Snapshot of the AGMME 2022.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors for AY 2022-2023 of the PMARAI! The Annual General Membership Meeting and Election 2022 was held successfully albeit in a virtual environment brought about by the surging COVID-19 Omicron variant.

Starting Healthy, Working Healthy, Retiring Healthy: A Conservative Approach to Wellness. (Continued from the last issue. – Author) They get to walk an average of 8.5km to 9.8km (Fellner, 2012)! No wonder it feels so exhausting after a round of golf!

Retirement is a double-edged sword. It offers the potential for improved health, but it also allows us to increase the risk of triggering bad health behavior (Kuhn, 2018). Needless to say, most of those in



Picture 3.3. Snapshot of the AGMME 2022.

the uniformed service are heavy smokers, heavy alcohol drinkers, have a poor diet or eating habits, and work long and dangerous hours in difficult situations, thus, a predisposition toward ill health and mental health disorder.

A Conservative Approach to Wellness. This conservative approach to wellness focuses only on the physical health of every one of us. If we search “benefits of walking” on the internet, we will get almost 3 billion results, yet only about 192 million results if we search “how long should I walk to get the maximum benefits of walking.” And still, fewer if we ask “what is a fast pace in walking” with only 39.8 million hits. What do all of these say? It simply says that walking is very beneficial to one’s health, at a pace of 100 steps per minute for 30 minutes most days of the week. A lot of us would ask, “I’ve been doing this for years, so what’s new?” The answer is in the question! We started our cadet life by running, we continued in our respective careers with physical health in mind, and we retired hoping to have a mindset of physical well-being. But sadly, most of us failed in this regard.

We would like to encourage everyone to be more active physically in their senior years. With the pandemic bringing chaos into our lives, isolating us from our friends, classmates, and social groups, others have found the virtual world to connect and beat the odds. For those who regularly play golf, do the half-marathon or the full marathons, ride their mountain or road bikes, and swim, this article will just be a reminder to continue being physically active. But for the sedentary among us, this is a challenge to go out and be active.

We don’t need to be physically outside the safety of our homes. In some cases, we can work(out) from home using internet-connected fitness gear and services. For the less tech-savvy among us, a pair of good walking or running shoes and a smartphone are enough. For starters, download and install in your smartphone mobile apps like **Pacer** or **Strava** which are free apps and available at Google Play Store and App Store. These mobile apps can track the number of your steps, the distance you walked, the number of calories you burnt, and more. And from there, you can join organizations that offer virtual races. Virtual races are like the physical races: participants select a distance, sign up and pay the registration fee, but this is where the similarity ends. In virtual races, runners are allowed to complete the distance anytime, anyplace, and runners earn their medals or badges anywhere. A popular virtual racing community in the Philippines is

Pinoy Fitness Atleta (there is a mobile app available at Google Play Store and App Store).

Tai chi is also a very good exercise especially for the “very seniors” among us and is readily available on YouTube. From the Mayo Clinic USA, “**Tai chi** is low impact and puts minimal stress on muscles and joints, making it generally safe for all ages and fitness levels. Because tai chi is a low-impact exercise, it may be especially suitable if you’re an older adult who otherwise may not exercise.” It works well with the less physically active Mrs. Querol in successfully overcoming some stress akin to the pandemic, joint pains, and gaining more balance and better posture. It may work for you as well. Now that you have the tools and the wherewithal, there should be no

more excuse not to be physically active. (**Disclaimer:** This article is for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Contact a qualified medical professional before engaging in any physical activity, or making any changes to your diet, medication, or lifestyle.)

Let’s live up to all the Academy values. Loyalty is the big thing, the greatest battle asset of all. But no man ever wins the loyalty of troops by preaching loyalty. It is given to him as he proves his possession of the other virtues. – Brigadier General S. L. A. Marshall in Men Against Fire



Picture 4.1 Pinoy Fitness Atleta Virtual Race e-Bib.

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ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) AY 2021-22 Accomplishment Report

• CAV ARISTOTLE D GONZALEZ '92
Corporate Secretary, PMAAAI

As Association Year 2021-22 of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. draws near to its culmination, it is my personal pride, and that of the Board of Directors, to report to the general membership, our activities and accomplishments for the past 11 months, more or less.

I. THE PMAAAI STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AY 2020-2024: PLEAD

Armed with our predecessors' 2020-2024 PMAAAI Strategic Plan, summarized in an acronym P-L-E-A-D, (P – reservation of PMA's heritage, customs, values and traditions; L – live the PMA ideals of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty; E- ngagement of cavaliers; A – llot donations; and D – eepen social responsibility), the Board was able to traverse its course amidst the greatest obstacle of all times – the COVID-19 pandemic. This Strategic Plan has served as the guiding light for us to pursue our goals despite various hindrances along the way as we progress through time. Practically, more than half of the time we should have devoted to perform our mandates as directors of our association were spent on quarantined conditions as the pandemic is still widespread throughout the whole country, where most of us just stayed home. Limited mobility, though among all sectors of our society, did not hinder us to perform and accomplish our mission, thanks to the virtual technology that we now have. We were able to connect to every director at any time there is a need to resolve matters of importance to the Association.

II. VISION 2024

PMAAAI: Perpetuating the ideals of our Alma Mater, promoting the general welfare of its members and providing support in the pursuit of national security.

III. PMAAAI PROJECTS: In our modest way, our activities and accomplishments are listed below and are explained further in succeeding paragraphs:

1. Revision of the PMA Alumni Register;
2. Continuation of project for the establishment of a permanent home for PMAAAI;
3. Conduct of regular Board meetings, the PCOCP and small meetings for decade representatives;
4. Promulgation and approval of various resolutions aimed at pursuing the goals of the Association;
5. Continuation and maintenance of regular assembly among PMAAAI, PNPAAL and other service academy alumni associations;
6. Merging of PDFI with PMAAAI as envisioned by previous Boards;
7. Preparations for PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting and Alumni homecoming and other PMAAAI significant activities;
8. Formulation of operational systems/manuals needed by PMAAAI;
9. Conduct and implementation of fundraising projects;

10. Identification/implementation of nation-building advocacies/projects;
11. Operationalization and support to Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative;
12. Pursuance of resolving the ACES investment losses by filing appropriate cases;
13. Activation of fraternal chapters and individual initiatives in helping out in the rehabilitation of affected families in areas devastated by recent calamities and typhoons; and,
14. Adjust to developing normal society situation arising from COVID-19 threat.

IV. ORGANIZATION

The affairs and business of the Association are vested in the management team composed of the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director. Tasked with oversight functions over the management team and policy formulation, the Board of Directors is composed of 20 regular/voting members and seven ex-officio/non-voting members from which the following corporate officers were elected:

CAV AMADO T ESPINO JR '72	Chairman and CEO
CAV VIDAL E QUEROL '73	Vice Chairman
CAV STEVE B LUDAN '92	President and COO
CAV JOSELITO E DE GUZMAN '93	Vice President
CAV ARISTOTLE D GONZALEZ '92	Corporate Secretary
CAV JESSELITO L CASTRO '98	Treasurer
CAV ZYRIL S VILLACORTA '02	Auditor
CAV GREGORIO R VIGILAR '52	Director (PCOCP)
CAV MANUEL B MARIANO '62	Director (PCOCP)
CAV DANILO A ABINOJA '74	Director (PMARAI)
CAV FELICITO VIRGILIO TRINIDAD '82	Director (PCOCP)
CAV ROMEO V POQUIZ '81	Director (PMARAI)
CAV FRANCISCO DOMINGO R FERNANDEZ '91	Director (PN)
CAV REY M BES '91	Director (PAF)
CAV ROLANDO LIZOR N PUNZALAN JR '92	Director (PCG)
CAV FERDINAND B NAPULI '92	Director (PA)
CAV JOSE MELENCIO C NARTATEZ '92	Director (PCOCP)
CAV PATRICK B DE VILLA '94	Director (PA)
CAV LUCIEN JAY G CAIMAN '12	Director (PCOCP)
CAV JOYCE J OMAC '14	Director (PA)
CAV EDGAR B AGLIPAY '71	Ex-Officio Director
CAV ROLANDO G BORJA '82	Ex-Officio Director (CAVLA)
CAV FERDINAND M CARTUJANO '88	Ex-Officio Director (PMA)
CAV GEORGE Q PIANO '78	Ex-Officio Director (PDFI)
CAV FERDINAND M BOCOBO '74	Ex-Officio Director (PFTJI)

CAV JOSE C LALISAN JR '71	Ex-Officio Director (PETFI)
CAV LEO ANGELO D LEUTERIO '88	Ex-Officio Director (PMAFI)
CAV DOMINGO M PEQUIRAS '77	Executive Director

V. APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

The PMAAAI Board of Directors for AY 2021-22 passed 25 Board resolutions notable of which are:

- Confirming the release of P900K budget used in the clearing of operations of ATU under USUFRUCT agreement;
- Approving the allocation of P1M budget for the additional ATU expenses;
- Approving the PMAAAI Investment Policy;
- Approving the P547,095 budget for the fixtures in the Longayban Hall from the PMA payback fund;
- Creating a new category for the Association Awards for cavaliers who have been assigned, designated or appointed to higher positions of authority in the government which do not fall under any categories of the present Association Awards; and
- Approving the P1M cash donation of the PMAAAI for the victims of Typhoon "Odette."

VI. FINANCE

The PMAAAI Board has managed to keep the PMAAAI finances safe and sound. The investment of funds is being guided primarily by safety of the principal and secondarily by the rate of return.

From 01 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, the gross revenue totaled P31,147,327.00 inclusive of the P6,734,641.00 proceeds from the Games of Cavaliers Golf Tournament Fundraising with total expenses of **P28,883,133** resulting in excess of revenue over expenses of P2,264,194. Total investment income for one-year period is P6,860,238.00 which is about 22% of the total revenues.

Moreover, the total assets as of 30 September 2021 amounted to P135,248,101.00. The total assets are broken down into: cash and cash equivalents – P30,872,422.00, investments – P94,164,792.00, receivables – P8,100,976.00 and other current assets and non-current assets – P2,109,910.00.

The total liabilities amounted to P1,398,646.00. The fund balances which stood at P133,849,454.00 is P2.3M more than P131,585,262.00 audited figure as of 30 September 2020. The fund balances are broken down as follows: General Fund – P17,668,340.00; Principal Fund – P30,801,039.00; Special Fund for PMA Payback – P2,661,229.00; Special Fund for PACDP – P40,513,829.00; Special Fund for Mutual Relief – P14,400,304.00; and Special Fund for Medical Assistance – P17,744,712.00.

The PMAAAI Board has rationalized its investment portfolio to ensure safety and productivity of the fund placements and approved the recommended investment policy by the AdHoc Committee on Strategic Planning and Investment. As a major concern of the management, all placements and investments of the funds were subjected to thorough analysis and evaluation by the Finance Committee Chairman together with the Executive Director/Fund Manager and, thereafter, the approval of the Board of Directors. Presently, it follows a balanced portfolio mix between fixed-income securities like time deposits and growth funds investments like capital contribution and mutual funds.

To further ensure that its assets, specifically, cash and investments, are safeguarded and properly utilized and to ascertain the accuracy and reliability of recording and accounting of transactions, PMAAAI engaged the professional services of Mateo Ramos Celestino Llona and Co. to undertake the audit of its financial operations and systems. The audit firm came up with recommendations for the needed

changes or measures that would improve and strengthen the policies, systems and procedures associated with accounting processes and internal audit functions. The PMAAAI is progressively implementing the recommended actions to address the gaps or inefficiencies.

VII. OPERATIONS

The Board of Directors, Executive Committee and management team endeavored to prudently use available resources to support the projects and activities of the Association. They gave their time and efforts to accomplish the goals and objectives set for the year.

Along this line, the operational accomplishments of the PMAAAI reflect a unity of thinking and actions to contribute to the achievement of the overall purposes of the Association.

1. ACES

Through the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee on ACES, chaired by the Vice Chairman, DIR VIDAL E QUEROL '73, the PMAAAI Board pursued the filing of criminal case against ACES and engaged the services of a law firm headed by Atty Gary de Jesus. The CIDG is also assisting PMAAAI in the investigation on these issues against ACES. The case is now in the Prosecutor's Office in Quezon City and has also tapped the assistance of the Police District Director of Quezon City. The Committee encouraged the Affiliate Foundations of PMAAAI which were also victimized by ACES to bring their complaints against ACES to the Prosecutor's office to strengthen their position and asked some Cavaliers who have leverage about the case to give time for it.

2. Mutual Relief or "Abuloy"

The Association continues to grant "abuloy" to the bereaved families of deceased members in accordance with the approved Board Resolution No. 17-18 "Increasing the amount of mutual relief being given to the family of a deceased member in good standing from P50,000.00 to P60,000.00 and from P5,000.00 to P10,000.00 to the family of a deceased member not in good standing." From 01 October 2020 to 30 September 2021, the total amount of P4,110,000.00 from the Special Fund for Mutual Relief (SFMR) was granted as *abuloy* to members.

3. Medical Assistance

The PMAAAI Board continues to provide medical assistance to those cavaliers who are hospitalized due to illnesses.

Submission of the application to avail of the benefit should not be later than three months after confinement from the hospital or after death of the applicant. The assistance can be availed of by a member for a maximum of five times, provided that the total accumulated assistance will not exceed P50,000.00.

For the period covered by this report, the total amount of P1,720,000 from the Special Fund for Medical Assistance (SFMA) was disbursed to members in accordance with the new guidelines on the use of SFMA.



4. Support for the PMA through the PMA Payback Fund

The PMAAAI continues to help the PMA, through the PMA Payback Fund, by supporting projects for the improvement of PMA facilities. Recently, the Board has approved to fund the construction of extension of the Longayban Hall and its fixtures in the total amount of P4,047,095. On November 20, 2021, the blessing and inauguration of the Longayban Hall extension was conducted. The activity was graced by Chairman of the PMAAAI, DIR AMADO T ESPINO JR '72.

5. Corporate Social Responsibility

In partnership and coordination with other groups organized by fellow PMA graduates, more particularly the “*Oplan Odette*” and “*Meals on Wheels*” aimed at helping our fellow Filipinos greatly affected by the typhoon donated P1M cash to help sustain the initiative and encouraged other classes to support the Association.

6. Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative

Through the fund-raising project conducted in 2018, the Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative was created. The Cooperative is already in operation where its office is now situated at the Multi-level parking inside Camp Crame. Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative caters to its members and provides loans with low interest.

7. Cavalier Magazine

The Cavalier Magazine, official publication of PMAAAI, is being published quarterly. During the year, every issue has been dedicated to a certain theme carefully decided by the Editorial Board. The Editor-in-Chief, CAV ARVIN LAGAMON '92, with his indefatigable staff headed by CAV RAFAEL NABLE '10 endeavored continuously to improve the quality of the magazine in terms of substance and presentation. The publication is either mailed individually to members in good standing or being read in the PMAAAI website.

8. Alumni Registry

One of the major projects of the current PMAAAI Board is the updating of the Alumni Register. Through the efforts and initiative of DIR DANILO A ABINOJA '74, Chairman of the Membership Committee, an editorial staff was created to work on to the updating of the Alumni Register. The project was a success and is now being distributed among classes for P500 per copy.

9. Association Awards

For AY 2021-2022, the Board, through its Awards Committee, has approved the conferment of the Association Awards to 37 alumni who, after a stringent nomination and selection process, have been found to have the most outstanding performance in their respective fields. The Board has also selected other alumni to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Achievement Award and Meritorious Recognition. These awardees have brought honor not only to themselves but also to our Association.

10. Assembly of Service Academies and Schools Alumni Association of the Philippines (ASASAAP)

The PMAAAI took the initiative to organize an assembly of the service academies and school alumni associations. A committee was created and chaired by DIR PUNZALAN '92 to pursue the effort. The objective of the ASASAAP is to establish an assembly for professional and leadership development, networking and engagement and advocacy of better services to society and to develop, inspire, promote fellowship among its alumni members by making assembly as an annual refresher for its members to form friendship despite their busy careers, where they can pause, reflect and recharge. Celebrating its 2nd year as ASASAAP, the annual handover ceremony to the new Chairman of the ASASAAP, Kasapi-Lakan William S Macavinta of PNPA was conducted on December 8, 2021 as well as its Christmas Party at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club Restaurant.

11. PMA Alumni Center for Leadership Excellence

The PMAAAI entered into a USUFRUCT agreement with the Philippine Army for the use of a portion of the latter's lot as defined in the Agreement, for the construction of a PMAAAI building. On



October 23, 2020, the groundbreaking ceremony was conducted. The project is now on its next phase of planning and coordinating for the 7-storey building committed by Dr Andrew L Tan of Megaworld and being executed by Resorts World Manila.

12. Rationalization of PMAAAI Organization

The Committee who handles and oversees the plan of merger of the foundations with the PMAAAI pursues its effort for the planning. In line with this, the PDFI has done its part to present the plan and articles of merger to its members. A special general membership meeting of the foundation was conducted to ratify the Board Resolution of merger of PDFI with PMAAAI. The PMAAAI has also done the same, conducting a special general assembly meeting with its members to present also the Board Resolution of the merger by PDFI with PMAAAI adopting the process done by the foundation.

13. PMAAAI Website

The website of the Association is pmaai.com.ph. It is handled by our IT Administrator CAV RAYMOND DEREK P CARBONELL '09. All information and reference materials can be viewed in the new PMAAAI website. These include the following:

- PMAAAI official paper “CAVALIER” magazine
- Minutes of the Annual Convention and Membership Meeting
- Approved Board Resolutions for the AY 2021-22
- Other related/pertinent references

14. PMAAAI Transient Officers Quarters

The PMAAAI Transient Officers Quarters (TOQ) continues to serve as a temporary billeting facility for alumni who are assigned in the field or are residing in the provinces with no place to stay when they come to Metro Manila. The apartment-type facility is made available on a first-come-first served basis for a minimal fee of P500 per room per day for a single occupancy and P700 per room per day for two persons or a small family. The TOQ is located inside the PMA Alumni Center compound in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

15. “Games of the Cavaliers” Golf Tournament

Through the efforts and initiatives of the Ways and Means Committee, chaired by DIR ROMEO S POQUIZ '81 together with the Sports Fellowship Committee, chaired by DIR LUCIEN JAY G CAIMAN '12, the “*Games of the Cavaliers 2021*” Golf Fellowship was successfully conducted from November 19, 2021 to December 3, 2021 at Villamor Golf Course and Navy Golf Course. The championship round and awarding ceremony were held on December 4, 2021 at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course. The GOC Steering Committee was headed by DIR VIDAL E QUEROL '73.

Likewise, the Committee will conduct a raffle fund-raising for a cause where the proceeds will help a cavalier. Said raffle will be drawn during the convention on February 18, 2022.

VIII. AFFILIATE FOUNDATIONS

1. PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI)

The PETFI was established in 1976 as a non-stock, non-profit corporation to raise and administer funds for the education of dependents of PMA alumni. Its ongoing educational assistance program covers elementary, high school and college, but due to limited funds, is presently limited to dependents of deceased and disabled regular members of the PMAAAI who are members of the Foundation. Dependents include minor unmarried children as well as younger brothers and sisters of unmarried members.

The Board approved a new policy on grant of scholarship to children of alumni who are not members of PETFI, provided that the PMA Class to which the deceased or disabled alumnus belongs had donated at least P200,000 to the Foundation, and that the scholars under this category are given a support equal to one-third only of that given to regular scholars. There are two grantees this year under the said new policy.

Presently, the amounts of financial assistance being given to PETFI scholars per year are: P30,000 for college, P24,000 for high school and P18,000 for the elementary. For current SY 2020-21, PETFI supports 48 scholars: 17 in college, 22 in high school and 9 in the elementary. In 2021, nine (9) scholars graduated from college and fund support to the scholars was P1.15M.

Since the start, the Foundation has already supported 555 scholars, of which 324 earned their baccalaureate degrees. As of 31 December 2021, the fund balance of the PETFI is P46.56M.

2. Merge PETFI, PDFI and PTJFI with PMAAAI

In November 2018, PMAAAI Board approved a resolution approving the concept of rationalization of the operations and management of PMAAAI vis a vis the four (4) affiliate foundations, namely PFTJI, PDFI, PETFI, and PMAFI resulting into the merger of PFTJI, PDFI, and PETFI with PMAAAI leaving PMAFI as an independent PMAAAI foundation.

The Chairman of PDFI, Cav Delos Santos '69, started the ball rolling by initiating the merger of PDFI with PMAAAI, PDFI Board went through all the steps necessary to complete the merger process. PDFI, as the dissolving entity, is in the process of submitting to SEC the ratified Plan of Merger and Articles of Merger

3. Philippine Military Academy Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI)

The PMAFI was established in 1988 to help the PMA improve the quality of its instruction in search of academic excellence.

In 2021, the Foundation supported the scholarship of 10 faculty members under the Facility Improvement Program and two scholars under the Sec 22K Program. The PMAFI also supported six regular professorial chair grants, 132 course development and administration chair grants, and two seminar grants. It also granted teaching excellence award to 14 faculty members.

The PMAFI donated computers and other training equipment, and various books to the Academy. It also supported its facilities improvement projects. The PMAFI fund support to PMA in 2021 amounted to P3.383M. The total fund balance of PMAFI has reached P107.73 M as of 31 December 2021.

4. PMAAA Foundation for Truth and Justice, Inc. (PFTJI)

The PFTJI was organized in 2004 to support the objective of PMAAAI in providing legal and financial assistance to PFTJI members who are charged in court for offenses committed in the lawful performance of their official duties or who are victims of injustice.

Among the cases not covered in the financial assistance are violations of the Articles of War, Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Dangerous Drugs Act, Anti-Plunder Act, Coup d'état and other crimes involving moral turpitude.

This legal assistance program was started in the 90's by the PMAAAI which established a Special Fund for Truth and Justice (SFTJ) to help regular members who are charged in court for offenses committed in the performance of their duties. The PMAAAI spun off this program in 2004 by incorporating the PFTJI as a separate foundation to avail of tax exemption privileges as a tax-exempt donee institution, and transferred to the Foundation its special fund of more than P4 million.

The PFTJI gives a financial assistance of P30,000 which has recently been increased to P50,000 to any PFTJI member charged in court to help finance his legal defense. The PFTJI has so far provided financial and legal assistance to 18 members since 2004. The PFTJI has a fund balance of P13.7M as of 31 Dec 2021.

The Board intends to amend Article IV Section 1, Composition and Tenure of Office of Board of Trustees, of the PFTJI New Bylaws, by providing that no trustee shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

IX. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1. PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting

For this Association Year and with the current pandemic situation, the PMAAAI holds its Annual General Membership Meeting on February 18, 2022 at PMA, Baguio City for a limited physical attendance of 400. During this activity, the Outstanding Achievement Award is conferred to cavaliers who have attained the highest positions in the government. An added attraction on the same day is the drawing of prizes for the raffle -fund-raising project jointly sponsored by PMAAAI and PMARAI.

2. PMA Alumni Homecoming

The Alumni Homecoming, which is held every third Saturday of February, will be moved to 19 February 2022 at the Philippine Military Academy in Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City. During the affair, the conferment of the Cavalier Award and Lifetime Achievement Award will be made as one of the highlights of the Alumni Day ceremonies. Also, all the members of the new Board will take their oath of office before their term begins on 1 March 2021. Likewise, it is also the celebration of this year's Jubilarians – the Class of 1962 as Diamond Jubilarians, the Class of 1972 as Golden Jubilarians and the Class of 1997 as Silver Jubilarians. The Class of 1992, which is celebrating its 30th graduation anniversary, is the Lead Managing Class for the Convention and Homecoming Committee. This Committee is tasked to manage the activities of the two occasions under the guidance and direction of the PMAAAI Board of Directors.

X. CONCLUSION

The pandemic which brought havoc to every facet of the Filipino life made our task daunting and more challenging. Despite the onslaught of COVID-19 within the midst of our term, we are grateful to our Divine Almighty who kept us on our toes and to the outpouring of support from the class presidents and cavalier-members. Their demonstration of love and passion to help the Academy drove us to deliver our bests. And before we part, may we remind those cavaliers, especially the class presidents, to encourage their members to avail of the amnesty for the payment of lifetime membership fee which will end on February 28, 2022.

In every collective undertaking, we have been inspired with the thought that we have the unwavering support of and every member of the Association. On behalf of the PMAAAI Board of Directors, we then express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our members for their continuing support to our Association.

Now, the BRIGHTER TORCH that was passed to us a year ago is ready to be passed TO OUR SUCCESSORS with even greater glow!



CAVALIER AWARDEES, Other Outstanding Alumni, AY 2021-2022

• CAV VIDAL E QUEROL '73

Chairman, Awards Committee AY 2021-2022

The Board of Directors of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) has selected as Cavalier Awardees for AY 2021-2022 thirty-seven alumni who, after a stringent nomination and selection process, have been found to have the most outstanding performance in their respective fields. The Board has also selected other alumni to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award, Outstanding Achievement Award and Plaque of Meritorious Recognition. They have brought honor not only to themselves but also to our Association. Besides exemplifying the Academy's motto of integrity, courage and loyalty, they have distinguished themselves among equally competent and devoted alumni-achievers. The awardees, who merit our snappy salute and highest praises, are the following:

CAVALIER AWARDEES

For Command and Administration

CAV WILLIAM N GONZALES '89 PA

CAV GONZALES, Commander of 11th Infantry (Alakdan) Division at the same time of Joint Task Force Sulu, a former Commander of First Scout Ranger Regiment, a member of PMA Class 'MAKATAO' 1989, is a distinguished visionary and a leader of highest caliber. His vast knowledge and experience in the area of "**Command and Administration**" are the keys of his extraordinary operational and administrative accomplishments. CAV GONZALES, as the prime mover of the unit, had steadfastly steered it towards growth and development with his so-called game changers which are the gallant officers, men and women of his Command. He honed them as ideal leaders and catalysts of change that utmost adhere to the AFP's mandated task as the protector of the people and the state. He adeptly managed his Command by injecting innovations that is contributory to the realization of a world class Army that is a source of national pride.

As the third Commander of 11th Infantry "*Alakdan*" Division, CAV GONZALES introduces a paradigm shift in its campaign over the island province of Sulu geared towards a progressive region of the Philippines. Thus, the surgical and intelligence-driven concept has been applied in launching military operations against the enemy to ensure the safety of civilians and grip the acme of winning the hearts and minds of the people. He cascaded the concept of whole-of-nation approach down to the grass root level of the communities and ascertained that the Balik-Barangay Programs denote as the beacon of hope for many displaced families brought about by the long-decades of conflict and victims of violent extremism.

As Commander of Joint Task Force Sulu, CAV GONZALES laid down the foundation for peace and development of Sulu based on these two-pronged approach as the '*Non-Military*' solution which is anchored on reaching out to every community and the '*Military solution*' aimed at completely eliminating the existence of local terrorist group that hinders the collective goal of bringing the long-



overdue peace and development in Sulu. He spearheaded synergy among different service units through the first ever Joint Training Exercise, dubbed as Lupah Sug 01-2021, which laid the foundation for enhancing the interoperability of naval, air, and ground forces vis-à-vis facing the challenges of the multi-faceted operational environment while managing the complexity of commanding different major service units in the joint area of operations.

As former Commander of First Scout Ranger Regiment, CAV GONZALES had earned distinct credit and honor for his valuable service which demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and dedication to service as manifested by his sterling leadership that transformed the FSRR to several feats with flying color whilst attaining the Gold Trailblazer Award in the Army Governance Pathway.

For Staff Functions

CAV EDGARDO Y DE LEON '88 PA

CAV DE LEON, a member of the PMA "*Maringal*" Class of 1988, is currently Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, J3, AFP. His appointment to this critical post in the J-Staff could not have been more apt, as CAV DE LEON has earned the reputation as a "*doctrinal but pragmatic strategist*" over the last 33 years. Side by side with his growth in Field Command prowess from platoon to division level, he has honed Staff competencies, excelling particularly in the areas of operations, intelligence, doctrine and training, and civil-military operations. These have spawned a style of leadership that is well-grounded both in sound doctrine and in real-world pragmatism.

Consequently, his stint as J3 has yielded a wealth of innovative approaches that have ramped up dynamism and operational tempo across the AFP. His major contributions have paved the way for a more focused, effective, and efficient conduct of AFP operations in diverse areas. These range from internal and external security to the management of military support to national COVID-19 interventions as a response template for emerging and infectious diseases in the future.

For Special Operations

CAV HERBERT D DILAG '98 PA

CAV DILAG, while serving as the Operations Officer of Joint Task Force Sulu (JTFS) and the Battalion Commander of the 5th Scout Ranger Battalion (5SRB), FSRR, PA, valiantly performed his mandate in battling the threats in the Province of Sulu. Among his remarkable accomplishment was the implementation of the famous "*Operation Perfect Storm II*" on 03 November 2020, which CAV DILAG personally led the conduct of a joint air and sea interdiction operations targeting the ASG Kidnap for Ransom Group that operates under Terrorist Leaders Mundi Sawadjaan and



Radullan Sahiron. In said operation, he led one Scout Ranger Team and one Special Forces Team aboard the Multi-Purpose Assault Craft of the PN and directly controlling two AW-109 Aircraft of the PAF to include JTFS ISR assets. The said operation resulted in the neutralization of seven ASG members and the recovery of three R4 rifles with M203 attached and other war materials. Also, in his stint as Battalion Commander, his unit was able to neutralize 12 ASG including one foreign terrorist and the recovery of ten High-powered firearms during encounters which earned 5SRB the FSRR's Best Battalion for Operations CY-2020.

For Army Operations

CAV GLADIUZ C CALILAN '01

CAV CALILAN has joined the Philippine Army after graduating from PMA in March 2001. **CAV CALILAN** has commanded the newly organized 95th Infantry "SALAKNIB" Battalion of the 5th Infantry Division that was deployed at the heart of insurgency in the Province of Isabela. Through his sterling leadership inspired by his personal experiences in the battlefield and living in an area adjacent to the war-torn Marag Valley in Luna, Apayao, the Battalion was able to dismantle a known Guerilla Front in the North as the clearing unit and another Guerilla Front as the supporting unit with no single government troops perish. **CAV CALILAN** has effectively led the campaign that resulted to the neutralization of 137 NPA regulars and members of NPA YM; the withdrawal of support of more than a thousand NPA supporters; the capture or recovery of 77 firearms (two M60 GP Machine Gun and four M653 rifles) and hundreds of Anti-Personnel Mines; and, the establishment of SALAKNIB Farmville for the sustainable livelihood of former rebels. With these accomplishments of the Battalion led by **CAV CALILAN**, the unit was awarded with three CSAFP and CGPA Battle Streamers.



On a high note, **CAV CALILAN**'s dedication to public service and for having displayed the utmost quality of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, he was recognized by the LGU of San Mariano, Isabela by awarding a Plaque of Recognition with a citation of "...forever you will be an inspiration to the people of San Mariano, Isabela" and a wooden token with inscribed statement of "Defender of Truth, Justice and Peace."

For Air Operations (Senior Officer)

CAV MELVIN A BANUA '97

CAV BANUA, a proud member of PMA "Kalasag-Lahi" Class of 1997, hails from Santo Domingo, Albay. **CAV BANUA** has recently served as the Commandant of Philippine Air Force Flying School based in Fernando Air Base, Lipa City, Batangas where he led the school in successfully completing the military pilot training of two batches of aviation students in support to the pilot requirements of Philippine Air Force. In his more than two decades of meritorious service, **CAV BANUA** has held several important positions in the Philippine Air Force. Among these positions of major responsibilities are his stints as Acting Group Commander of Tactical Operations Group 3 (TOG3) in 2017 and as Group Commander, Tactical Operations Group 5 (TOG5) in 2019 where he spearheaded these units to various joint military operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, civil-military, and other air operations missions. He also served as Deputy Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Logistics, A-4, HPAF in 2018 where he organized the crafting, review and revisions of logistics policies in support to air operations.



For Air Operations (Junior Officer)

CAV MARK PAUL E MENDOZA '06

CAV MENDOZA, is currently serving as Squadron Commander, 481st Field Maintenance Squadron, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing. Since 2020, the Squadron under his supervision and close care has accomplished numerous Aircraft Maintenance Inspections in all of the Wing's air assets. His Unit was able to perform Major Inspections which include the 5,000-hour (Depot Level) inspection of two Bell 412EP Helicopters, 1,200-hour inspection of one CASA C-295M, 5-year inspection of five Bell 412EP and numerous scheduled and unscheduled inspections on the 250th PAW's air assets resulting in the Wing's high operational readiness rating and enabling the Wing to accomplish numerous Flight Missions safely and efficiently. This staggering number also speaks of his dedication in supporting the Wing's mission, and to the AFP and Filipino Nation as a whole.



CAV MENDOZA is a Command Pilot having logged more than 4,000 flying hours and a recipient of the Kahusayan Award for Professional Airmanship and 4,000 hours Accident-Free Badge. He is currently a Test Pilot, and Instructor Pilot in the Gulfstream G-280 Presidential Jet Aircraft and Flight Examiner, Test Pilot and Instructor Pilot of the Airbus CASA C-295M medium lift transport aircraft of the 250th PAW. **CAV MENDOZA** was able to contribute in safely and securely transporting the President of the Republic of the Philippines, his First Family, and other VIPs. **CAV MENDOZA** also played an active role in performing flights in support to HADR, Nation Building, Logistics Run and other flight missions in support to PAF and AFP Mission.

He is a recipient of numerous awards and commendations that are testaments to his exceptional skills and knowledge as a Pilot and an Officer. In addition to this, he was adjudged as the 250th PAW Rated Officer of the Year in 2019. His performance and contributions for his Unit were unparalleled as he was instrumental for the 250th PAW to be adjudged as the CG, PAF Streamer; Flying Category in 2016, 2017, 2019 and Support Category in 2020 and also the Flight Safety Trophy in 2016-2021.

For Naval Operations (Senior Officer)

CAV ASHLEY N NASTOR 2000

CAV NASTOR is currently a student Officer of the CGSC Class 69 at the AFPETDC. He is a proud member of PMA "Sanghaya" Class of 2000 and previously serves as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1stationed in Sulu Province. He is a recipient of various awards both for combat and service administrations. Recently, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Star, Gold Cross Medal with Bronze Anahaw Leaf, Distinguished Navy Cross, and the revered award of the Order of Lapu-Lapu, Kamagi Medal by President Rodrigo Duterte for his active role in the liberation of Marawi City in CY 2017. During his stint as Commanding Officer, he steered his unit for the following prestigious awards: Naval Forces Western Mindanao Best Battalion CY 2019, and the Philippine Marine Corps "KAHUSAYAN AWARD" with Plaques and Streamers as the Best Marine Battalion for CY 2019 and 2020. As a Marine warrior, his effective command and control of various operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu successfully led to the following: rescue of six foreign Kidnap Victims (KVs); neutralization, capture, and surrender of numerous ASG members; recovery of assorted high-powered firearms; and the eventual clearing of various enemy strongholds and areas. His excellent peace



building initiatives and unit's war against terrorism ended the ASG's kidnapping activities in the 2nd District of Sulu. Thus, it paved the way for establishing a "New Growth Center" conducive to sustainable peace and development.

For Naval Operations (Junior Officer)

CAV JUNREY S SAJULGA '13

In 2016, **CAV SAJULGA** joined the Force Reconnaissance Group and was deployed in the different parts of the archipelago conducting Special Operations Missions against terrorists. He was vital in the fight against the ISIS-inspired Maute terrorist in Marawi City, leading his company in neutralizing enemies and rescuing civilians trapped in the conflict.



In 2020, he led his unit against the communist-terrorist group in Palawan, neutralizing its top three leaders that led to the collapse of the entire Kilusang Larangan Guerilla-Palawan.

For Police Operations

CAV LEO M FRANCISCO '92

CAV FRANCISCO gleans his "Cavalier Award" for the second time around. He walked off with this exalted accolade for the period of his bureaucrat service for the year 2010. This "real-life *Sherlock Holmes*" has shown his strength in drawing conclusions from his smallest observations. **CAV FRANCISCO** was apportioned as Head Investigator of the CIDG to probe the Contact Tracing of the very first COVID case in the Philippines where he proved the readiness to serve and protect the nation during the national health emergency and global pandemic. Among his many accomplishments are the following: a.) the arrest of Ronnie Dayan on November 22, 2016, b.) surrender of two NPA leaders, c.) as the NATIONAL HEAD SECRETARIAT of the JTF COVID Shield and the person behind the omnibus guidelines of the IATF-JTF Covid Shield, d.) the investigation and deciphering of the "Pulis Paluwagan" Investment Scam, e.) the "Jaguar"-Espinosa case in which reconnoitered the arrest of five suspects last July 2016, d.) as the MPD District Director and as the Task Group Commander of TG Nazareno during the peaceful and successful TRASLACION 2021 and lastly, the joint operation of PDEA and the Manila Police District in the confiscation of 258M worth of shabu at the Royal Plaza Twin Towers in Malate, Manila.



For Coast Guard Operations

CAV ROY A ECHEVERRIA '93

CAV ECHEVERRIA has devoted his career to professionalism, commitment to service, and integrity since he entered PMA and graduated in 1993. As a Coast Guard officer, he has been an advocate of good governance and whole-of-nation approach by leading various inter agency initiatives in enhancing maritime security, protecting the marine environment and effective maritime law enforcement. Among his notable contributions are the spearheading of support to operations in the Marawi incident in 2017 by establishing port security arrangements thereby providing better security coverage and protecting surrounding vulnerable vital installations. His exemplary leadership and performance as the first-ever commanding officer of the Japan-made multi-role response vessels (MRRVs) gained for him respect from hostile and aggressive Chinese counterparts



during regular conduct of maritime patrol missions in Scarborough Shoal and turning antagonistic engagements into mutually respectful collaborations which eventually benefitted the ordinary Filipino fisherfolks. As the current Director of National Coast Watch Center, he continues to advocate the stringent monitoring of the Philippine maritime jurisdiction against various threats, as well as the more effective inter-agency cooperation in the pursuit of the advancement of Philippine maritime domain and ocean interest. He is a recipient of the UNESCO Bayaning Pilipino 2021.

For Private Enterprise

CAV CRISPINIANO G ACOSTA '82

CAV ACOSTA is the President and CEO and a Board Director of Filminera Resources Corporation, which is the mining operator of the Masbate Gold Project (MGP): the country's biggest operating gold mine. MGP is the largest employer and taxpayer in Masbate; it has contributed over PHP15 billion to the government and provided employment to over 2,000 individuals. Moreover, MGP helped raise Aroroy from a fourth to a first-class municipality.



The Philippine Military Academy sent **CAV ACOSTA** to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduating in 1982. Also, he was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [where he received his Doctor of Philosophy in Nuclear Engineering, Master of Science in Management, and Master of Science in Technology and Policy Degrees] and Cornell University [where he obtained his Master of Nuclear Engineering Degree]. Furthermore, he earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Cross Sector Partnership at the University of Cambridge.

A pioneer officer of the PNP Special Action Force, **CAV ACOSTA** is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charter holder (CFA Level III examination Grader for over 12 years), a Financial Risk Manager (FRM), and a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors.

For Public Administration

CAV BENJAMIN B MAGALONG '82

"*Transformative leadership and humility over authority*": these are the guiding principles that have shaped the administrative thrusts and management styles of **CAV MAGALONG** over the course of 39 years in public administration and management. A corrupt-free office and scientific-based management systems have been the archetypes of how **CAV MAGALONG** has operated in his vast experience as a public administrator. Leading by example and listening by heart are the values that have resonated to his staff and personnel from way back in his PNP days up to his crucial role as the country's COVID-19 contact tracing czar and Baguio City Mayor.



For Alumni Affairs

CAV MICHAEL RAY B AQUINO '88

CAV AQUINO is the Vice President of the Facility Security Department of Bloomberry Resorts Hotel Inc. and the Razon Group of Companies. During his tenure as a police officer, he displayed exemplary and notable achievements and record-breaking milestones in his law enforcement career. His patriotism and excellence continue to reflect in his civilian and private life. A true public servant, he is at the forefront



of private sector efforts during the current COVID-19 pandemic and past national disasters, shepherding assistance to uniformed men and civilians alike, even up to the farthest areas.

At the onset of the pandemic, CAV AQUINO attended to the needs of the PNP, AFP and PCG deployed at the front lines through donation of personnel protective equipment, portalets, and other essentials. He also participated in the public-private sector partnership for the establishment of the mega-vaccination site in Nayong Pilipino which inoculates an average of 1000 individuals daily. Prior to the pandemic, he supervised provision of relief assistance to the families affected by the Yolanda typhoon and Taal Volcano eruption. During the Marawi siege, he facilitated the efficient and timely delivery of logistical support to the fighting troops and also supervised the shipment of food, linens, blankets, towels, and other necessities.

Aside from his tireless efforts during times of crisis, CAV AQUINO has also participated to the Razon Group's corporate social responsibility initiatives that have benefitted our beloved Alma Mater, the PNP, PCG and the AFP. Some of these include the construction of facilities like the Enrile Building Cadet Barracks, the New Regis Hall cadet barracks, PNP Police Regional Office 2 Gym and Transient Barracks, and the PMA Cadet Barbers' Shop; donation of a portable digital x-ray machine to PNP Crime Laboratory; sponsorship of the PMAAAI Convention and the Annual Philippine Coast Guard's LAMP Award; providing financial assistance to the families of fallen PNP SAF 44; establishing a scholarship program for children of departed members of PMA Maringal Class 1988 and post-graduate studies of PMA graduates; and supporting various fund-raising projects of PNP/AFP/PCG and PMAAAI.

His significant contributions to Alumni Affairs and to our Alma Mater and its graduates are undeniable. Truly a cavalier at heart, he continues to find ways to share his time and effort to serve and assist our comrades and the Filipino people.

For Special Field (Religion)

CAV ERWIN ROMMEL R LUGA '82

Serving with distinction in the AFP, CAV LUGA foregone more glorious military acclaim and responded to a higher calling, that of mentoring cadets and alumni as Lead Pastor of the PMA Christian Fellowship. To uphold the core values of the PMA of "selfless service to God and country", he strengthened the foundations of their character and values when he initiated the mentoring program: "Military Life Buddy Program for Graduating Cadets" where Cavalier-Mentors serve as "buddies" or "big brothers/sisters." For over 15 years, CAV LUGA's work has positively influenced the career, lives, personal and spiritual well-being of numerous cadets and alumni.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

1. CAV ANSELMO S AVENIDO JR '67
2. CAV MELCHOR P ROSALES '68
3. CAV PANFILO M LACSON '71
4. CAV EDGAR B AGLIPAY '71

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES

1. **CAV THAWIP P NETNIYOM '81** - Senator, Senate of Thailand
2. **CAV JOSE C FAUSTINO JR '88** - Chief of Staff, AFP (July 31, 2021 – November 12, 2021)
- Commanding General, Philippine Army (February 16, 2021- May 14, 2021)
3. **CAV GUILLERMO LORENZO T ELEAZAR '87**- Chief, Philippine National Police (May 8, 2021-November 13, 2021)
4. **CAV ANDRES C CENTINO '88** - Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines
- Commanding General, Philippine Army (May 18, 2021- November 12, 2021)
5. **CAV DIONARDO B CARLOS '88** - Chief, Philippine National Police
6. **CAV ADELUIS S BORDADO '88**- Flag Officer-In-Command, Philippine Navy
7. **CAV LEOPOLDO V LAROYA '88** - Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard
8. **CAV ROMEO S BRAWNER JR '89** - Commanding General, Philippine Army
9. **CAV CONNOR ANTHONY D CANLAS, SR '89** – Commanding General, Philippine Air Force

MERITORIOUS RECOGNITION

1. **CAV EDUARDO D DEL ROSARIO '80** - Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
2. **CAV JAIME H MORENTE '81** - Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration
3. **CAV CATALINO S CUY '81** - Chairperson, Dangerous Drugs Board
4. **CAV ALEX PAUL I MONTEAGUDO '81** - Director General, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency
5. **CAV EDUARDO B GONGONA '82** - Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
6. **CAV ANSELMO SIMEON P PINILI '83** - Chairperson, PCSO
7. **CAV REY LEONARDO B GUERRERO '84** - Commissioner, Bureau of Customs
8. **CAV CARLITO G GALVEZ JR '85** - Presidential Adviser, Vaccine Czar and NTF against COVID-19 Chief Implementer
9. **CAV WILKINS M VILLANUEVA '88** - Director General, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
10. **CAV BRUCE S CONCEPCION '90** - Special Envoy on Transnational Crime, Office of the President



Nomination for PMAAAI Associate and Honorary Membership

• CAV DANILO A ABINOJA '74

Chairman, PMAAAI Membership and Welfare Committee

Pursuant to Article II, Section 3C of the Amended Bylaws of the PMAAAI, all members of the Association are hereby informed that PMA Classes 1971, 1972, 1982 and 2012 have nominated the following distinguished gentlemen as Associate and Honorary members of the PMAAAI:

For Associate Membership

1. **BGen Alex C Capiña (Ret)** - A graduate of the Australia Officer Cadet School and was commissioned into the regular force of the Philippine Army in 1982. He is currently a Security Consultant of San Miguel Corporation and was actively involved in the identification and construction of Quarantine and Isolation Facilities inside several AFP camps and installations nationwide.

For Honorary Membership

1. **Atty. Rogelio Q Quevedo** - Graduated from UP College of Law and placed 10th in bar examination in 1981. During the height of Marawi siege, he made a personal donation of 1M pesos for the morale and welfare of troops doing the fighting which resulted to the liberation of Marawi from the terrorists. In the early stage of COVID 19 pandemic, he donated PPEs to PGH and VMMC for use of front-liners.

2. **Atty Philip Sigfrid A Fortun** - A reputable practicing lawyer and a founding partner of the Fortun, Narvasa and Salazar Law

Offices. Among others, his fields of practice are on criminal and civil litigation, alternative dispute resolution, environmental and historic site preservation actions and corporate rehabilitation and insolvency work.

3. **Commo Rufino B Tiangco AFP Reserve** - Driven by his desire to serve on a larger scale, he pursued his dream and joined the Naval Affiliated Reserve Force. He realized his full potential by leading the NARF-NCR (WESPHIL), where he earned the rank of Commodore until retirement.

4. **Dr. Robert A Umandap M.D.** - He used to be a member of the AFP Medical Corps assigned with the different units of the Philippine Navy. He actively participated in various Class 1982 activities and provided online medical advice to some members.

Section a, b and c of Article II of the PMAAAI Bylaws, provides for the eligibility requirements of recommended PMAAAI Associate and Honorary members. The Bylaws also specify that names of prospective members shall be published in the Cavalier Magazine and the PMAAAI Website prior to consideration of the Membership Committee for information of and feedback from the general membership.

Any comment pertaining to their nomination as Associate and honorary members may be sent to the PMAAAI Secretariat, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo or thru an email to pmaaaai@yahoo.com.



NOTICE OF PMA FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

To: All Regular Members
PMA Foundation, Inc.

Reference: PMAFI Manual of Operations, Third Edition, 2017, Chapter 3.5, Election of Trustees.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting of the PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI) will be held on **Friday, 4 March 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Board Room, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City for the following purposes:

1. To approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting and November 2021 Special Membership Meeting;
2. To consider and act upon the annual report of the President;
3. To confirm and ratify all acts and resolutions of the Board of Trustees and the Management;
4. To elect **eight (8)** members of the Board of Trustees; and
5. To take up such other matters as may be properly brought before the meeting.

On the election of Trustees, the Nomination and Election Committee or the Secretariat will accept written nominations from **3 to 17 January 2022** at the PMAFI Office, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Nominators and nominees, who must all be PMAFI regular members as of **31 December 2021**, shall sign the nomination and acceptance form or letter that may be used. The form is available at the PMAFI Office. It is understood that by signing, nominees accept their nominations and signify their commitment

that, if elected, they will attend meetings of the Board of Trustees and other activities of the Foundation. Election ballots with the names of not more than **16 candidates** will be distributed personally to the members from **1 to 28 February 2022**. Accomplished ballots may be submitted at the PMAFI office personally or by courier or mail NLT 5:00 p.m. on **1 March 2022 (Tuesday)**. This notwithstanding, the voters who have not yet cast their votes may attend the PMAFI Annual Membership Meeting and Election and cast their ballots thereat not later than 10:00 a.m. Members who claim to have not received or to have lost or misplaced their ballots may request for a replacement ballot at the Board Room, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. not later than 9:00 a.m. on **4 March 2022 (Friday)**. The conduct of PMAFI Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Trustees will be done in a blended manner (a combination of In-person and Virtual via Zoom).

For any inquiry you may contact Ms. Maribel B Galano/ Maria Isabelle T Corda who can be reached at Tel. No. 8421-2807, Telefax. No. 8722-9609 or Cellphone No. 0917-8081456/0917-3270229 respectively or you may also email at PMAFI_PMA@yahoo.com.

Your presence at the meeting is important and will significantly contribute to the attainment of the primary objective of PMAFI of assisting PMA in enhancing its quality of education. Be counted!

BGEN FLORENTINO P MANALASTAS PROF (Ret)
Corporate Secretary



PMAAAI Joins THE GRADUATES OF PMA's Initiative in Extending Humanitarian Assistance to Typhoon Odette's Victims



Cav Roberto D Yap, '82, head initiator/coordinator of THE GRADUATES OF PMA (TGOP), receives from PMAAAI Chairman Cav Amado T Espino Jr, '72 a P1M check as donation of the Association to rehabilitate houses wrecked by Typhoon Odette in Panaon Island, Leyte.

"A small act of kindness can make a big difference."

When typhoon Odette devastated the southern portion of our country last 16 December 2021, many of our fellow countrymen were severely affected, to include some of our fellow alumni. A call for help was initiated by some of our cause-oriented cavaliers and received a resounding support from the community of the graduates of PMA. Donations in cash and in kind flowed spontaneously. On top of this initiative are Cav Roberto Yap '82 and Cav Honorio Azcueta '68. Cav Yap is the main coordinator and the repository of these donations.

Seeing the urgency and the significance of this movement, our very own Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) Chairman, Cav Amado T Espino Jr. '72 rallied his bugu bugu constituents in Pangasinan and was able to raise a total of P300,000.00 already donated to the cause, plus his personal donation of P300,000.00 to the Oplan Odette and an additional P20,000.00 for the Meals on Wheels project. His classmates, Class of 1972, were also mobilized who generated P100,000.00. To further give support to this worthy cause, he requested the PMAAAI Board for a cash donation where the members graciously approved to allocate P1M. This amount is earmarked to rehabilitate houses in the Panaon Island in Southern Leyte, which were greatly devastated.

Dubbed as the "Helping Out Project" (HOP) for Panaon Island, the program is jointly carried out by PMAAAI and THE GRADUATES OF PMA (TGOP). This fund will be used to rehabilitate 50 badly hit houses of Panaon Island residents after the typhoon left them homeless. Panaon Island is one of the hardest hit islands of Typhoon Odette with most of the houses therein were destroyed.

The HOP is made possible in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and through the Diocesan Social Action Center of

Maasin Inc. The Philippine Army's 14th Infantry Battalion and the 546th Engineering Construction Battalion have likewise been tapped to provide the manpower labor and support.

There are five carpentry teams and ten house construction teams who are presently working for an estimated 20 to 30 days to complete the HOP. Target areas include Barangays Kinachawa, San Ramon, Saub, Bitoon, and Looc, all of San Ricardo; Po Tutaan; and Bgy Pinod-an.

Cav Noel delos Reyes '82 and Cav Lysander Suerte '82 are the designated project managers who will exercise command and control over the HOP with the guidance of the Advisory Council and with the support of Cavaliers on the ground.

In a related development, in Cebu City, volunteer members from the PMAAAI – Lapulapu Chapter headed by Cav John S Bonafos '82 collaborated with other stakeholders in the distribution of hot meals to residents of badly-hit areas in Cebu using the Mobile Kitchen of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Logistics Support Command.

The Visayas Command, under the stewardship of Cav Robert Daus '88 and concurrent President of PMAAAI – Lapulapu Chapter, in partnership with San Miguel Corporation; The Fraternal Order of Eagles-Philippine Eagle Central Visayas Region; Gideons International, and the PMAAAI – Lapulapu Chapter; pooled their efforts to fill the hungry stomachs of the affected victims with freshly cooked meals knowing their situations with no electricity, with water interruptions, bad roads and no open market for days in Sitio Pandan, Bgy Poblacion, Sibonga, Cebu.

Other stakeholders include the 82nd Infantry Battalion, 14th Civil-Military Operations Battalion, and members of Cebu Peacemakers Eagles Club and Sugbo Illustrados Eagles Club,

Over 4,000 hot meals were distributed, January 7, during the event (over 2,000 during lunch and over 2,000 during dinner), highlighted also with distribution of 500 family food packs donated by PMA graduates who volunteered to extend support and assistance. Members of Gideons International also distributed 2,000 New Testament bibles.

The Bayanihan Spirit will always come alive in the heart of every Filipino when the need for it arises every time, everywhere, anyhow.



Cav Amado T Espino, Jr: A Legendary Cavalier-Politician

• CAV VIDAL E QUEROL '73

The Chairman and CEO of Philippine Military Academy Alumni, Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), Cav Amado T Espino, Jr '72, or simply "Espino" to his close friends, is the pride of PMA Masigasig Class of 1972. He reached the pinnacle of the Association because fellow pillars of his Class (two former CSAFP and Ambassador, Chief of the PNP, Navy FOIC) conspired among themselves, plucked him from his comfort zones and elected him as Class President and later became Chair of PMAAAI. Being the Class President is so important when the Class celebrates as Golden Jubilarians in the year every living Cavalier and widow looks forward to with excitement and anticipation on the activities inside PMA and elsewhere.

Being Chairman of PMAAAI is a very demanding and challenging leadership which requires no less than excellent organizational skills, superb interpersonal attributes, clear foresight and ability to see through the blinding glitter of gleaming constellations of stars, each one honestly believing as the dominant star in its season. And a service reputation that inspires confidence and success even in the most difficult spot, tried and proven through the years.

Indeed, the PMAAAI is a socially diverse organization made up of the country's finest military officers who do not excel only in soldiering but as of late have shown tremendous capability to lead in civilian government positions. The pandemic, climate change, the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) and shifting geopolitical realities emerge a "new normal" in the national socio-political-economic ecosystems which impacts on the inward-looking traditional roles of PMAAAI as a social organization. This new ecosystem mandates the Chair to forge corporate social responsibility, to chart and navigate PMAAAI strategic direction across the greater Philippine Society. Cav Espino, as Chairman, stood tall to the new challenges: the PMAAAI donated PHP1M to the victims of typhoon Odette aside from his own personal donations out of innately compassionate heart.

After graduation from the Academy in 1972, Cav Espino, Jr joined the PC (now the PNP) and quickly got his baptism of enemy fire when he was ambushed in Cagayan Valley. (He sustained a broken finger but nonetheless it never bothered him to win tennis matches in the PMAAAI Annual Sportsfests.) As young Constabulary Officer, he dived deep in tactical intelligence and operations. On 26 August 1976, under 1PC Zone Intelligence Project Scorpio then 1Lt Espino, Jr, supported by his classmate then 1Lt Arturo Lomibao, captured NPA founder and top commander Bernabe Buscayno @ Kumander Dante in a remote village of Mexico, Pampanga. For this feat, Pres Marcos promoted him on-the-spot to the rank of Captain. The capture of Kumander Dante demoralized the CPP/NPA and in November 1977, AFP agents captured Mr Jose Ma Sison, the founder and leader of the CPP.

After this meritorious promotion, three more meritorious promotions came to Cav Espino, Jr: from Captain to Major to Lt Col and from Police Superintendent (Police Lt Col) to Police Senior Superintendent (Police Col). Other than these four (4) meritorious promotions, he was conferred two Outstanding Achievement Medals, four Gold Cross Medals; nine Bronze Cross medals; 12 Military Merit Medals with Spearhead Device and

Anahaw Leaf, and one Wounded Personnel Medal.

Like any other PMayer, Cav Espino, Jr went to various fields of assignments as Company Commander, Commander of Angeles Metrodiscom, Provincial Director of La Union and Pangasinan provinces, as Commander of Regional Criminal Investigation Service (now CIDG), and Chief, Narcotics Regional Unit, Region 3 and finally as Regional Director, PRO1 covering the Ilocos Region and Pangasinan. In all his assignments from Junior Officer as Company Commander to the rank of Police Senior Superintendent, he consistently raised the bar of excellence and thus received either the Best Unit or the Best Officer Award nationwide. In 1984, as the Chief of Narcotics Regional Unit 3, he received the Best Narcotics Regional Unit nationwide, and in 1989 he was adjudged as Best CIS Commander nationwide. Under his sterling leadership, Pangasinan Provincial Office was twice conferred the Best Provincial Police Office nationwide in 1992 and in 1994. As the Regional Director in 1998, the Police Regional Office 1 was adjudged as the Best Police Regional Police Office Nationwide. However, in that same year, Cav Espino was relieved from his post few days after President Joseph Estrada assumed office despite all his superb accomplishments and impeccable performance as a police officer. Unable to find any justification for his relief and purpose to pursue the police career he assiduously nurtured, Cav Espino, Jr went home thoroughly devastated, burned all his uniforms, medals, records and documents. That peremptory relief was one singular moment of immense and enduring personal pain, watching then how a bright and very promising police career in one fell swoop of arrogance turned into a future terribly unfair.

Where there lies the inequities of men, God consoles the broken souls. Cav Espino, Jr left the police service and later joined the other form of public service as political leader. As political leader, he shone even with greater radiance and social relevance unmistakable to his constituents and peers as well.

As Congressman, Cav Espino, Jr was elected as Chairman of Philippine House Committee on National Defense and Security and Vice Chairman on Public Order and Safety. He authored relevant laws as follows: The Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Anti-Money Laundering Act, Increasing the Rate of Base Pay of Officers and Enlisted Personnel of AFP, Prescribing the Authorized Key Position and Ranks in the AFP, The Human Security Act (Anti-Terrorism Bill), Magna Carta for Social Workers and Social Welfare and Development Workers, Child Protection through a Comprehensive Juvenile Justice System Act of 2005 and the Lending Company Regulation Act of 2007. His Mistah Cav Senga, former CSAFP, once said, "Cav Espino, Jr is one of the finest congressmen in the House of Representatives who worked tirelessly for the benefit of the AFP and the PNP among others and serving as the best ever Governor of Pangasinan", a man of true grit and determination who have displayed courage, resolve and strength of character in many instances."



Cav Espino, Jr is twice Cavalier Awardee, the first in 1977 for the capture of Kumander Dante and the second in 2016 in Public Administration category for sterling leadership and professional competence as Congressman from 2001-2007 and as Governor from 2007 to 2016. Cav Leopoldo Bataoil '76, also a multi-term Congressman of Pangasinan and now Mayor, Lingayen City, provides us in a nutshell up close and personal the performance of Cav Espino, Jr: *"Cav Espino shows us 'professionalism and love of service' in practice which resulted to many unprecedented improvements of peace and order, restoration of historic government buildings from state of neglect to showcase of world class standards, the modernization of all the District Hospitals, the improvement of livelihood, agri-aqua-livestock raising and many other aspects of governance. The Provincial Capitol, Sison Auditorium, Urduja Building and Casa Real are now sources of pride, honor and dignity of the Pangasinenses."* Further Cav Bataoil admits that *"the intel exploits of Cav Espino, Jr inspired him to join the PMA while his performance as Governor and Congressman did him in to be a successful politician as well."* Cav Espino holds the distinction in modern times of being the first former military and police officer of the province to become Governor of Pangasinan.

As alumnus, Cav Espino never forget to pay back in gratitude his Alma Mater which molded him to be the compleat person he is today. For his one-year stint as Chairman and CEO of PMAAAI, Cav Espino's leadership produced the updated 2021 PMA Alumni Register, the turn-over by the PA a parcel of its land under Usufruct to PMAAAI as the permanent site of the PMA Alumni Center. He presided the subsequent Groundbreaking Ceremony together with SND, CSAFP and CG, PA, and the Megaworld which is the Donor of the new PMAAAI-PA Bldg. Cav Espino Jr presided over the successful holding of the 2021 fundraising Golf Tournaments, the creation of the Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative, led the opening of the Cadet Islam Prayer Room and the Longayban VIP Extension Hall, among others.

A very generous man at heart, he fully supported financially the different programs, projects and activities of the Association and its affiliated organizations. The victims of typhoon Odette's in badly hit areas of Cebu and Leyte were recipients of his generosity.

Under his tenure, he made efforts to connect different generations of cavaliers by promoting the achievements of neophyte and retired senior members, by expanding roles of female cavaliers



Former President Fidel V Ramos hands over to Cav Amado T Espino '72 the PNP Best Regional Command Award 1997 while at the helm of the PNP Region 1 Command.

in the Armed Service to bridge the gap between genders. He will be leaving an Association that is aligned and in cadence.

Another pillar of PMA Class '72, the 35th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Cav Efen Abu, has nothing but praises for Cav Espino's *"unselfish and untiring effort to lead the 2022 PMA Alumni Homecoming"* which also marks the 50th Jubilee celebration of their Class.

But beyond all these accomplishments, Cav Espino's greatest strength probably lies in his ability to care for others at a personal level. Cav Senga described him as having a *"big compassionate heart that is always ready to help the needy and unfortunate members of our society, particularly taking care of our ailing Mistahs and the widows and orphans of deceased Masigasigs for many years."* With all these, Cav Senga considers Chairman Espino, Jr as *"a pillar of strength of the PMA Masigasig Class 1972, the PMAAAI and the Filipino nation."*

Cav Espino is married to Bugallon Mayor Priscilla I Espino, also in Pangasinan. Their union has been blessed with four children, namely: Ma. Regina Isabel – Accountant/Businesswoman; Ma. Roanna Cristina – Medical Doctor in the United States of America; Amado III - present Governor of Pangasinan; and, Jumel Anthony - present 2nd District Congressman of Pangasinan.



BGen Gregorio B Fider '45, Deputy CPC, awarding the Gold Cross Medal (the first PC Masigasig to receive the award) and WPM to then PC 2Lt Amado Espino Jr for gallantry in action during an ambush by and encounter with NPAs in Maddela, Quirino on Nov 11, 1972.

Cav Vidal E Querol '73 was with Cav Amado T Espino, Jr '72 and some of Masigasig '72 during their assignments in Central and Northern Luzon as Intelligence and Operations Officers of the defunct Philippine Constabulary (PNP). He rose to become Director of Operations, PNP where he wrote the reference manual *"Three-tiered Defense System Against Terrorism"* in 2003 following the Davao terrorist bombing incidents. He retired as Director of the National Capital Region Police Office before appointed as Philippine Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia 2007 to 2010. He is proud *"ULIRANG AMA"* Awardee. At present, he watches closely Philippine Foreign Relations, the South China Sea, the Indo-Pacific and ASEAN.





The Diamond Jubilarians PMA CLASS OF 1962



The 60-Year Plus JOURNEY

• CAV ARMANDO Q MADAMBA '62

In due time, the PMA Class 1962 will mark its 60th year since graduation. There were 77 members of the class in attendance at the commencement exercises in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, on that warm summer day in March 1962. Some weeks later, an original member of the class also graduated from the US Military Academy in West Point, NY. And as of this writing, about half of the class already “accomplished” their respective life’s missions, completed the “journey” and are now in a better place. Rest in peace, dear Mistahs.

Our account of the “journey” is actually inclusive of the earlier four years spent in the Philippine Military Academy. And a few good reasons should sufficiently bring this narrative into perspective.

Firstly, our cadetship is recognized as actual service in the Armed Forces and comes officially into play, for instance, in computations pertaining to length of service, pensions and benefits and, no less significant, for optional retirement considerations.

Secondly, it is during our cadet years that we are essentially imbued with a deep sense of purpose, idealism and patriotic values as underpinnings of the PMA motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty. Certainly, it is a defining phase in a PMAyer’s military career which deserves proper recognition.

Finally, as every PMA class will surely affirm, the four years of cadet life in Fort del Pilar provide the anecdotes most fondly

remembered and talked about endlessly among classmates in alumni reunions, class gatherings and, at times, even in solemn events such as wakes and ceremonies. The memories of plebe life are surely the most vivid for any PMA graduate.

All told and in the interest of precise story-telling, the “journey” we wish to share with our families and loved ones, and the readers of course, is therefore a compendium of various accounts of our class over a period of some six and a half decades. Our story, as may be noticed, needed no individual citations. In some sections of our retrospective, the outstanding achievements of some members who exemplified the finest PMA traditions were nevertheless subtly presented.

This broad brush attempt to capture the class history simply aimed to keep fresh in our minds the people, events, places and circumstances worthy of our reminiscence. And so, our recollections can begin in the halcyon days of the 1950s when life was simpler and, as teenagers, it was certainly the most carefree stage of our youth. The future was out there to discern and shape with our dreams.

There was of course a reassuring and supportive setting – the comfort from family around us, the opportunities in a recovering nation, the wherewithal for education for the resourceful and the challenges that attracted both the adventurous and the

decorous youth. Against this backdrop were countless young men who apparently shared a dream -- to serve the nation as military professionals.

Apropos, several thousands chose the same pathway -- become a PMA cadet. We were among those who came from all points of the compass, of different stations in life, of varied beliefs, ideals and values but with one goal -- make it to PMA. To be precise, we all aspired to join the Cadet Corps, Armed Forces of the Philippines, or CCAFP for short.

And here was the deal. As indicated in a checklist, we were to follow the clear timeline set for aspiring PMA cadets:

1. Submit our applications and indicate that we were qualified to join the PMA based on citizenship, age, education, physical condition, etc.
2. If found qualified, to take the PMA entrance examinations conducted in designated exam centers across the nation on a specified date.
3. If we passed the entrance exams, we were to be accordingly notified to report to the then V. Luna General Hospital and undergo the Medical Board Nr 1 medical tests and exams, the most rigid in the AFP that take a number of days to accomplish.
4. With the physicals completed, the next requirements were the demanding physical fitness tests conducted no less by PMA officers who came down all the way from Fort del Pilar, perhaps also to stress that much more awaited us. There was no reason not to believe them. At that point, we were gripped by some trepidation, if not self-doubt, but we had the good sense to follow all the orders issued us.
5. Upon successful completion of above steps and after evaluation of individual applicants, the final list of prospective cadets was released weeks after and publicized in the national papers. For the fortunate ones who made it, the long wait was practically over. There were of course other things to settle. The leave taking to come was truly filled with poignant moments, especially with thought of being away for years from family, loved ones and friends.

For us who were eventually selected to constitute the incoming Class 1962, we received a notification which ordered us to report to the then Camp Murphy (now Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo) for our assembly and departure at dawn by chartered buses for Baguio. Though strangers to one another, we readily bonded with our new-found spirit of brotherhood as we nervously reflected upon what awaited us in Fort del Pilar. Varied thoughts did cross our minds.

Several thousands, as we would learn later, took the entrance exams and that hundreds of us passed them. After the V. Luna physicals and fitness tests, the number was trimmed to the 142 best-qualified who were chosen to form the Class 1962 as original members. There were also eight other cadets from previous classes waiting in Fort del Pilar to join our class. That was in April 1958, the real starting gate of our "journey" and a major milestone that was to change our lives forever.

The CCAFP of 60 years or so ago was vastly different from what it is today. With an authorized all-male strength of 300 to fill up the four cadet companies, the annual intake in April was designed to replace the attrition due to the usual losses across the Corps, including the Graduation of the Firstclass cadets, to resignations and dismissals for various reasons.

Just a footnote -- from the 142 original members of Class 1962, only 42 "survived". The other 35 members who invariably joined and graduated with Class 1962 came from previous classes ('57, '58, '59, '60 and '61).

As we still remember it, the physical plant of PMA in the 1950s was the three-floor Melchor Hall and a few service buildings that surrounded it -- the cadet mess hall, the station hospital and a couple of tailor shops. Some distance away was the parade ground, the grandstand on a slope, and across was the gymnasium that also served as the venue for religious and social events. Behind it and down a winding lane was the Kissing Rock, notable for certain cadet traditions.

Melchor Hall was quite well utilized. The third floor was our Cadet Barracks, while the second accommodated the classrooms, and the first provided for the office space needs of academic and tactical officers and staff, as well as a little theatre for lectures and film viewing.

As a military installation and home of post-WWII PMA, it was clearly a site well chosen for an academic facility. It was some distance from the Baguio City proper and essentially free from distractions to the youth. As it looked then, it would have delighted present-day environmental advocates -- green, clean, quiet and manifestly well-maintained. The buildings were gleaming white and the paved roads lined with four flowering shrubs. Healthy pine trees were all over the terrain of knolls and carpets of brush plus the occasional wild berries.

Fort del Pilar, as the home for much of four years of a cadet's life, is certainly that deeply revered by every alumnus. There will always be the memories of both the serious and the funny. There will be the uplifting and the gross. In a way, it was there and on the day we first set foot on what PMA alums consider as hallowed grounds, that purposeful lives started for most of us.

Thus, with the benchmark of our story staked out, we turn the pages back to that hot summer day when, in a manner of speaking, "all hell broke loose" on the dusty plains of Fort del Pilar. Suddenly, cadets in smart gray coats and crisply ironed white pants rushed upon us with menacingly unintelligible shouts and so many gestures. Confused and shock, most of us just reacted intuitively with loud shouts of "Yes, sir!".

Just as soon, we started jumping about, looked at no particular object in space and braced our chests out. It was the Reception we hardly expected, a humbling and stark contrast to the usual warm "welcome" quite familiar to most of us. And so on and on it went, the reddish dust rising from the parched ground and mixing with our tears as we tried to endure it.



As the cooling fog rose from a nearby ravine and sunset about to announce the end of the day, it became clear to us that it was not to be so. The next phase awaited us. We were forthwith marched off to the so-called Beast Barracks, a cluster of olive drab squad tents in a clearing off a wooded area of the fort. With sinking feeling, we came to realize that this would be our home for the next several weeks but, worse, we shall bunk with the “uppies” whose discomfiting acquaintance we made just hours ago. As the days rolled on, it did not take us too long to find out why and how that darn place got its name.

To characterize our entire plebe year in simplest terms, it alternated between “shock and awe”. Along the way, our class lost some members for various reasons. We who tried to live each day and somehow “survived” were finally over the slippery slope, in the cusp of the much-awaited Recognition. It was a ritual of utmost significance for any PMA class, in time of the festive week of Graduation. For us plebes, when the time came it felt like being free from a sort of bondage. Likewise, it evoked a sense of achievement of a great dream. In retrospect, that year of our lives was forever to be deeply etched in our minds and hearts.

Moving on, the salutary challenges of being Yearlings (second year cadets) posed problems for some of us. A few fell on the wayside for discipline issues and others for academic deficiencies. As role models to the new plebes, the Class of 1963, three things stood out: we were to set the example for them; to draw the best out of them; and for us, to develop and practice leadership skills. Clearly, that was part of a cycle, of a “system” carried down from class to class and unbroken to this date.

The academic demands of our year as Cows (third year cadets) were probably the most weighty, given the clear focus on science and engineering courses in the curriculum. No doubt a challenge to our best minds. Again, some classmates unfortunately failed to make the grade although already beyond the halfway mark of the four-year study program.

In our Firstclass (senior) year, our main concern was to successfully complete the rigorous combination of academic and military courses. Such outlook was however overtaken by an unexpected episode. While half of the class was on a three-week summer furlough, the other half stayed in Fort del Pilar to “receive” the Class 1965 and oversee their Beast Barracks training.

Then, out of nowhere emerged a slew of policies and decisions that included the surprise choice of the First Captain. As we sought clarification from “upstairs” of the more significant issues, we expressed our dismay with a “strike” of sorts – putting the plebes “at ease”, suspending formations and individually walking to mess. The cadet mess hall, reputed to be the noisiest on the planet, was eerily quiet save for the sombre “Ave Maria” on the stereo. The short of it was – we were investigated and found guilty of a Class 1 offense.

Days later, before the summer trip to Liloan, Cebu, the General Orders were out with corresponding “awards” -- for demotions, demerits, confinement to quarters and three-digit punishment tours. As any cadet might comment in jest -- take life na lang! But seriously, indeed we were still fortunate. As told later by knowledgeable colleagues, we could have faced Court Martial proceedings for mutiny and insubordination and, if found guilty, a sentence of suspension or outright dismissal could have been imposed. Oh, well.

As another outcome of that episode,

we did set a dubious PMA record. In a year, we notched four Cadet First Captains, or Barons, who obviously served one after another. However, we deny setting the precedent for the AFP’s “revolving door policy” surrounding the designation of soon-to-retire officers to key positions

A quick last scan of the four years we spent in the Academy would show that periodically we got out of our cloistered existence and isolation in Fort del Pilar. In summer we took trips to provincial destinations where we conducted field exercises (maneuvers to non-military friends) and interacted with the people. We often found time to play ball games with local teams and engage in certain social events. Still vivid in our memories were our travels to Laur in Nueva Ecija (1958), to Damortis in La Union (1959), to Camiling in Tarlac (1960) and to Liloan in Cebu (1961).

The conclusion of the chapter on our four-year cadetship would invariably lead to a chronicle of exciting moments toward the March Week and Graduation. It was with extreme relief for most of us to get exempted from any final examinations. Indeed, there were many who never had the experience of taking one for straight four years! In any case, that enabled us to concentrate and prepare for multiple activities.

Free time was spent clearing the foot locker, sorting personal effects, signing off with the Finance Officer and making arrival and hotel arrangements for loved ones. For some, Graduation Day was almost anti-climactic. We were far more concerned with the next milestone in the horizon – the trip to Manila on our own and with fresh orders to report to our mother service headquarters for proper entry into their roster of officers, for the issuance of academic leave orders and, most important, for advance payment of a month’s worth of salary and allowance.

The pomp and circumstance that marked March 26, 1962, would of course be duly entered in the long-running calendar of our lives. Suffice it to say that our intense study of the art and science of war would henceforth be tested in the real world of actual and potential conflicts. Likewise, we would now live in a larger community that expected of us appropriate conduct, language and discernment.

Such was our growing mindset over the transition to our much-desired goal and new status as AFP officers. Our families, friends and loved ones all appeared to notice our near-total transformation in the maturity of our acts, concerns and interests. We felt their quiet admiration of a “new man” in their midst. The joys of togetherness were however far too short to fill the years of absence.

But duty called. After that brief leave, the time arrived for the serious business of being regular officers of the AFP and to be ready



for the tasks ahead. It was reassuring that we were still treated as batches for our orientation and service oriented training with our respective major services.

However, that was not to be the case for the PA and PC components. There was an unexpected diversion in their standard program and career tracks. They were detailed with the Bureau of Customs, ostensibly to perform some special duties, i.e., against the endemic corruption within.

As good soldiers, they followed orders and performed duties to the best they could. It was certainly a strange world for them with the web of processes in interlocking operational units, offices and entities. There was abundance of corruptive opportunities despite some serious attempts by the leadership to plug loopholes in the entire system.

In that situation, the exposure of young and idealistic PMA graduates was just so feeble and even risky. The realities on the ground were simply beyond the scope of their training as military men of the first order. Ultimately, they were recalled from the Bureau and made to report to their mother units.

Our stints as junior officers essentially kept us spread across the archipelago in field assignments for the Army guys, aboardship for the Navy sea dogs, in outlying posts for the PC constables, and combat air support detachments for the PAF fly-boys. The years flew so quickly with new assignments, local and foreign study tours, promotions and accolades for manifest exemplary achievements. In the latter, the most notable of course was of a classmate winning the coveted Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award.

In our first decade as officers, sadly we lost a number of classmates to illness, combat operations and air accidents. On the other hand, it was also a good stretch during which to stake out our personal paths into the future, with some of us settling down to start raising families.

Going into the 1970s and the Martial Law years, as field-grade officers we were quite well-positioned between the junior officers and the top brass. That afforded us a good feel of what was happening on the ground, at GHQ level and, for some few, in the political milieu. It was a worrisome time for the military, given a growing divisiveness and incipient restiveness among the young officers in the organization. As larger issues, our national security and stability were foremost.

The signs of an emergent public disorder actually started to take roots around the August 1983 assassination of former LP opposition Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. on arrival at the Manila International Airport and of which certain persons associated with rival President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. were suspected. It was probably the most serious allegation that the government of Marcos ever faced in the political sphere for a crime that resonated across the globe.

That military personnel were reportedly involved further fueled a public outrage never seen before against men in uniform. Within the military, some officers were disturbed by the continued inability of the national leadership to stem the tide of disbelief and frustration, absent a credible explanation of the incident.

It was essentially under this atmosphere of increasing doubt and suspicion that a group of agitated young officers started organizing the "We Belong" movement. Somehow, it acquired traction and with a reformist agenda found support from some senior officers and presumably a link with the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM).

Against the backdrop of an increasingly divided military organization, choosing sides was a delicate matter. Members of the class were all over but difficult to muster for consultations. The days before the February 1986 EDSA saga found some of us getting mix signals.

Quite anxiously we sought members who, we presumed, were in the "loop" of various factions, the intelligence and security units, and even foreign personalities. In hindsight, it seems that was what many PMA classes also did. One thing became evident though. In the most crucial moment, PMAyers called on one another, went on TV

and solemnly sang their hymn, upheld the Constitution, and abided by the Chain-of-Command.

In the years after the EDSA revolt, there followed the series of coup attempts by a still-disaffected reformist group which challenged not only the civilian leaders of the country but, more directly, senior military commanders trying to revitalize and consolidate the "New AFP." In their December 1989 final and fiercest push, the RAM/SFP/YOU rebel soldiers failed and eventually dispersed. A few years later, "peace and reconciliation" talks among all parties were undertaken. In the GRP (government) panel were two distinguished members of Class 1962. Once again, the country was at peace with itself.

Reckoning our class story from the 1986 historic intersection of democracy and authoritarianism, the collective progress in our respective careers was steady and the string of periodic promotions beyond question. Professionalism was our North Star. And in a symbolic way perhaps, the "stars" started to fall on the shoulders of Class 1962. Most of us were in positions of high responsibilities across the AFP in Operations, Intelligence, Strategic Plans, Comptrollership and Civil-Military Operations.

Our Alma Mater was eventually led by two members of the class. The outlines of the AFP modernization plan took shape from the electric typewriter of a Class 1962 member. Such were samples of career achievements on record in the final years of their service before their respective compulsory retirements. A summary hereunder shines a light on some exemplary data:

- Item 1** Until 1962, the Class had the largest number of graduates at 77, exceeding the 75 of CI '57
- Item 2** Counting on those who stayed until compulsory retirement, 47 made general/flag rank, only three did not
- Item 3** Two (2) made it as AFP Chief of Staff, after both served as Commanding General, Philippine Army
- Item 4** A third classmate served also as Commanding General, Philippine Army
- Item 5** Aside from the two with 4-star rank as CSAFP, six (6) made it as 3-star Lieutenant General and Vice Admiral
- Item 6** Twelve (12) rose to the 2-star rank of Major General
- Item 7** Twenty-seven (27) became Brigadier General and Commodore
- Item 8** Thirteen (13) members of the Class were Cavalier Awardees
- Item 9** A classmate had the singular and rare distinction of being a "Ten Outstanding Young Men" (TOYM) Awardee

And so here we are, in the new year of 2022, the surviving members of Class 1962 and still raring to face the future. But wait! We cannot afford to miss a mandated and salient dimension of the "journey."

Indeed, we might not have gone so far to reach this point without the crucial role patiently played by our spouses in the pursuit of our careers. For the French cliché that goes, "cherchez la femme" (or "look for the woman"), we posit our version that is simpler and more direct: "behind every man's success is his wife". Full stop.

In a more serious vein, our account of the Class 62 must truly pay tribute to our "kaydet girls" and their sacrifices over the years. The "remembrance of things past" underscored the poignant and indeed even the difficult times of our wedded lives. In the leisurely pace and serene setting of life in retirement, we can remain productive, healthy and safe for the unfolding chapter that may take more years to complete our class narrative.

Meanwhile, now octogenarians all, as grandads let us continue with the task before us and with proven dedication perform our "apostolic" duties. With a view to the future, we can now cast aside the past decades whose joyful memories have been fondly revisited.

Let the next chapter unfold!





The MASIGASIG SAGA: A Profile in Courage, Service, and Legacy

• CAVS WILLIE MEJIA '72, CEL NAVARRO JR '72, ED ADAN '72, AND PEHPPS VIDAD '72

Winston Churchill famously said: **Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.**

The foregoing quote aptly describes the journey of the PMA Masigasig Class of 1972 from the eventful day 151 members entered the Academy on 1 April 1968, until most of its members retired from military service in 2006. It chronicles significant events in Philippine history that impacted the Class, whether as a whole or individually, as it navigated the challenges, travails and even controversies of the times.

The Nascent Years (1946 - 1967)

The Masigasigs were born in the early years of the 3rd Philippine Republic covering the period from the recognition of independence granted 76 years ago on 4 July 1946 and ending on 17 January 1973 with the ratification of the 1973 Constitution.

We grew up at a time after WW II when our country had just emerged free and independent from US sovereignty but faced important challenges: a fledgling government, the difficult task of postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as the beginnings of Communist ideology and the subversive HUKBALAHAP guerilla movement.

In the region, this period was punctuated by the Communist aggression in the Korean Peninsula that caused the deployment of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, the expanding Marxist-Leninist influence in Southeast Asia and the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union.

The US retained several military bases including major ones namely, Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, and imposed import quotas and gave Americans "equal access" to Philippine minerals, forests, and many other natural resources.

The government had to deal with allegations of government corruption and the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas organized students, laborers and even members of academe to expand their influence.

"Going Great Guns in Loakan" (1968 – 1972)

When we entered the Academy in 1968, the Kabataan Makabayan (KM) had a predominant presence in colleges and universities in the Metro Manila area. Militant and radicalized workers infiltrated every labor union and the urban poor. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) was re-established on 26 December 1968; on 29 March 1969 the New People's Army was formed. The Muslim secessionist and independence movement was launched in Mindanao in the late 60s fueled partly by reactions to the Philippine claim to Sabah.

Other "watershed" events during this period included the siege of the Malacañang Palace and the barricade in UP known as the Diliman Commune and the deadly Plaza Miranda bombing of a political rally in 1971.

While other factors contributed to this situation, it is largely conceded that the concerted and collective efforts of the CPP/NPA/NDF and the LFS/KMU to overthrow the government by force, if necessary, were negating efforts to provide peace and security, vital conditions for development and nation building.

While training in the sheltered confines of Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, we basked in the belief that those four years in the Academy were life changing as we were transformed to be commissioned as officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Heroism in the Field (1972-1982)

On 26 March 1972, 101 Masigasigs graduated and received their commission. Months later, Meds Pestano received his BS degree but was not commissioned. Those commissioned as officers were distributed as follows: Philippine Constabulary - 41; Philippine Army - 24; Philippine Air Force - 18; and Philippine Navy - 18. Everyone in the Class, regardless of Service was distributed to the PC Task Forces and Infantry Divisions all over the archipelago.

The first casualty of the Class happened in July 1972 when 2Lt Visayo Luspo Jr., an Air Force officer assigned with Task Force Saranay based in Cauayan Isabela, was killed in an encounter with the NPA. His death became our inspiration, galvanizing us to carry on the task of defending our freedom, protecting our country.

In 1972, Jose Ma Sison, founder of the CPP, arranged with Communist China for the purchase of a fishing trawler, renamed **MV Karagatan**, to transport about 1400 high-powered firearms and other military cargo for use by the NPA. Five Masigasigs were part of composite AFP teams that helped foil the attempted landing of arms in **Digoyo Point, Isabela**.

Napoleon Castro, with Cav **Edgar Aglipay Cl '71**, were the first to discover and board the vessel, already emptied of its cargo of military hardware. A unit from the 4thIB dispatched to secure the unloaded arms cache was pinned down by heavy gunfire from the NPA rebels. **Arsenio "Bobby" Santos** led a platoon to rescue the pinned down Army unit. His men engaged the enemy for seven days and nights until reinforcements and support arrived with **Jose "Pepe" Vidad**, **Francisco "Paco" Fuentes** and **Alejandro "Babes" Flores**, together with the CSAFP and his staff.

Under Proclamation 1081, dated 21 September 1972, President Ferdinand Marcos publicly declared the imposition of Martial Law in an effort to "save the Republic," using as basis the MV Karagatan arms landing incident, the deadly bombing of Plaza Miranda on 21 August 1971 and the ambush of then Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile earlier in 1972.

The **National Democratic Front (NDF)** was founded on 24 April 1973 by the CPP with the expressed goal of "uniting all revolutionary forces by stepping up the parliamentary struggle and propaganda." However on 9 June 1975, the Philippines established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, which stipulated that China will stop its support to the local CPP.

Three Masigasigs played vital roles that significantly setback and demoralized the rebel movement in the 70s: **Arturo "Art" Lomibao** and **Amado "Espines" Espino** captured Bernabe Buscayno, also called **Kumander Dante**, founder of the New Peoples' Army, CPP's military wing, on 26 August 1976. **Rodolfo "Rudy/Agui" Aguineldo** arrested CPP Chairman Jose Ma Sison on 10 November 1977.

In Mindanao, a full-scale rebellion was effectively declared during the attack on Marawi City by 400 rebels of the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM) on 21 October 1972. Months later, Nur Misuari founded the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), an armed insurgent group committed to establishing an independent Mindanao, upon the arrival of the "Magic 90" batch of rebel leaders trained in Sabah.

To augment the officer rolls and address the full-blown war of secession, several PA Masigasigs were assigned with the 26th and 27th IBs while PC Masigasigs went to TF Pagkakaisa in Cotabato and TF LANCAF in Lanao Norte. PAF and PN Masigasigs reported back to



SND Juan Ponce Enrile and CPC Fidel Ramos inspecting seized arms captured from MV Karagatan, July 1972.

their respective branches of service to start training as pilots and naval officers.

On 23 December 1976, the Philippine government and the MNLF signed the Tripoli Agreement which provided that “Mindanao would remain a part of the Philippines, but that 13 of its provinces would be governed by an autonomous government for the Bangsa Moro people.”

The establishment of the breakaway and more radical Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 1977, led by Ustadz Hashim Salamat, intensified hostilities between the AFP and the Muslim rebel groups. It is estimated that between 1972 – 1982, at least 50,000 people were killed, around 1M internally displaced and about 100,000 fled to Malaysia by boat.

BGen Teodulfo Bautista, then 1st PA Division Commander, together with 34 Army officers and men were massacred in Patikul, Sulu on 10 October 1977. A battalion commander together with 119 military officers and men were treacherously murdered in Pata Island, Sulu on 12 February 1981. Ambushes and attacks of military and police bases became frequent.

On 21 January 1981, Martial Law was finally lifted “except and only in a few areas where grave problems of public order and national security continue to exist.”

Evolution of RAM; People Power Revolution (1982-1986)

In 1981, grumblings from some groups in the AFP who believed that it should be an organization shielded from politics and where promotions should be given “thru merit and not thru affiliation or patronage,” began to surface.

The Reform the Armed Forces Movement, or RAM, was founded on 23 July 1982 by a group of junior military officers disgruntled by the patronage politics and corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Its stated goal was to “reform the service, foster nationalism and patriotism, and fight against corruption and criminal activities as well as tackle the problem of favoritism, incompetence, and corruption in senior leadership.” **Alejandro “Babes” Flores** in collaboration with other like-minded cavaliers helped lay the groundwork for the creation of the RAM.

The assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino in August 1983 led to the formation of coalitions that started civil disobedience and ushered in the People Power Revolution in February 1986. Some Masigasigs found themselves on opposite sides of those directly involved in the political conflict.

Post People Power Revolution; In Command of the Troops (1987 – 2000)

There were six plots to overthrow President Corazon Aquino from 1986 to 1987 participated by officers and soldiers belonging to the RAM and others identified as loyalists to the former President Marcos. One of these, the “God Save the Queen” plot was discovered before it was launched in November 1986 and led to the sacking of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile. The 28 August 1987 attack on Malacanang Palace, Camp Aguinaldo, Villamor Airbase and several other camps led to scores of casualties on both sides including civilians. The General Headquarters (GHQ) building was burned.

The participation of several Masigasigs in some of these plots led to their arrest and detention together with PMA graduates from other

classes. Not all Masigasigs were involved though since the others were performing their duties as battalion or support commanders in the field. These disruptions also “resulted in an estimated US\$1.5 billion loss to the Philippine economy.”

*It is noteworthy that immediately after the failed '89 coup, undoubtedly one of the more serious attempts to overthrow the existing government, the Masigasig leadership, under its **President, Marcelo Navarro**, reached out to mistakes with the rebel underground. He initiated opening the lines of communication between the government and the rebel leadership culminating in a face-to-face talk with the **CSAFP Gen. Lisandro Abadia** and **Secretary of National Defense Renato de Villa**. That effort resulted in the immediate stopping of the bombings carried out by the group.*

*Several meetings with some Masigasig class officers and **General Rafael Ileto, Haydee Yorac** and **General Joe Almonte** led to the promulgation of a General Amnesty program for rebel groups. The Class also made strong representations with President Ramos regarding the rebellion case of **Rudy Aguinaldo**.*

The late 80s and early 90s saw the Masigasigs commanding tactical forces such as infantry battalions, PAF squadrons and patrol ships throughout the islands. The Special Operations Team (SOT) concept of dismantling guerilla fronts and mass base support was introduced first in the Army battalions in Northern Mindanao effectively reducing the NPA mass base by several thousands.

Up in Northern Luzon, a six-week operation by the AFP Regional Unified Command and the PNP Region 2 under **Mistahs Cel Navarro** and **Marvin Concha** with the Regional Security Unit of **Mistah Art Lomibao**, weakened the Cordillera Province Liberation Army (CPLA) and led to the signing of the GRP-CPLA Peace and the creation of the Cordillera Autonomous Region. **Marcelo Navarro** led the team that escorted some 500 CPLA rebels to Mansion House, Baguio City to sign the peace accord in the presence of President Cory Aquino.

In Mindanao, the CPP/NPA insurgency movement suffered major set backs on 11 June 1981 with the capture of Benjamin de Vera, Chairman of KOMMID and Edgar Jopson, who succeeded Benjamin de Vera on 21 September 1982, in operations led by **Mistahs Nick Olarte** and **Dante “TJ” Tejada** in coordination with intelligence elements of RC 11.

At the Helm of the AFP (2001-2006)

The Masigasigs started getting their Star-ranks in the early 2000s. They fought their way in the year 2000 “All Out Offensive” to capture the main MILF headquarters in Camp Abubakar and participated in reforms initiatives in the AFP and the PNP.

We take pride in our members’ accomplishments as outstanding commanders of operating units and during their stint in the upper echelon leadership of the Armed Forces. From the Class members, rose two Chiefs of Staff, two PA Commanding Generals, one PNP Chief, one Flag-Officer-in-Command, two PMA Superintendents, three Area Commanders and three Marine Corps Commandants. Members of the Class garnered a total of 14 Cavalier Awards, a testimonial for the bravery and exemplary leadership of PMA Masigasig Class of 1972.

(The foregoing narrative does not aim nor profess to cast light, favorable or otherwise, to persons and events that were part of the Class’s history. It simply provides the milieu when critical decisions affecting our nation’s security were being made. Photocredit:Google photos)



People Power during the 1986 EDSA Revolution.



The Masigasigs in the Army: Securing the State and Protecting the People



• CAVS RIC BRILLANTES AND ED ADAN '72

This article is a compilation of selected experiences of the Army Masigasigs during their military service before retiring in senior leadership positions and continuing on as leaders of their communities, advocacy groups, NGOs, business, and civil government offices.

Introduction

An expanding Communist Party of the Philippines a growing New Peoples' Army, a brewing foreign-supported secessionist rebellion in Mindanao, political warlordism, and violent anti-government rallies and protests in key cities characterized the environment when PMA Class of 1972 entered active duty as new officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The carnage caused by the bombing of a political rally of the Liberal Party on 21 August 1972 in Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila was used by President Ferdinand Marcos to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

In Mindanao, political feuds of rival clans and warlords such as the Matalam-Pendatun against the Sinsuats, the Ampatuans and the Sangki group of Cotabato, and the Quibranzas versus the Dimaporos in Lanao Norte led to bloody shootouts.

Meanwhile, the Muslim Independence Movement (MIM) was established by the revived Moro nationalism and foreign intervention related to the Philippine claim to Sabah. Firearms and heavy weapons were being smuggled through the southern backdoor.

Martial Law was imposed throughout the country from 21 September 1972 to 17 January 1981. The AFP was instrumental in the implementation of authoritarian measures and the arrests of subversive personalities. The Philippine Constabulary (PC), forerunner of the PH National Police, was a major branch of the AFP that had law enforcement and police powers.

First Assignments: Everyone to the Infantry

All the 24 Masigasigs who joined the Army were deployed to infantry units after completing the New Officers' Transition Course from the Home Defense Training Center in June 1972.

Deployed to Luzon

LTs Bobby Santos and Paco Fuentes reported to the 4th Inf Bn; Jess Albano, Ric Brillantes, and Olive Oliveros to the 5th Inf Bn, all in Isabela. LTs Orly Ambrosio, Bobby Del Pilar, and Bay Valles reported to the 10th INF Bn in Pampanga-Tarlac area. LTs Peter Espadero, Elmer Ignacio, and Glykes Sua joined the 2nd Inf Bn in Bicol area. After the Moro attack of Marawi City in October 1972 the 10th Inf Bn, with Orly, Bobby, and Bay was deployed in Lanao Del Sur.

It was unfortunate that in September, **Jess Albano** was found dead in the 5th Inf Bn officers' quarters. He was the first casualty of the Army group.

Deployed to Mindanao.

The rapid expansion of the Moro secessionists and the New People's Army required draft mobilization to build more infantry battalions in the early 70s. The Army Masigasigs participated and distinguished themselves in many combat operations and many episodes are worth retelling as they form an indelible part of the Masigasig tapestry. The Army was thinly deployed when a full blown war was declared by the Moro rebels; there were only two fully equipped battalions in Mindanao, the 26th and the 27th.

Assigned in July to the 27th Inf Bn in Cotabato were LTs Efren Abu, Jack Cordero, Ric Nobleza, Gene Senga, and Bing Valencia. To the 26th Inf Bn in Lanao del Norte were assigned LTs Eric Aurelio, Ping Berroya, Rey Ochoza, Elmer Romano, and Donato "Dony" Rosete. LTs Ed Adan and Cris Balaoing joined the 26th and 27th Inf Bns, respectively, in October after their assignment to train the new recruits of the 4th Inf Div.

Army Tactical Operations: the Cutting Edge

The MV Karagatan Incident. In July 1972, **Lt Bobby Santos** with 32 soldiers were airlifted to Digoyo, Isabela to reinforce the heavily engaged Army unit sent to recover the weapons shipment smuggled through MV Karagatan for the New Peoples' Army. Bobby's force eventually discovered the arms cache and secured it from fierce enemy attempts to recapture the firearms. Although short of food supplies, the troops including the platoon of **Bobby** tenaciously fought and repulsed enemy attacks.

The NPA failed to recapture their valuable cache and had to abandon their attempt, leaving behind about 1,000 M14 rifles, 900 M14 magazines, 166,000 M14 rounds, and 564 40mm rocket projectiles. *This victory dealt a severe blow to the expansion plans of the CPP/NPA in Luzon, a major victory for the AFP where the Masigasigs, including those from the PC, can proudly claim a significant tactical role.*

Bobby Santos later went to the PAF Flying School and became an Army pilot. He served as Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile and retired in 1984 with the rank of Major.

The MIM Attack of Marawi City. On 21 October 1972, 400 rebels from the Muslim Independence Movement (MIM) attacked and occupied Marawi City signalling the launching of the full blown rebellion in Mindanao. They seized the radio station and held hostage hundreds of students inside the Mindanao State University (MSU). At dawn, they surrounded Camp Amai Pakpak, the Headquarters of the Lanao del Sur Constabulary Provincial Command. It was the only government office that was left in government control.

It was a platoon led by **LT Ed Adan** from the 26th Inf Bn with a jeep-mounted 106mm recoilless rifle that was dispatched from Lanao Del Norte, infiltrating at night with TF LANCAF elements to reinforce the surrounded PC camp which was then running low on ammo. The main attack of the rebels came shortly after midnight of 21 Oct and after fierce fighting was repulsed with heavy casualties on the attackers. "It was the blasts from the 106mm RR that broke the enemy's will," Ed recalls. More reinforcements arrived and liberated the City after three days.

Ed Adan saw action with the 26IB, 30IB and commanded the 28IB in Surigao del Sur. He also led the 801 Bde in Northern Samar and the 101 Bde in the Zamboanga Peninsula. He retired from the service as CG of the Southern Command AFP in Zamboanga City.

The Raid in Mindoro, the Sibuco and the Labangan Action. Among the tales of gallantry and raw courage under fire that involved the Masigasigs in the 70s, one would not miss the exploits of **Lt Glykes Sua**. He earned his first Gold Cross Medal, the first one in the Class, when his Scout Ranger Class wiped out an NPA force in Mindoro in October 1972.

In November 1972, he conducted a surprise attack against a Moro rebel base in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte inflicting heavy casualties that forced the enemy to abandon their base. Unmindful that he had sustained a bullet hit on his side, he skilfully maneuvered his men until the camp was overrun leaving 20 enemy dead.

The 1st Infantry Division camp in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur is named after Major Cesar Sang-an who was killed in 1973 while leading a Scout Ranger force with **Glykes Sua** and **LT Peter Espadero** to eject the MNLF rebels who blocked the main routes to the City of Pagadian. Glykes and Peter bravely held ground, fought fiercely and repulsed repeated enemy assaults until they were able to retrieve the body of their commander, Major Sang-an.

Glykes Sua was the Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division in Zamboanga peninsula and Basilan when he retired in 2003. Peter "Spade" Espadero was about to assume a brigade command in Samar when he succumbed to heart attack in Baguio City, just as he was bidding farewell to his family for his new assignment. He was a former Commandant of Cadets of the PMA and held training and command positions in the First Scout Ranger Regiment.

The Battle of Sibalo Hill

In the history of the Scout Rangers and the Phil Marines, the Battle of Sibalo Hill in the town of Panamao, Sulu Province against Moro rebels would stand out for its intensity and large number of government casualties. On 26 November 1972, a Marine battalion suffered 37 casualties while on a mission to occupy the rebel-held position. The soldiers' bodies were burned and mutilated.

The defiance of the rebels was forthwith answered by deploying two Army infantry battalions to the island: the 11IB and the 26IB. The mission given to the Ranger group led by Maj Cesar Sang-an with **LTS Peter Espadero** and **Glykes Sua** as section leaders was to join a task force with units from the 26IB and the 11IB together with Marine units and capture Sibalo Hill.

With PAF close air support of F-86F, F-5A, and T-33 aircraft, the objective was seized after daring maneuvers. **Lt Glykes Sua** linked up with **Lt Eric Aurelio** and **Lt Rey Ochoa** of the 26IB on top of the hill, a glorious moment for all. Just before Christmas Day in 1972 they planted the Philippine flag and their unit emblems on top of Sibalo Hill to mark their victory.

The Masigasigs join the Scout Rangers

There were 10 Masigasigs who finished the Scout Ranger Course: **Peter Espadero, Mol Sales (PC), Glykes Sua (Class 15); Efren Abu, Rudy Aguinaldo (PC), Ric Brillantes (Class 16); Eric Aurelio, Jack Cordero, Bing Valencia (Class 17); and Manny Teodosio (PMAR) (Class 18).**

Efren Abu became Commander, PA Light Armor Brigade and DCS for Operations AFP. He became Commander, 2nd Inf Div., and served as the 45thCG, Philippine Army before being promoted to Chief of Staff AFP.

Eric Aurelio joined army intelligence and served with SOCOM, PA as Chief of Staff. He was commander, 503rd Bde then CG, 5th Inf Div. from where he retired as a Major General.

Jack Cordero joined the ISAFP. He was Commander, 70th Inf Bn., and later the 203rd Bde, 2nd Inf Div. where he was promoted to Brigadier General. He was Asst. Division Commander, 7th Inf Division. **Bing Valencia** joined the NISA and later the First Scout Ranger Regiment. He commanded the 3rd Scout Ranger Bn and retired early as Lt Colonel.

Enrico Teves left the service as a junior officer, after serving in the AFP Logistics Command (LOGCOM) and finishing courses at the National Computer Center. He settled in the United States.

Virgilio "Bay" Valles joined the Signal Corps and became the Head of the Presidential Communication Unit. After his retirement he was an Automation Engineer in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and later Head of VISMIN operations of SMART Communications.

Elmer Romano: The Tenacity to Live and a Heroic Rescue

A gut-wrenching Masigasig story is how **Dony Rosete** saved the life of **Elmer Romano** in December 1972 after Elmer was shot in the head in a firefight with Moro rebels in Maluso town, Basilan Province.

While on patrol with the 26IB that was tasked to clear an objective in Maluso, Elmer's platoon was attacked and a bullet pierced Elmer's helmet passing thru his skull and incapacitating him. It was **Dony** who bravely rescued and carried **Elmer** away from the danger area, using a carabao sled, and got a boat to transport his immobilized body to the Military hospital in Camp Navarro, Zamboanga City.

With half of his body paralyzed, Elmer struggled daily for many years enduring the physical and emotional pain of a slow healing. He fought to regain his memory, overcome his impaired speech, and learned to work with his left hand.

He learned computer skills, worked in the GHQ Computer Center and even managed to earn MBA and MPA degrees. He founded the "Kapisanan ng Bayaning Sundalong may Kapansanan sa Pilipinas, Inc." (KBKPI) a foundation that administers to the needs of disabled soldiers and their dependents.

Elmer Romano retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and continued to fully magnify his new divine calling to serve the disabled and the handicapped. He received the prestigious PMA Cavalier's Award in 2021 for exemplifying the virtues of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

Dony Rosete served in the AFP Metrocom in Metro-Manila before he resigned from the service and migrated to California USA where he now lives with his family.

Ping Berroya joined the Army Management Information Center, served as an Inf Bn commander and later as Commander, 701st Bde, in 2002 where he was promoted to Brigadier General.

Elmer Ignacio trained together with Ed Adan with the 6th Royal Australian Regiment in Queensland and later joined the NISA where he served as Deputy Head Executive Assistant to CG, PSG. He served as Special Assistant to Minister of Trade and Industry. He resigned from the service in 1982 and migrated to the USA with his family.

Rey Ochoa was Commander Security Escort Group, PA and later as Commander, 62nd Inf Bn in Nueva Ecija in 1987 before his separation from the service.

Paco Fuentes and Olive Oliveros in Clearing Operations in Cotabato

The MNLF launched a major offensive in March 1973 that came close to occupying Cotabato City. Army and Constabulary detachments and bases were attacked. The main routes from Davao and General Santos Cities to Cotabato City were blocked by MNLF forces hindering trade and supply activities. Thousands of civilians were in peril of being harmed by the rebels.

The Army forces were concentrated in their main base at Awang Airport together with the PAF detachment while the PC Provincial command was defending their camp in Parang.

Two infantry battalions from northern Luzon, the 4IB and the 5IB, were airlifted to Cotabato City to beef up the forces there. **Lt. Paco Fuentes** was with the 4IB while **Lt Olive Oliveros** was with the 5IB.

The battalions were given the mission to clear the main route including the towns along the way, from Awang Airport to Tacurong, Cotabato. The 4th Inf Bn cleared the Pan-Philippine Highway from Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat, Midsayap, Datu Piang, Salibo, and Tacurong. The 5th Inf Bn cleared the Shariff Aguak – Isulan highway to Tacurong. After two months of fighting, major highways from Cotabato City to Davao and Gen Santos Cities were cleared and economic activities in the areas resumed.

Paco and Olive, tired but happy to have accomplished their mission after months of leading their companies fighting their way

through the towns of Central Mindanao, progressed in their Army careers.

Paco Fuentes commanded the 171B and his last assignment was Deputy Bde Comdr of the 203rd. **Olive Oliveros** later commanded the 24th Inf Bn in Bataan and retired as the Chief of Staff of 5th Inf Div with the rank of Colonel.

Bobby del Pilar was the 12th Infantry Battalion commander in Iloilo province when he decided to run and campaign for mayor of the town of Calinog, Iloilo. Unfortunately, he did not make it and later decided to migrate to California with his family.

Military Counter Offensive Operations in Lebak

In June 1973, five infantry battalions with two Constabulary companies supported by air and naval units were ordered to destroy the MNLF logistical base in Brgy Tran, town of Lebak, Cotabato. **Gene Senga, Cris Balaoing, and Ric Nobleza** were leading troops of the 271B while **Paco Fuentes** was with the 41B.

The 1973 "Tran Offensive" lasted two months with the MNLF sustaining heavy casualties and their base captured. Among the casualties was **Gene Senga** who was hit in the left scapular region while maneuvering with his men. He recovered months later in Fort Bonifaction General Hospital where he met a military nurse whose tender care facilitated his recovery and who later became a member of the Masigasig family.

Gene Senga returned to Central Mindanao in 2002 and assumed command of the 6th Inf Div. He was appointed to be the CSAFP in 2005, after serving as Commanding General Phil. Army.

Cris Balaoing was a Bde Commander in Butuan and later DCS J9 in GHQ. He retired as a Lt. General after serving 31 months as Superintendent PMA.

Ric Nobleza was Bn Commander, 45th Inf Bn when he was wounded during the Marag Valley Operation in Apayao in the early 1990s. He retired as the CG, 9 Inf Div in Bicol.

Field Grade Command and Senior Staff Assignments

The First Visioning Exercise of the Philippine Army—Cris Balaoing was the ACS for Plans and **Ed Adan** was ACS for Personnel in 1994 when CG PA MGen Romulo Yap tasked the two to be the principal staff to organize, design, conduct an exercise to produce the Army Vision for 1995-2005, the first comprehensive planning that was participated by 50 PA personnel coming from various branches of specializations i.e. Infantry, Armor, Logistics, Engineering, etc.; from Sgts to BGen and Civilian Personnel. The Development Academy of the Philippines was engaged to facilitate. The product was the blueprint and road map of what the Army should be in ten years, "An Army that is a Source of National Pride."

Capture of MILF Base Camp Salman in 1997, **Col Glykes Sua** returned to Zamboanga peninsula as Commander, 101st Bde. His mission was to neutralize the MILF in the area and to capture Camp Salman Al Farishie, the HQs of the 403rd Bde, Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The enemy had been harassing the towns of Sirawai, Sibuco, Siocon, in the Baliguian complex of Zamboanga del Norte.

Glykes Sua employed the 44th Inf Bn in Sirawai, 32nd Inf Bn in Siocon, the Special Forces Operation Course Class 89-96, one Special Forces company, and elements of the Division Ready Deployment Force (DRDF). Technical Intelligence revealed the likely enemy location.

The 44 Inf Bn and the 32nd Inf Bn patrols engaged the enemy for four days inflicting casualties including two MILF sub-leaders and capturing enemy FAs and rocket launchers. The troops also suffered casualties and used artillery support to suppress rebel fires from fortified positions.

With close air support from Air Force OV-10 Broncos and MG-520s heli-gunships and artillery support, the attacking forces under **Glykes Sua** forced the BIAF rebels to abandon their camp.

The death of an MILF Commander and sub-leaders, and the capture of a major rebel base Camp Salman brought relief and peace.

The operation contributed to the successful negotiation of a peace agreement between the MILF and the government. A feat achieved by the 101 Bde under the leadership of **Col. Glykes Sua**. In June of 1998, Glykes turned over command of the 101st to **Ed Adan** and took command of the 103Bde in Basilan.

The 1989 Coup d'etat Attempt and the 2003 Oakwood Mutiny involved several Masigasigs who were tasked to resolve the rebellious actions and convince the military rebels that their desired reforms can be achieved peacefully.

Efren Abu and Ric Brillantes established contact with the rebels from the First Scout Ranger Regiment in the 1989 coup attempt who seized and occupied the Makati Commercial and Business District. PMA Superintendent **BGen. Arturo Enrile** led a negotiation team of eight officers which included **Ed Adan**, which met with the rebels in the Makati City Garden Hotel (now the Dusit). After more than 48 hours of tense talks, punctuated by deadly exchange of sniper fire from the Government forces and the rebels, the rebel soldiers agreed to "return to barracks."

Almost 16 years later, three Masigasigs found themselves directly involved in the mission to end the **Oakwood Mutiny** that happened on 27 July 2003 wherein 300 plus mutinous soldiers including Navy officers Sonny Trillanes and Gary Alejano occupied the Ayala center in Makati City and barricaded themselves in the Oakwood Premiere Hotel. They were demanding bold reforms in the procurement systems and promotion system among others.

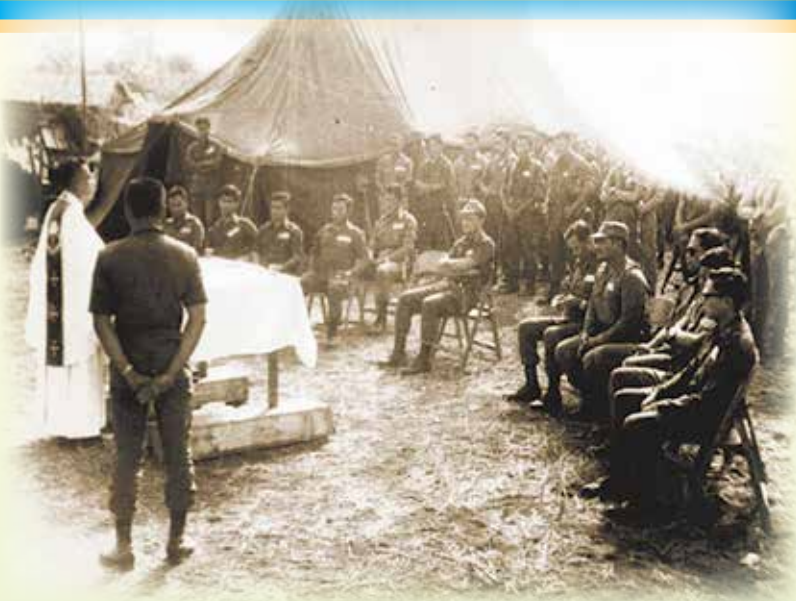
Efren Abu who was then the Vice Commander, Phil Army, was designated the Task Force Libra Commander, while **Manny Teodosio**, then the Commandant Phil Marines, was designated TF Ayala head. Their task was to recapture the seized buildings and neutralize the rebels. **Ed Adan**, then PMA Supt, was fetched by helicopter from Loakan and joined the Malacanang emissary **Mr. Max Soliven** to negotiate and convince the rebels to stand down. Tension grew as the 1700H deadline approached and the government forces prepared to attack. As other government negotiators intervened, an agreement was finally reached for the mutineers to surrender before the day was over, ending a crisis that cost huge losses to the economy.

Division Operations in North Cotabato in 2002, the 6th Inf Div commanded by **Gene Senga** launched operations to destroy the BIAF's Field Division base in the **Buliok Complex**. Buliok was the HQs of MILF Forces under Hashim Salamat located along the river in the boundary of Pagalungan and Pikit, Maguindanao.

The BIAF suffered more than a hundred casualties and more than 20 FAs were captured. The victory demonstrated to the MILF leadership the futility of their fight against the government.



Gen. Glykes Sua, 1st Inf Div Comdr, inspects captured FAs from the MILF.



Field Mass at the 26 Inf Bn Hqs in Panamao, Jolo, Sulu in July 1973.

Gene Senga later commanded the Southern Command AFP where he was promoted to Lieutenant General in 2004 and subsequently became the 46th Commanding General, Philippine Army before becoming the CSAFP.

In Pursuit of Good Governance and Reforms

Among the grievances presented by the Oakwood mutineers and confirmed by the government created **Feliciano Commission** were corruption in the AFP Procurement System, defective promotion system, and the overstaying of retired officers in the AFP-provided quarters inside military camps.

As Chief of the AFP Promotion System in 1988, **Ric Brillantes** was instrumental in initiating the formulation of a fair, systematic, and objective promotion system. After a thorough study, the DND approved what became known as the SOP # 10 that systematized and quantified factors which would allow very deserving officers to be promoted ahead of more senior but less qualified peers. The system also provided for regular attrition of personnel who can no longer be promoted.

As Army Vice Commander, **Ric** did not lose impetus in improving the Army logistics system which resulted in, among other things, reducing the unauthorized use of fuel or leakages in the POL distribution system; he initiated the use of the “fleet card” system. As Chairman of the PA Housing Board, he laid the groundwork for the smooth turn-over of the JUSMAG Area to BCDA by addressing the issue of overstaying retired officers.

Ric Brillantes commanded various units of the Scout Rangers from 1981 to 1987. He was assigned in army logistics and later commanded the Army Support Command where he reached the rank of Major General.

Two Masigasigs became commanding generals of the Philippine Army: **Efren Abu** and **Gene Senga** from 2003 to 2005. They helped lay the foundation for “a relevant, professional, people-oriented, and caring Philippine Army.” These two later became Chiefs of Staff of the AFP.

Implementing International Commitments: the Masigasigs as Diplomats

The Philippine Humanitarian Support Mission to East Timor (PHILSMET) was hastily organized in September 1999 as our nation’s contribution to the Australian-led International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) with the mission to address the humanitarian and security crisis situation. The East Timorese had just rejected the option to be given a special autonomy status and chose to be

independent from Indonesia which led to violence between pro-independence and pro-Indonesia groups and endangered the safety of the United Nations’ staff.

Orly Ambrocio, who had just graduated from the US Army War College, was selected to command the **Philippine contingent to the INTERFET Command Group**. PHILSMET consisted of 95 officers and 405 enlisted personnel deployed into five task-organized operational groupings. With the Philippines’ policy of supporting peacekeeping missions under Chapter 6 of the UN charter, the AFP organized PHILSMET to support INTERFET by conducting humanitarian support missions through medical and dental services, engineering and rehabilitation work, training and capability build up for the East Timorese, and to support other INTERFET’s activities.

PHILSMET was to do this in its area by linking, networking and collaborating with non-government organizations (NGOs) involved in rendering humanitarian assistance. It will also protect the troops and the UN personnel in its AOR.

The acceptance by both the Indonesians and the East Timorese of the presence of PHILSMET contributed heavily to developing peace in the area and the accomplishment of the mission. Through the leadership of **Orly Ambrocio**, the AFP’s long years of experience in civil-military operations and humanitarian assistance work was skillfully applied. These gave the Filipino soldiers a comparative advantage.

In December 2015, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Bill Tweddell awarded the INTERFET Medals to 537 AFP personnel who served in the three contingents of PHILSMET.

Gene Senga served as **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Iran** from Aug 2008 to July 2010. At that time Iran was host to 1,200 Overseas Filipino Workers mostly employed in oil and energy-related projects. Gene was the second ambassador to Iran that came from the military, the first one being retired **LtGen. Rafael Ileto** who served from 1975-1979.

Ed Adan served from 2007-2013 as one of the Commissioners and the **Executive Director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement** with the United States. (PCVF). The other members of the Commission are the Executive Secretary, the SND, the SFA, the SSWD and the SOJ. **Ed** worked for the ratification of the 2nd Status of Forces Agreement, that with Australia, which was ratified in 2012 by the Phil Senate. Immediately after the November 2009 “Mamasapano massacre” of 58 civilians in Maguindanao, **Ed** was appointed to the **Independent Commission against Private Armies or the Zenarosa Commission** that made an in depth study and recommended measures to eliminate private armed groups.

Efren Abu served after retirement as **Special Envoy** to the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (**BIMP-EAGA**), a cooperation to spur development in less-developed areas in the four participating countries.

Conclusion

We recognize that our accomplishments, big and small, could not have been done without the involvement, dedication and sacrifice of many people. We are truly grateful to the thousands of Filipinos throughout the archipelago who provided support, risked their lives and inspired us as we discharged our duties and undertook our missions. We give special tribute to the soldiers and civilians who have served with us especially those who died or became casualties while in units under our command.

We are grateful for the mentorship and shining example given by many of our past commanders and superiors. We learned from the strong ones and the weak ones, too.

We cannot thank our wives and families enough for carrying the burden of keeping a warm home to welcome us in our times of rest. But most of all, our eternal gratitude to God Almighty for His guidance and protection all these years.





Making a Difference the PC/PNP Masigasig Way

• CAV ARTURO C LOMIBAO '72

The early '70s was marked by civil unrest. Economic crisis loomed over the country. Various groups were threatening the internal security with their own ideologies of change. This was the first quarter storm or FQS.

Cadets were not immune to these events as they were also in contact with the outside world through their counterparts in the colleges and universities. Nearing our graduation in March of 1972, we had small group meetings after taps under cover of darkness. Just like our civilian counterparts, we wanted to get involved when we eventually join the Officer Corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We wanted to make a difference - the MASIGASIG WAY.

Of the 102 Masigasig graduates, 41 joined the Philippine Constabulary (PC). From far North to Deep South, every Masigasig Constable carved his niche. In his junior years he was either a combat officer, intelligence officer, civil relations officer, training officer and the like. Then came the transformation of the Philippine Constabulary into the Philippine National Police (PNP) from the Department of National Defense (DND) to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) pursuant to DILG Act of 1990. By virtue of this law, we were all "absorbed" into the PNP. Ladislao "Queck" Ebuena transferred from the Philippine Air Force to the newly-created PNP to command the PNP Aviation Group.

As middle-level to senior grade officers, we served either as commanders or staff officers in the provincial, regional and national units. With the exception of a few, we all became generals. A bonus for the PNP group was the top post when Art Lomibao became the Chief PNP in March of 2005.

In what capacity did we, the members of the PC/PNP Group serve the nation?

Rodolfo "Agui" Aguinaldo, Julius "Yaric" Yarcia, Alejandro "Babes" Flores Jr, Amado "Espines" Espino Jr, Rock Tor, Billy Bibit, Willy Blanco and yours truly were the pioneering intelligence



Former President Marcos presenting "Kumander Dante," over-all NPA chief, after his capture on August 26, 1976 by Intelligence teams led by then PC 1st Lts Amado Espino Jr '72 and Arturo C Lomibao '72.



Governor of Cagayan province, Cav Rudy Aguinaldo '72 in action.

operatives in the '70s. Our individual and/or combined efforts led to the neutralization one-by-one of top leaders of the local communist movement such as CPP Chairman Jose Maria "JoMa" Sison, NPA Commander-in-Chief Bernabe Buscayno, alias Kumander Dante, and suspected NDF head, Mila Aguilar Roque. In Mindanao, Nick Olarte and Dante "TJ" Tejada bagged Benjamin de Vera, the Secretary of the Mindanao Commission (KOMMID). Indeed, these accomplishments placed the PNP Intelligence, and the entire PNP organization, in a pedestal.

Agui Aguinaldo left a legacy of diligence, hard work, and fidelity to the mission. He was feared by the rebels but loved by his rebel returnees because he took care of them like his own. After the People Power Revolution of 1986, he ran for governor of Cagayan, won, then after finishing his term, run for congress. He won handily every time; and, the only way for his opponents to regain power was to cut him short.

Espines Espino. His career in the military and police service is replete with outstanding accomplishments, ranging from the neutralization of criminals, drug personalities and local terrorists. The urge of a broader mission to serve his provincemates must have prompted Espines to enter the political arena, such that he ran as a representative of the 2nd District of Pangasinan. The rest is history: two-term Congressman; three-term Governor. As Congressman, he authored landmark legislations that benefitted the AFP and PNP in particular: RA 9166 – Increasing the Rate of Base Pay of Officers and Enlisted Personnel of AFP; RA9372 – Human Security Act (Anti-Terrorism Bill). As Governor, he improved government services and infrastructure, the best proof of which is the world-class Capitol Building. He upgraded government services such as, health care, agriculture, and public works.

Cel/Celoy Navarro Jr. is an innovator. As Director of the Special Action Force (SAF), he established the SAF School in Sta Rosa, Laguna. As Chief of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office, he generated



PC Lieutenant Colonel Aliño, North Sector Commander of CAPCOM, receiving the AFP Distinguished Conduct Star from Capital Command, National Police Commission, Chairman Cicero Campos, for having defended Makati against rebel soldiers during the bloodiest 1989 Revolution.

additional revenue for the government by raising the fees of firearms licenses and permits to carry firearms. He worked for the legalization of the local fireworks industry. As Masigasig Class President in 1990s, he participated in the backdoor talks with rebel soldiers that stopped the hostilities and paved the way for a General Amnesty. As Director of the Human Resources and Doctrines Development, he instituted the PNP Training Service in 2005 to conduct all specialized police training. He crafted the PNP Field Training Manual, a six-month field immersion of new police recruits, as a requirement for their graduation. After retirement, he was elected Mayor of Bani, Pangasinan and received the PMAAAI Cavalier Award in 2011 for Public Administration, a Good Governance Award (DILG 2010) and the Government Performance System Award (Institute of Solidarity in Asia, 2009).

Babes Flores is a clandestine operator and a scholar. In 1974, Babes got wind of a CPP plan to bomb the IMF convention in Manila. The early detection and subsequent arrest of those involved



CPNP Cav Art Lomibao '72 and CSAFP Cav Efren Abu '72.

prevented an unimageable loss of lives. He is a graduate of the Harvard University's Kennedy School and is an Edward S. Mason Fellow of the Harvard Institute for International Development. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Corporate Directors. He was one of the core leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement that played a major role in the 1986 EDSA Revolution. Babes and I worked behind the scene to convince renegade priest Fr. Balweg to forge a peace accord with the government of President Corazon Aquino that culminated in the signing of the Mt. Data "Sipat" Agreement. He served in the staff of PFVR and helped in the consolidation efforts of subsequent administrations as well as in the Modernization Program of the military. He is currently the president and CEO of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations, a 36-year old think-tank that assists the government in policy-formulation. Also, he is now the Chairman and CEO of Haribon Foundation, the country's leading advocate of nature conservation and biodiversity.

Ogie Aliño, then the North Sector Commander of the PC Capital Command, received the Distinguished Conduct Star (2nd highest PNP award) for repelling the bloodiest coup d'état in Philippine history in December of 1989. Through skillful planning and execution of fire and deployment of his men, the rebel soldiers were dislodged from their vantage positions within the Makati Business District and led to the defeat of the rebels. As President of PSSLA, he expanded to all regions and raised its assets from 900M to 5B. He was Superintendent of PNPA and "saved" 230 yearlings from dismissal; he changed the PNPA curriculum from 3 to 4 years admitting qualified high school graduates 18 to 22 years old thus giving them the opportunity to earn a baccalaureate degree in the PNPA.

Yaric Yarcia led the PC Strike Force in Cotabato, Mindanao in the early '70s. They called themselves the "Lost Command." He was all over the Province to reinforce beleaguered forces; the unit's achievements were remarkably gallant. Yaric's immersion in the Intel field spanned years as a unit leader and operator. His early promotion to LtCol was meritorious. As PNP Director for Intel he recruited top leaders of the Vis-Min Commissions of the CPP/NPA that engaged in peace talks and resulted to a truce which became the foundation of a shared desire for a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict. Early on, he was District Director of Angeles City, Provincial Director of Isabela and Pampanga, and Regional Director of PRO 6 (Western Visayas) based in Iloilo City.

Rock Tor. After retiring as PNP Director of Plans, he was chosen among numerous applicants by the United Nations to head its UN Peacekeeping Force in East Timor as Police Commissioner of the multinational police forces overseeing 1,600 policemen from 11 countries. He holds the distinction of being the only officer in the PNP that occupied that coveted position. He is a Master of Business Administration and a Doctor of Peace and Security Administration. He is currently a professor at the La Salle University and Manuel L Quezon University.

Billy Bibit was no pushover. When Lebak town in Cotabato came under attack by Muslim secessionists, Billy led a unit of highly trained constables from the 3rd PC Zone to reinforce the beleaguered government forces. There, he saw another Masigasig, Julius Yarcia with his team. Together, they decisively launched a counter-attack forcing the rebels to withdraw. Unfortunately, four soldiers were critically wounded. What followed was an altruistic act, one for the movies only Billy can muster... He 'commandeered' a cow tagging a cart and executed a daring evacuation. With their combined teams joined later by reinforcements from the Army battalions in the area, the town was liberated. Under Pres Cory's administration, Billy was tapped to head Customs Intelligence. He suffered from a debilitating sickness that led to his death.

Ike Galang Jr. is another Masigasig with international exposure, was a member of the PH negotiating team for the RP-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement regularly held at Brussels, Belgium which



CPNP Cav Ping Lacson '71 receiving Arrival Honors from RD PRO 5, Cav Cel Navarro Jr '72 at Camp Olaa, Legaspi City 2000.

discussed among others, small arms smuggling, radicalism, human rights, migration and immigration matters. He was twice invited as resource person during the 1st and 2nd World Drone Congress held in China. He was the only Masigasig designated as Regional Director four times before he retired as a 3-star general and the Chief Directorial Staff, HPNP. After retirement, he was the Vice Chair of PSMBFI and later the Executive Director of the Bureau of Immigration. He is also chair of the PCFR Security Cluster and the founding president of the National Association of Professional Security Officers and Guards, Inc.

Jimmy Lasar - He was the prime mover of the PNP Heroes Park in Camp Crame, a monument to PC/PNP members who died in line of duty. After retirement, he joined the Bureau of Immigration with Ike Galang and together, they made sweeping reforms in the bureau.

Monying Dizon Jr. held almost all levels of Command and Staff positions culminating in his position as The Director of PNP Intelligence. He takes personal pride and cherish the fact that he never asked favor from anyone to get those positions.

Edong Gador graduated Number 1 in our class. After spending his junior years in Mindanao and the newly-created National Computer Service, he joined the PMA Faculty for three years, then held sensitive positions at the Philippine Coconut Authority where he worked for another nine (9) years. He served as Provincial Commander in Maguindanao and Tarlac and before he retired, went back to his birthplace (Cebu) as PNP Regional Director of Western Visayas (Region 7).

Dionix Dionisio is always the life of the party in any Masigasig gathering. But behind that good-naturedness is a generous heart. On February 17, 2006, Barangay Guinsaunon of Saint Bernard town in Leyte Island was buried in a mudslide due to the collapse of a Philippine Faultline section. Buried with their elementary school building were 300 students and teachers. In no time, Dionix, then the Director of the PNP Civil Security Group, mobilized his staff and civilian network, and immediately sent rescuers. He raised funds to replace the buried school building. In fact, the PNP was the first one to donate something of value that when Dionix and company went back for the blessing and inauguration, they were warmly welcomed by the whole community like General Macarthur when he arrived in Tacloban Leyte, 61 years ago!

Torch Dela Torre was the author of "Stronger Police Stations," my flagship program as Chief PNP to build more police station buildings. As The Director for Comptrollership then, he approached me when I was about to be appointed chief, and recommended the construction of at least 100 buildings all over the country. My first question to him was, "do we have the funds?" With conviction, Torch replied, "Yes we can produce." That made possible the construction of more

than a hundred police stations with priority to tourist destinations and remote towns under constant threat of insurgent attack. When you see a three-story blue-and-white police headquarters, that's the Lomibao model!

TJ Tejada's memorable assignments during his 14 years of stint in Eastern Mindanao resulted in numerous intense battles against NPA insurgents and Muslim secessionists. He introduced reforms in the PNP Finance Service when he became the director.

Nick Olarte saved the day for his policemen/women. In the late 90's, all non-college graduate PNP members were required to finish college; otherwise, they will be discharged. Nick then convinced school heads to accept undergraduate PNP members for free. Another singular feat of Nick was deploying PNP members as "Kinder cops" from the ranks of PNP members to teach preschoolers, a model which until today is being replicated by succeeding commanders.

Freddie de Vera Jr. was a junior officer in Kalinga-Apayao, instructor in PMA then Chief, Placement Division of C1, HPC; he was Provincial Commander, Isabela Province. Subsequently he was Director, Police Community Relations Group, Director, HQ Support Services, HPNP; Director, PRO 2 and Director, PRO 1 where he was given his retirement honors.

Johnny Salvana balances his profession and family. Proof of his being a good husband and father is (as far as I am concerned) – he refused my offer when I was his CPNP, to be the Regional Director of Region 11, (Northern Mindanao) because nobody would drive his OAO, Tess and his daughter Katrina, a special child when she goes to school. Johnny and Tess are outstanding parents to raise a fully educated, PWD daughter, and two medical doctors. Their doctor-son and daughter must have imbibed their father's passion to serve as they are now frontliners in the battle against COVID-19.

Domeng Reyes Jr. An excerpt from his son's testimonial: "Dad was a cheerful giver. He genuinely wanted to uplift the lives of those who came to him for help. He knew he was blessed so he believed that paying it forward was the way to go." His last position was Regional Director of Region 4A (CALABARZON).

Ed Aquino was among the first to become a PC Company Commander - Imus, Cavite, Tagaytay City, and Bay, Laguna. Not long after, he became Provincial Director of Oriental Mindoro and later, Batangas. He was deputy commander of the Highway Patrol Group before his retirement in 2002.

Vens/Pogs Santillan served in the frontlines against Muslim rebels. When it was time for him to occupy higher posts, politicians intervened. He took everything in stride, moved out of Mindanao and joined the Logistics family in the National Headquarters. From there, he became the Dean of Academics at the PNP Academy in Camp Castaneda. He joined Ike Galang who was then the Regional Director in CALABARZON. On September 5, 2016, he died peacefully in his sleep after suffering from a debilitating sickness.

Willy Blanco is a guy whom everybody wants to befriend. He is senior in age to most of us. He knew that his time in the service was limited to make the rank of a general so he served with outstanding performance in Western Visayas as a Deputy Regional Director.

Percy Brawner. He had the most "colorful" career. After retirement, he was appointed Commissioner of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

Vic Luga. Most of Vic's postings were in the Cordillera region. He was Regional Director of the Cordillera Autonomous Region. His last position was The Director for Intelligence, HPNP.

Clyde Cabrerros. A very jolly good fellow, he was Provincial Director of Ifugao and Sultan Kudarat, and Deputy Director for Operations, HPNP. His last position was Regional Director of Region 1.

Jucuts/Rey Jucutan was the snappiest yearling during his cadet days who has mellowed with age. Cel Navarro compares him to a well-

aged liquor that transformed into a mild and smooth senior citizen who now speaks softly but rich and full like the mellow tones of an old guitar. He was the nemesis of carnappers when he was assigned at the Anti-Carnapping Task Force "Limbas." His last position was Deputy Regional Director in the Cordillera.

Egay Paguio is another successful Constable and family man combined. His stints in Cavite, Pangasinan, La Union, Abra to name a few, are just icings to his success as a father of nine (9) beautiful children, all professionals, who are now employed here and abroad.

Nap Castro As a junior officer assigned in Isabela PC, he and his team figured in several clashes with the NPAs to recover M-14 rifles and other armaments smuggled from China. The firearms were unloaded from the infamous MV Karagatan that run a ground in Digoyo Point, Isabela on 4 July 1972. He retired as District Director of Central Police District (Quezon City).

Other Masigasig Constables who left the service early:

Rolly Hermoso was the Provincial Commander of Sulu in the early '90s when two Spanish missionary nuns were kidnapped by the notorious Abu Sayaff Group. With a company of PC troopers, he penetrated enemy territory and rescued the victims. However, he considers his participation in the rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of the 1990 earthquake in Baguio City as his greatest contribution. As commander of the PMA Headquarters Support Group, he mobilized the entire PMA community and sent rescuers all over the city, notable of which was the Hyatt Hotel. Their timely arrival saved hundreds of lives from the rubbles of collapsed buildings.

Omar Conaco Jr. He was an outstanding officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) before he got out of the service to join the banking industry and protective security services.

Ed Sta Clara. He devoted his time to his family after a few years in the service.

Tony Simangan Jr. He spent only a few years in the service and ventured into the restaurant business.

Johnny Abuan Jr. He retired early to answer his calling and became a pastor.

Other Masigasigs who reported back to their Creator before their compulsory retirement:

Jack Joaquin Jr. was a star player in the Academy, whether it be in the aggressive game of basketball, the social game of bridge or the friendly game of chess. His 25 years in the service brought him to Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Bicol and Mindanao. When he fell seriously ill, I visited him in St Lukes' Medical Center. He whispered, "Mistah, please take care of my family". Even in his last moments, his family was paramount. He was indeed a loving husband, father and grandfather whom his apos call "Lolo Police."

Nars/Cata Catalan. Unmindful of his safety, he went on a mercy mission to save residents caught by the floods from the Cagayan River during the onslaught of super typhoon "Aring in November of 1980 where he met his fate after his river craft capsized.

Efren Guerrero. He was a young lieutenant assigned with the Presidential Security Command when he perished during an emergency landing of a Presidential Fokker plane during bad weather at NAIA Pasay.

Masi Masilongan. He served as Aide-de-Camp to Gen Ramiro, PC Task Force Isarog Commander in Bicol when their helicopter crashed. On that fateful day, they were monitoring the movement of VIPs enroute to attend the inauguration of the San Juanico Bridge that connect the islands of Samar and Leyte

Mol Sales. He served with the CIDG and Intelligence Group (IG) and had a distinguished career that brought him to Pangasinan, Pampanga, and La Union. Then he became the Regional Director of Region 2 (Cagayan Valley). He met his untimely death while visiting relatives in USA.

Chacons Concha saw action in Mindanao and the Cordilleras. He was DRDA PRO Cordillera Autonomous Region when he got sick and passed on.

Benny Liwag Jr gave his life on his first tour of duty. He and Momying Dizon were enroute to their first assignment, in 54th PC Battalion, Tacorong, Cotabato when their vehicle had an accident. Momying survived.

Webster defines MASIGASIG as determined, unyielding, unflinching, persistent, persevering, tenacious, dogged. To us Masigasig, however, it simply means "INSISTING".

The question remains. Did we, the PC/PNP group, make a difference?

Did we improve the organization that we came from, after serving for three to four decades?

Did we improve the general well-being of the Filipino people? And finally, did we contribute to nation-building?

A thorough analysis of how we performed in various capacities - as law-enforcers, as counter-terrorists, or even as leaders in non-military/police duties bespeaks of the Masigasig Way. Whether in the conflict-ridden mountains of Mindanao or in the rebel-infested villages of Luzon, or even in the peace and quiet headquarters in Camp Crame, we rose to the challenge.

Our contribution in the government's peacekeeping campaign is truly one for the books. The Filipino people became safer, with the capture of the five (5) top leaders of the CPP-NPA-NDF among others. We were always in the thick of the fight - in defense of freedom and democracy.

Not to be forgotten are our legacies in upgrading our organization, the PC/PNP, that made it more citizen-friendly and responsive to the needs of our countrymen. Art Lomibao's Integrated Transformation Program provided the Road Map for a more capable, credible and effective PNP which up to this day is being implemented by his successors.

A few joined the political arena and established their niche of good governance. Some were recycled after retirement to occupy various sensitive positions in government.

Let me conclude, by borrowing from Frank Sinatra's signature song "My WAY", that the PC/PNP Group of PMA Class 1972 made a difference the "MASIGASIG WAY" to serve God, Country and People.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cav Arturo C Lomibao or Art/"Baolomi", was the 12th Chief of the Philippine National. He survived an ambush by NPAs in Mt Province as a junior officer. After attending the Basic Intelligence and Military Intelligence Courses, he served as Intelligence team leader where he actively participated in the neutralization of top CPP-NPA-NDF leaders, among them Bernabe Buscayno, alias "Kumander Dante." For this feat, he was promoted to captain, the youngest at 26 years old, post-war AFP. He was awarded the PMA Cavalier Award in 1977 for "Outstanding Performance as a "Military Professional" and nominated for the TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines) award. He went on to serve in various capacities after retirement as Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, Assistant Secretary Land Transportation Office, Chief National Counter-Terrorism Action Group, DND Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Strategic Concerns. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration and an honorary degree, Doctor of Humanities in Political Science from the Lyceum Northwestern University in Dagupan City. Among his numerous awards, he treasures most his "Ulirang Ama" Award. He is currently a Trustee of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations.





Taken by 1Lt. Jose "Pehpps" Vidad from lead plane (not in picture) of 15th Strike Wing's Jaguar Flight on its way from Davao ACP to an airstrike mission requested by the Central Mindanao Command in 1977. This picture is on display at the PAF Museum in VAB.

Masigasig Flyboys: IN RETROSPECT

• CAVS CELSO CASTRO, POL LACERNA AND JIMMY VIERNES '72

Fifty years ago, a calling was made heeded by 18 idealistic, adventurous and valorous youths. The Philippine Air Force welcomed these gentlemen of caliber, courage and audacity, members of PMA Masigasig, Class of 1972 who not only enjoyed the challenges and thrill of flying but from the start, focused on their mission as guardians of Philippine skies and immensely contributed to national security, peace and order. They performed creditably in counter-insurgency operations in support of the AFP's battles against the enemies of the state, accumulated thousands of flying hours and sorties carrying out a variety of missions: airlift of tons of troops and supplies, air-evacuation of wounded soldiers from combat zones to the nearest hospitals, performing airstrikes and bombing missions resulting in the capture or destruction of secessionist lairs and camps. They also carried out rescue and relief operations through aerial deliveries of food, medicines and other essentials to victims of disastrous typhoons and other calamities. Likewise, they launched special intelligence missions particularly in aerial photography over

the West Philippines Sea to detect intrusions to our territorial waters. These photographs aided the government in crafting foreign policies.

This article chronicles with pride the colorful history and illustrious military and civilian careers of the Masigasig Flyboys, the young, ambitious and successful members of Class 72 who chose the Philippine Air Force as their branch of service.

The Flyboys came together in May 1972 when they reported to the Home Defense Training Center (HDTC) in Fort Bonifacio together with the rest of the Masigasigs to undergo the New Officers' Transition Course. Subjects on basic intelligence, troop leading procedures and other rudiments in tactics were learned to equip themselves as newly commissioned officers. After two weeks of training, they were sent to Fort Magsaysay for Special Forces skills training to further hone their individual skills in troop leading procedures, marksmanship, river crossing, ambushes, raids and escape and evasion. Upon completion of these trainings, they were deployed to the different Task Forces to join other Mistahs from the

Army, Constabulary and Navy on ground combat operations against the Communists and Muslim secessionists. It was at this time that one of them, Visayo "Jun" Luspo Jr, the first casualty of the Class, was killed in an encounter with NPAs somewhere in the hinterlands of Sierra Madre.

Those assigned with the 4th and 5th IB saw some more action in Isabela where they participated in operations surrounding the discovery of the MV Karagatan, the vessel that smuggled firearms and military hardware meant for use of the NPA. Not too long after, the remaining 17 flyboys in the task forces were recalled by the Philippine Air Force for their much awaited flying training.

Graduation from the Flying School in 1973 found the 17 new pilots assigned to the different flying units of the PAF: the 5th Fighter Wing in Basa Air Base to perform air defense missions; the 100th Training Wing in Fernando Air Base to become instructor pilots; the various helicopter units to serve in tactical, rescue, evacuation and disaster relief operations. Others became Counter Insurgency (COIN) attack pilots providing close air support to beleaguered ground troops. The rest became either transport pilots flying veritable heavy lift aircraft or utility aircraft performing reconnaissance and ferry missions.

Bound from the start by a common enthusiasm to serve the PAF as pilots, the careers of these gallant men in blue took differing courses throughout the years. Some left the service to join civil aviation and other private enterprises. A few cut short their careers in the Philippines to migrate to the US and Canada. Two others, sadly joined the Creator early on in their careers. The rest stayed in the service until retirement. Notwithstanding these differing "career flights" all have been and will always be part of the Masigasig Flyboys. After all, ***"T'was not the kind of aircraft they flew or the nature of mission they performed that made them distinct from others; rather t'was their dedication to duty that propelled them to reach the apex of their flying careers."***

Here's a closer look at the individual bio-profiles of the eighteen and one adopted Masigasig Flyboy:

❖ **Visayo "Jun" Luspo:** righteous, amiable and straightforward, a diehard Air Force Officer whose dream was to be a military pilot. Unfortunately, he never lived long to achieve his dream as he was killed in an encounter with NPAs in Isabela, a few months after graduation in 1972.

❖ **Angelito "Anto" Santos:** humble, quiet, achiever and dedicated pilot who met his untimely death in 1974 when the U-17 aircraft he was piloting crashed while on a spraying mission in Mindanao. His last unit of assignment was at the Composite Wing based in Sangley Point, Cavite City.

❖ **Luis "Louie" Bismonte:** shuns the limelight, an overall great family man. He was assigned at the 205th Composite Airlift Wing and flew C-47 aircraft and UH1H helicopter. With his intelligence background, he became the Squadron Commander of the 304th VIP Security Squadron and later as the Squadron Commander of the 301st Air Intelligence and Security Squadron. He took the Aerial Photography Course, graduating second in his class. Sadly, in 1985, he lost his life in a senseless killing by drug-crazed youth while out on a family-related task.

❖ **Edgardo "Ed" Leyritana:** formidable, steadfast, loving and doting father. He flew U-17 and C-47 aircraft and worked his way to becoming Operations Officer of the Composite Air Support Force (CASF) in Cotabato. He passed away in 1998 due to a lingering illness.

❖ **Jaime "Jimmy/Friday" Viernes:** wholesome, cheerful, all-around athlete; he loves to play soccer, wrestling and tennis. He flew the C-47 and Fokker aircrafts and logged flying hours in the UH-1H and Aero Commander during his heydays as a pilot. After attending the IOBC at SITS, he was assigned at the 300th Special Mission Group and later installed as Commander of Air Recon Squadron in charge of Aerial Photography and Photo Mapping missions. Later he became

the Commander of the 300th Air intelligence Security Group prior to his designation as Defense and Armed Forces Attaché (DAFA) to Brunei Darusalam. After his three years tenure as the DAFA, he was designated as the Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Personnel, A1, then as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, A-2. Years later, he was designated as Chief of Air Staff that led to his promotion to a star rank. Jimmy attended various trainings and schoolings foremost of which was at the Air Command Staff Course (ACSC) at the Air University in Alabama. He is a recipient of numerous awards and decorations for his exemplary performance as an Air Force Officer. He got his second star as PAF Inspector General prior to his designation as the Commander of Tactical Operations Command based in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu before his retirement from the service in 2006.

❖ **Celso "Caster" Castro:** calm, action-oriented, accessible, a certified combat helicopter pilot who logged 3,400 flying hours in UH-1H, Bell 205 and Bell 214 helicopters. He spent most of his flying career in tactical air operations in support of ground forces. He became the Squadron Commander of the Tactical Helicopter Squadron and Commander of Composite Air Support Force (CASF) of Northern Luzon based in NOLCOM Headquarters, Echague, Isabela for four years prior to his designation as Commandant of Cadets at PMA. After his stint as Commandant, he attended the Air Command Staff College (ASSC) at the Air University in Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, USA. Early on, he attended the Safety Officer Course, Aircraft Accident Investigation Course, all in USA. Celso is a Master of National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines. He occupied various staff positions in the Air Force and GHQ as Secretary Joint Staff of three former Chiefs of Staff. He was later assigned at Mactan Air Force Base in Cebu as Chief of Staff of Tactical Operations Command, Acting Wing Commander of 560th Tactical Operations Wing, and Deputy Commander of 530th Tactical Operations Wing in Zamboanga City. He was designated as Commander of Hqs Service Command, GHQ and concurrent Camp Commander of Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City where he got his star. A recipient of numerous awards and decorations, he retired from the service in 2002.

❖ **Apolonio "Pol" Lacerna:** certified pure Batangueno, principled and mission-oriented. After graduating from the Flying School, he attended the Instructor Pilot Qualification Course as flight instructor in T41 and SF 260 aircraft. Additionally, he also served as the Base Operations Officer of 100th Training Wing in Fernando Air Base, Lipa City. Years later, he joined the intelligence community after completing the IOBC, MICC and IOAC at Special Intelligence Training School (SITS). Later he was absorbed by SITS as Director of Research and Development. He wrote the first Intelligence Manual in 1978 and took over the helm of 301st AIS afterwards. Together with other officers, he represented the PAF in the acquisition of AERO Commander aircraft used for photo and mapping mission. He joined the CRSAFP in 1987 as Deputy of CR2 and later on was designated as CR2, CRSAFP. After attending CGSC in 1994, Pol was assigned at VISCOM and was designated as AC7. Later that year, he became the Ex-O of Task Force Leyte and was tapped to handle the surrender of two NPA personalities, a husband and wife team leaders of the CPP/NPA of EVRPC. For that feat, he was recommended for spot promotion. In 1996, he went back to HPAF and assumed the position of Ex-O, A2 and subsequently as the Commander of 30th AISG, prior to his assignment as the Defense and Armed Forces Attaché to India. After his stint as DAFA, he was designated as Deputy Wing Commander of the 2nd Tactical Operations Wing until his retirement in 08 Feb 2004.

❖ **Angel "Boogie" Agustin:** gregarious, outgoing, a fun person to be with. As a cadet, he was a well-rounded athlete who excelled in a variety of sports. He graduated No. 3 in his pilot training class and opted to stay in Fernando Air Base as Instructor pilot. A few years later, he transferred to the 15th Strike Wing based in Sangley



Counter Insurgency (COIN) attack pilots and ground support personnel of Advance Command Post of 15th Strike Wing, PAF at Francisco Bangoy Airport, Sasa, Davao City, 1978.

Point, Cavite as combat pilot flying the SF-260 aircraft. Boogie was deployed in Mindanao and flew combat missions prior to his intelligence schooling at SITS. After that, he was assigned in PSG and became head of the NISA unit in Cagayan de Oro City covering Region 10. He migrated to the US to join his family and worked with an electronics manufacturing company in Silicon Valley. He was president of the PMAAAI Northern California Chapter.

❖ **Arturo “Art” Alabanza:** godly, stands by his solid value of integrity, whose first choice of branch of service was the Army because of his fear of flying. By twist of faith, he overcame that fear and joined the men in blue. He graduated in flying school as No. 1 in combined academics and flying phase of the course and was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence. He served as Flight Instructor at the flying school and in his spare time pursued two Master degrees at UP and De La Salle University. With his credentials, he was hired by the RSBS as Assistant Investment and Portfolio Manager on defense related matters. Shortly after he left RSBS to go back to flying, Art decided to leave the service, joined PAL where he stayed for 11 years. He found his calling, embraced Jesus Christ and joined the Couples for Christ with big encouragement from his loving wife. He was the founding President of Our Lady of Guadalupe CV Foundation Inc. that strengthened his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He eventually took over the Sword of Gideon, founded the Order of St. Michael, CFC military sector program.

❖ **Jose “Pehpps” Vidad:** considerate, diligent, an avid fan of planes since childhood and has always been fascinated by the roar of the planes’ engines passing overhead their house for landing at the Bagabag Airport in Nueva Vizcaya. This started his love for flying. After his pilot training, he opted to stay at Fernando Air Base where he received numerous awards and decorations in recognition of his distinguished service as Instructor Pilot. In 1975, he transferred to the 15th Strike Wing where he was designated

Ex-O of 17th Attack Squadron and later as Commander of 15th SW Advanced Command Post (ACP) in Davao. Again, he received numerous awards including a Silver Wing Medal with 1st Anahaw Leaf for gallantry in action as COIN Attack Pilot and for exemplary deeds as ACP Commander, launching successful airstrikes in support of Central Mindanao Command operations. In 1978, he was assigned to PMA as Mathematics Instructor. In 1980, he was designated Assistant Manager of the AFPCOC in Camp Aguinaldo. After serving the military for 11 years, he resigned from the service and joined the Metro Manila Transit Corporation and became the General Manager of PASVIL, one of the companies of MMTC. An aviator by heart and soul, Pehpps eventually joined PAL and was sent to Seattle, Washington and Long Beach, California to undergo Crew Qualification Courses. He flew large planes like the HS748, BAC 111, B737-300, B747-200, MD11F and A320. From PAL, he joined the Saudi Arabian Airlines in Jeddah, KSA. After a few years in the desert of Saudi Arabia, he rejoined PAL as a Captain before his retirement on 17 Sept 2014. Two months later, he joined the Civil Aviation Authority of the Phil (CAAP) as Air Operations Safety Inspector and Airbus A320 Check Pilot. In 2018, he joined Alpha Aviation Group PH in Clark as Consultant and Synthetic Flight Instructor up to the present.

❖ **Alexander “Alex” Quirante:** survivor in many ways with faith strongly anchored in the veneration of the Blessed Mother as intercessor to Jesus Christ. After graduation from flying school, Alex was assigned at the 5th Fighter Wing in Florida, Pampanga and trained as an F-5A and F86 pilot. He later transferred to 901st Weather Squadron. In an accident where his plane crash-landed on top of a tree in Mount Makiling, Los Banos, Laguna, he sustained 2nd degree burns in roughly 90% of his body. Profusely bleeding while stuck and strapped inside the burning plane, he claims the image of the Virgin Mary appeared to him and believed that vision was what saved his life. He never flew again however.

After recovering from his injuries, he was designated as a Tactical Officer at PMA. Eventually he resigned from the service and went into the computer business and started a foundation for handicapped persons. Like a good Samaritan, Alex spends much of his time caring for disabled children.

❖ **Antonio “Tony” Villarosa:** frank, pragmatic, methodical, mechanical but mischievous. Among the Masigasig Flyboys, Tony was the first to fly solo on both day and night flying and first to pass the instrument flying phase of training. Like some of his skillful Mistahs, he was an Instructor Pilot for more than a decade. In 1987, he left the service and joined PAL where he became a Check Pilot of Fokker 50. Later, he moved to Malaysian Air Lines. Eventually, Tony “folded his wings” and relocated to San Francisco, California to stay with his family for good. Tony never really retired, he just shifted to another endeavor. That is Tony, the Flyboys’ version of McGyver.

❖ **Arturo “Badong” Sabado:** unassuming, intelligent, dependable, known to be the reticent and silent type person. He values his athleticism and always keeps his health and wellness always at the topmost level. As a transport pilot, he has logged in thousands of flying hours in C-47 and Fokker transport aircraft. He left the Air Force to join PAL in 1987 then later Macau Air Lines. Badong eventually migrated to Los Angeles, California to be with his family and from time to time, comes back to the country to visit his Mistahs and rub elbows with his golf buddies.

❖ **Ladislao “Queck” Ebuén:** a magnificent fellow, full of reason, projects an abundance of happiness and cheer. A brother to all, he is a music lover and “doubles” as John Lennon with his amusing singlehanded take on the Beatles. After pilot training, his first assignment was with the 205th Composite Wing as a helicopter pilot and was deployed in the field, accumulating most of his combat sorties prior to his re-assignment to AVSECOM. When the PNP was established, he changed his branch of service from PAF to PNP where he was assigned to the PNP Aviation Security Group. He retired early and joined Cebu Pacific where he flew B-757, DC9, Airbus 319 and 320. Aviation is in the bloodline of Queck’s family. His late father and brothers, Chester and Bong were also pilots. His son, Ron is also a pilot while his daughter Mary Kathelene Claire is a flight attendant of Emirate Air Lines. A doting father and loving husband, he prefers to do “apostolic” duties to his apos but also enjoys an occasional round of golf with his Mistahs and friends.

❖ **Vicente “Vicar” Carag:** blessed with God-given built and physique, a certified marathon runner during his heydays at PMA. After graduating from flying school, he was assigned to the Composite Wing and flew the DCH Beaver, a reliable, high wing propeller aircraft that can land on tight mountains, narrow airstrips, rivers and beaches. On the heels of several nerve-racking incidents flying his magical Beaver, he changed course and joined the intelligence community as instructor at SITS. He later became Chief Intel, Intel Production Branch of NDIO, Mindanao. He took up International Logistic Commo course in Ohio, USA and was seconded as the first PAF/USAF Logistic Officer to USA. After the EDSA revolution, and while he was in the US, Vic assumed duties under Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez as Foreign Affairs Adviser posted at the DFA Consulate office in New York before finally settling down in the USA.

❖ **Eduardo “Ed” Pimentel:** cool, smart, witty, who is also a natural poet. After graduating from Flying School, he was first assigned at the 601st Liaison Squadron in Sangley Point as a U-17 pilot. From there, he was transferred to 530th CTW in Zamboanga and became Base Operations Officer, Squadron Commander of

Air Police Squadron and Commander, Reserve Airlift and Support Group for Regions 9 and 10. Years later, he reported back to PAF HQ and became Commander of 301st Air Intelligence Squadron, then as Director for Academics and Assistant Commandant of SITS for a few years before resigning from the service. He joined Dole, Philippines as Department Head of Security and Safety based in Polomolok, South Cotabato, then worked for Puyat Group of Companies where he put up the company’s security agency. He went on to settle down in Polomolok, South Cotabato and put up a feed mill as a business.

❖ **Rodolfo “Rudy” de Castro:** another true blue Batangueno, lively, spirited, a person of reason and intelligence. A dependable pilot, he enjoyed the thrills and challenges of flying UH-1H and Bell 205 helicopters while assigned at 205th Helicopter Wing. He took a break from flying, studied at AIM to obtain his MBM degree. Going back to the Air Force, he was assigned at ASIL, DND and MBI and made use of his corporate skills. For love of flying, he decided to return to the 205th Helicopter Wing as Squadron Commander of 505 Air Rescue Squadron before he retired in 1990 and migrated to Canada. There, he worked as a helicopter pilot doing sightseeing tours around Niagara Falls. One fateful day, his chopper collided with another chopper while on a sightseeing run. With his wide flying experience, he expertly maneuvered his crippled aircraft and landed safely saving the lives of his tourist passengers. Rudy’s feat hugged the headlines of the Canadian newspapers for weeks. That incident paved the way for installation of a control tower to ensure flight safety in the area around Niagara Falls.

❖ **Medin “Med” Velasco:** driven, focused, the pride and joy of Cagayan de Oro. After flight training, he joined the 5th Fighter Wing in Basa Air Base and flew F-5 and F-86 jets. A few years later, he changed course, joined the intelligence community and attended intelligence related courses at SITS. He became the Squadron Commander of 301st SMG, his last assignment prior to his resignation from the service. Med migrated to Canada with his family and worked as a pilot of Lear jets and helicopter of North Wood Pulp and Timber Ltd until his retirement from said company.

❖ **Arsenio “Bobby” Santos:** fearless, goal-oriented, the epitome of a true gentleman, the Baron of PMA CI 72 and Athletic Saber Awardee for excelling in athletics. An Army officer, he joined the Masigasig Flyboys in flying school after his impressive performance in counter-insurgency operations in Northern Luzon. For the record, he is the only officer from the Army to take the Basic Air Force Officer’s Course intended only for Air Force officers. His love of flying motivated him to become a pilot. He became an Instructor Pilot at the flying school for years, then reported back to PA to resume combat duties. A few years later, he was assigned to the Ministry of Defense (now the DND) before his resignation to venture into business. Army man Bobby’s time flying with us had been quite a privilege and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

In retrospect, we know that the saga of the Masigasig Flyboys was not made in heaven. All faced various challenges as they navigated thru the profession of their choice, surmounting all odds thru their resiliency, sheer hard work and dedication. For those who have made it thru life at this point, they continue to respond to that same call for dedication made some 50 years ago, displaying their strength despite adversity, faith and gratefulness for making it through the ebb and flow of life, charting clear and interesting flight paths for themselves, family and friends.



The Philippine Archipelago: Its Navy

• CAV ERNESTO H DE LEON '72

Introduction

The Philippines, with its predominantly maritime character, boasts of a string of over 7,600 islands mostly inhabited, broken up by sea. It is an island nation located in Southeast Asia between the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea with a lengthy coastline measuring over 36,000 kilometers – the fifth longest in the world. Its fragmentary feature makes our nation vulnerable to many different maritime threats in varying intensity and forms.

With this geographical feature, most of our country's interests lie in the maritime domain. We therefore need to have a strong, efficient, and dependable Navy that can protect our people, secure our future against internal and foreign threats, and protect our country's maritime interests.

Our Navy – Past and Recent

Shortly after the Philippines gained independence from the United States of America on 4 July 1946, the Navy started receiving very capable assets from the US Navy. With a fleet composed of WWII series destroyers, mine warfare vessels, patrol ships, and battalion-capable landing ships, the Philippines was the envy of our Asian neighbors. We not only had the capability to patrol our seas, conduct anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare, we can also support islands affected by natural disasters, and land and sustain the Marines for beachhead and further inland ground operations. With the Philippine Coast Guard as a Major Unit, the Philippine Fleet was undertaking anti-smuggling operations all over our maritime domain. Our seas appeared to have been well protected from any maritime intrusion and illegal activities.

All Philippine administrations were beset by internal rebellions and insurgencies. Rebellion in Central Luzon started right after the Philippine Independence when the guerilla army against the Japanese, the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (HUKBALAHAP) turned against the Philippine government and metamorphosed into the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB), affiliated itself with the Communist Party of the Philippines in the early '60s and finally created its armed wing, the New People's Army, that until today continues with its avowed goal of overthrowing the government.

At the same time, the unrest in Southern Philippines developed as a full-blown separatist movement under the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and other splinter groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the more violent Abu Sayyaf, a jihadist extremist and pirate group. The Philippine government has been and still is preoccupied by mostly ground-based internal security operations that it hardly paid attention to the security needs of our maritime area. The Philippine Navy never had any major acquisition since then apart for a few ships. Its maritime capability from the late '70s was heavily degraded that it can hardly patrol even our territorial seas with its ageing fleet.

The UNCLOS and the Navy

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted and opened for signature on 10 December 1982 and came into force on 16 November 1994. It has largely redefined the maritime boundaries of most nations. Among others, it has given



maritime nations a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone where all economic benefits from the sea belong only to their citizens. It should be noted that the United States of America is not a signatory and has not ratified the UNCLOS. It has maintained its position of freedom of the sea apart from the historical 12-nautical miles territorial sea of all maritime nations. Coupled with advances in naval technology, the UNCLOS has given even small nations the desire to develop their maritime capabilities to ensure that the benefits that can be derived from their EEZs are enjoyed

exclusively by their citizens. This has left the Philippine Navy incapable of fulfilling this mandate. At the same time as its preoccupation with mostly internal security operations together with the other major services, our Navy stretches its meager resources to put back into operational status its old ships and address challenges in our maritime domain including various-ranging violations such as intrusions into our EEZ and illegal fishing by foreign vessels, smuggling, and piracy. One particular concern of our Navy is the overlapping claims in the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippine Navy under the Aquino and Duterte Administrations

Although arguably the planning and projections of resource allocation for the much-needed modernization of the Philippine Navy were initiated in the late 1990s, it was only in the latter part of the Aquino Administration and mostly during the incumbency of President Rodrigo Duterte that ships of blue water capability which are in the realm of missile technology came to fruition. The determined will of the Duterte administration to endow the Navy with a respectable modicum of capability to protect our maritime area, particularly our EEZ, became the rationale for the allocation of a sizeable budget for major ships acquisition. The Navy has started to have modern frigates, corvettes, landing ship docks, and fast attack craft for the Fleet. Amphibious attack vehicles were acquired for the Marines to enhance its capability of establishing beachhead.

My Time in the Navy

On 9 March 2003, I was installed as the 27th Flag Officer of the Philippine Navy after 31 years of various assignments, both at the General Headquarters of the AFP and in the Navy. These earlier postings have given me the experience and the wherewithal to lead the Navy until my retirement on 5 December 2005.

At the start of my incumbency, a super typhoon struck the province of Quezon where more than a thousand lives were lost and millions worth of property damaged. It was the time where the best of the Navy came to fore in assisting our countrymen recover from the devastation. With minimum regard to safety, our two most capable ships, LC550 and LC551 delivered to ravaged communities supplies, potable water and generators coming from our government, international donors, and the private sector. Our patrol ships undertook search and rescue even on dangerous waters littered by logs and debris. It was a moment in time where the bond between our people and its military was strongly felt. Unity in adversity in full display.

As a service provider, my time as FOIC PN was defined by enhanced capability of our sailors in undertaking patrols against illegal activities at sea, search and rescue of fishermen and vessels ravaged



BRP PANGASINAN (PS31) - a WWII vintage corvette, one of the mainstays of the legacy navy.

by typhoons and Fleet-Marine operations in Southern Philippines. Our Marines were continuously provided with special arms and equipment and training to ensure that their combat capability is at its best. Not a single Marine was killed in combat during my incumbency. All shore support systems were optimized to sustain the remaining seaborne capability of our ageing fleet.

My career in the Navy started in 1972 with my junior billet aboard RPS BULACAN (LT38), a landing ship tank capable of landing battalion-size troops. We were deployed in Mindanao for almost three years at the height of the military campaign against the Moro National Liberation Front. It was with this shipboard assignment that I found my calling, landing the Marines and other government troops for beachhead and assault of enemy positions, conducting border patrols, delivering supplies to communities ravaged by natural disasters and relocating refugees affected by the continuing conflict in Mindanao.

By late 1975, I was recalled to the Navy headquarters for shore assignments and later sent to study Systems Analysis and Design. Completion of the course made possible my detached service to the Bureau of Land Transportation where I was instrumental in implementing the first ever use of the hard plastic driver's license in the country. Eventually, I was transferred to the Ministry of Public Works and Highways as part of military deployment to critical civilian government agencies.

In 1986, I was recalled back to the Navy. I was assigned as Ex-O of SAR100, then CO of PG63 and AC59. In 1989, I was sent to Paris, France

at the *Ecole de Guerre Interarmees* for my General Staff Course. When I returned to the Philippines in 1990, I was made the Deputy to the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Plans (N5).

• **Birth of the Navy Modernization Plan**

It was at N5 HPN where I was exposed to examining how to develop the seaborne capability of the Fleet and the combat capability of the Marines. There were attempts in the past to line up major acquisitions but since no clear source of funding can be seen, nothing happened to these attempts. Major breakthrough in the Navy's modernization effort came in the '90s, made possible by the relentless pursuit of J5, GHQ demanding continuing refinement of an ambitious and attainable Major Services' Modernization Plans to be funded from the sale of military real estate assets by the BCDA. After two years at N5, I was made the Director of the Naval Modernization Office. This was where the maiden version of the refined Navy Modernization Plan came to fore.

• **Naval Task Group Anti-Piracy/Naval Task Force 21**

Assured that the Navy's Modernization Plan was on its way to eventual realization, I was sent back to shipboard assignment in 1995 to finish seven years of mandatory sea duty and earn my command-at-sea. I was made the CO of BRP PANGASINAN (PS31) and concurrently Commander of the newly-created Anti-Piracy Task Group aimed to neutralize pirate ships from Hainan, PRC that were attacking transshipment vessels from Subic Bay. After apprehending two pirate ships and sending their crew to jail, piracy attacks stopped and the transshipment business in Subic flourished. I was promoted to the Naval Task Force 21 covering all areas of the South China Sea from Batangas to Batanes. The Anti-Piracy Task Group was subsumed under my command.

• **Occupation of Ayungin Shoal**

In 1999, GHQ wanted the Navy to send an LST full of foreign journalists to enter the mouth of Mischief Reef and broadcast to the world the illegal occupancy of the reef. At that time, I was the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Operations (N3). After serious thought and discussion on the potential risk of such an audacious move, N3



BRP SIERRA MADRE (LT57)– even when broached at Ayungin Shoal, stands as a symbol of the country's assertion of jurisdictional sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea.

conceived and presented a plan agreed to by GHQ to deliberately run aground BRP SIERRA MADRE (LT57) on Ayungin Shoal, 22 nautical miles from Mischief Reef to serve as a monitoring station of all Chinese activities in the reef.

The Chinese Embassy protested against this move but nothing can undo it. The bilges of LT57 were destroyed so that the ship may no longer be pulled out from its position. Since then, LT57 stood as a symbol of our country's assertion of jurisdictional sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea. It is manned by the Philippine Marines and serves as a littoral observatory station (LOS) and search and rescue (SAR) platform in the area, a ship rusting, yet standing proud and still, in the turbulent waters of our Exclusive Economic Zone.

• **Neutralization of Abu Sabaya**

On the heels of the occupation of Ayungin Shoal, I was designated Commander of the Fleet's Patrol Force, and then for two years, Chief of Naval Staff, the No.3 position in the Navy hierarchy. The big break in my operational career came with my reassignment as Commander of Naval Forces in Mindanao after the 28 May 2001 kidnapping of 18 local and foreign tourists from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan by the Abu Sayyaf Group led by Abu Sabaya. At the time of my posting, Abu Sabaya with his group has moved from Basilan Island to Zamboanga Peninsula together with their remaining hostages to avoid the continuing pressure of joint AFP forces in the island. In coordination with the 1st Division Commander of the Army, a hot pursuit operation was conducted with several ships under my command providing the blocking force. It was a waiting game until I received a solid intel directly from the USJSOG in SOUTHCOM that Abu Sabaya and his team were trying to extricate from the peninsula possibly to move again to another location. Immediately, I assembled a Fleet-Marine Team led by the Commander, Naval Task Force 61, composed of personnel from the Naval Special Operations Group and the Force Reconnaissance Battalion of the Marines to intercept the movement. Among the floating assets used in this operation was the rehabilitated speedboat of Abu Sabaya used in his kidnapping escapade in Dos Palmas and found earlier scuttled in Mapun Island. Before dawn of 21 June 2002, Abu Sabaya with most of his team had been neutralized and buried at the bottom of Sibuco Bay while another four were captured alive. US Chinooks flying over the area provided coordinated information to a US RHIB manned by elements of the Philippine Marines linked up by radio with our Fleet-Marine Team.

Metamorphosis: a Legacy Navy to a Future Navy

My last assignment was Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans (J5) before assuming command of the Philippine Navy. At J5, we formulated the 2002 AFP Military Strategy which was immediately adopted at the General Headquarters. My last act as J5 was the signing of the AFP Logistics Support Agreement with the United States.

Among the banner accomplishments of the Philippine Navy in the succeeding years was the crafting of the 15-Year PN Strategic Sail Plan 2020 in 2006 which embodies the Navy's North Star for transformation. It outlines the plan of the organization to develop a balanced mix of personnel specialization with appropriate promotion incentives through their career, systems approach to changes and processes, streamlined acquisition and maintenance of equipment and facilities, all focused on mission accomplishment. Through the Sail Plan, every leadership change has become part of the building blocks that leverage the gains made by previous ones to sustain the transformation of the PN organization from a legacy navy to a navy of the future.

• **Breakthroughs in Modernization**

The Philippine Navy achieved significant breakthroughs through the years. On personnel, the development of the Human Capital Strategy and the PN Education and Training Management System have allowed the holistic development of more professionalized and motivated personnel. The organization has also become more responsive by improving its core processes through the PN Doctrines Development Strategy supported by the implementation of Quality Management System (QMS), while the development of the Annual Plan and Budget Software has enabled a more judicious and effective use of budget and resources.

The breakthrough initiatives of the PN Capability Plan under PN Sail Plan 2020 is divided into three horizons aimed to consolidate the initial plan of acquiring necessity-based assets and to have a sound basis for the development and articulation of consistent, coordinated, and thoroughly justified naval force requirements.

Big ticket acquisitions under the CAPLAN include three (3) patrol vessels, two (2) landing docks, a corvette, two (2) anti-submarine warfare helicopters, eight (8) amphibious assault vehicles, six (6) multi-purpose attack craft (missile-capable) and two (2) four-dimensional warfare capable frigates.

The upbeat acquisition of assets is the tangible manifestation of the Navy's progress in terms of its transformation journey. It enables



BRP CONRADO YAP (PS39)- a refurbished Weather High Endurance Craft (WHEC) acquired from the USCG.



AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE



MULTI-PURPOSE ATTACK CRAFT in ground assault formation

the Navy to perform and fulfill its various naval roles and tasks of addressing territorial defense, maritime security, internal security, natural and man-made disaster response, and global peace and security concerns.

As the Philippine Navy began and continued to transform and modernize its assets and personnel, the conduct of International Defense and Security Engagements (IDSE) has also increased. Foremost of these is our Navy's participation in the premier and largest joint and combined naval exercise, RIMPAC 2018, held in Honolulu, Hawaii wherein more than 600 sailors and marines were deployed onboard two of the Navy's recently acquired assets. In the midst of the pandemic in 2020, the PN was also able to participate in RIMPAC 2020 with the brand-new frigate commissioned as BRP JOSE RIZAL.

Other IDSE milestones include the historic port visit to Vladivostok, Russia and subsequent participation in the International Fleet Review in Jeju, South Korea; Exercise Kakadu 2014 and 2018 in Australia; the Thailand-led ASEAN Multilateral Naval Exercise (AMNEX) and International Fleet Review in the waters off Pattaya and Sattahip in 2017; first ASEAN-China Multilateral Exercise in Guangdong, China; International Fleet Review in Qingdao, China; and ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus Maritime Security Exercise in Busan, South Korea and Changi, Singapore.

Recent Developments in the Indo-Pacific Region

The need to put impetus and follow through with the Navy's thrust for modernization cannot be overemphasized within the context of China's increasingly more assertive presence in the South China Sea. Apart from developing and fortifying artificial islands in the Spratlys, it has deployed its Coast Guard and an estimated 300 fishing boats practically permanently stationed in different shoals and atolls in the area to harass and even prevent the resupply of our personnel in Ayungin Shoal. Farther out in South Asia, China's land border clashes with India have been more pronounced with deaths of soldiers from both sides. These developments have spurred more frequent freedom of navigation movements of US Carrier Battle Groups together with its allies in the South China Sea, the East China Sea, and the Sea of Japan, which China would view as provocative. On top of these movements, the United States pursued a more active QUAD formation with Japan, India, and Australia; and recently the AUKUS strategic alliance with the UK and Australia for the construction of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia.

While it is obvious that the QUAD formation and AUKUS alliance are counterbalancing moves against China's growing

assertiveness in the region, it is also clear that despite the view that these developments may trigger an arms race which could siphon in smaller countries including members of the ASEAN, the Philippines has developed in the process an "Independent Foreign Policy". While on one hand, Manila is making strides developing economic relations with China, it is also forging mutually advantageous alliances with the US and a diverse set of regional partners on the other. Such moves have provided the Philippines a strategic geographical position to leverage its potential while simultaneously taking a pro-active role in preserving regional peace and stability as one of the founding members of the ASEAN. As important partners in the accomplishment of foreign policy objectives, Navies are especially crucial for middle to great powers in shaping their strategic environment to their advantage. The Philippine Navy, no matter how miniscule it may seem relative to the strategic developments in the region, should be able to improve its blue-water capability for external defense purposes in a relatively benign environment. One approach to attain this objective is to increasingly make the Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries more capable and active in protecting our maritime environment including our Exclusive Economic Zone. China is using the same tactical moves in the area, keeping its grey ships away from competing claims while internally developing its combat capability.

Conclusion

The Philippine Navy has gone a long way through the years, from being a very capable seaborne component of the armed services in the early '60s, to the least capable in the '90s, to its present state of once again developing its blue-water capabilities for the external defense of our country and as a vital component of the Philippine society for diplomacy and national development. Transformation is an ongoing process. To become modern calls for having the capabilities needed to keep at pace with changing global trends, most especially in territorial defense and security to address the country's largely maritime character.

By fulfilling our mandate and accomplishing our mission, the Philippine Navy continues to honor its commitment to contribute in securing our maritime nation where sustainable development will prosper.

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Fair Winds and Following Seas: The PMA Masigasig Class of '72 Navy Group

• CAV WILLIE MEJIA '72

After four months with the PA and PC Task Forces after graduation from PMA, the 18 members of the Navy Masigasigs rejoined the PN to start their Naval Officer Qualification Course to prepare them for their naval assignments.

Following is a rundown of each Navy Masigasig's significant command and staff positions held while in active service and beyond:

Abraham "Abe" Abesamis commanded five naval vessels on his way to earning his command-at-sea badge, notably BRP Pangasinan (PS 31), adjudged Patrol Ship of the Year under his command. Abe was Commander, CGS Roxas, CGD 6, Naval Task Force 41, Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao and the Philippine Fleet. He also served as faculty member of the AFP Command and General Staff College, then Commander of the Naval Education and Training Command, the CG Training Center. He performed exceptionally as Chief of Staff, Naval Base Cavite and Naval Forces West. At GHQ AFP, he was Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Electronics and Information Systems, J6. After serving as Senior Military Assistant to President Gloria Arroyo, he went back to the Navy to assume the Vice Commander post.

When he retired, he chose to be a gentleman-farmer engaged in aquaculture, and rice/coconut/fruit tree farming. He is also a developer/owner of a coastal resort as well as lessor of residential homes and urban lots.

Gilmer "Gil" Batestil joined the Philippine Navy where he had an illustrious career as an experienced sea dog and master mariner. On board ships most of his naval career, from mess officer to Executive Officer aboard the following surface ships: PS 32, PS 28, PF 7, and PS 70, PG 845.

When he received his Captain's rank in 1996, Gil was designated Commanding Officer of PF 11; Chief of Staff Naval Task Force West; Commanding Officer, Naval Task Force 51 and Deputy Commander, Naval Education and Training Command.

Upon his promotion to Commodore in 2002, he was chosen Deputy Commander of Naval Task Force Central covering the Visayas AOR. In 2004, Gil was promoted to Rear Admiral and assumed command of the Philippine Fleet. He retired on his birthday 9 August 2005.

Orlando "OG" Buenaventura was a young captain when he assumed the post as CO, Force Recon Company, the Philippine Marines' elite unit.

On his way to becoming Commandant, Philippine Marines, he assumed duties as the AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Education, Training and Doctrines (J8), Commander of the 6th Marine Battalion and 3rd Marine Brigade, and Superintendent, Philippine Marine Training Center.

Orly was the recipient of numerous medals and badges. But he is particularly proud of the Distinguished Conduct Star, Distinguished Service Star and Gold Cross Medals awarded in recognition of his bravery and gallantry in action involving risk of life.

Lino "Onil" Caringal received the Philippine Navy Award for graduating at the top of the Navy Masigasigs. He was attached with the PC Metrocom before reporting back to the Navy to complete the Naval Officer's Qualification Course. After his schooling under the PMA Faculty Development Program, he was assigned to PMA, Academics Group as Instructor and Course Director, Mathematics Dept. Thereafter, he was assigned at GHQ AFP COMMEL Group and then AFP Computer Systems Command while he finished his BS in Electrical Engineering.

He was assigned with the Presidential Security Command on board the RPS ANG PANGULO (TP 777). After the EDSA revolution, he went back to the Navy and was assigned at the Office of the Naval

Staff for Operations (N3). He later migrated to the US in search of the American dream.

Ernesto "Ernie" de Leon was installed as the 27th Flag-Officer-in-Command of the Philippine Navy, the highest position ever attained by a Navy Masigasig becoming the source of pride of the Navy Group. His first shipboard assignment was aboard RPS Bulacan (LT 38).

Armed with a certificate of completion in Systems Analysis and Design course, he joined two civilian agencies, followed by his recall to take his General Staff Course in Paris, France. After his schooling, he was designated as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Plans (N-5) and was involved in formulating the Navy Modernization Plan. As the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Operations (N-3), he was responsible for the "occupation" of the Ayungin Shoal by beaching BRP SIERRA MADRE (LT 57) that now serves as a monitoring station for all PROC activities in the West Philippine Sea area. He then became Chief of Naval Staff followed by his assignment as Commander, Naval Forces South. This position led to the big break in his career when he bagged Abu Sabaya and his cohorts, responsible for numerous kidnapping activities in Palawan.

Upon retirement, he was appointed Ambassador to Australia during which time the Philippine-Australia Visiting Forces Agreement was finalized.

Quirico "Eric" Evangelista started his career in the Navy inspired by his esteemed father, the late Cav. Quirico Evangelista, '40, composer of the music for the Alma Mater Song, PMA, O Hail to Thee. His marriage into an affluent political family from Navotas triggered speculations that he might leave the Navy early to jump into politics because of this built-in advantage.

But true to form, he continued sailing along with the rest of the Navy Masigasigs, earning his command-at-sea badge aboard BRP RIZAL (PS74). He later became Commander Naval Air Group. His shore assignment was capped by his designation as Commander Naval Education and Training Command.

Rogelio "Roger" Favis was one of those Navy Masigasigs who left the Navy early on in his career. Nevertheless, he completed his Engineering Officer billet aboard RPS ZAMBOANGA (PM 56). Thereafter, he joined the Naval Air Group and became Commander Rotary Wing Squadron. Two years later, he was assigned to PMA and was designated Charlie Company and 2nd Battalion Tactical Officer.

Librado "Lads" Ladia, Emmanuel "Teody" Teodosio and Orlando "OG" Buenaventura are the three Navy Masigasigs who joined the Philippine Marines. Details of their participation in significant military operations are provided in a following article, "The Marine Story."

Librado "Lads" Ladia was first assigned to Jolo where his baptism by fire came to pass. In one of those bloody encounters, he was hit in the right knee and suffered nerve damage and osteomyelitis, a bone infection that spread to the tissues surrounding his wound. His attending doctors recommended amputation, but his wife, Diana strongly objected. Had Lads' leg been amputated, he would have been given a CDD status, effectively ending his military career. With God's grace he slowly and painfully recovered from his injuries with just a limp, to become the Navy Masigasig's first Commandant of the Philippine Marines. Capping his military career, he was promoted to LTGen and was named AFP Inspector General prior to his retirement.

Lads passed away on 20 October 2020 after a lingering illness.

Edsel "Totet" Lumawag went through the required billets on board ships to learn the ropes to become an experienced sea dog. He was Captain of five Navy ships most notably BRP PANGASINAN (PS 31), named Patrol Ship of the Year under his command.

During his stint with the Philippine Coast Guard, he became Commander of CGS Roxas, CGD 6, Naval Task Force 41, Naval Forces

Eastern Mindanao, and the Philippine Fleet. He also served as Commandant, Visayan Maritime Academy and then Commandant, Iloilo Maritime Academy, Naval ROTC units.

He served as a faculty member at the Coast Guard Training Center, the Naval Education and Training Command PN and the AFP's General Command and Staff College.

Wilfredo "Meji" Mejia was placed on DS for five months with the PC company based in Imus, Cavite upon completion of the abbreviated Special Operations course.

After five months, he was recalled to take the Naval Officer's Qualification Course. Upon completion, he was assigned as a "duty" officer aboard RPS LEYTE (PS 30).

In PMA, he was instructor and later Course Director of Military History and Economics where he received PMA's Faculty of the Year award on his second year of teaching; Tactical Officer of Charlie Company; Secretary, Academic Board concurrently HPM Administrative Officer and Aide-de-Camp to the Superintendent.

After completing his Master's in Business Management at the Asian Institute of Management, he was designated Assistant Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Civil-Military Operations (CG 7); Chief, Production Branch, Office of the Naval Staff for Intelligence (N2) prior to his optional retirement and migration to the US.

Normando "Navy" Naval joined the Philippine Navy at the height of the MILF Secessionist movement in Mindanao; completed the Basic Intel and Military Intelligence Collection Course; designated as Intel Officer, Naval Intelligence District based in Cebu and Zamboanga; became Commander, Coast Guard Intelligence Force and served at the Border Crossing Office in Northern Borneo.

After his border crossing stint, he was named Superintendent of the CG Training Center; took the Port State Control Course, the Surveyor Training Course and trained on SAR and Prevention of Maritime Disaster with the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency, JICA, Tokyo.

From his assignment with OJ2, Intel GHQ, AFP, he became the Defense and Armed Forces Attaché to Japan and concurrent Chief, Philippine Liaison Group, UN Command Rear, Camp Zara, Japan. He retired as Commander Naval Base Cavite.

Carlos "Peché" Pechuela was a recognized "seadog", a top-notch operations officer, a very efficient staff officer, an impartial investigator and a very competent trainer/educator.

Having come from humble beginnings, Peché vowed to help as many poor kids as possible by helping them acquire skills that would make them productive citizens.

The farmer boy turned general returned to farming after retirement. He said watching the plants grow made every day exciting and fruitful. He attended the alumni homecoming with his family in February 2007 and enjoyed immensely the time spent in Baguio with his Mistahs. Who would think that it would be his last alumni homecoming?

The Lord called him home on 16 June 2007, almost 15 years now yet his memory remains ever fresh.

Albino "Albin" Rivera was sent to take the Naval Staff Course at the Naval War College, Rhode Island, USA. When the EDSA 1 revolution took place, his mother advised him not to return home and to just stay with his brother in the US. Albin found himself at the crossroads of his life; he decided to file for leave from the Service and remained in the US. It took him a while to get his Green Card that he had to have odd jobs to make both ends meet until he got his General Contractor's license in 2001 and got occupied building and mostly repairing houses in California.

Roberto "Bert, Taga" Tagamolila has a welcoming attitude where in his presence, one feels immediately at ease, accepted, and

important. With a kindred spirit, he is pleasing to talk to and easy to get along with; he is your perfect buddy-buddy's buddy!

Although he is calm and collected, do not attempt to get his goat or you will receive a good llonggo ran down; you do not want to find yourself in the crosshairs of his rifle for he will surely find his mark. He is one of our best marksmen, an expert with the rifle, that is if he can find his rifle.

Emmanuel "Teody" Teodosio's military skill and bravery was on full display during the '87 coup attempt, the '89 Oakwood Mutiny as well as the sustained AFP offensive in Mindanao in the summer of 2000. In all three major operations, he was recommended for awards notably two Legion of Honor medals, deserving of his heroism and leadership.

He is well remembered for a heartwarming story of how he welcomed a bleeding MILF fighter pleading for help, considering him as a brother Filipino and not an enemy. He told the Brigade doctor: "*Tulongan natin ang kababayan natin.*"

While the doctor was performing the surgery to clean and close the chest wound and extract the bullet from the rebel's thigh, Teody laid down on the cement floor beside his kababayan to donate his blood which happens to be the same type as the injured rebel. Teody then called for a helicopter to airlift the grateful patient to a hospital.

Alvin "Urbs" Urbi loved sunshine and the great outdoors as much as he loved the wind and the wide-open sea. He was single hearted in his work and career in the Philippine Navy where he served with honor and distinction until his retirement in 2004.

He studied at the Command and Staff College in Madrid, Spain where it is said he amazed the Spaniards with his fluent Chavacano.

In 2016, at age 68, Alvin took his final bow. Home was the soldier, the fighter, the sailor from the sea.

Jose Alberto "Jay" Velasco was assigned to troubled Mindanao on detached service to TF LANCAF, further on DS to the 1st BLT, Marines as platoon leader of 3rd Platoon 7th Marine Company. It was in Lanao where he received his baptism by fire.

Having completed the Naval Officer's Qualification Course, he was assigned with the Naval Operating Forces on board four naval ships serving in various capacities: mess officer, first lieutenant and gunnery officer, engineering officer and operations officer.

After three years of sea duty aboard naval ships, he reported to PMA and was assigned with Tactics Group where he was up close and personal in the training of cadets in the fields of military discipline and leadership. He was awarded Best Military Instructor in PMA.

After his tour of duty in PMA, Jay was back at HPN and assumed the following posts: Chief, Quality Control Branch, Petroleum and Energy Conservation Office; Chief, Naval Supply Center and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Logistics (N-4). After completing his shipboard billets, he became Commander of Naval Task Force 61, Naval Education and Training Command, Naval Forces South and the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Rafael "Raffy" Vilches went thru the regular grind of a naval officer, fulfilling his progressive shipboard billets that prepared him to be Commanding Officer of one Coast Guard vessel, AU 75 and two Philippine Fleet vessels, PS 29 and PF 11.

Among his staff positions were: Chief Research Analyst and Chief Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Assessment, Deputy Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Plans and Programs.

He was also named Commander of Coast Guard District 7 and the Military Intelligence Group at the AFP Headquarters. This last assignment positioned him for the Defense and Armed Forces Attaché Post in Beijing, PROC.

Sadly, Raffy succumbed to a lingering illness in June 2019 in California, 35 years after he migrated to the US with his family.



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The MASIGASIG MARINES' Story: Courage, Commitment and Esprit de Corps

• CAVS EMMANUEL R TEODOSIO AND ORLANDO G BUENAVENTURA '72

The Masigasigs are proud to have three of its members join the Philippine Marines Corps soon after graduation from the Academy and all three of them having served as the Corps Commandant: LtGen Emmanuel "Manny" Teodosio, LtGen Librado "Lads" Ladia, and MGen Orlando "OG" Buenaventura.

Established on 2 November 1950 and dubbed as "warriors from the sea," their mission was to conduct amphibious operations and subsequent operations ashore, to protect government property and military bases, and to serve with other AFP units in the conduct of land operations when directed. In the 70s, the Marine Corps was deployed in Southern Mindanao particularly in Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan and Sulu Archipelago to conduct operations against the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by Nur Misuari, and its breakaway group since 1977, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) under Hashim Salamat. When the returning mujahedeem from Afghanistan Abubakar Janjalani founded the Abu Sayaff (ASG) and gained a foothold in Basilan and Sulu, the Marines were assigned missions to neutralize them.

During the last days of the regime of President Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986, the Marine units in Metro Manila were tasked to secure the seat of the government in Manila against the rebelling units of the AFP and recover and secure the military installations and facilities occupied by them. The political unrest that followed EDSA I Revolution that was marked by several coup attempts from 1987 to 1989 to unseat President Corazon Aquino saw the deployment of the marines as a counter-force against anti-government forces.

The tactical operations participated in by the three Masigasig Marine officers, Teody, Lads, and OG are too numerous to tell but some of these actions have strategic outcomes that precluded more serious damage to the Republic and prevented the loss of more innocent lives and non-combatants.

The AFP Campaign launched in March 2000 that led to the destruction of the MILF main headquarters in Camp Abubakar and MILF Chairman Hashim Salamat fleeing, was spearheaded by the 1st Marine Brigade (1MBDE) led by Manny Teodosio.

The MASIGASIG Marines participated in countless military operations in which they have been recognized and awarded medals. There are, however, some singular achievements that they are particularly proud of. One of these is the role played by the 2nd Marine Battalion which was under the command of then LtCol Manny Teodosio, in the early resolution of the crisis caused by rebel soldiers

who occupied Camp Aguinaldo and burned the GHQ building on 27 August 1987.

Manny Teodosio was aware that the rebel military units that seized and occupied Camp Aguinaldo and the GHQ building were led by fellow PMAers. Ever-loyal to his mission and mindful of the safety of his men, he refused to answer calls from the rebel supporters, knowing that it might compromise his integrity and unit cohesiveness.

Having breached the Camp gate, and amidst sniper fire, the Marines were able to rescue Joint-staff general officers from the burning GHQ building which was set afire by the rebels. Among them were Generals Ermita, Montano, Isleta, Corachea and Musico. Hundreds of employees and other personnel who were trapped came out, too.

President Aquino personally thanked BGen Braulio Balbas and Manny Teodosio for their unswerving loyalty to the government and for retaking the GHQ AFP. Without doubt, the Marines during that fateful day, 27 August 1987, virtually saved the government of President Aquino.

Clearing of Narciso Ramos Highway and Capture of MILF Camp Abubakar

The Masigasig Marines had a critical role in the AFP "all-out" offensive against the MILF in the summer of 2000. The Marine Corps Commandant then was Mistah Lads Ladia.

After liberating a hundred hostages from and clearing the town of Kauswagan, Lanao Del Norte of MILF rebels, the 1MBDE of **Manny Teodosio** "blitzkrieged" through the Narciso Ramos Highway seizing MILF camps one after another. Finally, on 9 July 2000 together with TF DIAMOND III under Mistah **BGen Felipe Berroya**, and simultaneously with the 3rdMBDE of Mistah **OG Buenaventura** and battalions of the Army's 6th ID, the 1MBDE assaulted the South-west gate of the vaunted MILF Camp Abubakar the Main Headquarters of MILF Chairman Hashim Salamat.

A national newspaper quoted **Manny Teodosio** as having said: *"We are now crushing on the gates of Camp Abubakar, soon I will unleash the dogs of war!"*

Suppressing the 2003 Oakwood Mutiny

When disgruntled ultra-rightist soldiers occupied The Oakwood Premier Hotel in the Makati Business District on 27 July 2003 **Manny Teodosio** was the MC Commandant.

Exercising his initiative he practically relocated the entire Marine Corps Headquarters to the Intercom Hotel and started engaging the rebel - soldiers in negotiations. Together with Manny Teodosio in the Intercon Command Post was Mistah **MGen Efren Abu**, the designated AFP TF Libra Comdr. The combination of skillful negotiation by several government officials plus the military pressure applied by the AFP resulted in a peaceful resolution of the crisis, with the mutineers laying down their arms to the government forces.





Expats' Mistahs' Stories of Families, Challenges and Change

• COMPILED BY CAV WILLIE MEJIA '72

It is a common misconception that when you migrate to another country, you are “made.” The following stories from Masigasig expats...poignant, funny...all amazingly powerful and unforgettable... reveal that to be true only after you have overcome the challenges of settling in another country, usually without the benefit of a support group made up of parents, siblings, relatives and friends. Life as an expat requires hard work, determination and a keen sense to survive as you are continually challenged in your quest for a better life by a different culture.

Chopper Collision Over Niagara Falls

In September 1992, The Standard, a local newspaper based in St. Catherine in Ontario, reported a tragic helicopter collision that happened over the Niagara Falls: *“As hundreds of stunned tourists looked on, two sightseeing helicopters collided over Niagara Falls this afternoon. The first chopper’s propeller went flying off causing the pilot to lose control of the aircraft. The pilot and three passengers on board were killed on the spot.”*

The second craft owned by Niagara Helicopters Limited landed safely at a nearby parking lot. Its pilot and four passengers survived, but **the pilot** was slightly injured.

The **injured pilot** was **Mistah Rudy de Castro**, who with his wife, the former Fe Sanga and three children, migrated to Canada in July 1990 after optional retirement from the Philippine Air Force where he was Commander of the 505 Air Rescue Squadron. In a little close to two years at his job at that time, he applied at Niagara Helicopter Ltd, a tour company specializing in helicopter tours over Niagara Falls.

The mid-air collision could have been tragic for all but Rudy deftly maneuvered his chopper to safety definitely preventing more loss of lives in an otherwise already deadly accident. His expert handling of the crippled aircraft to safety earned for him numerous accolades including one from the CEO of Mc Donnell Douglas Helicopter Company.



Far left: Wreck of the chopper that collided with Rudy de Castro’s chopper; **Center:** Rudy still in a sling a few days after the chopper collision over the Niagara Falls; **Top, R – Rudy** posing in front of a similar chopper that he saved after collision with another chopper **Below, l - r:** The de Castro Family: Chris, Rod, Judith, Fe-Sanga de Castro and Rudy.

SMEAC Serves an Expat Mistah Well

Mistah Elmer Ignacio knows only too well the concept behind SMEAC. After all, he had a promising military career in the Philippine Army where it was regularly used as a “template” in the planning and execution of military operations.

Having migrated in 1980 as a former Army officer heavily involved in the war against the Communist insurgency and Muslim secessionist movements, Elmer had a rude awakening and realized he had to pursue a different career path that will help his spouse Renee support the family financially. He landed as an Information Technology professional at Campbell Soups, considered the biggest soup company in the US at that time. He obtained his IT credentials upon completion of the computer programming course at Heald Business College in half the time it would normally take to complete the course.

Early on in his IT career, in regularly held company leadership workshops, aimed to develop carefully planned and executed solutions to company problems. It is no surprise that in the session he participated in, Elmer would use the military SMEAC planning model as the perfect basis of his presentation. After all, in his former positions as a military professional, he invariably applied Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration and Logistics and Command and Control, a tried and tested logical decision-making tool used by the military. Except that in Elmer’s case, he applied it to the battlefield of ideas, workflows and processes.



Elmer Ignacio and wife, the former Evelyn “Renee” Coloma.



The Ignacio Family (left to right): Elmer, Renee, daughter Emmile and son-in-law Jonathan Brack; (front) apos Layla and Marcus.

I Am A “Mama’s Boy” Admits An Expat Mistah

Retired PAF Major General and **Mistah Jaime Viernes** tells a poignant story about his decision to migrate to the US despite having lived in relative comfort in the Philippines up until his retirement.

“My father, Jaime Sr, a US veteran who fought alongside American troops during WW II and the Korean War, had settled in the US with my mother, Clara Viernes. He filed an immigrant petition for me and my family which was approved in 2007. I struggled with the decision to migrate because it was a conventional wisdom that life in the US, especially for someone of my age and station in life, would not be easy. Nonetheless, my wife, the former Helen Stuart, our only son, Louie and I set foot on American soil in Dec 2007 as immigrants, exactly a year after my retirement. It turned out that migrating to the US for good was not a bad idea after all.

There were very compelling reasons that greatly influenced my decision to migrate. But the **one reason** that really weighed in on my decision was my Mom's health condition. At that time, in addition to hypertension, she had diabetes and was undergoing dialysis. She could no longer handle the rigors of long travels. My siblings begged me to come and to spend time with her. **I was a Mama's boy after all.**



Jimmy Viernes (center, back row), wife Helen, (left) and son Louie (right); (seated) parents Clara and Jaime Viernes Sr. Photo taken on their arrival in Las Vegas in December 2007.

Sadly, my Mom passed away a year and a half after my family's coming to America. My siblings thanked me for my decision as they believe in their hearts my presence prolonged her life. I also personally witnessed my Dad celebrate his 96th birthday in September 2021; sadly he passed away last October 25.

In our family's time of grief, one comforting thought was that my parents lived happy and meaningful lives surrounded by people who loved and cared for them so much during their twilight years."

A Disney Role That Would Have Brought Early Retirement...Almost

Who in the world has not seen a Disney movie? But who in the world would have ever thought of being lucky enough to land a role in a Disney movie? This is the tale of how a Masigasig progeny did exactly that. And it would not have happened if the family did not migrate to the US.

Gerald is the third child in the Favis brood and the only one who **Mistah Roger Favis** claims followed his footsteps at "sea." As luck would have it, he was spotted one day sometime in 2005 by a Disney casting team member who was quite sure he could definitely foot the bill as one of the Chinese pirates in the movie, *The Pirates of the Caribbean* parts 2 and 3 at that. He was asked to audition for the movie. His "Chinesepersona" and of course his acting talent having been involved in some theatrical work during his high school days, landed him the role hands down. Gerald's entry into the movie world where he was literally "type cast" gave him the opportunity to hobnob with popular actor Orlando Bloom.

It did not turn out the same way for Roger and Annie's daughter, Cheryl who was a sophomore in college taking up Health Care Administration at the University of Central Florida when again a Disney casting manager told her she would be a perfect fit to be "*Princess Mulan*" at Disney World. Excited but nervous, she went to the Disney



Gerald Favis dressed up for his role as a Chinese pirate in "*The Pirates of the Caribbean*" 2 and 3.



Annie Favis, with daughter Cheryl, who is proudly wearing her valedictorian sash and other ribbons received upon graduation from Topekliga High School.

World audition room to try out for the part. However, as she was about to enter the door to the audition room, her nerves took the better of her, ran back to her car and drove away.

Roger's hope that day of retiring early went up in smoke!



Gerald hanging out with lead actor Orlando Bloom and members of the cast and crew during a shooting break.

Business and Parenting Go Together...Or Do They?

Mistah Lino Caringal left the service after 20 years and migrated to the US with wife, the former Jenny Bucsit. The couple accepted early on that raising children in the US was not going to be easy not without the affordable household help available in the Philippines. Because of Jenny's daytime work schedule, Lino had to pitch in with babysitting chores many a times.

Lino recalls one incident that highlights how juggling social obligations with taking care of the kids could really be challenging and...funny. A good friend and townmate passed away and he was determined to be at his funeral, no matter what. He took his two baby girls – just toddlers at the time - buckled them down in their car seats. Already running late, he found himself driving much faster than he normally would (really, a euphemism for "*speeding*"). Happily, everything went well until a few blocks away from the cemetery. The girls started to cry at the same time. Panic sets in as he realized it was feeding time. Shouting at the top of his voice, he begged the girls saying "Oh, no! Stop crying!" After coming down to his senses, he slowed down, turned into a parking lot and gave them their milk bottles. What a relief!

Lino had another disastrous babysitting story that happened with his sons born just a year apart. One morning, as he was going thru the boys' feeding routine, the phone rang. Thinking he had perfected the art of carrying both boys in each arm, he picked up the phone because he was expecting a call that morning. But there was a problem: he had his hands full – literally - carrying



The "growing up" Caringal Family: Jenny and Lino (seated middle); (back row, kneeling) Monique, Michael, Melissa; (seated, left and right) Myron and Mark.



The "grown up" Caringal Family: (left to right) Myron, Mark, Byron, Monique, Lino, Jenny, Melissa, John and Michael.

the boys in both arms. The boys started to cry simultaneously as he began talking on the phone! Calling it a “total disaster” was an understatement...and the caller was probably taken aback with what was going on. “Like a hurricane, I must say!” he ends.

Perseverance and Hard Work Send Children To College

It was in the summer of 1995 that **Mistah Vic Carag’s** and his wife Ellen’s oldest son Ryan broke the welcome news that he has been admitted to four – yes four - Ivy League universities. While there was pride and hope in their hearts, Vic and the former Ellen Regalado were more overcome by the fear and anxiety they might not even afford to send their brilliant son to any college at all...or for that matter including their two younger children Vince and Abigail. With his decent but meager pay as a staff at the DFA New York Consular Office and Ellen preparing for her US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), reality set in: they had to act – and fast - if they want their children to realize their own dreams of getting a good education.

Vic, and Ellen, like all parents would, had to find the means to nurture those dreams. Vic decided to apply for immigrant status which meant quitting his job with DFA and leave behind 25 some years of military and civilian service. Mustering all their resources – time, money with a healthy dose of courage and determination to succeed - they went into the 24/7 Medical Staffing business with Vic as the COO and Ellen as the CEO. This was a real challenge as it was literally a 24/7 undertaking. But it provided a guarantee that all their three children can be “Dad and Mom’s scholars.”



Shown here after attending Christmas Eve Mass is the Carag family (l-r): son Ryan with wife, Ting, Vic (partly hidden), Ellen, son Vince, daughter Abigail with husband George

The determination paid off: Vic and Ellen’s children went to the universities of their choice and are now living their own American dreams.

Playing Chess...In The Streets of San Francisco

Prior to February 2019, the absence, more than the presence, of **Mistah Raffy Vilches’** absence from class activities and alumni homecomings was felt more than his presence. That is why his attendance at the Alumni Homecoming that year was a welcome occasion not only for us but more so for his wife Angeline and himself. Sadly, that was his **final parade and review** as he succumbed to a lingering illness four months later in June 2019.

In 1987, Raffy and Angeline settled in the US after being petitioned by Angeline’s father, Alfredo Adam, a veteran who fought alongside US forces in WW II. Raffy left behind 34 years of distinguished military service when he retired at the “tender” age of 51.

In the US, Raffy continued to spend the productive years of his retired life by taking on a civilian job at the California State Compensation Insurance Fund, first serving as a Payroll Auditor and subsequently as an Insurance Analyst.

Angeline fondly recalls that Raffy enjoyed the simple things in life like playing chess in the streets of San Francisco, loved the never-previously frozen burgers at “In and Out” and the slightly spicy burritos at Chipotle. But he hated his alias “**Tatang Raffy**” jokingly bestowed on him by two random California Filipinos.

Even after his passing, Raffy continues to be an inspiring presence in the lives of his family. His family keeps in their hearts Raffy’s adage that “*Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.*”



Raffy Vilches dressed in white ducks (3rd from left, 2nd to the last row) shown in a 1996 photo with his fellow Military Attaches posted in Beijing, PRC.

Raffy was the Philippines’ 1st Military Attache to the Peoples’ Republic of China following the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1995.

Giving Back to Loakan...Where His Military Career Was Born

Mistah Willie “Meji” Mejia migrated to the US in 1987 following his optional retirement from the Philippine Navy. He considers himself and wife, the former Lennie Medina, and their three children truly blessed in their quest for a better life in the proverbial “*land of milk and honey.*” He manages a non-profit foundation, the Loakan Charity Foundation Incorporated (LCFI), raising funds to support college expenses of academically qualified but financially challenged graduates of the Baguio City National High School Fort del Pilar Annex.

Started in 1999 as an investment group of cavaliers and former cadets desirous to learn the basics of investing, LCFI, still known today by its more popular monicker DJLF (for Dumb John Loakan Fund), has attracted around 80 members in the US and Canada. Not long after its formation, the group decided to pool financial resources to grant college scholarships to qualified graduates of the Baguio City National High School annex in Fort del Pilar. The move was also a way of giving back to the “community” that started their military careers.

As the group in the US grew in number, Founder, Cav Winston Arpon, Class ‘64, had the brilliant idea of extending membership to Cavaliers and former cadets residing in the Philippines. That idea came into fruition with the creation of the DJLF Charity Philippines Incorporated or DCPI. In October 2018, a non-profit foundation was created to manage the funds that were now being funneled from DJLF to its scholars. Thus, LCFI was born.

As of February 2022, DJLF/DCPI/LCFI has a membership numbering around 120. It has raised sufficient funds to support 59 scholars of which 39 have graduated and are now gainfully employed. LCFI continues to raise funds as it tirelessly endeavors to support five additional scholars each year to a bright path of becoming productive members of their families and communities.



Willie Mejia (left), Chairman, LCFI and Cav Harold Ochoco, Class ‘81 (center), President, LCFI, presenting a check to Cav Winston Arpon ‘64, Founding Father of DJLF/DCPI, in support of the Loakan Scholars.



The above graphic is a snapshot depicting the success of DJLF/DCPI/LCFI in the 17 years of their combined existence from 2005 – 2022.





The AFP Under the Masigasig Watch

• CHRISTINE ABU DYCHIAO

I was a graduate student at the Asian Institute of Management when my father, General Efren L. Abu became the 35th Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This gave me a behind the scenes view of the challenges that a prestigious position could bring. Whereas many viewed the position as a glamorous culmination of a distinguished military career, I saw firsthand the heavy weight of responsibility that such a position actually brings.

The Masigasig Class of 1972 takes pride in having watched over the protection of the people and security of the State, producing **two (2) AFP Chiefs of Staff**: General **Efren L. Abu** from 3 November 2004 to 17 August 2005 and General **Generoso S. Senga** from 17 August 2005 to 22 July 2006. They both served with the Secretary of National Defense Avelino “Nonong” Cruz during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who was elected in May 2004.

General Situation

It was a unique time in both Philippine and AFP history. The period was characterized by political unrest in the aftermath of the 18-hour “Oakwood Mutiny” involving 320 AFP officers and men on 27 July 2003.

This was followed by the 2003 arrest of the sons of MGen. Carlos Garcia, then AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership at the San Francisco International Airport, California, USA for bringing and not declaring US\$100,000.00 in cash. Further investigation led to the arrest, filing of charges and prosecution of MGen. Garcia for plunder and perjury at the Sandiganbayan. Accusations of corruption involving top AFP generals arose.

MGen Garcia was tried by the AFP Special General Court Martial presided by then LtGen Emmanuel Teodosio. The trial is on record as the first for a star-rank officer in the Armed Forces. MGen. Garcia was charged with violations of two Articles of War, found guilty and sentenced to dishonorable dismissal, forfeiture of retirement benefits and two years of hard labor at military prison for each charge.

The alleged rigging of the May 2004 presidential election brought to the fore the Hello Garci and the Hyatt 10 Incident. The Hello Garci scandal and crisis began in June 2005 when an audio recording of a phone call conversation between President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was released to the public. The president was subsequently accused of election rigging. Three impeachment cases were filed against her in the Lower House of Congress but were eventually junked.

As protests went on, **seven Cabinet secretaries and three government agency heads announced their resignations.** What followed was a show of force between her supporters and those against her, which included influential groups. Calls for her to resign eventually fizzled out.

In 2006, several groups attempted to remove the President but failed. The President **declared a state of emergency on 24 February 2006** by virtue of Proclamation No. 1017 when an attempted coup was foiled. Prominent personalities from the political circles, the left and religious activists continued the protest actions. The standoff at the Marine Headquarters over the relief of the Commandant, who was linked to the destabilization plot was exploited by the opposition.

Throughout this period of political instability, the AFP leadership remained neutral in the purely political and constitutional resolution of the crises afflicting the Arroyo administration. The Armed Forces continued to perform its mission proactively against the threats to national security.

The years 2005 and 2006 were the last two of the Five-Year Internal Security Operation (ISO) Plan “Bantay Laya”. Primary efforts against the Communist Party of the Philippines/ New People’s Army/ National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF), Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Abu Sayaff Group (ASG) were aimed at reducing the armed components, dislocating the organizational and leadership capabilities, winning the mass support and disrupting fund generation.

The communist terrorist groups expansion effort was severely curtailed and their capability continued to decline. The agreement with the MILF on the cessation of hostilities reduced the number of armed engagements and was limited to mostly their breakaway groups. The GRP - MILF peace talks were quietly progressing. On the terrorist ASG, the unabated operations against them prevented more attacks against civilians. In Metro Manila, the AFP, in coordination with the Philippine National Police, maintained a high alert to avert political destabilization activities.

In fulfillment of the Philippines’ international commitments, the AFP sent troops to join the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Haiti, Liberia, Sudan, Ivory Coast, East Timor and Burundi.

The Impetus for AFP Reforms

Importantly, **internal reforms were vigorously pursued** to address the grievances in the military. The Oakwood mutiny and Carlos Garcia corruption scandal underscored the need for genuine and systemic reforms. **The Feliciano Commission Report** and the **Philippine Defense Reform Program** were the two documents used to jumpstart the transformation of the Armed Forces.

The Feliciano Commission, headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano, was created on 30 July 2003 to investigate and “evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding the rebellion, its roots and provocations that inspired it.” Members of the Commission included Minerva P.G. Reyes, Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, SJ, Dr. Carolina G. Hernandez, Commodore Rex C. Robles, and Captain Roland A. Narciso.

The Commission Report pinpointed the AFP’s procurement system and the finance and budget systems as a major source of malpractice and corruption. It recommended the following:

1. *Simplify AFP procurement procedure to reduce incentive for conversion.*
2. *Control commanders’ discretion on centrally managed fund*
3. *Reduce the amount of CMF in GHQ and major services HQs.*
4. *Strictly implement control measures over supplies.*
5. *Set tenure limits for finance and logistics related positions.*
6. *Establish autonomous Internal Affairs Office to address grievances of AFP personnel.*

Consequently major policy changes were initiated that led to the following:

1. The **Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership was dissolved.** Four separate offices were created which emphasized



Gen. Efren Abu and Gen. Generoso Senga

the system of check and balance. These are (a) Resource and Management Office which is in charge of planning, programming and budgeting; (b) Management and Fiscal Office which executes the authorized and programmed budget (c) Accounting Services which is responsible for records of transaction and (d) Office of Internal Auditor which performs inspections and monitors compliance.

2. **All funds intended for the major services were devolved.** Centrally managed funds constituting a certain percentage of the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) of the Major Services were returned. Likewise, O1 funds or salaries of personnel from the major services assigned to General Headquarters were also returned to the major services. The management of CAFGU, MNLF and CPLA funds was transferred to the Philippine Army.

3. **The AFP Logistics Command was also abolished.** Its functions were absorbed by different major services logistics units.

4. **The AFP Procurement Service was organized with four procurement centers** (one each in GHQ and the three major services), 28 contracting offices and five Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariats. Each unit/office of the AFP is required to prepare an Annual Procurement Plan (APP) which will be the basis for request of funds in respect of any purchase.

5. Cash advance system was widely used in tandem with APP.

6. A significant decision during the term of CSAFP Senga was the **establishment of the AFP Pension Gratuity Management Center (PGMC) as a separate unit.** This addressed the pension processing system which was problematic and was the subject of numerous complaints such as slow processing, presence of bogus names in the pensioners' list etc.

The Philippine Defense Reform Program (PDR)

Under **SND Avelino "Nonong" Cruz**, the PDR was started in 2004 as a strategic approach to creating a more capable Armed Forces. It was a partnership with the US Defense establishment with focus on force planning and resource management. The program ran for 18 years but was terminated in 2016 and replaced with a new program.

The first six years of the program was to be implemented in three phases.

Phase I from 2005-2006 aimed to create an environment for reform. Areas for reform were identified and policy direction was set. The Chief of Staff and the Commanding Generals of the PA, PN, and the PAF were deeply involved.

Phase II from 2007-2008, aimed to enable the defense department to implement reforms. This involved short and medium projects and an aim to undertake "quick wins." The recommendations

of the Feliciano Commission were also implemented. Hence, Phase I and II overlapped with some "quick wins" accomplished particularly in financial and logistics management as well as in the country's premiere military institution.

Phase III aimed to implement and institutionalize the reforms.

In July 2004, LtGen **Cris Balaoing** succeeded LtGen **Ed Adan** as Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. He launched the PMA Transformation Roadmap by partnering with the Institute for Solidarity of Asia (ISA) chaired by Dr. Jesus Estanislao PhD. He sustained the bold reforms initiated by his predecessor that addressed the

three "nemesis of the PMA": bullying, dishonor, and mediocrity.

Editor's Postscript

It was during **Gene Senga's** term as CSAFP that the Southern Command AFP, which covers the Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago was **divided into two commands: Eastern Mindanao Command** to operate against the CPP/NPA/NDF threat in the north eastern provinces while Western **Mindanao Command** will operate against the MILF and the terrorist groups in the west including Central Mindanao.

The necessity to change the outdated National Defense Act was again vigorously revived and discussed during the term of CSAFP **Gen Gene Senga** and **SND Nonong Cruz** in 2005. Once more, **the imperative to set longer and fixed terms of office for the CSAFP and Major Service Commanders** were proposed to Congress.

(In February 2012, a joint resolution approved by the two houses of Congress endorsing a similar bill was vetoed by Pres. Benigno Aquino III. Unfortunately, to this day, similar bills establishing a fixed tenure for top positions in the AFP have not been enacted into law despite their clear advantages to the nation.)

The stability of the AFP leadership headed by **Gen Gene Senga** was again tested in Feb 2006, when a group of disgruntled senior officers tried but failed to persuade the CSAFP to withdraw the AFP's support to the President.

The effort of some political groups to exploit the **26 February "Marine standoff"** that followed this episode was likewise effectively neutralized by the combined effort of the major services under the direction of the AFP leadership.

Court martial proceedings and other disciplinary measures were undertaken against the offenders. This decision had proven to be a strong deterrent against similar intolerable conduct in the military.

"Old Soldiers Never Die - They Just Fade Away"

While we do not know the complete picture of the results of the Philippine Defense Reform and the overall state of affairs in the military today, as both gentlemen settled quietly into private life after diplomatic stints post-retirement, from my perspective, the AFP today has come a long way. Whereas it was tainted then, it is now a revered institution, its members respected and appreciated by the public.

I would like to think that over 15 years later, many of the reforms enforced by their generation of leaders and built upon by the succeeding leadership have all contributed to building a truly capable institution, remaining steadfast, uncompromising and apolitical in its service to the people and the Constitution.



From COUNTERINSURGENCY to Credible Deterrence

• CAV EDILBERTO P ADAN '72

These four vignettes describe some of the author's major experiences and reflections during his career in the Army and as a defense diplomat.

I. The Philippine Military Academy: Transforming a Culture

"The Commander is responsible for what his unit does or fails to do."

The outcry from the death of Cadet Alvin Dormitorio in September 2019 due to hazing led to the relief of the PMA Superintendent and the replacement of the Commandant of Cadets following the principle of command responsibility. This principle was also invoked when the PMA Superintendent was relieved in December 1970, after the PMA armory was raided by a band of New Peoples' Army rebels.

The eradication of maltreatment or hazing in the Cadet Corps was a top priority after I was appointed Superintendent in April 2002. I presented a book "Turning the Corner" which listed the top ills affecting the Academy as bullying (maltreatment), dishonour, and academic mediocrity. The Chairman of the PMA Development Fund (PDFI) threatened to withhold support to PMA if I could not stop the maltreatment of fourthclass cadets.

The PMA Alumni have diverse and opposing views on the subject. Close supervision, reorientation and the threat of dismissal for violators failed to stop the malpractice for decades. Measures that worked before to stop the malpractice were routinely discontinued at the behest of some alumni who perceive that the cadets are getting "soft". New PMA authorities would engage in experiments that ignored lessons already learned from the past.

A study of foreign military academies including the US Military Academy in West Point, Sandhurst in the UK, the Royal Military College Duntroon, Australia and the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) revealed that the brutal practices that similarly plagued these academies were drastically reduced, if not totally eliminated, when bold measures were mandated and imposed by authorities higher than the Academy Superintendent.

These academies practice the segregation of the new cadets in the cadet barracks from those of the senior cadets; they live in a separate floor or building. When we adopted this practice in 2003 hazing cases plunged down to zero and Class 2006 became the biggest class with 324 graduates.

My successor and a PMA classmate, LtGen Cristolito Balaoing, continued all the positive strategies and initiated the development of the PMA Roadmap which became the blueprint of the Academy's development for the years ahead. He also rationalized the implementation of the Cadet Honor System which was then being applied with varying interpretations that led to dozens of cadets being dismissed without recourse from the Academy. LtGen Balaoing established a remediation process, a practice adopted in leading foreign academies, that under certain circumstances gave a cadet accused of an honor violation an opportunity to prove that he can reform himself.

Fast forward to 2019, VAdm Alan Cusi was appointed Superintendent in the aftermath of Cadet Dormitorio's death. He unravelled some more malpractices such as "buhayan" among the cadets wherein lowerclassmen were supposed, or worse expected, to cover up for the violations of their upperclassmen. These led to numerous honor violations including lying.

SND Delfin Lorenzana approved the recommendations of a PMA Study Committee mandating that the barracks of the fourthclassmen shall henceforth be segregated from those of the upper class cadets. Freshmen cadets were empowered to refuse and report illegal, immoral or unauthorized acts and orders of fellow cadets.

The assertion of the power and authority of the Superintendent over all the training systems which include the Honor System previously claimed as "solely owned and managed" by the Cadet Corps was a step in the right direction.

The institutionalization of policies thru DND promulgations will contribute to the stability of training practices in the Academy which were often changed due to the short tenure of assignment of the Superintendent, another issue that must be addressed.

II. Public Information and Civil-Military Operations

"Ten newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets". Napoleon Bonaparte

Four major security events during my service as AFP Spokesman and concurrent CG, CRSAFP marred the Philippines in 2001 and shifted international attention to the unstable security conditions and extent of terrorist activities on its soil: **the May 1 2001 storming of Malacanang** by the followers of former President Joseph Estrada; **the Abduction of 20 tourists on May 27, 2001** from Dos Palmas resort in Palawan by the Abu Sabaya Group from Sulu; **the November 2001 attack by 200 followers of MNLF leader Nur Misuari** of Brgy Kabatangan in Zamboanga City; and the **September 11 attack of the World Trade Center in New York City**, that underlined Mindanao as a sanctuary used by Al Qaeda-linked terrorists.

Two weeks after my designation as AFP Spokesman, **the May 2001 mass demonstration and "siege" of Malacanang ("EDSA III")** by pro-Estrada followers made me realize the awesome power of media in influencing the behaviour of people. When Mr. Joe Taruc of DZRH phoned in and asked what the AFP will do if the demonstrators breached the walls of Malacanang and threaten the President and officials, I reflexively replied, "Then the soldiers will have to do what they are trained to do, defend. Blood will flow." Joe Taruc asked, "You mean the soldiers will fire at the civilian attackers?" I said "Absolutely, that is their duty, to protect the Head of State."

Weeks later National Security Adviser Roilo Golez shook my hand and said that when they heard those words over the radio while huddled in the Malacanang war room, they were jubilant and felt assured. DZRH had eight million listeners at that time.

The Palawan hostage-taking in May 27, 2001 of 20 tourists including three US citizens and missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham began a 13-months' long captivity that brought many foreign journalists to Manila. Concurrently serving as CG CRSAFP and AFP Spokesman, my twin jobs required a distinction of roles; as a factual reporter and as a psyops-information operator. Almost nightly interviews by local television and foreign media such as Fox news and BBC World were normal. Seasoned TV talk show host Gene Orejana would repeatedly ask the same question expecting me to blurt his expected answer. I adhered to one rule: my audience is the general public and the host is just a medium. "Ang mapikon ay talo; walang personalan."

Justifying why the US Forces would be sending 2,000 troops to Mindanao in December 2001 to fight the jihadist terrorists delved in



As Army Brigade Comdr during the 1995 AFP Joint Exercise Pawikan in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.



LtCol Ed Adan, CO 28IB receiving the Best Battalion of the 4ID pennant in 1987.

serious political and legal issues. Many Filipinos viewed US military presence as a violation of the Constitution. This issue was resolved when the US forces' mission was clarified to "advising, training and supporting AFP combat operations" and not direct combat with the terrorists; the troops will be rotated and not stationed permanently.

The CRSAFP was able to "unmask" Abu Sabaya who always wore dark glasses and a black scarf over his forehead to conceal his face. A video of his wedding in Sulu was recovered by CRSAFP operatives that showed his real face and balding head. "Wanted" posters forced him to limit his movements. He was killed a year later in Sibuco Bay, Zamboanga Del Norte by an elite PN Task Force aided by US tracking technology.

III. Combat and Intelligence Operations

The Army Platoon that saved the Lanao del Sur PC Provincial Headquarters from being overrun

Arguably, the May-October 2017 Battle of Marawi against ISIL and jihadist militants was the most intense joint operations that the AFP had ever conducted. The Government suffered 168 killed and 1400+ wounded while more than 900 militants were killed.

But it was not the first rebel occupation of Marawi. The first one occurred exactly 30 days after Martial Law was declared on **October 21, 1972 when 400 rebels from the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM) attacked, signalling the opening salvo of the Muslim rebellion in Mindanao.**

A platoon reinforcement from the 26IB, 4ID led by 2Lt Edilberto Adan infiltrated that night from Kapatagan Lanao Del Norte and fought alongside the Philippine Constabulary soldiers in defending the Lanao Del Sur Provincial Constabulary headquarters in Camp Amai Pakpak, the only government compound not yet captured by the rebels. The 26IB platoon repelled the main attack which came after midnight of Oct 22, firing rounds from its 106mm Recoilless Rifle. The defenders held the camp until more PC and Philippine Marine reinforcements arrived in the succeeding days together with then PC Chief BGen Fidel V. Ramos. Hundreds of students trapped inside the Mindanao State University campus were freed.

The Fortune of Having the Best Intelligence Officer.

It was in July 1998 when 1st Inf Division Comdr BGen Diomedio



Usec. Ed Adan of the PCVF viewing a US UAV in Jolo, Sulu. 2011.

Villanueva ordered me, as CO of the 101st BDE to capture the Public Enemy No. 1 of Zamboanga Del Sur province, Odie Saga, an MILF operative engaged in kidnapping for ransom and extortion of locals and foreigners. He was captured twice before and managed to escape twice from jail. He gave me until December, or five months, as my deadline.

By October, Saga was killed in a night raid of his mountain hideout by troops led by the Brigade Intel Officer, Captain Jed Motus. He had a photographic memory and the special ability to motivate and recruit informants from the most remote villages of the Brigade AOR.

Deadliest Bombing in Mindanao; No Anti-Terrorism Law. The bombing of the ferry Our Lady of Mediatrix on February 25, 2000 while docking at Ozamiz port from Kolambugan in Lanao Del Norte was the single deadliest bombing attack in Mindanao: 45 civilians were killed and 100 more were wounded. Intelligence concluded that the attack was undertaken by the MILF 103rd Base Command under Comdr. Bravo which was based in Lanao del Norte, outside my AOR.

The Police categorized the bombing as the act of criminal extortionists and not MILF terrorists, which I insisted it was. No charges were filed against the MILF. At that time the Philippines did not have an anti-terror law. In 2020, after the passage of the Bangsa Moro Autonomy law, Abdullah Macapaar alias Comdr. Bravo joined government and became a member of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament.

Working with Allies in Mindanao: SOUTHCOM

In 2005, The US Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTF-P) with roughly 600 personnel was based in Camp Navarro, Zamboanga City with the mission to provide training, advising and support to the AFP Southern Command. Its Operational Detachments were embedded in the AFP tactical units throughout Mindanao.

Prohibited from engaging in direct combat operations, the JSOTF served as a force multiplier particularly in intelligence, air and sea mobility, and surveillance platforms. Numerous AFP casualties were evacuated by their all-weather aircraft with night flying capabilities.

On my retirement day in January 2006, JSOTF-P Commander Colonel James Linder shook my hand and said "Sir, I am going to give you the highest compliment an officer can give his commander." "What is that?" I asked. And he looked at me in the eyes and said, "Sir, I am willing to go to combat with you anywhere."

Six years later, while attending a seminar at the National Defense University in Fort McNair, Washington DC, he invited me to a dinner in a plush restaurant. He was already a Major General with TRADOC and had to fly in from North Carolina just for the occasion: **a celebration of the brotherhood of arms.**

IV. Defense Diplomacy and Sovereignty

Seven years as the Executive Director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (PCVF) exposed me to geopolitics and regional security. Seven decades of combating insurgency and terrorism had tilted the focus of the AFP towards internal security operations. The Duterte administration's "whole of nation" approach, mustering significant resources to defeat the CPP/NPA/NDF has gained significant ground.

The growing threat of China's coercive expansionism and illegal activities in the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone in violation of UNCLOS are recognized in the National Security Strategy of 2018. **The AFP must undergo a rapid transformation by embracing new technology, reorganizing, re-equipping and training for operations under modern warfare conditions. Strategic-level military education must be enhanced among senior military leaders. The AFP must leverage from the hard-earned lessons of the Marawi Battle of 2017.**

The PH government must adapt to the "gray-zone tactics" e.g. the use of militia vessels and cyber warfare that are employed against PH interests in the West Philippine Sea. It must guard against the "Three Warfares" of psychological, public opinion, and legal that targets the political leadership and the broad population.

In closing, while PH Defense officials have set as a goal the development of a credible deterrent posture, the government must also learn to thwart and prevail over the sophisticated form of political warfare waged against it.



MANAGING PANGASINAN PROVINCE AS GOVERNOR

• CAV AMADO T ESPINO JR ' 72



Under my leadership, we have set the blueprint of the province: the Vision - The Best Place to Invest, Work, Live and Raise a Family and the Mission: To Make Pangasinan Number One which are reflected on how the 10 major development thrusts of the provincial administration have stirred positive impacts into the lives of Pangasinenses in the 'Golden of Age of Pangasinan.'

10 Major Development Thrusts

1. Safe and Peaceful Neighbourhood
2. Quality and Affordable Healthcare
3. Adequate and High-Quality Education
4. Increased Agricultural Productivity
5. Better Jobs and Income Opportunities
6. Youth and Sports Development
7. Tourism Development and Investment Promotion
8. Affordable and Cozy Socialized Housing and other Social Services
9. Environment Protection and Rehabilitation, and Disaster Risk Management and Infrastructure Development
10. Development Administration and Fiscal Management

We collectively authored the 'golden era' of the province that saw the transformation of the decrepit and desolate Capitol Complex into a stunning architectural edifice regarded as 'the best Capitol in the Philippines.' Not only the building metamorphosed but also the mindset of provincial government employees has led into an efficient and well-motivated workforce.

Provincial Capitol's transformation were also seen in the 14 government hospitals and agricultural field stations situated in strategic locations in the province. The provincial government also boasts of a strengthened health care program, now a model in the country; and is leading a glowing tourism industry framework which catapulted the province as a premiere and top

tourist destination in Northern Philippines. In the golden age of the province, the massive socio-cultural re-awakening which complemented the natural and man-made tourism lures, became a statement of the culturally sensitive Pangasinenses, and a come-on for tourists, visitors, and investors.

The province of Pangasinan garnered numerous local governance awards conferred in the international, national and regional levels. These include the Seal of Good Local Governance from the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the International ISO Certification, and a plethora of governance and sectoral awards.

All these key features of the province's golden era may not have come to realization if not with the approval, toil and efforts, aspirations and drive of key players in local governance starting from Capitol workforce, local government units and the rest of bureaucracy, community sectors, down to households. Thus, a shared inspirational leadership from 2007 to 2016 have led into nurturing the development agenda made felt and observed in urban communities and in far flung villages in the province.

What I had started in the past nine years now serve as backbone of the aggressive and dynamic leadership of my son and namesake, Governor Amado I. Espino III, whose dedication most especially during these trying times due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been continuously felt by Pangasinenses.



Private Security Professionals as PNP Force Multipliers

• CAV ENRIQUE B GALANG '72



The Situation

There are now 421,399 licensed private security guards (SGs), supervised by 27,123 security officers and trained by 582 licensed training instructors, 341 training officers, and 315 training directors of 200 training schools. These numbers continue to increase considering that private security agencies are among the top employment agencies of the country.

These private security guards (SGs) are deployed in practically all types of establishments and businesses, both government and private. You can see them in corporate offices, resorts, subdivisions, condominium buildings, shopping malls, residential houses, groceries, construction sites, mining areas, power plants, seaports and airports among others. Name the enterprise anywhere in the country and for sure, you can see SGs deployed thereat.

The PNP can have 400,000 sources of information in its mission of crime prevention as well as in its anti-terrorism operations. What of the families and friends of these SGs that they can influence? Let us say that each SG has five family members and five close friends. This is an amazing addition of over 4,000,000! This is a huge potential force for the PNP!

Now, the big question is: Are these SGs knowledgeable about what to do as force multipliers? Does the PNP know how to effectively utilize them? How about their families and friends?

The Program of Instructions (POIs) of the SG training on their two (2) basic courses mandates: Pre-Licensing Course to qualify for a License to Exercise Security Professions (LESP) and a Refresher Course for the renewal of LESP's done every three years. In addition, SGs are required by clients to undergo special trainings to where they are to be deployed. These are Bank Security Course for bank deployment (conducted by the Bank Security Management Association Training Center), Mall Security for Mall deployment (conducted by the Mall Security Management Association), Aviation Security Course for airport deployment (mandated by our office for Transportation Security or OTS and PNP Aviation Security Group or AVSEGRP and required by the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization, Seaport Security Course for seaport deployment (mandated by the Marina Industry Authority or MARINA), and other specialized trainings.

The Problem: Inadequate Training

Surely, our SGs are required to receive specialized training. But the big question again is—are their training really done in accordance with the prescribed POIs?

In my 35 years of experience in the industry (18 years as consultant when I was still in the active PC/INP/PNP service and 17 years as President of a Security Agency, a Licensed Training Director of our Training Center, Security Consultant of several clients, and Chair of the PNP SOSIA Advisory Council for seven years), I have closely observed that most basic trainings of SGs (Pre-Licensing and Refresher Courses) are what we call “non-appearance,” meaning security trainees merely enrolled and paid their tuition fees and thereafter get their training certificates to qualify them to already obtain their LESP's. This malpractice seriously undermines their capability to perform their jobs.

In the Program of Instruction, no modules are included to at least orient them on how to become force multipliers of the PNP. This means that even those who had actual trainings do not know the mechanics in being PNP force multipliers. Our organization, the National Security Officers and Guards, Inc. (NAPSOG), where

I am the founding Chair, with my business partner, Mr. Buddy Robregado (President of Corporate Protection Services Philippines, Inc. or CORPS), a former SG, as the founding President, initiated a seminar for the PNP personnel in Regions 3, 4A and NCR re the possible mechanics/protocols on what the SGs can do as force multipliers and on how they can be utilized by the PNP. But that was way back in 2000 and most of those who attended the seminars are already retired now.

How to Implement the Concept

What must be done therefore? The following measures are highly recommended and can easily be implemented:

1. Inclusion of an appropriate module on being PNP force multipliers in the two basic training courses to be drafted by selected security practitioners and PNP SOSIA, thru the PNP SOSIA Advisory Council;
2. Inclusion of an appropriate module in each of the three career courses of the PNP officers and personnel (Basic, Advance and Officers' Senior Executive Course or OSEC for the Officers; Recruit Training, Junior leadership Course and Senior Leadership Course for the non-officers) so that every police officer will know how to effectively and efficiently utilize the SGs as their force multipliers;
3. Inclusion in the Licenses to Operate (LTO) of Private Security Agencies (PSAs) the requirement that the Agency's respective deployed SGs can be utilized as PNP multipliers.
4. Inclusion of an appropriate module for every Security Industry Regulations Seminar or SIRS, conducted for the operators and staff of PSAs for them to also know their duties and responsibilities regarding the same ; and
5. For the NAPOLCOM to issue an appropriate Resolution for the same to be implemented by the Chief, PNP in an appropriate order as the person-in-authority in the execution of the Private Security Agency Law (RA 5487 as amended).

Finally, the PNP, thru its Directorate for Operations (as the office of primary responsibility or OPR), the PNP Civil Security Group, the PNP Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agency (SOSIA), the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO), together with the Directorate for Intelligence, must issue an appropriate letter of instructions (LOIs) or similar issuance on the specific procedures that must be followed by all PNP units and PSAs so that the Private Security professionals can really become effective PNP force multipliers. This issuance must be regularly reviewed for revision because of changes in the situation and environment.

If all these things are done and implemented properly, there is no doubt that our peace and order and public safety will tremendously improve and make our beloved country a safe haven for investment, business, tourism and a place to live. Then also, the two questions previously asked are hereby answered in the affirmative.

(P/LTGEN ENRIQUE B GALANG JR (Ret), EDL, Ph.D. is the Founding President, National Association of Professional Security Officers and Guards, Inc. (NAPSOG) and currently the Vice President, Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR) and Chair, PCFR National Security Cluster).





The PCFR is now 36

• CAV ALEJANDRO T FLORES JR '72

2014 to advance national interest and foster friendly relations amongst countries. The Members who are former senior government officials and private sector leaders are clustered into four groups: Diplomatic, National Security, Academe, and Business.

Charting the Road Map Along the Vision of Graciano Lopez Jaena

Former DILG Secretary Rafael Alunan III succeeded Ambassador Jose Romero as Chairman while I was elected President on 3 April 2019. With the assistance of Council members and Development Academy of the Philippines specialists, I initiated the Strategic Planning process to chart the PCFR roadmap based on the vision of Graciano Lopez Jaena in 1895 enunciating the country's geostrategic importance in the region, decades ahead of ASEAN and more than a century earlier than the Indo-Pacific aggruppation. Jaena hoped that future leaders would be able to grasp the intrinsic value of the country, leverage its strategic geographical location, and make use of the nation's capacity and resources to overcome its despondency.

Internal Enabling, External Expectations, and Nation-building

The Council internalized the challenge and envisioned its future to be the pre-eminent foreign relations NGO by 2025. The council reinforced its internal capacity and broadened its insights into the country's multilateral and bilateral relations with neighbors, regional and global partners, and allies. It invited specialists to join the ranks of council experts to bolster its membership. It interacted and participated with stakeholders in projects to help in the task of nation-building.

In an anniversary celebration of the National Security Council and the intelligence community, President Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged the PCFR contribution and its collaboration with its government counterpart in the formulation of National Security and Policy. Of particular interest was the holistic and ideological perspectives crafted by Jesuit provincial Father Romeo Intengan.

Stakeholder Interaction

PCFR hosted forums for the general membership and stakeholders from affiliate organizations. Studies on comparative practices of selected countries to defeat terrorism revealed that our legal framework imposed unreasonable restrictions to law enforcers and virtually served as an invitation to extremist and terrorist organizations.

New mandate

During the General Membership Meeting and Elections last July 23, 2021, Secretary Rafael Alunan III and I were re-elected as Council Chairman and President, respectively. Among its trustees are former UP Pres. Alfredo Pascual, P/Gen Arturo Lomibao (Ret), LtGen Edilberto Adan (Ret) and former Ambassador Vidal Querol. Officers include P/LtGen Enrique Galang (Ret), and bar topnotcher Attorney Rogelio Quevedo.

Expansive View of National Interest

PCFR observed that due to the geographical separation of the Philippines, Filipinos tended to be unmindful of significant events overseas, hence the need to balance and elevate other national concerns into the realm of national priority. Consequently, clusters in Public Safety, Communications Studies, and National Priorities were created, guided by Council senior trustees to institutionalize its commitment to nation-building.

Meanwhile, the PCFR has tied-up with The Manila Times as a partner for its publication and communication needs.

Talks on National Concerns

In recent months, the PCFR has local and international webinars focusing on **Stability and Security in the South China Sea, Divergences and Convergences of Philippine National Interests** with that of its partners, **EU-Philippines Relations, The Existential Climate Change Threat, the Dearth of Foreign Direct Investments, and Overseas Foreign Workers Amidst the Pandemic**. Council speakers also participated in the RCEP-China Forum in Hunan, China, the National Maritime Forum in India, and in international scientific environmental advocacy fora in the US and Europe.

The most recent event was organized by Cluster Chair Enrique Galang on the **"Repercussions of the Now Taliban-Led Afghanistan"** where Cabinet Secretaries Delfin Lorenzana, Eduardo Año, and Hermogenes Esperon articulated their understanding on impact of developments in that country to the defense, public safety, and security of the Philippines. Secretary Lorenzana reassured everyone that the BARMM now helps address the historical concerns of the Moro peoples and that most former militant forces ignore the terrorist appeal of Taliban, and that the effective use of the holistic approach sustains security exchanges with allies and neighbors.

Synopsis

It is with pride that our humble efforts in organizing PCFR webinars have gained traction amongst international relations stakeholders and observers. We are challenged and emboldened by the continuing serendipity we find in passionately working together as pro bono volunteers.

Over the years, the PCFR endeavors to help serve our national interest, aware that national interests need to be defined and elaborated. Our citizens suffer from their perceived absence of Filipino identity due to their lack of knowledge of historical events and the sacrifices of their forebears. Partly due to the efforts of superpowers to influence the affairs of our country, some scholars opine that Philippine society has failed to develop a desirable culture.

Also, PCFR endeavors to make people more conscious of the competing interests that influence the elections in our country. This is timely as the country decides who to choose from among the slate of Presidential candidates. Expectedly, superpowers will try to influence the outcome of the elections, subtly or overtly.

PCFR believes that candidates need to demonstrate their understanding of international relations and articulate their stands on the various issues and concerns related to our country's position. A difficulty is that not too many voters consider international relations a major factor for their choice of candidate. To this reality PCFR perseveres... to help realize Graciano Lopez Jaena's vision.





Character Enhancement Program

A Socio-Spiritual Moral Recovery Program for the Government



• CAV ART C. ALABANZA '72

Founding Head, Order of St. Michael (2014-2021)

"Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in Character and Goodness." - Anne Frank

"In this period, in which we are living a 'piecemeal third world war,' you are called to foster in the military and in their families with the spiritual and ethical dimensions which may help them face the frequently excruciating difficulties and questions inherent in this particular service to homeland and to humanity."

- Pope Francis

My wife Carol, and I became Couples For Christ members in 1999 when I lost my job as an Airline Pilot in the 1998 Philippine Airlines' strike. As we matured spiritually, we were given ministries with increased responsibilities. But it was my military background that made me the appropriate choice to head the inactive CFC "Sword of Gideon" which I re-engineered in 2014 to become the Order of St. Michael: the planning, coordinating, partnering, and monitoring arm for Uniformed Personnel of the Couples for Christ Global Mission Foundation, Inc. (CFC).

It was in the same year that the Office of the Army Chief Chaplain Service (OACCS) was coincidentally searching for a stakeholder to craft a Character Development Program to form part of the Army Transformation Roadmap 2028 (ATR 2028) launched in 2010 with the objective of making the Philippine Army a "World Class Army" by 2028.

Four years after the 2010 launching of ATR 2028, the Philippine Army has not been quite successful in developing a functional Character Development Platform, much less having in place the mechanism to continually validate such a program and make the needed changes to eventually achieve the Army's Strategic Objectives as identified in the ATR 2028.

Sometime in February 2014, Army Chief Chaplain Fr. Andres Belleza and his Plans and Program Officer, Fr. Steve Penetrante, through a fellow CFC member, Cavalier Restituto Aguilar '78, invited me as the Founding and concurrent Head of the newly formed CFC Order of St. Michael (OSM) to develop a Character Development Program for the ATR 2028.

It was not an easy decision to accept this herculean task mainly because I was really alone in OSM with no members to support me. Thru countless sleepless nights and incessant prayers for God's help and guidance, I finally heard God's voice in a dream telling me, "This is My work." I then realized that this was God's calling, so I humbled and surrendered myself to Him that gave me the wisdom and courage to pursue His work.

In conceptualizing the Program, I drew inspiration from my military life starting with my cadetship in the Philippine Military Academy, through my short stint as a young lieutenant fighting the New People's Army in Isabela, thru my decision to take up two Master's Degrees from



Fr. Andy Belleza, PA Chief Chaplain, and Fr. Steve Penetrante with the Author, Cavalier Art Alabanza.

Dela Salle University and the University of the Philippines.

My life's rich mine of experiences was replete with adversities that continually tested my character at every challenging turn. My spiritual transformation from a proud and hot-tempered person to a loving husband and father and a considerate colleague and manager, in my mind made me the best person for this job.

I then asked myself, what quality would I like to have if I relived my past? My answer was simply a **Character founded on a strong relationship with and faith in God.** Hence, I



The author with wife, Carol Posadas Alabanza.

decided to create a Character Enhancement Program whose Vision is a "Righteous and God-Fearing Nation of Servant Leaders of Character Trusted and Loved by the People" and Mission to "Establish a sustainable platform for Faith-based Character Enhancement and Moral Transformation." The program objectives are "to strengthen the relationship of the participants with God" and "to develop in them a God-fearing and Righteous Character" so they can resist the temptations that can lead to corruption or abuse of authority.

With the guidance of the Philippine Military Ordinarate and my CFC Elders, I pro-actively decided to create an inclusive interfaith-based Character Enhancement Program (CEP) to accommodate all uniformed personnel regardless of religion or denomination. I named the program's first module consisting of 5 talks developed while I was participating in the PAL Interclub Golf Tournament, "Only for the Brave," from the name of my golf team.

Fr. Belleza enthusiastically approved it, recommended it to then Army Commanding General Lt. Gen Hernando Iriberry, who subsequently approved it to become the official Philippine Army Character Enhancement Program (PACEP). On April 3, 2014, Module 1, "Only for the Brave," was launched in the 5th Infantry Division, Gamu Isabela, and subsequently in the 9th Infantry Division in Bicol in the same year.

In 2015, other CFC members joined OSM to include newly retired PAF Vice Commander Cavalier Willy Ona '82 and his wife, Imee. Thus, we were able to form a small team that Fr. Andy Belleza employed to introduce the PACEP to various divisions of the Philippine Army nationwide. I planned to create seven modules with a Program Overview themed after the seven virtues in the Bible symbolized by the OSM logo's seven stars: *Courage, Temperance, Love, Justice, Faith, Hope, and Charity.* From 2014 to 2021, OSM developed and launched six modules as follows:

Module 1- "Only for the Brave," consists of five talks about the virtue of Courage: to say no to evil and to change for the better that help promote Nationalism.

Module 2- "Strength to Succeed," consists of four talks about the virtue of Temperance and how to achieve True Freedom, Self-Control, and Stewardship.

Module 3- “The Heart to Serve,” consists of four talks about the virtue of Love, complementing and strengthening the values acquired in Module 1.

Module 4- “Psychospiritual Emotional First Aid For Stress and Trauma,” a special module that consists of four talks developed during the Marawi War with the help of CFC brother, Dr. Leo Deux Dela Cruz, a psychologist and author of “Emotional First Aid Kit” to guide those suffering from stress, trauma and anxiety. This module is given to both military and civilian personnel in need of psycho spiritual processing and purposely for yearling cadets to stop the vicious cycle of hazing in the different Service Academies. It is designed to heal the emotional scars from trauma, hurts, and anxiety buried in one’s conscious, subconscious and unconscious mind hindering the recognition of red flags in their decision-making process.

Module 5- “Living a Life of Justice,” consists of four talks about the virtue of Justice, Fairness, and the Golden Rule.

Module 6- “Towards a Joyful Marital and Parental Relationship,” consists of five talks about the virtue of Hope to fulfill God’s design for marital companionship and intimacy and strong family and parental relationships.

Having excellent modules is a vast advantage, but equally important is the workforce of Seasoned Speakers, Moderators, Sharers, Technical Assistants, and Facilitators to deliver and give life to the various talks. Towards this end, the OSM Spearheads Training Program was developed to level up the public speaking skills of OSM workers to project themselves better as respectable Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Being mostly civilian trainers, they were oriented on military traditions, courtesy, punctuality, decorum, and uniform.

All of the more than 600 graduates of this Program, called “Spearheads,” exemplify their reach and depth in delivering God’s message with their **CORE VALUES of Humility, Discipline, Dedication, and Commitment.** Their **MOTTO** is: **“Pride destroys us, Humility empowers us.”** Particular emphasis has been given to the virtue of Humility because it is where wisdom and a strong relationship with God begin. **The OSM’s BATTLE CRY** is **“To God Be The Glory”** for Spearheads to always remember their sublime purpose to bring Honor and Glory to God.

Today, OSM has five divisions serving in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. With seven teams, OSM Mindanao is currently serving the bulk of the Uniformed Personnel stationed in Mindanao. CFC OSM gradually created the only full-blown multi-module Character Enhancement Program in the world as I have established while attending the Apostolat Militaire Internationale conventions in Santiago De Compostela Spain in 2015 and in Rome in 2017. This is an aggragation of Lay Christian Military Leaders worldwide.

The demand for OSM’s CEP is now snowballing nationwide as more and more office heads and leaders get wind of the CFC OSM’s Character Enhancement Program. Had it not been for the COVID Pandemic, OSM’S CEP should have been launched in Papua New Guinea in 2020. Moreover, while other similar programs from universities are paid, OSM’s services to include the talks, speakers, moderators, and facilitators are free following a simplified one-page “Letter of Co-Responsibility” for the Benefactor and OSM to agree on shared responsibilities to ensure the success of the Program.

OSM’s territories have grown rapidly from only one territory in 2014, to nationwide coverage serving all AFP BRANCHES OF SERVICE: Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, and Philippine Navy; AFP

ITEM NR	UNITS	CEP SUMMARY (Jan 1- Oct 31, 2021)						Nr of CEP	Nr of PAX
		LUZON		VISAYAS		MINDANAO			
		Nr of CEP	Nr of PAX	Nr of CEP	Nr of PAX	Nr of CEP	Nr of PAX		
1	PHILIPPINE ARMY	9	509	3	187	14	554	26	1210
2	PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE	15	1522	2	127	1	96	18	1745
3	PHILIPPINE NAVY	17	1912	-	-	2	41	19	1953
4	PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE	2	60	2	70	6	1201	10	1331
5	BUREAU OF CUSTOMS	2	86	-	-	-	-	2	86
6	AFP CYBER GROUP	2	87	-	-	-	-	2	87
7	BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENITENTIARY	3	190	1	98	3	560	7	848
8	PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY	2	668	-	-	-	-	2	668
9	NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSION	1	55	-	-	-	-	1	55
10	SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER					1	152	1	152
TOTAL		53	5,089	8	482	27	2,604	88	8,135

GROUPS/COMMANDS: AFP Cyber Group, AFPRESCOM, ARESKOM, NAVRESCOM, AFRC, AFP HEALTH SVS; GOVERNMENT BUREAU’S: NBI, BFP, BJMP, BOC, PNP, NAPOLCOM; SCHOOLS and ACADEMIES: PMA, PMMA, PMMA, NBI Academy, Samson College of Criminology, Lyceum Subic Bay. To date, about 90,000 Uniformed Personnel have gone thru the Program.

It is highly encouraging that since the NBI embraced OSM’S CEP, its personnel have never been involved in any scandal. It even won the Best Line Agency Award of the Department of Justice. The Bureau of Customs also adopted the OSM CEP recently with the prime objective of improving its image in our society.

Despite the pandemic, the Order of St. Michael continues to conduct its Character Enhancement Program nationwide via Zoom Webinar. For 2021, the table below shows how many Uniformed Personnel completed the program.

The impact of this Program on the lives of the participants and to the organizations they belong can be gleaned in the significant decline of Discipline, Law and Order Cases (DLO) among our uniformed personnel. It is for this reason that CFC OSM is yearly bestowed the Stakeholders’ Award by the AFP Chaplain Service and other chaplain services. Moreso, during plenary sharing, the participants highlighted how the Program touched their hearts to change for the better, especially in their relationships with God, family, and peers. After attending Module 1, a police officer, notorious for battering his wife and children, shared how he became a Quiapo Church devotee proving that God works in mysterious ways in renewing the lives of the participants.

Seven years of service in a rapidly growing territory that requires creativity and fresh ideas is quite draining for a 72-year-old man despite the invigorating energy of passionate workers serving with me. Just like Moses, I have to relinquish the leadership of OSM to a “Joshua” that I have mentored. Just like me, when I founded OSM, God will surely bless them with the knowledge and wisdom to cope with the demand and challenges of “His work.” In January 2021, I passed on the baton to Cavalier Willy Ona, PMA Class ‘82, and his wife Imee, OSM’s Training Director. Another Leader in the person of former PN Flag Officer in Command Cavalier Jess Millan, PMA CLASS ‘82, and his wife Sonia, who assumed the OSM’s Vice-Head and other dedicated OSM Leaders from the business and government sector that have undergone the OSM’s Spearhead Training Program, presently compose the deep bench of “Joshuas” to ensure the growth of OSM. We no longer have to just imagine how sound and bright the future of our country and perhaps the world would be when the workers and officers in governments are Righteous and God-fearing Leaders of Character. This Character Enhancement Program is the PMA “Masigasig” Class of ‘72 legacy to our country and the fulfillment of the Socio-Spiritual Moral Recovery Program of the Government, envisioned in our Constitution and the E.O. 319.





The Gentle TOUGH

(Profile of Mas Masigasigs)

• MAS ENCARNACION “EN” DE LOS REYES ALIÑO

A unique moniker, an exclusive club, or a title of honor of sorts? The name *Mas Masigasig* has a curious ring to it— whenever Masigasig address their wives with such accolade. As Shakespeare’s Juliet had mused, “What’s in a name?”. We unravel...

In the English language, *masigasig* means active, enthusiastic, diligent and keen. However, in the rich Filipino vocabulary, it translates extensively to *magaling, masipag, matalino, matiyaga, masugid, maliksi, matatag*, and yes, even *maganda*. With loving appreciation and in deference to their ladies, the men readily and wholeheartedly elevated them to a vantage point of honor—adding *Mas* (or ‘more’) to their mere *Masigasig*.

What a great tribute coming from accomplished officers, whose stars used to glisten on their shoulders, whose myriad medals and plaques of merit preserved through time now accentuate the walls of their homes. All bespeak of lengthy years of hard work, sacrifice, and perseverance—often in the line of fire and in the lonesome absence of loved ones. Past these now, they are left with indelible marks of excellence and distinction inscribed in their book of life for services rendered in the name of God, country, and fellowmen.

So why relinquish the *Mas* to their better halves? It could only emanate from a most profound and heartfelt realization that theirs was a different—and sometimes more grueling—battlefield to fight. Theirs were battles won not with a soldier’s artillery, but with a wife-mother’s army of inexpressible, indeterminate, and intangible weapons of invincible character traits and spiritual attributes. The *Mas Masigasigs’* field of battle, their conquests of different life challenges are their defining moments.

Some were uprooted from the comforts of their homes to be with their dearest husbands. Complete strangers to a new milieu, they had to contend with loneliness, disorientation, and disruption of their convenient lifestyle. But survivors that they are, they found themselves in no time at the center of their newfound circle of friends.

Others had to deny themselves of long-dreamed-of careers, finding fulfillment and reward in caring for their families. They prioritized raising children of good values and standing beside their husbands over advancing their own careers.

Some opened themselves to work, business opportunities, and public service—balancing work and life, trying to do it all. With no shortage of smarts and talents, *Mas Masigasigs* are

represented in every field—in the academe, in the medical world, the legal profession, in finance, communication, business and entrepreneurship, public service, technology, music, arts and design, community and church service, and other callings. Simple or grand, they put in the same enthusiasm and commitment in each endeavor to make a worthwhile difference.

To each her own; in hindsight, no choice was regrettable.

A few had to face the doctor’s pronouncement that they or their husbands were critically ill. They had to rise above human frailties to stand as formidable pillars of faith, hope, love, and strength, while enduring their own ailments or caring for a sick

loved one. Some have had to suffer the most inconsolable grief of losing a beloved spouse or child. Yet, as they are gentle in humility, their tough spirit is unbreakable, anchored on unwavering trust in God’s Plan. The widows carried on, with overwhelming selfless love for the brood left to their care. They resolutely guided their families to become God-centered persons of dignity and integrity. They fended for them the best they could, warding off the travails along the way. Some of them, *Mas Masigasig* exemplars, have gone ahead to claim their crown of glory. We pay them homage, and remember them with love and prayers.

By their wisdom, life’s crossroads are clearly lit. By their grit, toils are carried with patient endurance and

lighthearted acceptance. By their fortitude, adversities defy finitude. By their gentleness, the warmth of God’s love finds its way to the heart, uplifting the spirit in all its tenderness. And by their joy, life is celebrated in its fullness.

A happy lot, they are all at once the heart of their homes and the life of the party. They laugh and joke freely, sing their hearts out to Beatles albums and Christmas Carols, and dance swing or sweet slow. They make magic in the kitchen, and one even shares her culinary skills on social media.

No wonder Shakespeare enthused, “Those qualities... go to accomplish a perfect woman.”

They are personal and actual encounters with life’s realities; their shared stories inspire, teach, and remind us to appreciate the beauty in lives lived. Laugh and fall in love again; be moved to shed a tear— not sadly over their trials but joyously over their triumphs.

Delve into the core of *Mas Masigasig* hearts, the bottomless vessels of unconditional and battle-tested love for God and family. Learn about their journey as they crossed over from ***Trials to Triumphs***.

“By their wisdom, life’s crossroads are clearly lit. By their grit, toils are carried with patient endurance and lighthearted acceptance. By their fortitude, adversities defy finitude. By their gentleness, the warmth of God’s love finds its way to the heart, uplifting the spirit in all its tenderness. And by their joy, life is celebrated in its fullness.”



Trials and Triumphs

Snippets by Mas Masigasigs

Mas Olivia “Olive” Valdivia Olarte



It is said that a soldier marries his weapons first before marrying his wife. This I was able to accept early on in our marriage. Foregoing my career as a banker, I committed my time fully to my family, as my husband served the country. The traditional image of a woman is that of a full-time guardian of the home; but to help the family's finances, I tried selling Encyclopedia books on the side. My

children remained my top priority as I also ventured into a Restaurant and Bakeshop business. It was both fun and fulfilling, especially when our products were appreciated by our customers.

Coming from the City of Pines and setting foot in Mindanao, then the no-man's land in the 70's, gave me certain hardships. A stranger to the place with no relatives and friends around for moral support, made raising a family even harder. I just prayed to God for wisdom and strength to meet the daily challenges. After all, being with my own family was more than enough source of joy for me.

I also had scary experiences in this battle-stricken area. Whenever my husband was in the battlefield, I was left to take care of myself. My refuge was in my own foxhole inside the camp. My most terrifying memory was during the salvo fire of 150mm Howitzer towards the enemy lines by the Army in Fort Pikit, Cotabato. The earth shook!

On the other hand, I also had heartwarming moments when I would share food to captured enemies, out of mercy and compassion. Loving them is loving Christ. By His grace, I was able to survive every trial; and for that, I am grateful. I also realized that no success can compensate for failure in the home.

Mas Lourdes “Odette” Sungduan Bibit (+)

by Orchid Bibit Ocampo



Life was a roller coaster ride for our Mama Odette as Papa took on various assignments. It was a challenge with four children to raise, yet she never showed us that we were a handful. Mama only grew stronger as years went by. In the early 90's she had to deal with Papa's underground life, detention, and the whole Court and amnesty process. All these while her children attended school. Life was hard, but

she faced it head-on, carrying us through it. And then just when we thought the worst of it had passed, Papa fell ill.

Mama stayed lovingly beside him and cared for his every need for four years. She experienced heartaches, disappointments and helplessness, but she would just turn to fervent prayer. Her unwavering relationship with God was her greatest ally amidst all her tribulations.

During these trials, she created her own triumphs. With her true servant's heart, she became an active member of the parish and Legion of Mary. She shared her talents by teaching the senior citizens how to play the angklung and teaching music to children with disabilities. Weekly, she would volunteer her services to charitable institutions and would visit the nearby penitentiary. Mama had a big heart for everyone, never drawing attention to herself.

Even in her last moments, she was strong and gracious. Confined in the hospital for a week, without any visitors allowed, she would throw flying kisses during our video calls. She knew that we felt helpless not being able to care for her. In the ER, her messages were all about love and prayers. She was never scared.

In difficulties and successes, she remained simple, selfless and courageous. She would often say *“Always be reminded, Mama loves you!”* You are so loved back, Mama.

Mas Iluminada “Boots” Camagay Carag MD



Vic was introduced to me at the graduation hop of the Philippine Air Force Flying School in 1974. He would pop up unexpectedly in the next couple of years. Between these 'apparitions', I held on to the dream of living on base with babies, and on flying pay.

In 1976, I was offered a scholarship to the then Mecca of Anesthesia – Copenhagen, Denmark. At that time, I could not “conjure Vic's spirit” to tell him of my departure.

When I came back to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) as Consultant, I learned that my former trainee became my successor at the Anesthesia Department and in Vic's heart. *Taon—taon buntis. Napakasakit Kuya Eddie!* I just focused on an academic career in Anesthesia; and found fulfillment in being recognized as “Mother of Pediatric Anesthesia,” a Neuroanesthesia pillar and a pioneer in the separation of Siamese twins. This somehow desensitized my strained heart.

Another scholarship grant came from Stockholm, Sweden. This is where I met and married at age 45, a Swedish anthropologist and a nobleman. We lived there for some years and relocated to the Philippines, where we both pursued our academic careers. Sadly, he passed on six years ago. Another ordeal to overcome; but then soon, destiny became kinder.

I had received an email from Vic: “Hi Boots, kamusta ka na? Regards and God bless.” Sabi ko, *“Ano siya sineswertí?”* Six months later, another email, claiming he was disturbed. I responded with a short, “Just curious, why this interest after all these decades?”. This was answered by a verbal diarrhea letter. An exchange followed where I told him that I was not the same person of four decades ago. I told myself, *“Titigil na ito. Hindi naman ito tatawag sa akin. Ilocano ito at kuripot. Mahal ata ang telepono.”*. But he discovered Messenger — libre calls! Eventually, I was convinced to give it a try.

Vic: *“Pupunta ako sa February for our PMA Homecoming. I want to show you off to my classmates.”* Boots: *“Ano?! Kaladkarin mo ako sa Baguio at magka-connecting door tayo?! Hello! May standing naman ako sa society ano! No way, matuyo ka!”*. And that was how I got my marriage proposal!

We got married on February 12, 2017 at San Miguel Church. It was a week after I met Vic at the airport and touched him once again —after 42 long years!

Mas Milagros “Mila” Diamse Paguio



From being his drag in their hop to his senior year Kaydet Girl, our love affair flourished as to marry each other twice. The first was in a civil ceremony in August 1972; followed by a church wedding in January 1973. Thus, it is no wonder that Egay and I produced a record-breaking number of brood among the Masigasig Families—nine in all! The more, the merrier, indeed. However, it was also a big challenge.

Providing for their needs, especially for good education, did not come easy. We met these life's demands with enterprising efforts, industry and prayers.

We would attend Sunday masses and pray the Holy Rosary together as a family. We prioritized not only instilling in our children

spiritual values, but also moral uprightness and discipline. Their academic performances were closely monitored.

As a nurse, I had to let go of my dream of becoming a doctor. But none of my sacrifices turned futile. Our children are now all professionals and well-placed here and abroad. Humbled by God's blessings, I am filled with gratitude to God for helping us rear good and successful children. In two years we will celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary, and we look forward to being with our entire family (15 grandchildren included) in this grand reunion.

Mas Domnina “Nenette” Lastimoza Valles



May 2007 was a turning point in my life and for the whole family. The doctor's diagnosis on Bay's state of health appalled and confounded us — he was terminally ill with 18 months to live! Quickly assured by the belief that only God could determine one's number of days, I regained my composure. I lifted everything to Him. It was a nightmare for all of us that denial seemed easier than the acceptance of truth, especially for Bay.

Through incessant and fervent prayers, we eventually faced reality with oneness of mind and heart. It meant total surrender to His will; while we exhausted all means to afford him the best treatments in China and in the US. I thank God for His provisions that came through the generosity of good-hearted people.

For Bay and our family, we maintained a positive attitude, a happy disposition and lived normally in love as we strived to be an encouragement to one another. Miraculously, his healing came one day at a time, experiencing quality life for a good seven years!

With solid faith in God, we persisted in prayer. We looked after him with love and tenderness. Upon his death on September 26, 2013, we bade him goodbye with great sorrow as we had lost a great man in our lives; but with greater joy for his eternal peace in heaven.

I thank my children, relatives, friends in the renewal community and Mistahs for their unwavering prayers and moral support when Bay needed it most. And above all, to God to whom all glory belongs.

Mas Priscilla “Mely” Ignacio Espino



Our family has been in public service for decades now, but I never imagined myself holding an elective post. But in a change of heart; I ran for Mayor and became the first lady mayor of Bugallon, Pangasinan, at age 70. Eight months into my term, the Covid 19 Pandemic caught the world by surprise. With mutating variants, detrimental effects on both health and livelihood ensued. Judiciousness and effective

delivery of services and supply were incumbent upon me.

Gathering our limited resources, a systematic plan of action was drawn up and swiftly executed. Challenges range from shortage of daily needs for the marginalized to lack of provisions for indigent Covid patients. The challenge was to properly implement preventive measures to curb the spikes while mitigating the economic backlash.

We were able to pull off municipal-wide ayuda and delivered food packs to 26,000 families in 24 barangays. At the peak of Covid, we only had a 200-bedroom capacity in our Community Isolation Units; structures were converted to provide for 80 more. Those isolated for 14 days in our facilities were given full board meals and supplements to hasten recovery. With the Delta variant threat, ours was the only municipality that offered FREE antigen testing for returning residents and incoming visitors. Aggressive inoculation is being conducted. Our economic activities have resumed and a semblance of normalcy is getting into place.

In our family life, I had to surmount a painful experience after the third attempt on my husband's life. Prayers, with courage and vigilance, have been my shield. God's plan is not man's, so we simply abide by it with full trust in Him. Having the heart of a mother, nurse, and public servant, establishing my priorities and putting everything in perspective has greatly influenced my actions in responding to any crisis.

Mas Adoracion “Marido” Pahati Ambrocio



Now that our four children have their own families, stable careers and separate homes, Orly and I have an empty nest. What now? My new challenge is to continue filling our home with love and to enjoy each moment. We decided to stay in Paombong, Bulacan instead of in Taguig. As we have adjusted ourselves to “probinsya life,” it has become a paradise to us.

We would wake up to the vendor's loud call of “Taha!” or to the “potpot” of the *pandesal* seller. And if we somehow sleep through that, we would surely roll out of bed once we hear, “Hapon! Bangus! Pangatin! Alimango!” They would sometimes even knock on your door as if there was a fire! You will be rewarded if you indulge them though, as *everything* is mouth-watering *fresh!*

I've always been a kitchen aficionado but living here has inspired me even more to cook regional cuisine: *Sinigang Sa Bayabas; Bangus or Palaka Sa Tuba; Pangat Na Ayungin; Crispy Baby Shrimps; mga kakanin*, among others. I have tweaked the old recipes to enhance the taste. My penchant for art is also evident in my food presentation. This made me realize that this culinary talent is a gift that should be shared; and there is no better time to start than during this pandemic.

I began posting my daily meal preparations in Facebook. The initial comments were very encouraging, “Delicious! Nice presentation! *Hindi nakakasawa!*”. Little did I know that I was also helping my FB friends here and abroad, including my new followers. Housewives who find daily menu planning tedious have made my FB posts their recipe and menu guide. Some have revived their cooking hobbies to deal with boredom. It is gratifying to make a difference in people's lives. The best part is that my husband and family became my instant fans. My FB Account: Marido Ambrocio (The one with I AM A CHSian)

Mas Elizabeth “Beth” Pagilagan Navarro MD



Perhaps one of the most challenging experiences we went through happened on July 16, 1990. That was the day our lives changed, the day the big earthquake hit Baguio, killing hundreds of people, toppling dozens of buildings, and cutting off electric, water, and communication lines. Cel unfortunately was in Manila for schooling and we had no means of communicating with him. We were on our own.

The kids and I set up camp in our van outside. We fell asleep that first night to the sound of sirens and a sky lit red by fires in the city. Baguio City looked like a war zone. On July 20, I spent my birthday out on the road cooking food to share with first responders and neighbors.

In an effort to reach Cel, I wrote a letter addressed to him which I gave to our driver with instructions to find anyone who would be willing to hand over the letter. He was lucky to come across a civilian helicopter piloted by a former air force officer. A few days later, the police station in Baguio received a call from Cel with a message that he would be coming to pick up the family as soon as the first C-130 makes its way to Baguio. After more than a week of uncertainty and sleeping outside, my hero arrived to evacuate the whole family. I

remember tears flowing down my face as soon as the plane's wheels touched down on Villamor Airbase. Our ordeal was over. Thank you God! We were okay. That day we decided as a family to move out of Baguio and start a new life in Manila.

Mas Arceli "Cely" Paguirigan Nobleza



In high school, I never thought that my closest academic rival would be my lifetime partner. It was impossible for me to beat him then in Algebra, Geometry and Physics, but I somehow managed to stay ahead of the class. After being wooed by him, love prevailed and straight away we became even. Then we got married and moved to far-flung areas in Mindanao with our eldest daughter, barely a year old. It was a setback in my career. But valuing a harmonious and happy married life, I chose to give up my professional dreams. We stayed in the safer place of Cagayan de Oro, while he was assigned in the war-torn areas of Iligan, Zamboanga and Basilan. This situation taught me how to be courageous and how to adjust to the military life. Through the years as a military wife, I also learned to stand on my own two feet as a dual parent— emotionally and financially (in the later years that I was able to work again) — without expectations.

More trying times ensued when he suffered a gunshot wound while serving as Battalion Commander; and subsequently, an accident in a V150 in the mountainous area of Kalinga as a Brigade Commander. Both instances distressed me, as I could not take care of him. It took a month later for me to safely fly and be by his side. My persistent prayers to the Lord everytime he would leave for a field assignment was to keep him alive and not to bring me a posthumous award.

By God's grace, we are now happily and thankfully spending our remaining years together, with our four children and two grandchildren, and awaiting more.

Mas Melba Avila Buenaventura MD



When Orly and I got married in March 1979, he was First Lieutenant and I was a second year military medical resident of V. Luna MC. He was assigned in Subic Base and our schedules were out of sync. When he was off duty, I would be on duty. We rarely had time together, more so when he was later assigned in Zamboanga. Communication through military lines was so difficult and frustrating.

After my residency in 1981, Orly left for schooling in the US Marine Base, Quantico VA. It was a chance of a lifetime, so I resigned from the military and followed him. It was joy and bliss being together at last!

But my being a housewife became a big challenge for me. I did not know how to cook, clean the house or iron his uniform with starch spray. It took a lot of patience and practice to learn and do things right. The process was long and tedious, but my weaknesses eventually became my skills.

Weekends were heaven as we drove to nearby states. But one winter day when we were going back to Washington DC, we were met by a snowstorm causing zero visibility that our car was almost crawling. Orly was cool and calm, while I was so scared. I prayed to God with a promise that if we survived, I would be the best military wife. I kept my word.

Our experiences in Quantico made us closer, and our marriage stronger. Something good comes out of adversities, if you give your best and ask for God's help.

Mas Carol Posadas Alabanza



After the 1986 EDSA Revolution, my husband Art suggested that I make a stuffed toy souvenir intended for PMA Cadets' girlfriends and loved ones. Since I finished fashion designing and dressmaking, and I had a souvenir shop as well in Fernando Air Base in Lipa, the idea instantly appealed to me. With a family of four growing children, and the meager salary of a junior military officer, I thought it would be a considerable boost to our finances to sustain the family needs.

Having been a *kaydet girl* before, I knew that a cuddly bear fully dressed in PMA uniform complete with trimmings and accessories would be an exciting novelty. Hence, creating the perfect sample was the first challenge I had to overcome. The next was to obtain the permission of the Tactics Group to offer the Cadet's Bear. Fortunately, we got a substantial number of orders! The next challenge was how to manufacture the ordered items. My two helpers and their relatives initially became my production crew. The last challenge to beat was the sourcing of the materials. With diligence and resourcefulness, I was able to find suppliers for everything I needed.

In time, I was confidently ready to deliver the finished products. The outcome was gratifying. The **Cadet Bear** became a hit in PMA- as a gift or souvenir for everyone from everywhere. I still make them now and the market has expanded to PNPA and even to West Point. The Cadet Bear for me is a symbol of both challenges and triumphs, as success does not come easy. But when it comes, you know that you did something right.

Mas Dulce Buenafe Bismonte MD



A personal relationship with God growing up, which my mother helped me nurture, prepared me for what was to come. My childhood and high school friend, and later my husband, Luis F. Bismonte, succumbed to an untimely death in 1985. No farewells, I was left stunned as a widow with five young children, ages three to nine. The pain was unfathomable.

All the more that I had to persevere through many hours of my medical studies and workload. Thank God for my mother, also widowed in her 30s, who took care of my children. She was my pillar of strength.

By God's miracle, I qualified for Residency Training at University of Toronto, after competing with about 2,000 medical graduates in Canada and worldwide, for just one spot. In Canada, it was extremely difficult juggling as a single Mom, a breadwinner and a student. But God's goodness is amazing! He blessed my career, enabling me to support my children. After 4½ years, I went from a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to a practicing doctor of Psychiatry in Toronto for two hospitals. After 10 years, I started doing private practice to this date with tapered clinic schedule.

In 2019, I became a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Looking back, it was tough but generously punctuated with blessings. My children are now all married and I have ten grandchildren as added blessings.

In thanksgiving to God, I have joined pilgrimages to Europe with the late Fr. Ferdinand Suarez, who became my very good friend. I have also been doing my little charity work for the indigents through medical missions in Mindoro, and Iriga in Bicol since 2005. I am grateful for the triumphs I have been blessed with. God's mercy is immeasurable.

Mas Lourdes “Lulu” Eugenio Pechuela



My world crumbled when Caloy died. I lost not only my beloved husband, but also my best friend and buddy. By the grace of God, and through the constant love and support of my family and friends, I was able to slowly but steadily climb out of the dark, cold pit of grief. It was then that I joined the Association of Pauline Cooperators (APC) of the Daughters of St. Paul as a pay-back offering to God. But lo and behold, it

was I who received blessings!

With His loving kindness, I was inspired and empowered by the tears, laughter and stories of the men and women I met in the course of my evangelization. It made my faith grow stronger, my compassion deeper and my respect for fellowmen enhanced.

The Covid pandemic did not only claim lives for many; it also disrupted their joy, sense of peace and security. It also halted our face-to-face Bible missions. Thanks to God’s gift of technology, I am able to continue writing and editing our newsletter to help spread the Word of God without leaving the safety of my home. Now more than ever, the power of the Word is needed all around the world; and I am humbled by the opportunity given to me to share in this blessed endeavor. I praise Him for this.

Trials, though part and parcel of life, could become one’s triumphs when one seeks and serves Him sincerely. I share from experience with gratitude.

Mas Yolanda “Lennie” Medina Mejia



Unlike most “true military wives” I left our country for greener pastures. Meiji stayed behind for two years to complete his 20 years of service in the Philippine Navy; while I went to New York with my two children and started a career. They were the most grueling years of our marriage —being apart, and having to make do with budgeted international calls which were short and limited. It turned to worse during the

People Power Revolution when communication lines were congested and I could not get an update on the situation on the cable. The phone in the apartment also seemed muted on the kitchen wall as I waited for it to ring, hoping it was Meji. Through the night, I desperately tried to connect to PN intelligence where he was then assigned. Finally, the much-awaited call came. He was alive! It was all that mattered to me. A year later, he joined us to become one family again. I felt triumphant for all of us after some sacrifices.

Happily settled, it was time to lend moral support to Mas Masigasigs who migrated abroad, be it as simple as touching base or catching up. Dulce, who was then based in Canada, was the first Mas Masigasig I would often talk to for hours on the phone and met up with when there was an opportunity. Other Mas Masigasigs whom I had a chance to have a personal and quality encounter or phone conversation with were Helen Viemes in New York and Daysin Quirante in California. We would boost our spirits by just having a good, healthy exchange; providing encouragement to one another in times of uncertainty and loneliness while we were away from our loved ones in the Philippines. We somehow felt like a small Masigasig family. Vic Carag and his wife, the late Ellen lived two hours away. We would see each other in PMAAA in Washington, DC and Northern Virginia. We were both involved in the formation and fund-raising for the Dumb John Loakan Foundation which offered scholarships to deserving students. When Ellen was sick with cancer, our friendship grew even stronger. Indeed, love of family and friends is one of the most valuable things in life.

Mas Corazon “Cora” Reyes Oliveros



Like most parents, trials and triumphs do not stop as we age. I think one of my biggest triumphs is that I have chosen to keep a simple yet joyful and healthy lifestyle. Alive and well by God’s grace, I am happy to still be productive in my work; and able to do what I enjoy most. Here in Hawaii, I relish certain freedoms—either walking my usual 4 to 5 miles, creating diamond paintings or doing puzzles after office hours. My

four children in Manila have their own families now, and I am blessed to have ten beautiful grandchildren.

Another triumph that I take pride in as a mother is having raised simple, kind and respectful children, who have passed on the same values to theirs. Though apart, we continue with our regular chats to laugh or even cry over a movie or series that we have recently binged on.

My biggest trials were the detention and demise of Olive. As he was detained for a political cause, they did not only take him away but also withheld his monthly pay from us. Another painful blow to the family was his sudden passing. Missing him dearly, we just keep alive the beautiful and loving memories he left in our hearts. In both difficult circumstances, God’s grace always found its way through the kindhearted people around us (you know who you are); and I am truly grateful.

These two episodes were my lowest moments in life. I just had to continue moving forward for my family. My strong faith in God and the people I love most keep me going through life’s trials and triumphs, always finding happiness wherever I may be.

Mas Cecilia “Ces” Gastardo Conaco



I never thought I’d marry a military man. Growing up in UP during the historic Dekada 70, one picked up certain perspectives and biases and a distrust of many things connected to government. But I met Omar across a soccer field in UP Diliman and, as they say, the rest is history... But as it turns out, marriage to a person in the service was no bed of roses. There was often the long-distance relationship (i.e., distant assignments, schooling abroad) and loneliness that had to be endured; the need to be both mother and father during those long absences; the trade-off between personal needs/professional ambition and full support of the other; the never-ending anxieties and worries the service entailed (think field operations, the EDSA revolution, the coup d’états); and many more.

After 20 years of that, he finally decided on early retirement. I was surprised but secretly happy that perhaps those long lonely nights would finally be coming to an end. The children were less enthused, wondering if Dad would now make them sleep early and regimentalize their lives. Indeed, it was another set of adjustments to the new presence as Omar moved into a different form of service in civilian life. But we were all grateful to have him home and finally enjoy family life together. It has been a life-long learning and building of character, as we strive to be ever mindful of service to the big community. There is little room for weakness, dependence, or defeatism. We learned the value and true meaning of community, underscored and fortified by the stories of the other strong women in the Masigasig family. These are also the values that my children have imbibed growing up and I am ever grateful as I see their strength and resilience and readiness to serve the community. Mission accomplished!

Mas Ma. Corazon “Cora” Arroyo de Vera



Starting a family, raising a child, running a household and engaging in classroom teaching and extra tutoring, I barely had time to get involved with Freddie’s assignments and responsibilities as a young officer, all from 1977 to 2003. Little by little did I realize how really challenging his 24/7 job was, always on the alert to answer the call of duty, way into the hush of night.

Fast forward to 2004 to 2006, the last two years into Freddie’s retirement: I became privy to the dynamics in a regional command. As a passive spectator, I was most impressed with the inauguration of at least 100 police stations in the four provinces of Region I. For other involvements, the feeling of ‘triumph’ sat alongside anxieties as to the risks of the operations and maneuvers, and the imminent danger to life and limb, such as the confiscation of illegal firearms, apprehension of the ‘most wanted’ of the province, various missions and disaster response, among others.

It was then that I decided to become proactive, taking several projects in the camp that were right up my alley— assisting the teacher in the camp’s day-care center; supporting construction and operation of one (which still stands today) in Camp Florendo in La Union; renovating the camp’s chapel; organizing religious activities such as Holy Week rites, a living Holy Rosary rally, and Simbang Gabi for the Officers and Men and Ladies; reviving the cooperatives for the EP and the NUPs; and setting up teams of officers’ ladies to compete for the annual sportsfest.

Now well into retirement, Freddie and I constantly thank the Lord for all His blessings, graces and mercies — as we look back with pride at these accomplishments of service where they mattered; and look ahead to our twilight years, with contentment and peace at how we mattered.

Mas Crisanta “Ressie” Feliciano Reyes



Domeng and I tied the knot in 1973, a year after he graduated from PMA. On various assignments in different parts of the country, and punctuated by studies abroad for promotion, he was away for the majority of his career and of our married life. In those years, he made up for his absence by regularly checking on us. He wanted to be updated on his family’s goings-on. Nevertheless, we would still miss him so much

and could only wish he was home. Yet, our children grew up with the utmost love, respect and appreciation of their Dad.

There were moments of great anxieties over his safety, as when he was assigned in Mindanao, particularly during the critical times of rampant kidnappings. Our communication with him ceased as a consequence. That came to pass with fervid hope and prayers.

He was an officer through and through. And the Masigasig Class of 1972 was a big and important part of Domeng’s life. Most of his closest and truest friends, through the ups and downs of their careers, were also his Mistahs. I also have found lasting friendships with the ladies that have grown even stronger as we age.

Retirement brought him back to us—happily all ours. Unfortunately, it was cut short by the dreaded C disease. Given four months to live, we could only rally behind him, expressing our love and support in every way and at every opportunity and providing him with the most effective pain management. It made him live a quality life for 4½ months, during which he would even make us laugh with his jokes until his last days.

Then, he was taken. He died joyful, wearing his White Duck for his appointment with the Creator. Our acceptance of his passing as God’s will eased our grief over our loss of a beloved spouse, father and grandpa.

Mas Lucille Blanco Flores



One of my first acts as a military wife was to resign from work at San Miguel Corporation to be with Babes in his various assignments. It was also for the sake of our would-be family.

Like many Mas Masigasigs, I eventually learned to be the school bus driver of my children, bringing them to school and to their many extracurricular activities; the doctor on-call when they were sick; the overworked mentor even up to their college years; the family counselor; the budget czar; the trouble shooter cum carpenter and the yaya with no days off. In the midst of all these, I tried to master myself to still be the sweet, loving, caring and dutiful wife that I ought to be.

The roles of wife, mother and grandmother continue to this day, with even greater challenges posed by the pandemic. But with confidence and faith in the Almighty, I remain steadfast in performing these duties. The Bible verse on “Love is patient and kind...” is something I always remind myself about.

When I see my children now having their own careers; driving their own cars (with me now comfortably at the backseat); tutoring their respective children; caring for their families like I did, I know in my heart that I made a good choice. What I gave up for myself, I gained back for my family. Sacrifices are indeed one’s stepping stones to triumphs.

Mas Teresita “Tess” Pascual Salvaña



It is perhaps trite, even repetitive, to hear about the wives of military men being left alone to make a home for the children, without a husband physically present as he is assigned to far-off regions. However, it is also true that despite the distance and physical separation, the loving marriage continues and is kept very much alive. Of course, personally, there were some moments of loneliness and apprehensions that inevitably set in, but serenity and prayers would quickly take hold of me, and I would pull myself back to the right perspective.

Marriage is a partnership, and as such, needs teamwork and synchronous efforts from both partners to make it work. Marriage is a blessing from God, and we would always keep this in our minds and hearts. When we exchanged our marriage vows, we made space for our Creator in our marriage.

Communication has always been key in our marriage— be it through courier message, a two-way radio, landline or cellular phone. It has kept our family life alive and inclusive. We responded to major crises and made major decisions as a family, no matter where Johnny was assigned. Trust, responsibility, communication, love, and of course, faith in God constituted our marriage. These elements come into play even more when living in loving relationship with a man engaged in the profession of arms.

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*All these are now part of meaningful bygones that have created the beautiful present. Having converted their trials to triumphs, the ladies’ hearts are simply brimming with gratefulness... owing it all to the Almighty’s unfailing and beneficent Divine Providence and to the inspiring love of family.*



# Grateful and Fired Up

## • MAS ENCARNACION “EN” DE LOS REYES ALIÑO

In the inexhaustible wellspring of God’s goodness, even gratitude is a gift of grace. It is akin to simplicity of heart, devoid of hubris and detached from inordinate materialism. Gratitude is listening to one’s heart, transcending extraneous human clutter. It sees beauty, truth, and grace. This sets ablaze the Mas Masigasigs’ spirit in the altruistic sense of giving.



### HUMANITARIAN

The elderly feeling young and loved with the Mas Masigasigs and Masigasigs in one of the outreach activities spearheaded by the Mas Masigasigs.

### SPIRITUAL

Spending quality time with God in annual Recollection; Thanksgiving Mass.



### PUBLIC SERVICE

Mas Mely Espino, Mayor of Bugallon, Pangasinan, after receiving 2019 Conferment of Good Government from DILG. Flanking her are sons Hon. Jumel Anthony Espino (L) & Hon. Amado Espino III (R), Representative, 2nd District and Governor.



### CULTURAL

Mas Beth Adan (L) and Mas Linda Berroya (R) in Beijing joining their husbands, PA CGSC Class Tour October 1997.



### ENVIRONMENTAL

Class '72 Mas Masigasigs and Masigasigs getting ready to plant mangrove seedlings on their adopted one hectare of land owned by the Municipality of Bani, Pangasinan, where Mistah Marcelo “Cel” Navarro was then Mayor.



### HEALTH

One of the yearly flu and pneumonia vaccinations for the class, facilitated and administered by Mas Masigasig Dr. Melba Buenaventura.



### FESTIVITIES

Fellowship get-togethers celebrating birthdays, Christmas, and other significant events, in thanksgiving to God. Mas Masigasig Ludy Vidar (standing), the perennial livewire and party host and organizer.

Life’s pitfalls are amazingly transformed into a windfall of blessings! So true with the Masigasigs’ mettle, in retrospect. The expedition may have been besieged by torrents, but the grace to withstand them came from their self-emptying to the Source of All Goodness— letting Him take over the helm. The powers of entrustment and love are edifying. It enables them to magnify the same, by reaching out and paying it forward.

Mas Masigasigs. Tough in spirit. Gentle in love. It is a title of honor.



# Finishing Strong... Marching to the Sunset



• CAV MARCELO E NAVARRO JR '72

*"The road is long with many a winding turn and lead us to who knows where? But I'm strong, strong enough to carry him. He ain't heavy, he's my brother!"*

The song above, sung by the Hollies, released in 1969, when we were "yearlings," catchily describes the true Masigasigs. We are more than brothers! Masigasigs are profoundly connected to one another.

As young cadets we dreamed; 50 years following, we are still dreaming. For a Masigasig, everyday is a new challenge unfolding; everyday is a fulfillment and a thanksgiving.

While in the Academy, we prepared ourselves to take responsibility, gain competence, and expand in character. From day one, Reception Day and Beast Barracks 1968, to Graduation Day and March Week 1972 and onwards, "**finishing strong**" was a daily grind. As plebes, we were not allowed to walk; we were always jogging and "**cutting corners**;" all the time we had to do "**square meals**" and while marching in formation, squared our ranks. Most importantly, we learned to "**take life**" to square away our problems and our troubles anytime they would appear.

Remember when we had our marathon run in the Academy, starting at Borromeo Field, and out of the PMA gate following the loop: Loakan road Military Cut Off road, Kennon road, Airport road, up Calvary Hill, pass Officer's Row, pass PMA Post Chapel, on to Melchor Hall, and back to our starting point at Borromeo Field .... nobody and nobody was walking to the finish line; rather everybody soldiered on ... sprinting to the finish at best, jogging at worst but never, ever walking. We always finished strong!

As junior officers in the armed services, we set our goals, planned our routes, and charted our courses. We eagerly welcomed our mission and our duty.

We came to blows in the fields of strife and battle; we embraced each moment with integrity of action and ready decision, performing our mission the best we can... each Masigasig, himself an army; each an agent of change; each making history happen; each devoted to his mission and faithful to his men.

The Navy unfurled their sails to catch the wind and went full tilt on the high seas; the Air Force spread their wings and took flight; the Army spearheaded the way; the PC was always outnumbered but never outfought; the Rangers blazed the trails and said: "Follow me"; the "few and the proud" countered, "Tell that to the Marines!" and shouted their battle cry! Oorah!!!

The communists and secessionist offensives raged! The AFP/PNP stood in their midst, The Masigasigs were in the thick of it all. We survived to tell our story. An inner voice kept reverberating in our hearts: "Stay alive and finish strong; survive Mr. You and help the Republic survive!!!"

And yes we survived and the Republic survived. We did our share of giving our "blood, sweat and tears"; we are proud of our struggle. We wear this fulfillment as a badge of honor on our breast and carry it at all times!

As cadets, then as officers in the Service and now as accomplished and fulfilled retirees, our steadfast resolve, the strength of our character and the capacity of our hearts had been and continue to be measured and tested.

After retirement, we carry on the Masigasig relevance to the present times. Our military career may have ended but our

legacies march on. We are consistently engaged and grounded: adding value, planting seeds, remaining competitive and through the years, bringing real time relevance to ourselves and to others by joining government institutions and holding leadership positions.

Masigasigs have become Ambassadors to other countries, Commissioners, Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Head Executive Assistants of government departments, bureaus and regulatory agencies. Some served as Chairmen of various Boards of Directors, Presidents and CEOs of government financial institutions.

One Masigasig is the President of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations and concurrent President and CEO of Haribon Foundation; one is the Executive Director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement; still one is a Flight Operations Safety Consultant and A320 Flight Simulator Instructor in the Aviation Industry. One served as Representative to the RP-CPP/NPA Peace Talks; one was Chief of a UN peace keeping mission in East Timor and one other was Chief of the National Anti-Terrorism Action Group.

A few threw their hats into the political arena and became Governors and Congressmen. One became a Municipal Mayor. Others are civic leaders, community organizers, public events organizers, leaders of neighborhood councils, senior organizations and other community organizations.

A handful had Doctoral degrees in various disciplines. One Mistah became Dean of a University; another Mistah put up a Technical/Vocational School; some are Resource Speakers on various national and international fora. Others founded religious organizations and communities; a few are expats, computer experts, presidents of security agencies, managers of golf and country clubs. One is an executive in the mining industry and one other is in the real estate and construction industry.

A fraction are gentlemen farmers, amateur golfers, gardeners, chefs, carpenters and handymen, drivers and messengers. At most, the Masigasigs are dotting grandfathers, loving fathers and "law-abiding" husbands!

By the way, every Masigasig is now a do-gooder.

Someone said somewhere, sometime: From what you get you make a living; what you give, however, makes a life; at the end of the day, it's not what you have or even what you have accomplished ... it's about who you have lifted up, who you've made better; it's about what you have given back."

From day one, we remained strong together. When we went out of the portals of the Academy as young dashing 2nd Lieutenants, we readily embraced our mission and our duty. Since then up to our retirement day, we have given of ourselves and we continue to give of ourselves to the service of others. We never stop giving.

Some Masigasigs paid with their blood. Today, 26 of our classmates have passed on; we are but a step behind them. We too would like to be "squeezed like a lemon" until we are empty and can give no more. This is the true Masigasig way ... arriving and finishing strong, giving the best of ourselves, enjoying the journey, and marching to the gates until the last man standing renders the last salute and the last taps is sung for a Masigasig.

Stay strong, stay relevant, have fun, take heart and finish strong!  
Till we meet again! Till we meet again!  
Cheers !!!





# PMA Class of 1992: The "TANGLAW-DIWA" @ 30



## Guiding Light Shining Through

• CAV BERNARD M BANAC '92

### All glory, praise and honor to God in the highest!

On February 16, 1992, 201 loyal sons of the Philippine Military Academy formed the long gray line across Borromeo Field in Fort del Pilar when then Commander-in-Chief, President Corazon C Aquino officiated the formal send-off of the newly-commissioned 2nd Lieutenants and Ensigns to their assigned branches of service.

That day marked the conclusion of four years of regimented cadetship in the Philippines' premiere military school, regarded as among Asia's most prestigious military training institutions.

"O'er land or deep blue sea" these young officers excelled in their chosen vocation to become leaders of men in the Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, civil government service, and the private sector.

Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992 is further joined by four (4) more 1992 Filipino graduates of the United States Military, Air Force, Naval, and Coast Guard Academies.

After 30 years, the members of Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992 proudly proclaim the glorious name of Philippine Military Academy as they troop back, both physically and virtually, to Fort del Pilar to host the annual homecoming of the PMA and report to the Alma Mater the highlights of the penultimate chapter of their careers in the uniformed services, the civil government service sector, and the business or private sector both here and abroad.

Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992 is proud to have so far produced 50 generals and flag officers now in the active service.

They are:

#### Philippine Air Force

1. BGen Joannis LB Dimaano
2. BGen Pedro S Francisco III
3. BGen Erick Q Escarcha
4. BGen Aristotle D Gonzalez

5. BGen Jeffrey M Vilela
6. BGen Pablo E Rustria Jr
7. BGen Bienvenido Casaclang

#### Philippine Army

1. BGen Rey B Alemania
2. BGen Aldwine I Almase
3. BGen Pedro C Balisi Jr
4. BGen George L Banzon
5. BGen Yegor P Barroquillo Jr
6. BGen Eugene C Boquio
7. BGen Freddie T Dela Cruz
8. BGen Jesus P Durante III
9. BGen Alvin V Flores
10. BGen Arvin R Lagamon
11. BGen Krishnamurti A Mortela
12. BGen Julius A Tomines
13. BGen Rommel B Almaria
14. BGen Adonis Ariel G Orio
15. BGen Jose Demar A Pauly
16. BGen Consolito P Yecla

#### Philippine Coast Guard

1. Vice Admiral Artemio M Abu
2. Vice Admiral Rolando Lazor N Punzalan Jr
2. Rear Admiral Christopher T Villacorte
3. Rear Admiral Juan Manuel DF Ramos Jr
4. Commodore Rudyard Somera
5. Commodore Ramon S Lopez
6. Commodore Joeven L Fabul
7. Commodore Teotimo R Borja Jr

#### Philippine Navy

1. Commodore Joe Anthony C Orbe
2. Commodore Mac Raul B Racacho

### Philippine National Police

1. PGen Matthew P Baccay
2. PGen Bernard M Banac
3. PGen Mafelino A Bazar
4. PGen Romeo M Caramat Jr
5. PGen Antonino R Cirujales
6. PGen Ulysses G Cruz
7. PGen Jonnel C Estomo
8. PGen Leo M Francisco
9. PGen Sidney S Hernia
10. PGen Ronald O Lee
11. PGen Steve B Ludan
12. PGen Jose Melencio C Nartatez
13. PGen Eric E Noble
14. PGen Mario A Reyes
15. PGen Westrimundo C Obinque
16. PGen Belli B Tamayo
17. PGen Sidney N Villaflor
18. PGen Ysmael Yu

As the Class celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we also remember our dearly departed mistahs. "Bells are rung and last taps is sung" in honor of departed Tanglaw-Diwa Cavaliers, whose meaningful deaths were meant to "let generations see our country free," namely:

1. Cav William P Abaya
2. Cav Roy Quintin S Alcudia Jr
3. Cav Ruben P Dangpilen
4. Cav Armando P Dasalla
5. Cav Romy R Dolojan
6. Cav Jorge T Francia
7. Cav Ronald P Lorenzo
8. Cav Rommel G Reyes
9. Cav Gabriel H Rosales
10. Cav Teodoro M Vega Jr.

The Academy is rightfully proud of Tanglaw-Diwa Cavaliers for the following notable lifetime achievements:

### PMAAAI Cavalier Awardees:

- 2003 - Cav Jesus P Durante III
- 2011 - Cav Leo M Francisco
- 2014 - Cav Rolando Lazor N Punzalan Jr
- 2017 - Cav Fermin M Carangan
- 2018 - Cav Eugene C Bogoio
- 2018 - Cav Jonnel C Estomo

### Metrobank Search for Country's Outstanding Police in Service (COPS) and The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) Awardees:

- 2008 - Cav Ronald O Lee - COPS
- 2009 - Cav Eric E Noble - COPS
- 2010 - Cav Leo M Francisco - COPS  
Cav Sidney N Villaflor - COPS
- 2011 - Cav Steve B Ludan - COPS
- 2012 - Cav Bernard M Banac - COPS  
Cav Antonio Z Francisco Jr - TOPS  
Cav Belli B Tamayo - COPS
- 2016 - Cav Eliglen F Villaflor - TOPS

### Lapulapu Award of Maritime Professionals (LAMP) Awardee:

- 2018 - Cav Rolando Lazor N Punzalan Jr

### 2020 CSC Dangal ng Bayan Awardees (Search for Outstanding Government Worker -NCR)

- Cav Ronald O Lee
- Cav Eliglen F Villaflor

Most notable among Tanglaw-Diwa Cavaliers now in the civil service sector is **Cav Joseph M Llopis** who had served in various capacity in the province of Cagayan from 2001 to 2018, as Mayor of the Municipality of Calayan, Provincial Board Member, and Provincial Administrator.

This long list of most inspiring personal achievements by Tanglaw Diwa Cavaliers holds true to the undying lines: *"May thy sons ever be men of integrity, courage and loyalty..."*





# Silver History and Her-story The PMA Legacy Class of 1997

• CAV WILFREDO BAYLON MANALANG III '97



This year marks 25 years of dedicated and faithful service of the Kalasag-Lahi Class of 1997 to the Filipino nation. Going back, our story started that fateful third Sunday of August 1992 when sixteen thousand nine hundred (16,900) applicants took the PMAEE written examination at various exam centers spread throughout the Archipelago. Out of the large turnout of applicants, eight hundred fifty-four (854) successfully passed the examination but only 300 candidates were recommended for cadetship after the stringent physical and medical exams at AFP Medical Center. Hence, on 1 April 1993, three hundred (300) wide-eyed young men and women trooped to the Borromeo Field armed only with our youthful exuberance and steeled determination to succeed and surpass the rigorous training inside the Academy. Fifty (50) other cadets who came from previous classes likewise joined us during

NCBn Beast Barracks. As we bid goodbye to our civilian life, our new status were greeted with the gnarly shouts and stern faces from our upperclassmen who received us during Reception Day. Some members of our Class had succumbed to the challenging Beast Barracks and left; but those who remained had visibly lost significant weight, with darkened skin color and each one of us had forgotten the “blissful sleep” concept.

Our Class is a very proud one being the first PMA Class where females were allowed to join the Academy. Then and now, our Class was the catalyst of the various changes, for the better, on gender relationship in the AFP and in the country. Out of the eight hundred fifty-four (854) total cadet applicants who passed the PMAEE, one hundred twenty-eight (128) were female candidates. From the total pool of female applicants, sixteen (16) female applicants were



finally chosen to undergo cadetship. Bonbon Nunag later joined our Class.

As Incorporation Day rolled in, we finally joined the ranks of the Cadet Corps and patiently waited for that simple bare skin handshake come Recognition Day that eventually took place on 17 September 1993. Academics were a brief respite from the demands of the upperclass in the barracks. We savored being “relaxed” in the presence of our “kind” instructors and most especially the absence of the Cows and Tigers! As a Plebe Class, we got to enjoy brief moments of relaxation such as our first FTX at La Union, Kings and Queens of Barracks/Poro Point Outing (remember that long, hot foot march by the railroad?), Barrio Fiesta celebration, our first 100<sup>th</sup> Nite Show (starring Vicky’s What’s Up), first AFP Day Parade/Beer Busting, Baguio Orientation Tour, Superintendent’s Reception and Christmas Caroling. Yearling year came, the year we started with our Host Parents Program and Silent Drill exhibition. Our performance were so proficient that our exhibitions reached the shores of Lingayen, Pangasinan during the 50<sup>th</sup> Lingayen Gulf Landing anniversary, Baguio Day at Burnham Park and the vault



files AFP Day at Camp Aguinaldo. It was also during our time as the “Tigers of the Corps” that we went down for our BOS Orientation Tour in two batches. Hence, some were able to validate their reasons in joining a particular BOS while others had a change of heart and opted to join a different BOS. The end of Yearling year marked the most crucial time to make a major decision on what BOS to choose. It is a decision that will have a great impact for the rest of our stay in the Academy as well as on our future career as Military Officers. Likewise, as Cows, we became unit commanders (Squad, Platoon, Company) during the NCBn with Chris Agbayani and Arnold Aquino as the two designated Battalion Commanders. Being part of the Tri-service curriculum offered in the Academy, half of our total strength were broken down as combined Navy-Air Force and Army batches that each took turns in the conduct of NCBn as initial leaders to the plebes. While one group was focused on the conduct of the NCBn, the other half underwent their Service Training. It was during this particular phase of our training that our unity and integrity as a Class was threatened; however, this afforded us a chance to show our unified strength through our (in)famous yet highly successful “Silent Protest.” During the academic period, because of the Tri-service curriculum, we were able to focus on our chosen Majors such as - Management, Computer Science and Engineering (Communications Eng’g, Civil Eng’g, Electrical Eng’g, Marine Eng’g and Aircraft Maintenance Eng’g). Effective November 1995, the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester for Class 1996 likewise took effect. As a consequence, our Class was suddenly delegated a major thrust to be primary leader of the Corps. Because of our early exposure as ruling class in the Corps, the conceptualization and production of the 100<sup>th</sup> Nite Show fell squarely on our shoulders while the ‘96 Firsties were away. Under our direction, majority of us participated as actors, singers, production and technical staff and even as utility members. No job was too large or insignificant when it came to our Class because everyone’s contribution mattered. The Show entitled, “Isang Paghahamon” was indeed a big challenge for our class during that time as we had the unusual experience of changing the whole script four days before D-Day. Kudos to the Miss Asya *Pansifit* contestants!

As Immaculates, we realized that it is harder to lead than to follow. But as always, our Class was up to the challenge. Chris Agbayani was the designated Cadet First Captain with Donald Landingin as Class President and David Hontiveros as Deputy Brigade Commander. When the time came that we have to undergo our BOS On-The-Job Training, we likewise delegated the leadership baton to the Secondclass cadets. The Army cadets had their Basic Airborne Course (BAC 77-96); the Midshipmen cadets their Navy Junior Officers Course; and the Air Force cadets with their Basic Air Force Officers Course. While the Army cadets subsisted on *Lumpiang Gulay* and *Melon Ice Candy*, the Air Force bugs’ constant companions were Mister and Mrs Donuts during their endless briefings and flight simulations. The Midshipmen, however, regularly tasted home cooked meals which were prepared by their designated foster parents and “sisters” in the ports they visited as well as with the various Receptions and Hops tendered in their honor. The 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1997 marked the end of our stay in the Academy. Thirteen (13) members of

our Class however, opted to stay longer to take up Masters in Statistics and Law as they were able to savor and enjoy the companionship of a certain “terror” instructor for a few weeks more. Sadly, as most PMA classes had also experience, our attrition rate as a Class peaked at 67%. In all, one hundred thirty-six (136) graduated although we were later joined by Eugene Cabusao (USMA), Arnold Gasalatan (JNDA) and Rey Gubantes (JNDA) who underwent foreign schooling.

Some of our indelible marks which we left in the Academy will always be our significant first such as:

- i. The first female graduates of PMA as punctuated by the Magnificent Seven (Aireen Somera, Arlene Orejana, Bonbon Nunag, Leah Lorenzo, Misha Andres, Sheryl Jane Uy and Vicky Blancaflor);
- ii. The first class to graduate with Baccalaureate degrees in Computer Science, Management and Engineering;
- iii. PMA’s first female Summa Cum Laude - Leah Lorenzo (at the time of our graduation she was one of three exceptional PMA graduates granted that Excellence award);
- iv. The first Sword Book Launching - the Class had its yearbook launching on 16 Dec 1997;
- v. The inaugural and regular publication of the Gray Knights Newsletter;
- vi. The first Inter-company Cadet Corps Dance Contest which was held courtesy of the Dialectic Society; and
- vii. It was also during our time that the 100<sup>th</sup> Nite Show was first performed at the AFP Theater and Museum courtesy of our underclass.

Other notable firsts: we also acted as distinguished Escorts to the candidates during the Miss Asia Pacific pageant held at the Baguio Convention Center; designated as PMAEE Cadet Proctors as a 2CL and as 1CL; some mistahs further established the following: Video Club by Michael Encarnacion, Socio-Humanistic Club by Wiliboie Manalang, Dance Society by RR Abendan, Golf Club by Chris Meniado, Mountain Bikers Club by Eric de Leon (members of this Club conquered the mountains of Mount Cabuyao and Sto Tomas), Combat Weapons Club (formerly the Arnis Club) again by Wil Manalang and Aikido Club by RR Abendan; our Class Goat, Joel Alviar, further added a Plebe Knowledge - a poem entitled, “What is Recognition Day?”; not to mention the Pangalatok version of “How’s My Combat Boots” and other witty interpretations by Chief “Reu” Reutotar; our Class also added the climactic song sung during every 100<sup>th</sup> Nite Show penned by Rhad Peña, Junie Agoncillo and Sonny Mariñas; Post-graduation contribution is Leah Santiago as the first female Officer designated as PMA’s STO.

Likewise, elected Class Presidents who had devoted their time and effort to direct and supervise our Class affairs are as follows: Donald Landingin, Rex Bolo, Jerome Santiago, Vicky Blancaflor, David Hontiveros, JJ Dator, Randy Bance, Bon Nunag-Castillo, Bong Manangan, and our current, Atty Chris Agbayani.

Members of our Class were significantly distributed to the different branches of service, as follows: 64 mistahs joined the Army, 36 in the Navy while 39 joined the Air Force. For those in the Navy, six joined the Marines while 29 joined the Navy Fleet. Likewise, Doods



Meniado is our lone guardian of our coast line representative. Out of the **64** Army bugs, **nineteen** had left the service for various reasons while **five** (Tony Pron, Patrick Baeza, JJ Apura, Ed Tadeo and Sonny Layugan) were promoted as heaven’s soldiers. Arlene Orejana eventually transferred to the Corps of Professors in 2002 but left the service in 2009. On the side of the Air Force, **eleven** are still active while **twenty-six** chose greener pastures wherein majority of them still continue to provide commercial air lines their expertise as public drivers (*ng Airbus Jet nga lang!*). Simon Fargas and our Class Valedictorian, Ephraim Suyom, transferred to our Creator’s Heavenly Airlines. The defenders of our seas lost Rainier Reutotar, **twenty-two** are still in the active service while **twelve** left for diverse ventures.

**For the Army updates**, forty *giyera con soldado* remains active, namely: BatComs - Noel Abello (1MIB), Archie Ares (1FAB), Vicky Blancaflor (2CAVBn), Elson Ballena (25IB), Willy Borgonia (35IB), Eugene Cabusao (3Mech), Charles Calucag (5MIB), JJ Dator (10MIB), Albert Flores (4MIB), Julius Librada (5MechBn), Willy Martin (2SRB), Japoc Palma (EODBn), JJ Pecson (8DCAU), Jason Saldua (29IB); Field Duty - Arnold Gasalatan (G7, IMCOM), Achilles dela Cruz (G7, 10ID), Junie Agoncillo (RIG/GSMO, FSRR), Ralph De Mesa (G7, 11ID), Gerald Monfort (G8, 11ID), Rex Bolo (ARESCOM), Jonas Templo (Dir, Protection Center, TRADOC), Ray Rosario (CS, 55Engr Bde); HPA Bugs – Leah Santiago (Ex-O, OG1), Cris Fernandez (Ex-O, OG8), Geof Carandang (Ex-O, OG10), Eugene Lague (ASCOM); GHQ/AFPWSSUs/UCs – Philip Fagel (DO, NTF ELCAC Secretariat), Don Templonuevo (U2, VISCOM), our resident Muscleman Wiliboie Manalang (U7 SOLCOM), Zanjoe San Juan (Cmdt, PSGTS/Head Instr, IKMF Phils for Military Trng), Totoy Pereña (OSSSM); MNSA Students - Bingbong Arbolado, Elmer Boongaling, Gel Gabi, Bong Manangan, Sonny Mariñas, Isagani Nato, Leon Onggao, Jun Pascual and Ray Tiongson. BIC (nineteen) - Antalan, Aquino A, Aspiras, Baltar, Buyuccan, Cruz R, Dagupon, Evangelista, Firme, Gay, Gemoto, Obillos, Oliveros, Ongue, Orejana-Trillanes, Patindol, Plaza, Salvador and Uy-Cabasan. Previously, the Army Group’s motto was “Hakuna Matata” given the jungle fighter mentality prevalent then; however given our social

preferences and marital bliss, it has now been amended to “Hakuna Maglaba, Mama. -Love, Japoc”.

**Mistahs from the Air Force** are literally flying high both in their Military and civilian careers. HPAF - Gubi Gubantes (Deputy A2), Dante Aquino (Deputy A8), and Melvin Banua (Deputy A10); Field/Base Duty - JB Gastardo (GC, 900<sup>th</sup> AF Weather Group), Oliver Banaria (GC, 950<sup>th</sup> CEISG), Ken Manglicmot (DO, TOWNOL), Rhad Peña (Chief, ASD / Acting Ex-O, AFPSEO), Jerome Santiago (Cmdt, PAFOCS, AETDC); Edward Cervantes (Air Defense Command); GHQ - Bonbon Nunag-Castillo (DSMA to USSAP, DND); Foreign Posting - Randy Bance (DAF Liaison Officer to the Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN); BIC (twenty-six) - Alviar, Austria; Calsado; Canamaque; Dela Cruz; De Leon; Encarnacion; Feria; Gardiola; Lindog; Okko; Padere; Picar; Solomon; Caoile; Tecson; Monoso; Yadao; Tolentino C; Macasaet; Taunan; Cromwell and Aireen Reyes; Gomez; Bugarin, and Villagarcia.

**The Navy and Marines** are praying for fair winds and sunny skies as they command battle ships sailing towards their Northern “Star”. HPN - Oliver Reforba (Flag Secretary, FOIC), Atty Ariel Halasan (Provost Marshall), Ariel Palisoc (Naval Adjutant), Greg Fabic (Director, NRTDC), Jim Razo (Commandant, Sailor Basic School), Marcus Bartolome (Commander, NCSC, NSSC), Dom Tulen (Supt, NOCS, NETDC), Remuel Jardinero (Supt, NEPSC, NETDC); Phil Fleet - Miljun Peñafiorida (F3), Misha Martinez (F5), Nerry Martinez (Director, Fleet Marine Warfare Center), and Peter Tolentino (Cmdr, NAVMETOC); Command-at-Sea/Staff Duty - Monching Ramon (U1, WESCOM), Elmer Toriado (WESCOM), Elmer Base (CO, PS16); GHQ boys - Mike Barrion (OJ10) and JJ Sumpay (OSSSM); Marines - Blad

Caluya (MC10, PMC), and Ronald Virtudazo (MC11, PMC), Neph Padua (U8 WESCOM), Ramil Densing (CS, AFP Logistics Support Command); Meniado (Commander, Coast Guard District, BARMM); Foreign Posting - Joel Bonavente (Schooling, Naval Post Graduate School); BIC (twelve) - Abendan, Alzate, Cruz N, Landingin, Obra, Quinto, Agbayani, Hontiveros, and SWAGmen Camino, Amindalan, Ancheta, and Galicia.

Based on the still increasing number of our dependents, it is safe to assume that our number also grows as time goes by. Some of us are even proud Gramps, Lolo, Gran’pa and Lola now. We have even produced better *tedaks* version of Porsmans Gabi, Nato, Palma, Reforba, and Onggao. However, let us not also forget during the celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> year, our departed Mistahs and especially our little angels and offer a little prayer for them: Jin Somera-Reyes, Jan Caleb Gemoto, Raymond and Raymark Rosario, Alan Andrew Orejana-Trillanes, Sheianna Louise Bolo and other loved ones.

As we celebrate our Silver Anniversary, we bring back the glory of where we have been, where we are now and where we will be. So, why is our story entitled “Silver History and Her-story?” The primary reason is that ours is a Legacy Class; thus, we will always be unique. We are forerunners and innovators. Our Class brought forth change. From this change, everything followed a natural course wherein men and women embraced the system from being a PMA cadet to being Officers of the AFP. The AFP and the nation is very much positively different with our Class’ presence than without; hence, we should always be proud of our legacy.

Happy Silver Anniversary! What a journey, mga mistah! Mabuhay ang PMA! Mabuhay ang Kalasag-Lahi 1997!





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

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

# CLASS CALL

**Erratum:** On page 66 of the Cavalier Magazine, October-December 2021 issue, the president and secretary of PMA Class of 2015 are Cavs STEVEN G TALI and SHINE L BERNARDEZ, respectively, NOT Cavs REYNALD JV BALANAY and NOEL SM MARZAN as stated. Our apology to PMA Classes 2003 and 2015.



Last 29 November 2021, the PMAAAI and PMA Retirees Association sponsored the Games of the Cavaliers (GOC) at the Villamor Airbase Golf Course followed by lunch at the PNGC Clubhouse. In attendance was our last of two active golfers, Patot Boy Paiso, retired PAF Vice Commander and long time PAL VP for Operations. Patot tried all means to convince Mel Goyena to join the tourney even promising that he could be recognized as the oldest participant golfer, but failed because Mel was COVID-scared of the lunchtime crowd. Patot was one of the oldest golfers in the GOC and thinking of posterity, donated four beautiful trophies now known as Class 56 Trophies of the following four categories in the tournament:

- OVERALL Champion- Best Team of 4 Players
- CHAMPION (Active) - Best Team of 4 Players

- CHAMPION (Retired) - Best Team of 4 Players
- YOUNG ONCE - Best Team of 2 (Beyond R + 20)

In his acceptance, MGen Romeo Poquiz, Chairman of the GOC Tournament Committee said: "On behalf of the GOC Tournament Committee, may I sincerely thank Cav Paiso and all the members of PMA 56 for their voluntary donation to the GOC. The Trophies must be something to look forward to in next year's GOC. FORE!". The class gives its kudos to our still snappy mistah- BGen Augustus C Paiso, who at 87 is still very much alive and kicking with only impaired hearing as his set back (please talk to him very loud and very clear).

On 9 December 2021, after an absence of more than two years of not seeing each other, the last five golfers of the class- Patot Paiso, Mon Farolan, Ching Corachea, Levy Malto and Mel Goyena- held their lunch pow wow at the Greenhills Kimpura Resto, with every boodo eager to tell stories that befell them during the COVID pandemic. Ching at 91, Levy at 90, Mel at 88 and Patot and Mon at 87 are all in good form, still boodled with gusto, and connived with one another like plebes avoiding the attention

of yearlings. After almost three hours of pow wow, the prime rib eye steak, prawns and oysters Teppanyaki lunch was more than enough to make every boodo drowsy. The group decided to meet monthly for lunch starting with Levy on January 2022 followed by Ching, Patot, Mon and Mel onwards. Romy David who signified his attendance with Tony Fernando failed to make it and remains unaccounted for. Perhaps still busy in search for the fountain of youth.

Some SELF-HELP TIPS for the class oldies and their wifeys and others, on :

1. Food Choking: Raise your hands above your head. The food stuck in your throat will go down by itself.
2. Neck Pain: If waking up with it, lift your feet and move it clockwise or counter clockwise.
3. Cramps: If on the left leg, raise your right hand high; if on the right leg, do it with the left hand.
4. Tingling Sensation : If in the left foot, swing your right arm as hard as you can. If on the right foot, do the same with your left arm.

(Its worth a try, no harm done)  
HAPPY NEW YEAR !!



Year 2022. A much-awaited year for the class. This year marks our 60th year after graduation from the PMA and commissionship as regular officers of the AFP. As excited as we are of being one

of the host classes for this year's alumni homecoming, we share no illusion of a grand affair for the class, what with the pandemic of COVID-19 still raging. But the class will commemorate this once in a life time event and continues to plan on making our diamond anniversary a memorable one.

The terrible news that has reached the class just a day after New Year was the untimely passing of Al Lumibao. Al had been spending much of his time in at Fort Del Pilar, Baguio with his daughter Dinna and her husband and PMA Superintendent Cavalier Ferdinand Cartujano. Dinna said

that Al spent New Year's eve as merrily as the others watching the PMA fireworks and enjoying their New Year's day celebration. But he was stricken on 2 January and never recovered. Her daughter related, too, that Al was eagerly awaiting our coming diamond jubilee; he was already preparing the attire that he will wear. But the good Lord had other plans for him. Now in His bosom, he is also happily reunited with Ching and their son Don Alfonso. Farewell Al.

Class '62 has gotten the silver and the gold. Now it has the diamond! Hooray! (JRR)





**GUILLERMO R RUIZ**  
President  
**RENE LEANDRO P EBRO**  
Secretary

*“Celebrations should not be limited to a particular occasion. Your whole life should become a celebration.” - Sadhguru*

**Cheers to a New You in the New Year:**

May everything always be aligned to work out for you in 2022.

We will always honor the path of the past and have the memories of yesterday while we are appreciating moments of today to continue moving for tomorrow.

**2021 Year End Log:**

The first week of December was sad for us when we learned the passing of George Aquino on 3 December 2021. He was a few months short of his 80th birthday.

On a happier note, the 57th Wedding Anniversary of Billy and Rose Enerio was held last 17 December 2021 at the Events Place -The Enerio Residence.

Something even more noteworthy to announce is the son of Oca and Marlo Canlas, MajGen Connor Anthony D Canlas Sr. PMA Makatao Class of 1989 is the incumbent CGPAF. Congratulations!

Here is a fun fact. Oca designed our class seal.

**Birthday Greetings for First Quarter 2022:**

Happy Birthday! Remember it's a freelage to age.

- denarian (10-19)
- vicenarian (20-29)
- tricenarian (30-39)
- quadragenarian (40-49)
- quincuagenarian (50-59)
- sexagenarian (60-69)
- septuagenarians (70-79)
- octogenarians (80-89)
- nonagenarian (90-99)
- centenarian (100-109)
- supercentenarian (beyond 110)

With the new number you embrace in the decade you place, may you age graciously with overflowing happiness, peace and abundance in all areas of your life.

**January:** 2 - Amy Calibuso, 11 - Luz Espejo, 16 - Pert Andaya, 18 - Roly Espejo, 19 - Lina Medina, 20 - Idelfonso Dulinayan, 27 - Ester Ong, and 28 - Offie Javier.

**February:** 3 - Lulu Orevillo, 3 - Ting Tigas, 7 - Lou Pizarro, 7 - Tony Sibayan, 10 - Gil Domondon, 10 - Bill Ruiz, 13 - Billy Enerio, 17 - Bumi Bumanglag, and 26 - George Aquino.

**March:** 9 - Ardy Abaya, 16 - Norma Sibayan, 19 - Joe Pineda, 19 - Rene Valencia, and 30 - Norma Ruiz.

**Homage to All Alumni Classes:**

From the Matindi Class of 1963, we are expressing our highest compliments of the season to all senior and junior host classes in 2022.

Nothing really beats being there on the ground physically to participate in all the festivities. However, the alumni homecoming hybrid edition last year was a success and indeed convenient for many of us to be present virtually. I am happy to take part of this wonderful event of a different kind in my lifetime.

Approbations across all classes as well the PMAAAI for making this possible yearly.

**To the Class Flag Bearers Since Time Immemorial, This One is for You:**

My heartfelt appreciation and snappiest salute to the many young cadets carrying our emblemical class flags over the years throughout all the alumni events. It really means so much for us to see the class flag bearers to be out there even if we cannot be there to join the parade. Bravo Zulu!

**Love is in the Air: Alumni Homecoming is also a Love and Family Affair:**

Many homecomings happen to be in the week or weekend of Valentine's Day. It's common to stretch holidays thus having pre- or post-Valentine events.

Here are some loving words from my loving wife who has been with me at my side throughout 50 years of our marriage. For the living husband and wife coupled until now.

*“It's not Romeo and Juliet who died together but Grandpa and Grandma who grew old together.*

*All the more the LIVING HUSBANDS SHOULD BE HONORED and CELEBRATED even more as they have lived FULL lives having reached their late septuagenarian and early octogenarian years at present.*

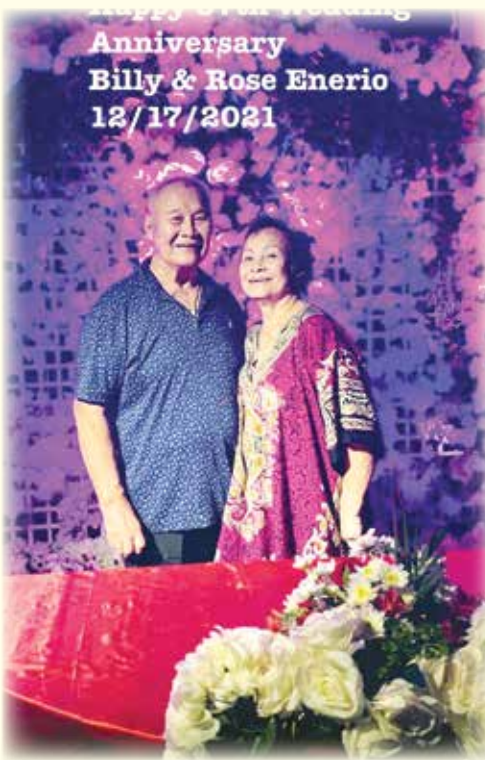
*Our husbands are most fortunate to have us wives as loving partners who have not only bore and raised their children see them together grow but also support our husbands in all their endeavors throughout their military careers and beyond through thick and thin.*

*Our union meant honoring beyond our wedding vows to love, to cherish, for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness or in health till death do us part.*



**Gone But Never Forgotten  
George P. Aquino**

**Born Feb. 26, 1942  
Died Dec. 03, 2021**



*We are very grateful to have reached this point of our lives together even with our strong sense of our individual selves.*

*I am aware not everyone had this opportunity but there are reasons as well as seasons for everything we experience.*

*Many things in life are NOT FREE, thus a need to spend more often than not. It's more than monetary. You have time, energy, effort, attention and all else you*

*can think of. We may be given likewise by generous hearts who have made a choice to share or give, thinking beyond themselves.*

*It is not about what we can count or how much we have but it is the kindness what counts most. For a simple gesture, we pay forward in a way that makes us stay true and never blue.*

*What you give out comes back to you a thousand-fold."*

**DIAMOND YEAR IN 2023**

Our class is still looking forward to march along the the long gray line again sixty years later, next year. It would be a wish fulfilled even if it would mean just being there to see the march. Let's wait (W.A.I.T- What An Incredible Time) and see how everything pans out ahead. This early, I can be assuring of our presence in spirit.

For Ebor rooting everyone on!

May we all remain hearty and hale, happy and healthy, always. - (18121605)



**CLEMENTE P MARIANO**  
President  
**WINSTON G ARPON**  
Secretary

**Celebrations! for the Quarter:**

**B**irthday – Billy Villareal, January 12; Ding Odonon, January 31; Clem Mariano, February 20

**W**edding Anniversary (12<sup>th</sup>) – Arfs Arpon and Vicky Garchitorena, January 5

**N**ew Year Flsback – Andy and Siony Pabellano, caught on camera, December 31, at Fogo de Chao in Las Vegas, USA.

**T**he Jim Vandevoort Family greeting the Class. Jim is a member of USNA Class 2003, a classmate of **Raymund Golez** (son of Cavalier

**Ferdinand Golez '76** and nephew of the late Cavalier **Roilo Golez '70**). A good find by **Rey Reyes, Jim** has been a consistent presence in class affairs in recent years. By his own description, he is 'the youthful brother to keep our class vibrant.'

**And raffles and flourishes to the mother of all Celebrations.**

An account from **Jimmy Valeros**, the most intimate to this unprecedented occasion in our class history:

"Fifteen days before Christmas, an impromptu dinner reunion was held among some ¼ members of the class at Fort Boni's

**Happy 2022!**  
**- Jim, Vanessa, Matt & Gabby**





White House, upon arrangement and invitation made by **Jimmy** and **Glo Valeros** and daughter **Melody Brawner**, coinciding with the installation celebration of son-in-law, Major General **Romeo S. Brawner** as new CG, PA. In attendance sharing pandemic experiences were **Billy** and **Beth Villareal, Rey** and **Sandy Reyes, Garic** and **Nida Garcia, Lina Pilapil** and all the way from Baguio, **Jimmy** and **Glo. Abe** and **Emmet De Guzman** though, missed their way to the venue. Many came from different classes to lend joy to the off the cuff reunion of the Class.

“Always the life of the party as usual, and, bravely defying memory lapses occasionally visiting upon us all the whole evening, **Garic** rendered several jolly jumpy songs to the accompaniment of the consenting band, and, to the delight of everyone.”

**From the PoD/Pen of Odon.** This time, not PDI where a couple of the letters of **Ding**



**Class 64 with PA Chief Romeo Brawner and his lady Melody Valeros-Brawner**



**Odon** have found print in that paper’s Opinion Page but in two of the several PMA groups in social media – The Graduates of PMA and The Borromeo Field. His message:

*I commend Cavalier **Rozzano D. Briguez** ‘86 for having, and showing, the courage of a true PMAer when, as President of PNOC Exploration Corporation, which holds for the government 10% shareholdings in the Malampaya project (of Shell-Caltex), Cav.*

***Briguez withheld the consent of PNOC EC, effectively putting on hold, if not yet killing the anomalous deal wrung by Dennis Uy. I am proud to see a PMAer, one among many now in the Duterte administration refusing to be an enabler of corruption in this government. I hope the other Cavaliers holding positions in graft-tainted agencies will take the cue from Cav. Briguez and do what is right and honorable as holders of our people’s trust.***

**And from the pen of Jimmy Valeros.**

An Autobiography with an intriguing title, “The Stowaway,” that remains a work-in-progress. “Notwithstanding the delay due to the case of Demolition of Structure (a house built on an Ancestral Land) by **Tony Aguilar** bought in 1978,” **Jimmy** reports, “I have nevertheless finished Part 6 of the Autobiography and have started Part 7 thereof. Another problem that caused the delay, he continues, was my cataract due for operation this January 6.”

**Visits to the Home Country.**

Florida and Texas-based **Abe de Guzman**, with wife **Emmet**, to their previous home in Malolos, Bulacan for the holidays.



**Jimmy and Glo Valeros with daughter Melody and son-in-law Omet Brawner, new CGPA**

Canada-based **Ernie Padilla** has informed his company mate **Rey Reyes** of his plans to come to RP towards the end of January; right now, his passport under renewal at the Philippine consulate in Toronto.

**Class 64 Golf**

The remaining trio of **Rey Reyes**, **Rene Garcia** and **Arfs Arpon**, the remnants of the team that were the Champion of the Senior Division in two consecutive annual rendition of the Battle of Classes, joined a similar tournament this year, now dubbed as Game of the Cavaliers. No longer a team as in previous years, but as members of a Team of the 60s competing in Division A.

A practice round at Malarayat Golf and Country Club gave the trio a chance to play a practice round with a fellow Cavalier, **Ike Begonia '69**, captain of the team of the 60's. Thereafter, a round at the same course and playing with and getting the acquaintance of a younger golf-Cavalier, **Fernyl Buca '90** who commands the Air Education, Training and Doctrines Command of Fernando Air Base.

**Quote, Unquote**

**Clem Mariano:**

*"Family vaccinated with the Pfizer booster after the "no choice" Sinovac shots, all the announced benefits, and all the lingering unknowns, with a lot of prayers last November, courtesy of AGFO/VMMC. On the corner looming a possible second booster shot even a third as projected effectiveness continually vary mostly on the declining side; and now there is the threat of an almost invincible Omicron variant! Reminds me I was hurriedly invited by HPA as the 31st CG, PA, 12 hours before the Army turnover of command, to a snappy '64 family member, courtesy of*

*fellow Alfan Jimmy Valeros - his son-in-law Omet. Requirement for attendance was a negative RTPCR test result. I had not undergone any recent testing for there was no urgent need. And then I saw the four '64 couples' all smiles in pictures with the newly installed 57th CG, PA at his inner sanctum quarters for an impromptu dinner.... Since the pandemic two years ago, and our last get together Christmas party in Dec 2019, four classmates had gone, a big loss to our dwindling number considering a varying attendance of five to ten members in class gatherings in the recent past."*

**Jorge Agcaoili:**

*"Miriam and I left our place in Illinois on December 2nd and arrived two days later at her sister's house here in New Port Richey, Florida. I was apprehensive at first because of my recent infirmity and was therefore very thankful to the Lord for having blessed me with the ability and the strength to drive all the way safely for 18 hours, covering a distance of more than 2,000 kilometers in three days. We consider ourselves bonafide snowbirds now. As I'm writing this, I received word from my son-in-law in Illinois that an 8-inch snow fell on our place the other day and strong winds today caused the temperature drop to -12deg F (real feel -20deg F)." /@waga/cc64-2201*



**PAMBUNGAD**

**E**nero 2022. Unang buwan ng mga nalalabi nating mga araw sa daigdig. Lahat tayo ngayon ay nananalangin sa Maykapal na sana, mawala na sa mundo ang salot na COVID-19 na sumira sa normal na takbo ng ating buhay sa loob ng dalawang taon. Akala natin ay pabalik na tayo sa mabuting kalagayan dahil lumiliit na ang bilang ng mga nagkakasakit. Lalo palang lumala.

Marahil, malaki rin ang pagkukulang ng marami sa ating mga kababayan. Marami

ang dumagsa sa mga lugar na kung saan maraming tao na hindi sumusunod sa health protocol – wear mask, maintain social distancing. Sa puntong ito, ay tama ang mga nagsasabi na ang dapat nasa "frontline", o "first line of defense", ay ang tao mismo, sapagkat buhay at kalusugan niya ang nakataya. Samakatuwid, hindi gobyerno ang nagkulang o mali ang pamamahala nito.

**KEEPING BUSY**

This is what our class should be doing right now. We should continue with activities that keep us occupied physically or mentally. For us here in Makati, some of us, and the number is growing, do morning walk as an exercise, followed by socializing over a cup of coffee after breakfast in facilities that offer food services. Before, the activity was twice a week – Wednesday and Saturday. It has

doubled – four times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. At times, the church group of the ladies join the walking group during breakfast. All told, we look forward to these days.

In addition, as reported before, we have an every other Sunday virtual meetings via ZOOM, tuned into by those who are still awake at 9:00 p.m. the ZOOMbies now include those living in the U.S - Tony Romero, Pareng Parreñas, Kid Eco, Rudy Clauterio (a few times). Here in the Philippines the attendees are (not in any particular order): Noli Espejo, Louie Fernandez (Meeting Admin), Edd Santos, Fred Bautista, Bing Rivera, Temy Arugay, Leo Alvez, Viusy Daus, Bert Jabile, Cords Cordova, Bert Varona, Gerry Cunanan, Troy Dumadapat (once), Scratch Escarcha (once), and Toots Totanes.



### A DAY IN DECEMBER

For the second time, the class did not hold its traditional Christmas Program attended by spouses, children and grandchildren, also because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In a bid to break the chain, some members of the class, during a Saturday breakfast agreed to

have a KKB lunch at Barrio Fiesta, along EDSA on 18 December 2021. Louie Fernandez was the mobilizer of attendees. Of those asked to join via the Class of 1966 Plus Viber Group and through text message, only the following, as shown in the picture, responded.

### 2026: HERE WE COME

It is four years to go before the class is expected to be honored by PMA as the Diamond Jubilarians during the February 2026 Alumni Homecoming. Undaunted by the time factor, the unofficial core group late last year, began discussing initial plans for the class participation in this traditional event. Who will join? Who will march during the Trooping of the Line during the alumni parade? How do we go there?

But first things first – like let us first build up the Class Fund, still active but needs infusion to give a semblance of life to the class. The response was encouraging. A few immediately donated to the Class Account hefty amounts by any standard, to start the ballrolling. Others have committed to give their share. Yes, donations are voluntary.

So, what can we say? ONWARD TO THE DIAMOND JUBILEE!

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

We wish to greet those who celebrated, will celebrate their natal days in January, February and March.

**January:** Malou Catral (28), Paz Bautista (10)

**February:** Leo Alvez (14), Vic Belo (1), Scratch Escarcha (19), Bert Jabile (24), Pons Millena (22), Toots Totanes (20), Jelly Nicolas (18), Beth Payumo (25), Gracela Andres (20), Salvacion Escarcha (19).

**March:** Temy Arugay (10), Romy Bruce (29), Bay Neis (3), Bert Varona (16), Dora Parrenas (1), Susan Gador (14), Fe Cuison (16), Mercy Dauz (25), Leonor Espejo (26).

Happy birthday, fellow senior citizens!



Front row, seated, l-r: Viusy Dauz, Serge Belleza, Pons Millena, Noli Espejo, Edd Santos, Bert Jabile, Ben Espejo, Temy Arugay. Back row, standing, l-r: Bert Sabularse, Fred Bautista, Buddy Perez, Bert Varona, Louie Fernandez, Greg Llorca, Bing Rivera, Toots Totanes, Lito Cabusao. The venue, including food, was coordinated by Louie Fernandez, a connoisseur in his own right. The food was sumptuous, delicious and typically Filipino with plenty to take home. There was an exchange of gifts, with Louie giving everybody a Christmas food package that surely did not wait for noche buena.

*P.S. - Three sad events happened after we had submitted our Class Call for the Jan - March issue of The Cavalier: We lost several dear beloved on the following dates - 12 January 2022, Mistah Jose Escarcha; 24 January 2022, Mistah Rodolfo Clautero and 21 January 2022, Mrs Leonora I. Espejo, beloved spouse of Class President Manuel Espejo. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the love ones of the dear departed. A separate write - up of these events will be included in the April - June issue of The Cavalier.*



**ANSELMO S AVENIDO JR**  
**President**  
**RUFINO G IBAY JR**  
**Secretary**

**CLASS ACTIVITIES**

A. We were hoping that in the last quarter of 2021, the COVID situation would improve, enough for us to resume our monthly Class forums. Unfortunately, this was not so. Had we been allowed by COVID, we would have held the following activities for the October - December 2021 period:

**October** - Dimasupil Monthly Forum (DMF) To be hosted by Aging Alino, Joe and Myrna Andaya, Ching and Papoose Ballecer, Vic 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. The Remembrance Day would have been in honor of the departed 37 Dimasupils (out of 85 graduates), 11 Adopted Members, and 19 Spouses. The year 2021 was undoubtedly another bad year for us, considering the big number of Dimasupils and Spouse who left ahead of us, as follows: Romy Odi, 28 Jan; Roy Aguana, 10 June; Romy Enriquez, 7 Sep; Frediz Enriquez, 14 Sep; and Vic Buaquen, 8 Oct.

**B. If allowed by COVID, our schedule for January - March 2022, onwards, would be as follows:**

**January** – DMF to be hosted by Jun and Agnes Avenido, Bobby and Penny Lastimoso, Edsel and Toto Salvana, and Joseph and Reina Young.

**18 February** – PMAAAI Annual Convention to be held in PMA, Baguio City.

**19 February** – Annual PMA Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City.

**March** – Celebration of our 55th Graduation Anniversary to be hosted by Manny Dalipe, Jun and Ronnie Ibay, and Nic and Glo Parena.

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

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

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

**UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS**

The inurnment of Vic Buaquen was held on 25 November 2021 at Heaven’s Garden Columbarium, Loakan, Baguio City. As announced earlier, he died on 8 October 2021 in Baguio City due to COVID.

We recently received the following message from Oying Pinto re medical condition of Araw Bernabe: *“With Araw’s permission, I would like to let everybody know with sadness that his kidney is slowly failing... a gradual loss of kidney function. If it continues at the current rate, it could lead to dialysis and kidney transplant. Please, pray that treatments are available (or for a miracle) to help keep the disease from getting worse and restore some of the kidney functions.”*

Last November, we received the following text from Eve Villacorta: *“Thank you, Mistah, for remembering. Vic is now 80 years old and by the grace of God he is doing well in spite of his trachea and his feeding via PEG tubing.”* Huwag kang magpasupil, Mistah!

Last December, Edsel Salvana was admitted to a hospital in Cagayan de Oro City for bleeding in his brain and he successfully underwent brain surgery. He is now recuperating at home. Let us continue praying for his fast and full recovery.

Also last December, we would have held our Election of Class Officers in-person. Since it could not be done, the members of our Class were just asked to select any of the following options: **OPTION 1** - Just send to our Comelec via electronic means the names of our own 13 choice Directors for the Comelec to canvas the votes; **OPTION 2** - Hold the Election during the first in-person Class Meeting/Forum in 2022 and consider the incumbent Officers in hold-over capacity; and **OPTION 3** - Hold the next Election in December of 2022 and consider the incumbent Officers as re-elected for the year 2022. The following is the breakdown of the 34 responses received: Option 1 - 2; Option 2 - 5; Option 3 - 26 and Abstention - 1. Therefore, the following are considered re-elected as our Class Officers for 2022: Pres - Avenido; VPres - Santiago; Sec - Ibay; Treas - Gaerlan; Auditor - Sales; PRO/IT Offr - Patino; Service Coordinators (also Survivor and Sunshine Committee): Air Force - Dionisio and Sibal; Army - Ballecer and Corpus; Navy - Cordero and Din; Police - Ibay and Tomas; Adopted/Honorary - Sales and Reyes; Ways and Means Committee - Lastimoso, Austria and Patino; Social Amelioration Committee (Medical and Death Financial Assistance) - Sibal, Ibay, Gaerlan, Alino, Ballecer, Cordero, Dionisio, Patino, Sales and Tomas. Other Dimasupils and Ladies may join any of the Committees.

In January 2022, Jun Avenido received the following letter from Cav Amado Espino '72, PMAAAI Chairman: *“I am pleased to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) has unanimously voted to confer on you the Lifetime Achievement Award in grateful recognition of your more than 50 years of dedicated, exemplary and unblemished service to the country characterized by your faithful adherence to the virtues of Courage, Loyalty and Integrity, thereby establishing a reputation beyond reproach and worthy of emulation, and bringing honor not only to yourself and your family, but also to your Alma Mater - the Philippine Military Academy and to the PMA Alumni Association, Inc.”*

**UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES**

We convey our sincere condolences to the family of Mrs Teresita Arreola Draculan, sister of Myrna A Espinosa, who died on 23 November 2021. May she rest in peace in God’s loving embrace.

Last December, we received the following message from Vir Odulio: *“Marina is okay. She was released from the hospital after staying for four days and spending Christmas there. She was diagnosed with cellulitis, left arm, on top of chronic lymphedema. She is recovering now with continuous medications. Thanks for your concern. God bless.”*

We extend our congratulations to Brig Gen Armand Arevalo '91, husband of Jo Anna Avenido and son-in-law of Jun and Agnes, on his recent well-deserved promotion to the star rank. He is now the Deputy Commander of SOLCOM based in Lucena City.

Congratulations also to Congressman Mannix Dalipe, son of Manny and Maryrose, on his donning and oath-taking as Auxiliary Commodore of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary last November. He is the Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations and a strong supporter of the PCG modernization program.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS**

Best wishes to the following Dimasupils and spouses who are celebrating their birthdays in January, February and March: Myrna Espinosa (1 January), Hedy Duenas (2), Bobby Lastimoso (4), Lita De Guzman (5), Queenie Enriquez (6), Pert Molato (8), Cora Tomas (9), Edsel Salvana (14), Warlie Sadiarin (16), Joseph Young (16), Myrna Cordero (20), Ernest Escaler (23), Jun Avenido (24), Ernie Dionisio (3 February), Myrna Andaya (5), Lou Ibanez (11), Bay Obillos (18), Linz Gabuna (26), Senyang Austria (4 March), Lea Vallejera (5), Ching Aguana (8), Josie Dela Cruz (12), Nic Parena (20), Jun Ibay (21), Benny Ventura

(21), Rody Duterte (28), Mely Gatmaitan (30), and Manny Dalipe (31).

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be reminded that we have to pay our annual contribution to the Social Amelioration Fund in the first quarter of the year in order to benefit from the discount for early payors. We also appeal to our more fortunate Dimasupils to give their additional donation soon so that our Fund can grow faster, enough to give bigger assistance to those concerned. Please contact our Class Treasurer Rudy Gaerlan for further details.

#### CLASS TRIVIA

##### Quotable quotes:

1. From Cords Cordero, in reaction to our birthday greetings: *"It's both comforting and worrying that we are now living on bonus time. Kung бага sa basketball extra time, kung sa football injury time."*

2. From Ed Espinosa: *"Just relax and enjoy life while we can. Don't worry too much about problems that do not exist yet. If you do, you will be depressed because of overthinking those problems. That is the Marine Gospel! Oorah!!!"*

3. From Bernie Patino, re: old age: *"The Gospel according to the Marines! Old age has no beginning nor end. Habang tumitigas pa*

*ang paningin ng isang tao sa isang babae, hindi pa old-age yan. Pag malambot na, it's the end of the world! (Galing talaga mga Marines!)"*

4. Still from Bernie Patino, in reaction to the old pictures taken during our past monthly forums: *"We were young, we had fun, we had our seasons in the sun. We enjoyed each other's countenance. But we fall one after another, facing the certainty of fading away from the beauty of this world. As we cross the great divide, we savor the sweet taste of life only true friendship can offer. One huge cheer for us Dimasupils!"*

Happy New Year to all Dimasupils and other Cavaliers and their families!



**ARTURO B CARRILLO**  
President  
**WILFREDO G NUQUI**  
Acting Scribe

We wish everyone and all Class '68 families a blissful year 2022

#### I. 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Zoom Enabled Meeting (Dec 20, 2021)

Pres Art C, Sonny, Nori, Volts, Hector, Alex and Willy were present. Art led prayers for the Class which included CMs and widows who have gone ahead.

1. As interim Class treasurer, Art updated on the Class Fund deposits at AFPSLAI and Patriot Credit Cooperative. Details maybe requested from him directly.

2. In behalf of Class '68, he was authorized to donate P30,000 from the Fund to help victims of super typhoon *Odetta*. Other CMs and widows also made personal donations through The Borromeo Field viber group and other choice channels.

3. Art further informed on the sense of gratitude of Mon's (+) family through Dovie to the assistance from the Class, PMAAAI and other AFP institutions. The family of the late Gen Amante Bueno, Class 1954, likewise sent its thanks.

4. The attending CMs agreed to strongly discourage Viber and SMS communications which deal with politics, religion and sex through the two Class' Viber groups (*68 Video Chat-only CMs: c/o Rudy and PMA 1968-all CMs, spouses and rest of families c/o Oscar*).

5. Interested and concerned CMs can reach out to Art to get a maximum of



two copies each of the latest PMA Alumni Registry. The balance of about 11 copies maybe given to interested widows on a 'first come first serve basis'. CMs are encouraged to buy fund raising raffle tickets from PhilVet and PMAAAI through Art. Unsold tickets will be paid from the Class Fund. Prizes will be determined later.

6. Art was re-elected to continue serving as Class President in 2022. He was authorized to directly choose members to comprise the Class Board of Trustees. They shall all be confirmed and take their oath of office during the next official Class meeting.

7. CMs were reminded on the formal invitation to the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration of Bobby and Puring in Tanay.

#### II. 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Event

Pres Art C. Rudy and Arlene and Julie

attended the renewal of marriage vows of Bobby S and Purita at the Sierra Madre Resort-Hotel in Tanay, Rizal on Dec 21, 2021. They were joined in their table by Dionet Santiago '70 and wife Mona. Pres Art formally conveyed Class '68 joyful greetings and best wishes to the heavily in love celebrant couple.

#### III. Roll Call

It is homecoming to our beloved Alma Mater in Feb 2022. March 24, 2022 marks the 54<sup>th</sup> year of our momentous graduation.

**a. Twenty nine (29) out of our 56 members are still active through the endless goodness of our Lord.**

Nori Azcueta, Ed Batac, Jing Caballero, Art Carrillo, Alex Costales, Tony Elumir, Lindo Erolin, Bert Estrada, Cris Francisco, Art Garrido, Volts Gazmin, Art Juan, Ted Lasmarias, MJ De Leon, Patrick Madayag,



Willy Nuqui, Ying Palmos, Sonny Penilla, Rudy Rabago, Vic Ramos, Mel Rosales, Bobby Santiago, Rene Santos, Tony Siapno, Tony Sierra, Hector Tarrazona, Conry Tolentino, Rudy Tuazon and Diomeng Villanueva. Abe Abiol and Boyet Lim are our adopted members.

**b. Twenty seven (27) CMs and two (2) associate members have gone ahead.**

Felix Bueno, Pepe Calimlim, Ringgo Canezal, Jewel Canson, Mito Castillo, Dante Cimatu, Bobby Dance, Sat Dumlao, Johnson Duque, Ceo Fajardo, Danny Flores, Rolly Garcia, Romy Maddela, Dick Mistades, Mon Montinola, Tom Ortega, Jun Padre, Ed Pangan, Doods Pangantihon, Dante Ruiz, Philipp Salvio and our associate members Manolo Diamante (USMA) and Armand Castro (USAFA). May they and departed '68 spouses rest in eternal peace and their families blessed.

**IV. Celebrating Life in Senior Years**

All CMs shall be at least 75 years old by March 18, 2022. Post military and other productive activities keep us at peace, happy and healthy. We successfully completed and launched our Coffee Table Book on Mar 24, 2018. Many couples have celebrated their 50 years of happy marriage over the past three years. The "Yesterday and Today" project is rolling. Nori developed an e-link ([refer to the Class Viber group for the address](#)) of new photos. Captions shall be added later. Many CMs have shared their 2021 Xmas family photos. The next Class meeting will include a power-point presentation by Sonny and Nori on the project.



**Suavitters' Year 2021 in Review**

The year 2021 was a difficult year for the Suavitters to deal with because four of our classmates left us to be with our Creator: Garic RJ, Boy Maligalig, Mon Martinez and Rey Berroya. The first three succumbed to ruthless COVID-19, Rey to a lingering illness. As a remembrance, let us look at the picture on the right, a jolly recent get-together over hot beverages. From left to right: Boy, Willie, Alex, Cleo, Rey, RJ and Mon (bottom inset).



But, Suaviters are known not only to be gentle and firm but also resilient, strong and family-oriented. Here are some examples:



Due to COVID, Jimmy and Lulu decided to forego their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary celebration in Manila. But, on their annual visit to the US, they found a perfect opportunity in observing their Golden with their kids and grandkids. Can you think of a better setting?



Nonoy and Mone' cannot be outdone, either. The above photo says a lot – see the smiles on their faces. The beauty of the falling rusty-colored leaves is the witness to their happy family reunion and also a happy 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration!



Rendezvous in Houston. "It was good to meet up with Jimmy and Lulu delos Santos in Houston after two years. Welcome back to Houston, Jimmy and Lulu!" – Dan and Emy Reventar



Another example of a Suaviter Family over an annual Holiday get-together. Ike and Ingging are certainly on a celebration mood with their loving kids and grandkids.



**Charity in Action**

“Once upon a time, a group of cadets from PMA Class of 1969 visited this grotto. This year, a typhoon was raging in the south but God, who is always good, ordered good weather to cover the place and allowed our family to share the blessings of Christmas with teachers, farmers, the less fortunate and our scholars, a tradition we have observed for more than 50 years now. Merry Christmas!” – Benjie and Meg Defensor.



**1. Changing of the Guards**

In what turned out to be a coronation, Cav Ed Israel assumed the Class Presidency during a golf fellowship at VGCC, Nov 21 vice Cav Romy Acop after the latter graciously took over Cav Rufo de Veyra’s stint in 2020. Romy needed to attend to his political constituency at the heels of spouse Cong Cion’s passing (28 May 21) and to assume a major role in Cav Ping Lacson’s presidential campaign. Romy runs unopposed in the 2nd Dist, Rizal. The Class supports Romy and Ping in all their political endeavours.

**2. Passing of Rudy Maluyo and SAGA.**

We lost Mistah Col Samuel “Sammy” G. Afdal PA (Ret), aka SAGA, to an assassin

in Surigao del Sur as he went about his mining business and was laid to rest 21 Nov 21 in Davao that showed an extraordinary outpouring of grief by his constituency. Sammy was an ROTC product with shared experiences with the Army Magitings in CDO in Mindanao during the early ‘70s resulting in his Honorary Class membership in 2012. He was an extraordinary soldier/ philanthropist.

Cavalier Awardee Mistah Rudy Maluyo suffered a stroke and died peacefully on 21 Dec 21 in the US. A successful businessman, he bade timely goodbyes to his loved ones.

Sammy and Rudy, though oceans apart, will be sorely missed by the Class.

**3. Ning’s Christmas fete**

Christmas on 11 Dec 21 was made extra memorable by Cav Sec Roy Cimatu who feted the Class to a fellowship golf in Intramuros, a walkthrough of Dolomite Beach in Baywalk and lunch at the Diamond Hotel, all in one day, with everyone going home towing valuable raffle prizes. Roy

revealed that he felt some closure with this gesture in compliance with Ning’s expressed wish shortly before her passing.

**4. Golf fellowships**

Credit goes to Cav Clyde Fernandez ‘70 and Cav Egay Aglipay ‘71 for initiating this unique golf fellowship. After standing on our grounds over four outings this year, we humbly promised to give them a chance to even up the score in the future.

**5. Mistah Ed Calvo’s health**

In an unprecedented move Mistah Glenn Rabonza was designated Surviving Officer (SO) for Mistah Ed Calvo whose health condition is a class concern. All info on Ed are to come from the SO with full support for whatever may be necessary to make his condition bearable. Mistah Atty Uly Sevilla to provide legal cover for the SO. The first SO bulletin reported wife Josie’s arrival from the US to attend to him now nursing from his Laguna home.



*Dolomite walkthrough with SRAC*



*Class 1970 Sec Cav Glenn Rabonza*



*Intramuros Golf Fellowship*



*Silang Class reunion*

**6. Mas-Magiting events:**

A. Novenas for the departed Willy Lorenzo, Sammy Afdal, Rudy Maluyo, Amy Villanueva, Ning Cimat, Neneng Daluyaya and Cion Acop were held over Messenger. Monthly chat groups and weekly prayer meetings are likewise being held over Zoom.

B. An out-of-town mini reunion attended by eight classmates and 13 mas-Magitings at the plush Silang, Cavite farm of Cav Willy and Alice Parayno honoured birthday celebrants Mar Ilagan, Tessie Javier, Susan Fernandez and Au Carolina and by the looks would usher a repeat by the way the group savoured the food and enjoyed the excellent company.

Steer clear of COVID-19.

Happy New Year everyone! Knowing 2021, 2022 can only be better.



*mas-Magitings Xmas party*



Col Sammy G Afdal PA (Ret)



Cav Rudy Maluyo



Prez Ed Israel with former Sec Maning Reyes and Rufo de Veyra.



**JOSE C LALISAN JR**  
President  
**ARTHUR G BALMACEDA**  
Secretary

**Matatag Golden Anniversary Celebration:  
One of a Kind**

Last 18 December 2021, the Matatags of the Fabled Class of 1971 had celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Graduation Anniversary at the Holy Ground of the Borromeo Fields in Fort Del Pilar, Loakan, Baguio City. It was one of a kind indeed. Why? For the first time in the PMA's history of Homecoming Celebrations, our class had the rare privilege of being given the exclusive Honor Parade and Review by the Cadet Corps of the AFP alone without other jubilarians. It can be recalled that class '71 could have done the celebration on February 2021 but because of the pandemic situation at that time, it was not able to. There was a limited number of participants then so much so that the class thru our class President Egay Aglipay requested formally thru an official letter and also on personal call to the PMA Superintendent, Lt General Ferdinand "CJ" Cartujano, to have our golden anniversary reset to December of 2021 barring the covid situation on that period. By God's grace, the request was granted and with the situation



of the pandemic improving, the Golden Anniversary celebration of the class was held in PMA. Thus, on that historic day of 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, some “firsts” happened. The class golden homecoming guest was Mistah Ping Lacson, a “first” as far as I can remember where a jubilarian class will have its own Mistah as the Guest of Honor and Speaker. Another “first” was the foyer honors given by the cadets to each member celebrator. This was made possible when Mistah Ping waived his arrival honors solely for him. One by one each Mistah was escorted by the Commandant of Cadets passing the cadet foyer guards. A thrilling experience indeed for us, the jubilarians. The donning of the golden medallion by the mas-Matatags was done in front of the grandstand after the regimental commander presented the 24 honorees who represented the class. After the parade and review, the class celebrators were feted with a luncheon by the PMA Superintendent with the Cadet Corps inside the grand mess hall. A small program was prepared where the PMA Superintendent gave some mementos to each Mistah and a giant PMA Cadet teddy bear to the ladies, our mas-Matatags. Likewise, President Egay presented the class '71 book, *The Brothers I and II*, authored by our class historian Rollie Malinis. Everybody enjoyed the meal and the music rendered by the PMA Band and the Cadet Combo. After the mess, as we were leaving, the cadets sang our favorite song *Rolling Home* to the delight of everyone including our dependents who also joined the lunch with the cadets. For them, it was truly a grand and unforgettable experience.

The Foreign-Based Mistahs had also celebrated the Golden Anniversary with style. Those in the US organized their own dinner-reunion program held in Las Vegas last 12 December 2021. In their program, our Mistah Amba Jun Paynor was the guest speaker and the host for the evening together with his mas-Matatag Tessie. Each Matatag was called on stage for the donning of the golden medallion by their respective mas Matatags. The cavalier award to Rollie Malinis was also officially presented to him with his mas-Matatag Cora beaming with pride at his side. A toast was offered by FBM Roly Degracia together with Rochee Domingo. A yellow rose was given by each Matatag to his respective partner after singing *My Kaydet Girl*. Aside from the fine dining, there were games and dance time for the attendees.

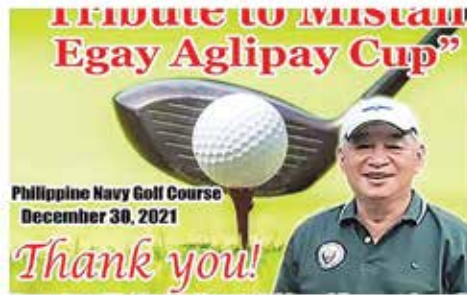
For those who were not able to attend the Baguio affair, they celebrated it on their own concept. Most of them donated their fund shares to the widows and also to mistahs who are sick. A very generous act of our Mistahs.

Thus, each Matatag member was able to celebrate the Golden Anniversary in PMA, in the US, or in their own way locally.

### Turn-over Ceremony of the Class Officers

On the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2021, a formal dinner was prepared for the turn-over of the officers of the class and the Mas Matatags Ladies Club in one of the

function rooms of the Baguio Country Club. The guest of honor and Speaker was Lt Gen CJ Cartujano. For the mas Matatags, the outgoing president Verna Albano turned-over her responsibilities to incoming President Celia Lalisan. For the Matatags, class Prexy



Egay Aglipay turned over the leadership and responsibilities to Joey Lalisán. A short acceptance speech was made by the couple and at the same time presenting their officers who were either elected or appointed. An inspirational speech was made by the guest speaker and after which, it was dancing time for all. As always, the ladies led the line dance pressuring the Matatags to join in.

**The new Class organization**

On December 10, 2021 during a general class meeting, the 15 nominees were named coming from the five sectors, namely from the Army, Navy, Air Force, PNP, and the Foreign Based Mistahs or FBM Groups. Then the 15- man Board elected their officers as follows:

- Joey Lalisán – Class President
- Senior VP and VP for the Air Force Group – Dan Francia
- VP for the Army Group – Oca Martinez
- VP for the Navy Group– Bing Alano
- VP for the PNP Group – Rex Piad
- VP for FBM – Roly Degracia
- Secretary – Tex Balmaceda
- Treasurer – Aris delos Reyes
- Auditor – Jerry Albano
- Business Manager- Jun Fabros
- PROs – Doy Francisco for FBMs and Rey Alcasid for the local
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Ed Matillano and Joseph Ramos
- Class Historian – Rollie Malinis
- Assistant Secretary – Archie Almario
  
- Chairman, ExeCom – Joey Lalisán
- Class Activities and Special Events – Rey Acop
- Chairman, Investment and Finance Committee – Aris delos Reyes
- Chairman, Sunshine and Welfare – Tex Balmaceda
- Chairman, Ways and Means – Dick de Leon
- Chairman, Membership and Awards – Jun Paynor

During its initial Board Meeting last 28 December 2021, President Joey cited the three thrusts that his administration will focus into, namely: First, the Welfare of the Matatag Family (Mistah, his mas Matatag, and his family), second, Sound Investment and Fund Management to support until “the last man standing”, and third, the amendment of the 2001 Class of 1971, Inc Constitution and By-Laws so that it will be attuned with the present time. The priority will be to take care of the Matatag Family since Charity starts at Home.

**The Mas- Matatags Ladies Club Organization**

The ladies club of the Mas-Matatags just recently had their own election for the new set of officers for 2022. Unanimously



elected as president was Celia Lalisán. The following class officers were either elected or appointed:

- President – Celia Lalisán
- VP for the Air Force – Arleen Francia
- VP for the Army – Tetet Chioco
- VP for Navy – Puring Cruz
- VP for PNP – Sara Paredes
- VP for FBM – Tess Paynor
- Secretary – Jennie Domingo
- Treasurer – Aleli Belonia

**“Tribute to Egay Aglipay Cup” Golf Tourney**

A golf tournament in honor of the outgoing president Egay was organized by incoming President Joey together with the class officers and the Hampaslupa’71 Club at the Navy GC last 30 December 2021. Six flights were filled up that included the Mistahs, classmates from Ateneo Law of Egay, and the FVR Group from Camp Aguinaldo GC. Luck was with Mistah Rex Piad who made a hole-in-one in the par 3 Hole Nr 5. He was given a special award during the fellowship aside from the privileges he received from the Navy Golf management. Congratulations Rex Mistah for your fourth Hole-in-One.

**Matatags in Public Service and Politics**

The Matatag Class has always been at the forefront if we talked about service to country and people. After leaving the portals of the Academy, the class had served with distinction in all fields. While most of us are already retired, some mistahs continue to



serve in government and engage in public service. Notable Mistahs are Senator Ping Lacson, DICT Sec Greg Honasan, President, Public Safety College Dick de Leon, former MWSS Chairman Rey Velasco, and Egay Aglipay. Sen Ping is eyeing for the highest position of Presidency while Sec Greg is vying to go back to the Senate. Meanwhile, Rey Velasco, for the first time, will be trying his luck as first nominee of the PRAI Party List. Our immediate past president Egay Aglipay is still the Chairman of the DIWA Party List where his son Cong Michael Aglipay is first nominee. He will be busy also for the campaign of his son-in-law, former DPWH Sec Mark Villar, for this coming election. We wish them all the luck in the world!

**What the Year of the Tiger has to offer this 2022**

Let us welcome the Year of the Water Tiger. According to the Chinese astrologers, the year will be filled “with energy and excitement”, passion, and the desire for fun and adventure. Those willing to take a risk or two will have plenty of opportunities. We hope all the opportunities will be good for our country and people and this pandemic will soon end. With our fervent prayers and strong faith, it will.

**Quote for this Issue**

*“Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see”. – Hebrews 11.1//JCL/8 Jan 2022*





Hello all !

Let me highlight the main thrusts and accomplishments of the Class for the last quarter of CY 2021. Under the sterling leadership of Prez Espines, we as a Class have accomplished much sans the challenges brought about by the pandemic. No doubt, this is a reflection and manifestation of our firm resolve and determination to do what is best for us and humanity despite the many challenges we faced along the way.

**a. Christmas Party 2021:** The class celebrated the Christmas party virtually last December 9. It was an outstanding success, largely because of the unwavering support of our Prexy and his adorable bunkmate Mayor Mely. Credit goes also to the dedicated and hard working group (Mas) who provided the spark; the end results of their combined efforts. The ladies behind are: Beth Navarro, Vangie Dizon, Marido Ambrocio, Nenette Valles, Cora De Vera, Yolly Valencia, En Alino, Mila Naval, Faith Ebuena and of course, Ludy Vidar, the Overall Coordinator. Thank you all.

**b. Vaccination Roll-out:** The four vaccination roll-out for anti-flu and anti-Covid vaccines were successfully conducted last December with our Mistahs and dependents as beneficiaries. Thanks to those behind this laudable endeavor; Orly and Marido Ambrocio, Gene Senga, Bing Valencia and of course Manong Ben who did the ground works for the vaccinations. Special thanks to the management and staff of VMCC for their all-out support extended to the Class most especially to Dr. Chong, Dr Mar Mejia and Usec Cabotaje of DOH.

**c. Class Uniforms:** As of 27 Jan, the Class uniforms were finally completed elegantly and were distributed on time to the concerned Mistahs except for the few. This was made possible through the efforts of the Uniforms Committee composed of Ludy, Lucille, Yolly, Beth N, Nenette and of course to Bing Valencia who was responsible for the coordination and distributions of the uniforms. Kudos to all of you for the job well-done.

**d. Pandemic Response:** At the early part of pandemic, Prez Espines donated assorted PPEs to VMCC out of his personnel fund. Getting cue from him, Mistah Roger Quevedo and Yarie Yarcia did the same. On top of this, our Prez insured that our Mistahs and dependents who were victims of Covid received financial assistance and proper care as necessary. We are deeply touched and forever grateful for their concerns and care.

Thank you guys; our heartfelt appreciation.

**e. Assistance to Victims of Typhoon Odette:** The fury of Typhoon Odette caused major damages in areas in Visayas, Surigao, Dinagat Island, Bohol and parts of Palawan. Thousands became homeless and barely survived in day to day basis. Again, our Prez led the fundraising campaign for the benefits of the victims in form of cash donation from his own purse. He likewise rallied the fellow Cavaliers as Chairman/CEO of PMAAAI for more donations to the less fortunate victims. This humanitarian efforts earned praises and accolades from Cavalier community and netizens that added prestige, honor and pride to our Class.

**f. Preparations for Homecoming:** The Class Officers/BOT and other Mistahs held series of meetings in preparations for the homecoming. Through the magnanimity of PMAAAI Board, we are allowed to come in full force with our ladies. Only Masigasigs (Alumni) will attend the General Assembly on 18 Feb less Mas and honorary members.

Bringing of dependents are discouraged for health reasons and we will do away with social activities. All are mandated to follow and observe health protocols to the later. The necessary preparations for this momentous event are in-placed already. The schedule of Class Activities will be disseminated in due time. Prez Espines desires maximum attendance of the Class to enjoy this special event despite the pandemic.

It behooves that once more, we express our profound thanks and gratitude to our energetic and visionary President, Mistah/ Prez Espines for his sterling leadership and invaluable support to Masigasig Family. Despite his hectic schedules he finds time attending to the affairs of the Class and insure we are okay and strong forever. We have attained that much during his three years tenure as Class President. We have nothing more to ask. We also acknowledge and feel prouder of his achievements as Chairman/ CEO of PMAAAI that added pride and honor to our Class. To Prez Espines and Mistah Mely,







THANK YOU VERY MUCH. We fervently pray for your success and safety and that of your family in whatever endeavors you want to achieve.

Kudos to the Class Officers/ BOT for the job well done. It's a pleasure working

together for the greater glory of the whole Class. Great job folks. Likewise, thanks to the Editorial Staff and prolific writers of Special Class Call edition to be published in Cavalier Magazine.

Thank you ALL for being one in the pursuit of our objectives and goals as one wholesome and wonderful family.

HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY to all. Stay safe and healthy and enjoy your time in the City of Pines.



**Christmas 2020, the pandemic Grinch stole our kid's happiness; Christmas 2021, we shunted the Omicron and let the kids enjoy the holidays. Would it be costly?**

**In the Visayas and Northern Mindanao, Typhoon Odette blew away any Christmas festivities.**

**Cavaliers were front and center in the response to help the needy and the afflicted.**

The Covid Grinch has been the spoiler of children's merriment. Foolhardy last year Christmas, we kicked the Grinch right on its eyes; Christmas 2021 rightly belonged to the kids not Grinch. Also we opened our country to Balikbayans and foreign visitors for the Holidays, and inescapably or inseparably the Omicron as well. People were all over; the malls were opened to the full, EDSA and the country streets were littered densely with vehicles. Christmas 2021 with firecrackers exploding and pyrotechnics burning was like the Christmas we were used to before the pandemic. Lo, and behold, when the yearly new year pollution subsided came the news of steep spike in covid infections. Which everybody expected anyway; never mind, I would say, the emotional and psychological benefits far outweighed the threat of generally milder infections.

Take comfort, Omicron is more benign than virulent Delta based on the experiences of countries it infected much earlier. Just be ready with homecare patients like those who

fall ill during flu season. Omicron being highly infectious but less deadly than Delta will perhaps go steadily down by the first week of February and the forward period to much better economy ahead.

With restrictions eased, some behaved like caged cattles rushing out through the gates unmindful of what they were doing, not knowing where they were heading to and what would come next. Most of us MAAGAPs and Ladies were just happy to be free but very responsible. The MAAGAPs and Ladies were aghast to learn that Ms Poblacion Girl Chua broke the health protocols and quarantine to party in Makati and spread the virus. Credit to her, she publicly apologized for spreading the Omicron virus which alarmed local residents as far as La Union where Covid infections there were traced to the party group of Poblacion Girl Chua. Yes, to some it was the freedom to be insane. Outside the family and relatives, we remember Christmas 2021 as

the Omicron Christmas of Ms Poblacion Girl Chua.

Undoubtedly in the pandemic, the kids have suffered some forms of social deprivations due to the restrictions of mobility and gatherings in obeisance to the virus, which has piled up emotional scars on the kids. Some have showed up in their behaviour, in anti-social tendency spending even more time with electronic gadgets than with peers and tribes. Time will tell the impact of the emotional scars in their attitude, problem-solving skills and confidence as they grown over time.

In the face of mounting cases of new infections, there is no need of the ravaging lockdowns; our government has drawn lessons of the two years of pandemic, and I am confident it will get us out of the woods in no time at all to bring a merrier Christmas 2022. With one caveat: Europe and US, being global hubs with world record-breaking



Family of Cav Vidal E Querol

infections, must drastically bring down their infection rates to beat the pandemic and the whole world 2023 will get much better. The US with 7-day average of ~610,000 new infections as of 07 January 2022 must double down on its efforts, lest it will be the breeding ground of covid-19 mutations and variants. Sadly, the pandemic has hobbled its economic recovery, deepened its social divide on liberalism values of US democracy, and seriously threatened if not already shunted US from global leadership. As the saying goes, "When America sneezes, the whole world catches flu."

**The pandemic is nature's inescapable aberration; we are at its tail-end. And I would add quickly that nature has the ability to correct itself. Fortunately, Philippines has weathered the most deadly, virulent assault of the Delta variant largely due to the vaccines, and having been toughened by it, reacts now to the milder Omicron variant as natural "attenuated virus" vaccine freely available in global scale. Vaccine saves humankind and enhances, shortens the process of nature's correction; natural variant like Omicron ends the pandemic.**

In the meantime, let's take cover specially those who would suffer from pneumonia during ordinary flu season. The young and strong (who by this time probably are walking Omicron positive) should do best not to infect the weak and the atrophied by co-morbidities and advanced age. It is not the limited strength of human but the mighty and insuperable power of nature that will end the pandemic; in nature we see the face of God.

What the threat of Omicron could not do, typhoon Odette laid so much damage and despair in areas of its bitter swath to water down, literally and figuratively, the celebration of the Holidays. Noche buena was ashen by missing roof and bed, lack of

electricity and lack of food on the table. In response, MAAGAP SND Delfin Lorenzana, despite in isolation after exposed to covid-positive in the house, was on top of the situation supervising the introduction of essential food supplies, medicines and encouraging local utility providers to expedite the restoration of public utilities to complement the efforts of national entities in Mimaropa, Western and Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Caraga. As of late, Mistah SND Del Lorenzana supervised the utilization of 769 land, 28 air, and 27 naval assets and 7,493 soldiers currently deployed in the affected regions

Likewise MAAGAP Dir Gen Isidro Lapeña of TESDA sent a number of trainer-volunteers to areas hit by Typhoon Odette to provide skills training and assistance in rehabilitation and repair of damaged houses and electrical facility under "TESDAmayan".

The MAAGAPs celebrated the Holidays in many different ways here and abroad with fervent prayers that God will lift up the victims of typhoon Odette and end the pandemic in His time. God is good this year 2022 and forever

### God is All

*Cav Vidal E Querol '73*

'Twas looked down by great six minarets  
Of the City of two continents,  
Staring at the bridge of East and West.

I stood under the Dome of Saint Sophia,  
By flaming sword transformed.  
My eyes stilled, and so my mind.

I, and all, was poor, small dot.  
Even the builder of the Dome  
Will be forever small.



*Family of Cav Manuel Divina*



*Cav Emmanuel Jimenez*



*Secretary Isidro Lapeña*



*Cav Antonio Anciano*



*Cav Francisco Gudani*



*Cav Alex Lapinid in Las Vegas*



*Cav Antonio P Angcanan, Jr*



*Cav Rody Luis in New York City*



*Cav George T Uy*



*Cav George Ares in Texas*



*Cav Christie Datu and Cav Walter Besas*



*Cav Bobby Aviso in New Jersey*



*Cav Samuel Bagasin in Canada*



*Cav Fernando Patawaran in Australia*



*Cav Matt Mayuga*



*Cav Christie Datu at the D Manor Baguio City*



**AVELINO I RAZON, JR**  
President  
**WILFREDO V GARCIA**  
Secretary

**Message:**

As we bid farewell to the old, we welcome the new year 2022 (The Year of the Tiger) with great enthusiasm and hope. We hope and pray that despite the pandemic, our life is safer, healthier and happier in the coming year and beyond. Also, with each and every passing day, our journey on the road to 2024 brings us closer and closer to the final destination: our Golden Jubilee. In anticipation of our Golden Jubilee, allow me to cite once again a very beautiful narrative of Mistah Rene Rieza:

**The Road to 2024**

2024 will be the Jubilee year of PMA Marangal Class 1974. In the old tradition, the Jubilee year is the year after seven cycles of the Sabbatical year which is held every seven years. So seven by seven is forty nine and the following year is the Jubilee year. The Jubilee year is not only a year of great celebration but also a year when the fields are allowed to lie fallow, to rest as it were, where slaves are freed and where debts are, don't laugh, forgiven.

How then will the Marangal Class of 1974 celebrate its Jubilee?

It will let the fields lie fallow. It will let it rest. These fields are the fields of our endeavors, what occupies us, our occupation. We will set them aside as we celebrate our Jubilee. To many, retirement is the primary occupation. Catching up and making up for lost time with the family. After all being in the uniformed armed services is a 24/7 duty. We will let those pre-occupation lie fallow, we will let them rest for a while as we celebrate our Jubilee. Instead, we will reconnect with classmates of fifty-years ago. Time out from retirement and family, let's catch up with our Mistahs for now.

We will free our slaves and in turn be freed from what enslaves us. Before retirement we have been slaves to our ambitions; career, position, the desire to provide a good life for our families, celebrating our Jubilee may mean freeing ourselves finally from these. But we have been retired for quite a while now, have we not been freed? Perhaps, but in turn, we have been occupied with other things, maybe not really enslaved but certainly some things took our attention. These are many, health issues, family issues, financial issues, all of these and more became surprisingly, our focus. Who knew that retirement could be so time-consuming?

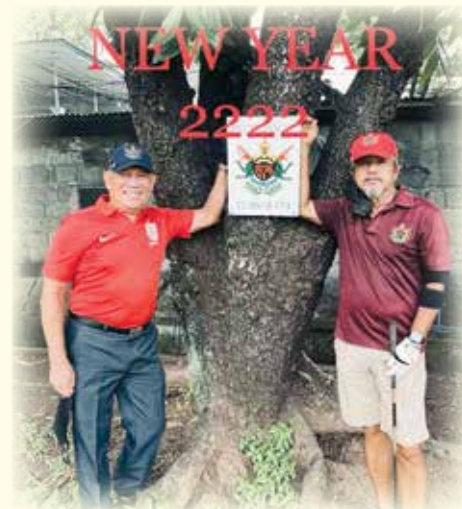


*Again we will, for the shortest of moments, shed all these concerns and focus on our Golden Jubilee. We will look at our Mistahs, many we have not seen in a while, and ask not "how are you Mistah" but also "who are you now, Mistah?"*

*Oh yes, we have changed, slowly and almost imperceptibly but we have changed. By the time of our Golden Jubilee most would have been retired for almost 20 years. Time to take stock.*

*Finally, our Golden Jubilee will be a time to forgive all debts owed us. All the slights (big and small) and all the injuries (imagined and real) will be forgiven. It will be a time to walk back all the hurts and all the bruised egos and finally embrace each other again. In forgiving, we are forgiven.*

*And so it is that the PMA Marangal Class of 1974 are preparing for 2024, the Golden Jubilee year. This is done with anticipation and also with a bit of trepidation for there*



*is always the fear that our intentions, our reaching out may not be well-received. But no matter, we are forging ahead holding on and relying to nothing more than the old adage that what unites us is greater than what sets us apart.*

*The preparations have now been set in motion; contact-tracing to reach out to long lost Mistahs, preparing our Golden Sword edition and all the usual details for a grand Golden Homecoming are now gathering momentum. This prompted a Mistah to joke "sana hindi mawala ang monumentum!"*

*Still, as they say, it is not the destination but the journey and the whole class is now beginning to get involved and to enjoy getting involved. Regular, associate and honorary members are standing up to be counted.*

**Class Activities:**

- **Zoom meeting on 14 December 2021**  
0900H Manila Phil Standard Time  
Emcee: Amy Tolentino  
Topic: PMA Marangal Class '74 Reunion and Christmas Party

To maximize our time on *kamustahan* among classmates especially with those who are rarely seen, we had requested only the Editor-in-Chief of Golden Sword, Danny Abinoja to do a briefing on the progress of preparation and publication of the Golden Sword.

- **Creation of Corps of 74567**  
Prexy Sonny Razon made this announcement about the creation of Corps of 74567 (Classes 74, 75, 76, 77):

1. In coordination with Gerry Doria 75, Joggy Fojas 76 and Sunny Pequiras 77, we have established a golf forum and fellowship for classes 74, 75, 76 and 77 to be called Corps of 74567.

2. Starting Dec 6, there will be available playing dates and venues AT THE OPTION (you may or may not play. This is just infor mative so that at anytime you may know that there are members of the Corps of

74567 possibly playing.) of the members as follows: every Monday CAGC TOT 6-8 a.m.; every Wednesday PNGC TOT 6-8 a.m. and every Friday VABGC TOT 6-8 a.m.

3. We will conduct quarterly Corps of 74567 golf tournaments every year as follows:

- March- host CI 74
- June- host CI 75
- Sept- host CI 76
- Dec- host CI 77

Host class shall determine the date and venue and manage the quarterly tournament, shoulder the fellowship lunch, provide tournament prizes and raffle prizes. Individual participants shall shoulder the green fee, cart rental and caddy's fee.

4. The first tournament for Corps of 74567 is on Mar 7, 2022 starting at 6 a.m. at CAGC. Associate and honorary member golfers may join. Class 74, being the host for the first quarter, shall shoulder the fellowship lunch, tournament team and individual cash prizes and raffle prizes. Individual participants shall shoulder the green fees, cart rental and caddy fee. Best 4 scores to count. So start playing and practicing.

5. There is a golf council for the Corps of 74567:

- Ricky Dela Paz-74
- Jeff Sodusta-75
- Joggy Fojas-76
- Lino Lapinid-77

6. We have submitted the list of class golfers (to include associate and honorary members) and their cellphone numbers.

• **2021 Golf of Cavaliers (GOC)**

The 2021 GOC were played in three golf courses: PNGC - 22 November 2021, VGC – 29 November 2021 and CAGC – 4 December 2021.

The first two teams garnering the highest aggregate points in the elimination rounds which were played in PNGC and VGC, were declared the Champion and Runner-up in their respective divisions. Team 74 with aggregate total of 451 points (PNGC – 228 points; VGB – 223) emerged as the Team Champion of Division A (Class 1975-1960s). Team 72 with total of 237 points, was the Runner-up. Teams 74 and 72 advanced to play in the GOC overall Team Championship in CAGC. However, Team 72 begged off not to compete. This left 12 teams playing with 84 golfers. Class 74 landed at #6 in the overall championship beating six much younger classes. Still a feat considering our age. Congratulations!





**RAUL S GONZALES**  
President  
**DANTE T FERRER**  
Secretary

What would have been a more appropriate time to check who the potential attendees are to the Golden Anniversary Homecoming of our Class in 2025, if not this time. From the original graduation strength of ninety-one (91) Makabayans, there are at present, sixty-three (63) maturing, but just like wine – still lively, that is fresh, fruity, bright and vivacious. On the other hand, twenty-eight (28) mistahs went ahead and probably looking down on us with esteem and veneration.

Following is the updated list of Makabayans whom we can bank on to perk up the PMA 75 delegation comes 2025 Homecoming:

**Army Group**

- Alexander D Aleo
- Arsenio R Arugay
- Willy T Bactad
- Ernesto D Boac
- Reuben A Crisologo
- Armando L Cunanan
- Romeo M Dayao
- Dante M Ganir
- Isagani L Garcia
- Alejandro C Geronimo
- Benjamin S Gonzales
- Silverio R Ilagan
- Cardozo M Luna
- Napoleon B Malana
- Fernando L Mesa
- Jovenal D Narcise
- Renato M Navarro
- Bonifacio B Ramos
- Jeffrey S Sodusta
- Raul M Subala
- Benjamin D Tesoro
- Ruperto S Tumada II

**Air Force**

- Pedrito S Cadungog
- Emerito M Calica
- Lucrecio B Figueras
- Osmando C Hernandez
- Willie A Palugod
- Alfredo G Pamonag Jr.
- Rodolfo F Petican
- Merito A Quijano
- Michael P Rosales
- Meynardo M Santiago
- Jaime S Silvestre
- Marcelo DV Soriano
- Romeo R Tropicales

**Philippine National Police**

- Charlemagne S Alejandrino
- Geary L Barias



*PMA 75 Makabayan Golf Team on a practice game at the Riviera Golf Course, Tagaytay City.*

- Leonardo W Bernabe
- Napoleon C Cachuela
- Teodorico B Capuyan
- Joseph R Castro
- German B Doria
- Wilfredo DV Dulay
- Dante T Ferrer
- Dominador A Flores Jr
- Raul S Gonzales
- Van D Luspo
- Ray D Roderos
- Ronald D Roderos
- Noe A Wong

- Adrian P Espera
- Manuel V Gonzales
- Petronilo P Magno
- Juanito C Samuya
- Walter S Villagonzalo

**Philippine Coast Guard**

- Arthur N Gosingan

Further, we are counting on the participation and cooperation of our associate, honorary and adopted members of the Makabayan Class. The Class, likewise, welcomes the attendance of the families of our departed mistahs.

**Updates on the Preparations for the Golden Jubilee Homecoming in 2025 –**

The Class officers are upbeat in the preparations for the Golden Jubilee Homecoming in 2025. In fact, President Raul Gonzales called for another virtual conference



*Class Officers Meeting held on December 21, 2021 over Zoom platform.*

last December 20, 2021 and discussed the provisions for accommodation and funding, among other things.

With regard to accommodation, Noe Wong said that booking had been made and the reservation was secured by depositing one-night worth of stay with the Baguio Golf and Country Club Hotel. Noe Wong recalled that during the 2020 Homecoming, members of the Class were lodged in three separate hotels which gave rise to problems on organization and movement. That problem will be solved hopefully with only one hotel to billet the attending Makabayans as a group.

The subject matter of funding was also tackled. Prexy Raul Gonzales said that the Class fund-raising campaign is working well but there is an exigent need to keep going the push. The number of mistahs responding to the call is increasing. The idea of putting up a fund-raiser activity like a golf tournament was instantly doused with cold response due to difficulty in soliciting sponsors as borne by the pandemic. It has come to a point that fund-raising now is a taboo. When asked about the projected expenses for the 2025 homecoming, Noe Wong said that the target amount was based on what the Class spent during the 2020 homecoming. The 2025 Golden Jubilee Homecoming will be a little bit more expensive because it is probable that the Class will be spending more. The president sincerely reminded everyone to support the fund campaign and to ruminate completing the donation by year 2023 when the Class evaluates the activities that have to be undertaken. Despite numerous cash outs due to support to classmates, Noe Wong said that the Class is financially healthy and solvent.

**Makabayan Golf Team Activities**

Golf, although not requiring brute strength, is a sport for several Makabayans. Golf is a sport that is highly competitive, requires mental capacity, and demands physical extortion and muscle use. Most of the Makabayan golfers are still well into this category, although a part comprehends golf as just a game. In order to hone their swings and putts, and be competitive, the Makabayan Golf Team maintains practice rounds in different golf courses and participates in tourneys. The members of the team are Jeffrey Sodusta, Raul Gonzales, Noe Wong, Gerry Doria, Willie Palugod, Willy Dulay, Pete Magno, Ernie Boac, Boni Ramos, Arsenio Arugay, Nap Cachuela, Rey Ansay, Larry Leyes, Quintin Quitlong, Domingo Manuel and Chito Blanco.

**Birthday Compliments –**

Last year, we started to publish the birthdays of our mistahs. For this edition, we are publishing the last batch of celebrants for the months of January, February and March. Some people get wiser with age. Some

people get richer with age. But everybody gets older with age. So mistahs, good luck on the other two, and happy birthday! We have 28 mistahs whose birthdays fall in the first quarter of the year; 21 are adding another year in the midst of the pandemic. We have seven departed mistahs whose birthdays fall in the same period.

**January**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Octavio R Pabuayon     | Jan 9, 1951+  |
| Pedrito S Cadungog     | Jan 11, 1953  |
| Willie A Palugod       | Jan 15, 1952  |
| Manuel E Mariano Jr.   | Jan 15, 1953+ |
| Prudencio T Regis Jr   | Jan 16, 1952+ |
| Abelardo Z Salango Jr. | Jan 16, 1953+ |
| Emerito M Calica       | Jan 31, 1952  |

**February**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Jaime S Silvestre       | Feb 1, 1953  |
| Romeo M Dayao           | Feb 6, 1952  |
| Arsenio R Arugay        | Feb 6, 1953  |
| Marcelo DV Soriano      | Feb 9, 1952  |
| Wilfredo DV Dulay       | Feb 14, 1952 |
| Ernesto D Boac          | Feb 15, 1952 |
| Dante T Ferrer          | Feb 22, 1953 |
| Charlemagne S Alejandro | Feb 24, 1953 |

**March**

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Geary L Barias      | Mar 1, 1954   |
| Ismael R Rafanan    | Mar 2, 1953+  |
| Ray D Roderos       | Mar 2, 1954   |
| Ronald D Roderos    | Mar 2, 1954   |
| Antonio S Viray     | Mar 5, 1952+  |
| Dante M Ganir       | Mar 8, 1951   |
| Leonardo W Bernabe  | Mar 8, 1954   |
| Meynardo M Santiago | Mar 11, 1951  |
| Lucrecio B Figueras | Mar 15, 1953  |
| Teodorico B Capuyan | Mar 25, 1954  |
| Juanito C Samuya    | Mar 27, 1953  |
| Raul DF Heredia     | Mar 27, 1954+ |
| Michael P Rosales   | Mar 31, 1952  |

**Condolence for a Makabayan** -The Makabayans were moved by the untimely demise of mistah Florante J Baguio, fondly called as “Egay” by many.

Egay, who would have been 71 years old on his birthday which was ten days away, died on November 15, 2021 in his residence at the AFP Officers Village Incorporated (AFPOVAI) Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. He died after a sudden and tragic accident in his Taguig home. He was born in Salug, Zamboanga del Norte. He served in the Philippine Constabulary and on to the Philippine National Police until his retirement in 2006. He is survived by his wife Baby; his three daughters Kristin Mae, Kayla and Karla Ann; two grandchildren; and siblings Elias Jr, Nicarter, Luzviminda and Venus. He was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on November 23, 2021 with military honors.

A eulogy prepared by Dick Capuyan was delivered by Gerry Doria on behalf of the PMA Makabayan Class 1975 during the funeral services. The homage started with the oft-phrase, “...death came like a thief in the night...” vividly inferring the unexpected loss of a dear one...like Egay. The tribute enumerated several assignments where Egay distinguished himself as competent and compassionate officer. Egay was known for his kindness and stability under pressure in the units where he was assigned and loyal to the flag and to the country which it represents. The honors ended with the usual phrase from the PMA Alma Mater Hymn, “when bells for us are rung, and our last taps is sung, let generations see our country free...” Egay Baguio had surely contributed his share of making this country free.

Class president Raul Gonzales led the Makabayans in consoling the bereaved family. Among the Makabayans who were present during the inurnment at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani were: Raul Gonzales, German Doria, Noe Wong, Pete Cadungog, Mandy Cunanan, Nap Malana, Sammy Samuya, Willie Palugod, Ernie Boac, Jeffrey Sodusta, Pete Magno, Charlie Alejandro, Arsenio Arugay and Reuben Crisolago. Mistahs who joined virtually were Ding Luna, Rey Ansay, Walter Villagonzalo and Ronald Roderos.



*Makabayan mistahs who attended the inurnment of Egay Baguio.*



Makabayan ladies who attended the inurnment of Egay Baguio.



Egay Baguio lying in state at the Heritage Memorial Chapels.

Makabayan ladies who consoled with Baby and the children were Ollie Gonzales, Len Wong, Beth Magno, Inday Palugod, Lolly Alejandrino, Baby Samuya, Alma Arugay, Tess Logronio, Girlie Baltazar and Purita Danga. The outpouring of emotion was also



Florante "Egay" Baguio (November 25, 1951 - November 15, 2021).



The funeral caisson carrying the urn containing the ashes of Egay Baguio.



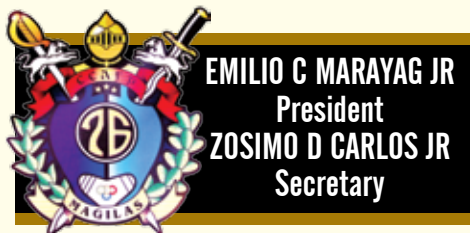
shared by Egay's brothers in the Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines when they held their patent Masonic rites during the wake.

**Manuel E. Mariano Jr – Memorial Service**

The family of our late mistah Manuel E Mariano Jr. invites the Makabayans to join the Thanksgiving Service to celebrate his life

and legacy on January 14, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani mortuary and the Burial Service (inurnment) on January 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the LNMB.

(We encourage the class members to submit articles for publication to the Class Call by sending write-up and photos to the class secretary at [ferrerdt@msn.com](mailto:ferrerdt@msn.com)) - Ed.



"Every day may not be good, but there is SOMETHING GOOD in every day."

**W**ishing everyone a Better, Brighter, and Stronger 2022.

It has been Forty-Six (46) years since we graduated in Fort Del Pilar on Feb 17, 1976. Out of the 71 strong members then, 56 are are thankfully healthy, now in their seniors

years , and a few at age 70 and above.. Sadly, we lost Nat Legaspi last year. We miss all our dearly departed mistahs.

In the following years ahead, we hope to remain healthy and happy so as to continue enjoying each other's camaraderie. Of course, the 56 remaining originals have been augmented by our honorary mistahs from the US service academies, and several from the military and private sectors of society. Our total class strength today is 91 Magilas gentlemen and a lady.

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PLANS:**

Four (4) more years is just around the corner. Soon it will be 2026, 50 years after graduation. Our class officers are on the ball planning and preparing for this BIG event in

our class history. The GOLDEN SWORD will be published. We still need more contributions from class members. Pictures, stories, Memories. All these, please send to Chris Tanabe and Epoy Marayag. Everybody is just a phone call, text, Viber message or Facebook messenger away. Do this now before we forget. Remember, "Senior moment" is very common at our age.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

The past few months, we have witnessed some achievements from our Magilas family group.

Our class president EPOY MARIYAG was also elected as President of AGFO.

The Only son of Alex Yano, Mr. Erwin Andrew Yano was recognized as the 2021 CSC



Exemplary Employee of the Year during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Founding Anniversary of DND.

**CONGRATULATIONS** also the Newly elected Board of Trustees. They will be the Class Officers for the next two years and will be instrumental in our Golden Year preparation.

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Nelson Allaga      | Ely dela Paz    |
| Epoy Marayag       | Boying Alarcio  |
| Carly Divinagracia | Sammie Narciso  |
| Vic Boco           | Tanggol Gatdula |
| Louie Ticman       | Efren Daquil    |
| Bong Ibrado        | Wilson Young    |
| Abner Cabalquinto  |                 |

**CONDOLENCE** to Cholo Carlos on the passing of his mother, Frances Donesa Carlos last Dec 31, 2021.

Cholo's mom was 93 years old and has long been a mother figure to many members of the class since our plebehood days. She was Ninang to Alex Yano, Ely Estur(+), Tino Gudani(+), and Alfred Viduya(+). Her three sons are all cavaliers, Zosimo '76, Zamiel '78(+), and Zyril '80. Rest in Peace, Maam Frances.

**OTHER NEWS:**

Get well soon to Sluggo Nano. May you overcome all your pain and illness. God bless you, mistah.

Good Luck to Mistah Gibo Teodoro on your road to the Senate. We are sure you will be a very fine Senator.

**From the MAGILAS STORYBOOK: FATHER AND SON**

Aside from those members belonging to four and three generations of

servicemen, the class has a number of father and son combination. They are Jess Verzosa, Len Calderon, Jimmy Caringal, Cholo Carlos, Raul Caballes, Efren Veran, Rey Ramirez, Del Pomposo, Nat Legaspi, Joey Salvacion, Ely dela Paz, Alvids Viduya, Sonny Cachuela, Mon dela Cruz, Edong Acuna, Allan Bontuyan, Ed Gonowon, Jun Loyao and Paul Mata. Most of Magilas sons' fathers came from the Philippine Army and Philippine Air Force.

Jun Loyao's son BGen Leandro Loyao III was a former chief of Army artillery. Leandro III is the first PMA Magilas son who reached the star rank.

The members who are children of World War II veterans include Wilson Young, Raul Cabales, Doo Maligalig, Nonong Cayton, Raffy Dacanay, Gerry Tenazas, Joe Gamos and Allan Bontuyan. Wilson is a Marine LtCol in the Reserve Force.



**Birthday Celebrants: HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**January:**

- 1- Efren Daquil
- 3- Pako Francisco
- 9- Mon dela Cruz
- 11- Vic Boco
- 28- Sandy Javier
- 29- Sammy Tayag
- 30- Alan Bontuyan

**February:**

- 1- Emil Lucero
- 7- Nong Ikbala
- 8- Byron Tabangay
- 13- Joey Salvacion
- 14- James Sin
- 15- Armand Rodriguez

**March:**

- 7- Hermie Esguera
- 10- Bong Ibrado
- 11- Paul Mata
- 17- Tyron Ong
- 24- Lhen Calderon

Stay Happy and GOD Bless Everyone.



**RIC A DAVID JR**  
Pangulo  
VIXI ABAT  
Kalihim

**•AGFO Balita**

Roy Camagay is elected to the AGFO (Association of Generals and Flag Officers) Board of Directors. Roy serves two years. Congratulations!

**•TSIKENKLAB**

Linked tsikenklab zoom meets. Sari-saring talakayan. Turok'ed 📝 mistahs are happy and well. Nais natin manumbalik ang sigla at ligtas na panahon.

**•HALALAN 🗳️ 2022**

Four mistahs are busy campaigning for public office. The class wishes them good luck in their politikal endeavors.

In the privacy of the ballot box 🗳️, the people make a public statement.

**•OBIT 📄**

Condolence to Dan Desuasido on the passing of his father.

Many mistahs are vaccinated 📄 and "booster"ed already.

But mutations and contagions continue. On guard in all our activities. Mask•Hugas•Iwas.

Sa tulong ng dasal 🙏 at awa ng Poong Maykapal.

**January 1**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 🕒**



Start Tiger 2022 with positive vibes.

Be safe. Cast your fears aside. At sumainyo ang biyaya ng Panginoon 🙏

Every new year offers 365 opportunities to be happy.





**ARIEL QUERUBIN**  
President  
**TATTU SANCHEZ**  
Secretary

**THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEARS MESSAGE**

*A blessed new year to all.  
May you have all the best in 2022.*

*A year filled with hope for a better year as we pray for a new set of God-fearing and dedicated leaders, prosperity and fulfilled dreams, quality time with loved ones and peace and harmony in the family, good health and long life...*

*May our lives be more meaningful as we try to help the victims of Typhoon Odette. Let us all continue to be a blessing to others. God bless always.*

**CLASS NEWS AND UPDATES:**

**Class Christmas Party**

Not even the Delta variant could stop the Matapat from celebrating the joy of the Christmas season. Despite the threat of

the Delta variant, the Class still had its early Christmas celebration last 11 December 2021, though it was done via VTC Zoom only. As expected, it was a complete success with a good number of mistahs together with their One and Only, here and abroad, in attendance. Though there were no sumptuous food and hot darns, still the celebrations was filled with joy, merriment and camaraderie. For entertainment, each Branch of Service had to give its best. For the Army group, Bai Estomo made a piano rendition of a song only us seniors would be so familiar. Cong Sam Pagdilao of the PNP made a duet with her daughter Cucay, while Mon Liwag of the Coast Guard serenaded, as usual, our ladies with his song. The Navy group and the Airforce Mandirigmas, on the otherhand, made everyone burst with laughter with their respective Tiktok inspired dance numbers. To make it merrier, the Class also had a couple of contests to include the "Look-alike Contest" and the "Best Tiktok Performance." Congratulations to all our winners...Chay Pagdilao aka Imee Marcos, and the Banayat family and Leyritana family for tying in the Best Tiktok performances.

The main attraction during the celebration was the overflowing raffle prizes



where almost everyone won one or two, from baskets of baskets filled with SMC products to lots of Deluxe and Suite Hotel accomodations for two with buffet breakfast coupled with a buffet lunch/dinner, of course courtesy of our Class President and her First Lady Ariel and Pong Querubin. For our lucky plantitos and plantitas, we also had some beautiful plants that were raffled off, courtesy of Beloved Mark and Maloli Supnet and Tagoy and Bobbie Santiago.

Sa lahat ng mga nagbigay, lalung-lalo na sa aming butihing presidente at sa kanyang may bahay, Ariel and Pong Querubin, the Supnet and Santiago couples, our emcees, Honeyboy Agtual and Mon Liwag, our Zoom host, Carlette Pama, sa lahat ng mga nagperform at sa lahat ng mga nagsilahok sa iba't ibang contest, to our beautiful ladies headed by Pong Querubin, who painstakingly organized this successful Christmas celebration, at sa inyong lahat na dumalo sa ating Christmas celebration, ...on behalf of the whole Class, maraming, maraming salamat sa inyong lahat. MERRY CHRISTMAS to everyone.

**Testimonial Parade and Review**

Last November 30, 2021, in commemoration of our Heroes Day, our Class President, Ariel Querubin, a medal of Valor awardee, was given a rare privilege of a Parade and Review by the young men and women of the Corps of Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy. According to Ariel, it was indeed an honor and a privilege.





**Retirement and Testimonial Honors**

On 23 December 2021, a Retirement and Testimonial Honors was given to Retired Col Ariel O. Querubin PN(M) (GSC) by the Philippine Marine Corps... 12 years after his actual retirement on Nov 30, 2009. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, to include VIPs from both the government and the civilian sectors, Senators, Congressmen, former Chief of Staffs and mistahs and underclassmen from the Academy.

Congratulations, Mr President, for all these well-deserved recognitions.

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

**January:** 1-Bing Tungala; 3-Michael Go; 5-MaryCor Calizo; 10-Pong Querubin; 11-Bobby Morales; 12-Jun Guerra; 14-Tess Valmores; 16-Ernie Cutiyog, They Balanon; 17-Tony Villarete, Mark Supnet; 18-Becca Cabales; 20-Ruby Cruz, Jess Dellosa, Jun Khu; 21-Romy Bambaog+, Henry Bello; 22-Marivic Juan; Piyu Domantay, Mon Liwag, Sammy Narbuada; 25-Jun Raposas, Marissa Rongavilla; 26-Willy Gonzalez; 28-Conrad Sumera, Zaldy Tungala; 29-Maxwell Oligane;

31-Elmir Dela Cruz

**February:** 2-Emily Honoridez; 5-Arne Delos Santos; 6-Ric Defeo+; 9-Roy Ruiz; 10-Grace Delos Santos; 13-Sammy Pagdilaog; 14-Rolly Maclang; 17-Malou Lanada; Glo Calonge; 22-Pete Biasbas; 23-Ernix Aradanas; 25- Cynthia Ortiz

**March:** 2-Ampy Peralta, Grack Victor; 5-Armie Aradanas, Olive Lucas, Jon Martir; 9-Gloria Domantay; 11-Paco Manalo; 13-Benjie Gorres; 14-Dodie Felix; 16-Leo Santiago; 18-Ellen Bumanglag, Toto Fernandez; 21-Jun Catalan; 24-Del Alano; 25-Rex Reomono; 26-Jo Estomo; 28-Ric Calalang, Delia Cortez, Ariel Querubin; 30-Gil Paguio, Dino Juan

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

**January:** 3-Arnold and Luz Palmea; 5-Butch and Annie Butalid; 15 – Rene and Rema David, Pete and Menchie Soria;

**February:** 17 – Tonyand Vivian Villarete; 23 – Sammy and Tet Narbuada, Paeng and Eva Lleno; 25 – Romy and Mary Cor Calizo; 27 – Peteand Sally Biasbas

**March:** 10-Maxwell and Melody Oligane; 16 – Bobby and Tess Morales

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our MATAPAT '79 golfers for keeping up with the Class' tradition of excellence by bagging the Runner-up trophy Division B, despite all odds, during the "Game of the Cavaliers 2021" last 22, 25 November and 04 December 2021 at VABGC, PNGC and CEAGC, respectively. Special mention to Rey Lanada for generously supporting the Team's financial requirements, Tete Villarete and Benjie Gorres for patiently organizing the team including its practices, and Arnold Palmea, for taking home one of the major prizes during the awarding ceremony.

**AIR FORCE "Mandirigma" UPDATE:** The Airforce Mandirigmas and their better Nandirigmas consider the last quarter of every year as Christmas Season. So being, planning on how to merrily celebrate the season amidst the pandemic started as early as the Nandirigmas began their yearly installation of Christmas decors. Prez Tattu called a Zoom Meeting attended by all to include Maxwell and Melody who are based in the USA, and Ric and Flor who were then also in the US. The purpose of the meeting was supposed to be just to decide on the place, date and time for the Airforce Group's Christmas get-together, but it turned out to be a multipurpose meeting where spiritual



development, politics and health, among other topics, were discussed. Indeed, it was a very productive and enlightening Zoom virtual interaction.

Omicron is scary and the safety of each and every one is of utmost priority. So the PAF Group leadership decided to do away with the party. However, the group, less they be outcast, still continued with the annual “gift” giving to the Nandirigmas. The forthcoming Homecoming 2022 was supposed to be up for discussion too but was not included as everyone was uncertain of the status of the Covid 19 pandemic by then.

The PAF Group remains resilient and strong amidst this continuing pandemic. We continue to thread the difficult path, of course, with the divine guidance of the Almighty God. We look forward to better days and happier moments and ways where we still could be of service to God, our country and its people.

**THE SHEPHERD’S VOICE UPDATE:  
Christmas Sharing of the Word of God 2021  
(A Charity Event Project of The Shepherd’s Voice)**

In the spirit of the Christmas Season, which is anchored on our Lord Jesus Christ’s love and compassion to us children of God, the Shepherd’s Voice, an affiliate of PMA “Matapat” Class of 1979, conducted a gift giving event dubbed as “Christmas Sharing of the Word of God” in cooperation with the AFP and PNP Command last 20 and

24 December 2021 at Daza Park, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City and Camp Bicutan, Taguig City, respectively. Consistent with our group’s principal objective of sharing the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others, the event was highlighted with the distribution of 100 King James Version of the Holy Scriptures and personalized letters to 100 select beneficiaries from the AFP and PNP personnel, both uniformed and civilian employees. ‘Noche Buena’ being a customary pinoy Christmas tradition, goodies to be shared with their respective families during the Christmas Eve were also given to each beneficiary.

The event was capped with inspirational messages from our Class President, Cavalier Ariel O. Querubin and PNP President, Cavalier Leo Santiago, respectively, who echoed the spirit of Christmas i.e. FAITH in our Lord Jesus Christ and LOVE for each other.

Likewise, Cavalier Mel Inductivo also delivered an explanatory message on the importance and significance of the Holy Scriptures in discovering ‘Spiritual Salvation’.

*“For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the Word of the Lord endures forever.” –1 Peter 1:24-2*



It’s homecoming once again! Time to return to a place that’s been our home away from home... where the embracing arm of our alma mater warmly awaits us with exultation and pride.

We’ve been away from the Academy for a time, some longer than the others. As your Class President I enjoin every Mapitagan to pay homage to our dear PMA. And the best way to celebrate homecoming is to reminisce our good old days together as cadets where we ‘suffered’ and ‘enjoyed’ together while learning the art of leadership..the rigors of command and administration, with successes and failures in between.



Screenshot of attendees of Zoomustahan on 17 November 2021.

Isn’t it an amazing feeling to regard each other as ‘classmates forever’? Welcome home Mapitagans. Happy 42nd Graduation Anniversary.

**From the desk of the class secretary:**  
*“For Seniors, golf is for enjoying the game and staying fit; if you intend to excel, you must be in the PGA Tour!” by Bai Onell*

Our Class Call for this Homecoming issue of the Cavalier Magazine is dedicated to our Mapitagan Golfers (MG). They are like the ancient crusaders sent to do battle in the Cavaliers' Cup. So, we must honor them and salute them for representing the Mapitagans in the Games of Cavaliers 2021 (Battle of Classes) Fellowship Golf held from 17 November to 3 December 2021 at the Villamor Air Base Golf Course (VABGC), Philippine Navy Golf Course (PNGC) with the championship round played at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course (CAGC). The whole class threw their support with El Presidente Nick Bartolome sponsoring their participation. They have the best good-looking uniforms, *kahit na matalo basta panalo sa japorms! Hehe... Another way to say it: our usual battle cry, "Di bale na mamatay, huwag lang mapahiya!"*

The MG team was led by PB George Regis as Team Captain and coordinator (if you still do not know what "PB" means, ask any MG), with the following 11 members: 1) Dante Balao, 2) Hermie Colina, 3) Rainier Cruz, 4) Bong De Asis, 5) Larry dela Cruz, 6) Paco Francisco, 7) Manding Guzman, 8) Onell Lleno, 9) Ces Ordoyo, 10) Emil Sarmiento and 11) Herbert Yaming (arranged alphabetically, not by handicap or expertise. Hehe).

The 12 Mapitagan Golfers played in Division B of the Fellowship Games composed of PMA Classes 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81. After the games at VABGC and PNGC, Class 80 garnered 435 total points placing 3rd place in the Division, with the following results:

- 1981 - 507 pts (1st place)
- 1979 - 448 pts (2nd place)
- 1980 - 435 pts
- 1977 - 411 pts
- 1978 - 402 pts
- 1976 - 363 pts

Class 1981 eventually garnered the championship in Division B while Class 1990 bagged the over-all team championship of the Games of Cavaliers, just a mere point over Class 1983.

Although the third place result of our team did not qualify us to the championship round, *"none of our MGs are actually losers since the experience alone brought them blessings. The fellowship and renewal of camaraderie among Cavalier Golfers matter most,"* as per PB George. He promised to do their best again for this year's GOC 2022.

El Presidente Nick B responded by saying: *"Good job MGs. 3rd place is ok. You deserve our applause! Cheers to our fighting 12 MGs. Ahoo! Ahoo! Ahoo! Thank you MGs. You made us proud. Kudos to the Team Manager, Boss George."*

Oby Antonio typically seconded with: *"We should remember the Cadet Prayer ".... teach us to make our play in every game,*



Four of 12 MGs playing for the GOC 2021. (From L – R: Herbert Yaming, Manding Guzman, Larry dela Cruz, and Ces Ordoyo)

*whether in mere sports or life's mightier struggles, one where our desire to win is second only to our love of the game itself..."*

Amen to that, Bok Oby. And good luck to our MGs for next Games of Cavaliers, this year 2022 GOC. I am sure we would have a better fighting chance of winning next time if only all the other "good" players of the class will participate in the Golf games. Calling Cadets so and so. . . . *(no need to mention their names here, for they know who they are. Hehe). Fore!"*

On other matters aside from golf, we had again another zoom meeting last 17 November 2021 (our third) and another one last 11 December 2021 (our fourth) on the "Zoomustahan" series.

The third meeting had 23 Mistahs joining, with three attending from abroad:

Jess Lomeda in Vancouver, Canada; Oby Antonio in Wisconsin, USA, and Bob Ramos in Seoul, Korea. The birthday celebrant of the day, Macky Macapagal, was present and we sang to him a birthday song *"na lahat sintonado"*! One topic discussed was the plan to conduct a Class Christmas Party last December 2021 but in view of the current pandemic situation where it is not yet safe to mingle, it was agreed that no Christmas party will be held anymore for the year. We will just reserve it for this year 2022.

On the fourth zoom meeting there were only 18 attendees, perhaps due to busy schedule of others for the holiday season. Discussed were: Games of Cavaliers, settlement of PMAAAI and PMARAI dues and COVID-19 health protocols and prevention



Screenshot of attendees of Zoomustahan on 11 December 2021.

tips mostly from our experts Doc Frank Gali and Bong Cabantac. Those concerned Mistahs who still have to settle their dues with PMAAAI/PMARAI are reminded to do so as the amnesty for the reduced fees will expire this first quarter of year 2022. Again, no need to mention their names here as they already know who they are with the constant reminder by our Class Secretary. As usual, the zoom meetings officially lasted for almost two hours, but still continued even after adjournment, with "bolahizing" among Mistahs. We noticed though that attendees to our Zoomustahan get to decline every time we hold such zoom meeting. Hope the other Mistahs can find time to join our future zoom meetings which we only hold once a month. Aside from trying to re-connect online with each other amidst this Covid pandemic, our meetings serve as a venue to discuss class activities and programs.

Incidentally, we shall start putting up class funds starting January this year to support the medical needs of classmates. A committee composed of Ces Ordoyo, Macky Macapagal, and Jun Sanchez is finalizing the details for presentation to the class. Our Mapitagan Open Forum Viber Group is the venue for discussion.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Odette that hit the central part of the country including Palawan last December 16, 2021, it is very disheartening to know of devastation suffered by our kababayans. We have classmates who were affected

like Ige Rodriguez whose house in Puerto Princesa was damaged with roof flying off and trees uprooted. Bai Gupana's family was also affected in Dinagat Island. But the good thing is nobody was hurt among them and that repairs of houses damaged can always be undertaken. In response, a few of our classmates contributed some amount as funds for relief operations for those affected by the Typhoon. Boss Nick eventually decided to allocate the funds generated by the class to Dinagat Island with Bai Gupix spearheading this noble project of alleviating their sufferings.

The class condoles with the family of Zyril Carlos whose beloved mother passed away last Dec 31 at the age of 93. We

sympathize with the Carlos family in their loss with prayers for the eternal rest of Mommy Frances in paradise.

On Dec 11, Bai Hermie Colina announced in our Viber group that, "My eldest grandson had his parade this morning as Leading Cadet of the Australian Air Force at the parade ground of the Australian Defense Force Academy". Congratulations, Bai Hermie.

The first 100 copies of Alumni Register were already distributed to mistahs who signified for it.

Hopefully the Omicron will not get in the way during our annual trek to Fort Del Pilar. See you at the Borromeo Field. Happy 42nd Graduation Anniversary!



Bai Emil Gupana (6th from left) is the Mapitagan leadman for Odette victims in Surigao. To his right is Bishop Antonieto Cabajog of Surigao City. Taken at St Paul University Diocese Relief Opn Center, Surigao City.



Happy New Year, Dimalupig Family. It is now 2022 and we are entering the third year of the pandemic. Let us thank the Lord God for continuously protecting us from this dreaded disease. We hope by this time, all members of the Dimalupig family have been vaccinated, and with boosters, to boot. With the arrival of the new variant, Omicron, we have to be more careful and compliant with the minimum health protocols.

We certainly hope that everyone enjoyed their Christmas holidays despite current restrictions. What a way to end the year! The recently concluded Games of Cavaliers Golf Tournament brought the Class, again, in the forefront. Congratulations to the Dimalupig Golf Team for bagging the Division B (Class 1976-1981) Championship and the Third Overall (2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up), in the entire field.



Congratulations are also extended to the winners of the Special Categories – Father/Son – Cav ReneS and RyanS, and Husband/Wife tandem – ReneS (again) and Malou. The formidable Samonte family dominated the

entire field during the 3-day Tournament. All the efforts of our Team Manager, Cav JimboB, in organizing and convincing classmates to participate, paid off. We would also like to recognize those who donated funds to

support the campaign of our Golf Team. Maraming Salamat mga mistah for your generosity. Next season of the GOC, we hope that more mistahs, their kids and spouses will represent the Class.

The Dimalupig Family had a Year-end Golf Fellowship and Christmas Party at the Riviera Golf and Country Club last 9 Dec 2021. The venues, both for the tournament and the fellowship, were sponsored/arranged by Cav NormanL, despite being already in the USA, for a much needed break with his family. At the end of the tournament, the Perpetual Trophy was won by the Phil Army team, leading the Navy by only 3 points. Third place went to the PNP Team while the Fourth place went to the erstwhile Defending Champion, the PAF Team. Unfortunately for the PAF, they had an incomplete line-up to qualify for the Team championship.

For the Individual Category, here are the results:

- Class A – Cav Art A – Champion  
Cav Oniot M – Runner-up
- Class B – Cav James D – Champion  
Cav Dong D – Runner-up
- Class C – Cav Alan L – Champion  
Cav Bong A – Runner-up

Congratulations to the winners. By the way, the trophies were donated by Cav Dong D. After the golf tournament, the lunch fellowship was held the Riviera Country Clubhouse. Raffle prizes abound and food/drinks were overflowing. Our gratitude again to those who donated prizes for the raffle. There were more than enough items, such that, there was a second round of draws



made. Thank you also to those who brought additional food to be shared with the attendees.

This coming February is the schedule of the Homecoming activities in PMA. We are proud to announce and congratulate the following mistahs who will be recipients of awards from the PMAAAI:

**Outstanding Achievement Award:**

Cav Thawip Netniyom – Senator, Senate of Thailand

**Meritorious Recognition** (a new PMAAAI Award): to recognize Cavaliers who are holding a high position in the government

but not qualified for the OAA criteria

Cav Alex Monteagudo – Director General, NICA;

Cav Litoy Cuy – Chairperson, Dangerous Drugs Board;

Cav Bong Morente – Commissioner, Bureau of Immigration

We are all so proud of you. And for those who will be joining the festivities to represent the Class, we extend our heartfelt appreciation. Raise the Dimalupig Flag! Mabuhay ang Dimalupigs!

Stay safe everyone and may God bless us and keep us.







**BERNARDO C FLORECE JR**  
President  
**PERFECTO O QUILICOT JR**  
Secretary

The onslaught of Alpha, Beta, (I don't know why they intentionally skipped Charlie... [perhaps it can be ascribed to their corny nature lol]) Delta, and now, Omicron, has nudged even the brave-hearted to make ways to make life bearable and even more enjoyable without suffering from the dire consequences that this series of virus strains bring. Under the atmosphere of isolation so many current commitments, habits and practices went out of fashion and became impractical overnight. This applied to most, and also to the members of the proud Matikas. So, some of us ventured into what can be considered a **planned social retrograde: Farming.**

A number of us were blessed with some foresight and have bought some parcel of land in the advent of their retirement. Others are just so fortunate to have inherited some tracts of land from their parents. But what is important is that most of us who are blessed with a plot of dirt, have opted to move the earth to make them productive and perhaps even helped out the already challenged agricultural productivity scene. There are various schemes that we have made these lands productive and appreciate in value. Some put up livestock



farm, grain propagation, fruit farming, select animal breeding like horse, dog, cat, fowl [duck, chicken, turkey, Bengala, quail, and even pheasants], horticulture, mushroom farming, ornamental plant propagation [now popularly under the plantito/plantita culture], backyard gardening, entomological farm [raising crickets and black soldier flies for food] and even the new but-fast-gaining-ground Agri-tourism. Our lines of farming commitment are as varied as our characters. There is no reason for anyone to feel left out.

Those who are not into it yet can join in a **Matikas Farm Cooperative** that we are planning to venture into the future. Here are some pictures to whet your appetite and perhaps goad the ambivalent to also take the plunge.

Prior to the surge of Omicron when the virus has become sedate and when the number of active cases has plunged to mere double digits, the class merrily celebrated our Christmas party at 1800H December 17. While we still followed the hybrid format of celebration (a combination of face-to-face and online), more came to join in the face-to-face hubbub. This put a challenge in making sure that the party will be **HAPPY, HEALTHY, and WISE** with the pandemic in the backdrop. To do this we took a venue that is huge enough to accommodate the 43 members who came while maintaining health protocols and avoiding any possible case of cross-infection.

We invoked our spirit of integrity in seeing to it that all those who would



physically join has not had an encounter with anyone with the slightest suspicion of exposure and that he likewise does not exhibit the barest hint of a symptom. Befitting for a celebration that came after the pandemic that has kept us separated for years, Bernie Florece gave each a party uniform reminiscent of some royal tribal gala. With the stage wizardry of Ronnie Mercado who took all the efforts of buying the gifts and party gimmickry and with the support of the PN Tech, the party ushered a debut like his magnum opus worthy of each and everyone's memory. The donations that were given by the very kind responsive benefactors who wished their names to be kept unknown have made sure that all those who showed up both physically and online had something in a form of gift, in-kind or in cash.

Moving forward, the efforts of the class members have made possible the targetted class fund level set early in 2021 possible. The target was reached even before the end of the year and a few remarkable extras were even accrued. Kudos to the tireless efforts of Gil Bombita, the Committee Chairman of our Ways and Means Committee, and his incessant efforts to solicit funds from his set of donors who were equally tireless in not just

giving their treasures but even their time and talent in making sure that all our fund-raising initiatives exceeded our expectations. We would have been extra eager in mentioning their names here had it not been for their earnest choice to remain anonymous.

Owing to the efforts of the class to revisit the process of electing our class officers headed by the Chairman of our Membership Committee, James Ylanan, the election, the appointment of our President-Elect, Henry Sabarre was painless and not marked with resistance and trepidation. Under the new class edict, the sitting President, Bernie Florece will still preside the class while our President-Elect sits in active observation of all proceedings. This is done so that he becomes familiar with all the affairs of the class until he takes over in March as the sitting President. I m m e d i a t e l y thereafter, the class through a system akin to a parliamentary

format will convene to elect a new set of class officers. Everyone is enjoined to read the class memo that has been sent via our Viber Group.

Finally, because we have reached the fund target earlier than projected, the class officers decided to postpone our big-time raffle intended for the last quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2022. While the date of the raffle is yet to be fixed, it would be for the best appreciation of the class to already have a glimpse of what we all want you to expect and support. So here is a partial copy of our raffle ticket.





**SALVADOR MB MISON JR**  
President  
**FRANCIS B ALAURIN**  
Secretary

**Choices**

Making the right choices is dutifully inherent in the *Maharlikan* lives. Our choices made have varying outcomes and, definitely, impacted our lives, shape our character, identities and destinies. Thus the proverbial '24-hours-per-day' rule that we have to live by that brought us to domains of successes, distant journeys, stratified social standing, and the like, all ascribed to the choices we once made. Notwithstanding, now as retirees, channeling our priorities and preferences are what we choose towards what made the *Maharlika* Class prevail in more than four decades of kindness, fellowship, mutual respect.

**As a Senior Citizen**

• *Art Orticio*

Four (4) years after our compulsory retirement, reality is inevitable that age is more than just a number. Shedding off our uniform, I compared it to a caterpillar shedding its skin from its protective cocoon, eventually metamorphosing to a better being with better freedom. We survived the active service for at least 30 years, with the military organization as our cocoon that prepared us to the new life as Senior Citizen pensioners. While inside our cocoon, we were nurtured in the true essence of **Courage, Integrity and Loyalty**. We became a library of knowledge and wisdom. Although some of us may have faltered while inside the military cocoon, they also eventually shed a new skin and built a library from mere life-learning experiences to a complexity of valuable knowledge and judicious decisions and moral wisdom.

The senior years is a new phase of our lives. We come to grips with reality that, indeed, a senior pensioner has its share of highs and lows. Our incomes have their highs but if we fail to manage our financial resources, we may descend in a spin to a low ebb. But, there is the company of a family that will always be in tow whatever our lows are. No family is ever perfect. We understand, accept, and live with each other's imperfections. Sharing our God-given blessings with them allays our fears of failures, and they ascend to unexpected heights (we as Seniors never notice) only our dear ones will ever be proud of. But, if failures come, the cocoon we were once in helps us

**Maharlika Golf and Fellowship**  
Opisyal na Bondingan ng Maharlikan Golfers

Valley Golf and Country Club  
29 December 2021

**Maharlikans Onward!**

**The Valley of the Kings**  
*By people getting together and celebrating this idea of togetherness, great things can happen ... like golf, fellowship and fun.*

survive those challenges with a formidable band-of-brotherhood. Our family will always be there for us, surpassing the bond with our band-of-brothers. Family and true friends are a senior bliss and, they will always be there in any seniors' bucket list.

**Let's Ride!**

• *Ernie Ravina*

There are those *Maharlikan*s who love spending half a day strolling leisurely in the wide open golf courses. They are clad in light clothing and chase little white, dimpled balls through the fairways and greens. They wear colorful clothing, caps with ball markers, spiked footwear, and spend endless hours trying to perfect their swing.

There is now an emerging breed of *Maharlikan*s. They are those who love spending an hour, half a day, a whole day, or even several days roaring at high speeds through hot concrete to get to near or far destinations. They travel just to have breakfast,

coffee, or take the challenge of travelling the vast countryside and view at high speed through the visor of a helmet. These riders are seen everywhere and anywhere. They can be spotted at the coffee shops and breakfast places in Bonifacio Global City, or in the winding roads of Marilique (rider jargon for Marikina, Rizal, Laguna, and Quezon



*We, Senior Citizens, spend longer reflective, Sabbatical moments than usual.*

route), or NOLCOM AORs up to Capas, Tarlac. They are clad head-to-foot in drab colored, steaming hot body armor, and wear headgear which hides their faces and muffles their voices. These are the *Maharlika Riders*!

They are a special breed of *Maharlika*s who found camaraderie among Mistahs who love the action lifestyle, and, although retired, are willing to sweat it out in protective gear in order to experience the thrill and challenge of a ride using powerful, finely tuned machines on two wheels.

They are, likewise, members of the larger group of PMAer riders called the *Bugo-Bugo Riders* (BBR), founded by no less than the *Maharlika*'s topnotch Sammy Jardin. Incidentally, to gain membership in BBR, you need to be "SHOE BRUSHED" by a senior member (by PMA Class).

Join the *Maharlika Riders* on Viber, or 84 Breakfast Rides on FB Messenger. Current members include Sam Jardin, Nap Venturina,

Ernie Ravina, Renwick Rutaquio, Nel Barrios, Artie Sindac, and, recently, Dan Ubaldo.

Willing to get "shoe brushed?" Join us in our battlecry... "Let's Ride!"

### Shared Experiences

#### • Pres BADONG MISON

Traditionalists, Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Centennials basically describe the generations of present-day society. We, *Maharlika*s, find ourselves along the boundary of being a boomer or an X'er. How we situate ourselves is entirely our choice; our shared experiences define us and influence our decisions.

We experienced Martial Law in the '70s and its *Bagong Lipunan Movement*. We were newly minted Lieutenants during the EDSA Revolution, and were at the frontlines in the Government's anti-communist and anti-secession campaigns. We got to experience the end of the 'Cold War', EDSA 2, election

controversies, War on Terror, regional and global financial crises, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is what it is" ... Each of us have our stories to tell: cadet life, *'buwis buhay'* events, military adventurism, and career 'tipping points'. As we chose to stay together, supported each other, and respected each other's choices, what is important is what we have **become** of ourselves in the process.

Our choices set the direction to the future. We need to face two realities in picking our choices. First, experiences and the wisdom that go with them are fundamentally influenced by our values and character. They help minimize mistakes, if not mitigate their impact on our lives. And, second, if we want to go fast, we make our own individual choices; if we want to go far and of enduring results, we decide collectively - the *Maharlikan way!*



Nothing makes a day more complete and comforting than being in the company of Maharlikan Mistahs.



Fast emerging Maharlikan trend: Let's Ride.



The Mighty Maharlikans.



**RIZALDO B LIMOSO**  
President  
**GAUDENCIO C COLLADO JR**  
Secretary

Happy New Year to Everyone!

Sinagtala Class ended 2021 on a good note with simple celebration and with much enthusiasm for the coming year. Year 2021 did not only mark the retirement year of the Sinagtala class members but is also a year where the class exhibited their strength and unity as they took a stand together and overcome all the challenges and obstacles that 2021 has offered.

With Cav Rizaldo B Limoso as President of the Class, together with the other officers, the Board had seventeen (17) meetings which produced fourteen (14) resolutions that aim to promote and protect the welfare of the Mistahs and the efficient and transparent management of funds. Among the resolutions approved and adopted this year, is the extension of the group insurance coverage of Sinagtala to the associate members of the class. This initiative will provide the much-needed support of the families of the comrades during their difficult times. The class also has a Coffee Table Project that will be launched by the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of this year. This coffee table project commemorates the member's achievements and embodies the unity and camaraderie created by the Sinagtala class.

The class conducted year-round activities such as bible study, prayer fellowship, and golf that improve and protect members' spiritual, physical, and mental well-being. These activities keep the members bonded and connected during the pandemic.

**Class Bible Study and Prayer Fellowships:**

This pandemic has paved the way to connect with many mistahs. We were able to give spiritual nourishment and pray with them, at the safety and comfort of their homes, through our regular virtual Thursday Bible Study and Prayer Fellowship via Zoom. The meeting is usually participated by 20-25 mistahs from all over the country. During the fellowships, everyone has the opportunity to share their experiences, thoughts, and concerns. Mistahs studied and shared the inspirations they get from the bible. Aside from the wisdom and encouragement gained by mistahs from the fellowships, the best part is that each mistah prayed not only for one another but for all mistahs, including those who are sick and burdened with personal concerns.



Aside from regular Thursday fellowships, the class also organized three (3) bigger Zoom fellowships which were attended by 80-85 mistahs with their family members and friends. Guest speakers were invited to talk about leadership in the family, knowing God, and how to have personal relationships with God. The core group will continue organizing more of this kind of fellowships this year being inspired by what is written in Hebrews 10:24-25 (NASB) which says, "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking the assembling together as it is the habit of some but encouraging one

another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Cav Samuel Felix)

**Class Golf Activities:**

Despite the uncertainties of the community quarantines implemented in 2021, the year 2021 was a modest year of golfing activities and fellowship for Sinagtala Early Mess Golf Club (SEMGC). This year, there were eleven (11) official rounds of golf at five (5) notable golf courses that were organized, in and out Metro Manila, and were participated by SEMGC members and friends. These successful events were made



**PMA SINAGTALA ASSOCIATION, INC**

18 Dec 2021, 1900H

- I. Call to Order
- II. Prayer
- III. Review and Approval of the minutes of Previous Meeting / Resolutions
- IV. Agenda:
  - 1. Status of CTB (Final Draft) for Printing
  - 2. Distribution of extra copies of CTB
  - 3. Projected activities for 2022
  - 4. Class officers 2021 year end report (Accomplishment)
  - 5. Other matters/disseminations
- IV. Adjournment



possible through the generosity of hosts and gracious sponsorships of our Mistahs and friends of SEMGC.

Below are the schedules of successful SEMGC conducted in 2021

- JAN - 2020 Games of Cavaliers - PNGC/VGC  
BG Vincent Tacderas Testimonial - CAGC  
GEN Gilbert Gapay Testimonial - CAGC
- FEB - Sinagtala 86 Virtual Reunion - CAGC
- MAR - AFPSLAI-MBAI Golf Fellowship - RIVIERA
- OCT - Cyber Crime Group Anniversary - PRADERA
- NOV - Ces and Picoy's Birthday Golf - PNGC  
2021 Games of Cavaliers - VGC/PNGC
- DEC - Peciong, Arwel, Jess and Dick Birthday Golf jibed SEMGC Year-End – PNGC (Cav Harry Barbers)



It must be stressed that behind all these achievements are the supportive mistahs and friends of Sinagtala class. Thus, no words of gratitude will suffice to express how thankful the class is to them for their trust and support, once more our

sincerest appreciation -Thank you.

Finally, if there is one message that we learned from this collective achievement, I would say, that is to consider first what could

be done rather than focusing on the obstacles that may get in our way. This will surely get our desired results. Cheers and together let us welcome 2022!





**JOSE CHIQUITO M MALAYO**  
President  
**RODOLFO S AZURIN JR**  
Secretary

Happy New Year - 2022 to all PMA MAKATAO 89. The class is starting the year with lots of possibilities for all classmates. Majority, however, will be retiring this year and those who will be left behind may find it very challenging.

As starter, here are the latest updates for our mistahs by Branch of Service.

**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**

By: Cav Jun Azurin

**A. NEW DESIGNATIONS:** For PNP "MAKATAO", the following are the latest designations of Mistahs: PLTGEN RHODEL O SERMONIA as The Chief Directorial Staff; PMGEN JESUS D CAMBAY JR as the new Director of Civil Security Group (CSG); and PBGEN VALERIANO T DE LEON as The Director for the Directorate for Operation (DO).

**B. LATEST PROMOTIONS:** The promotion to PLTGEN RHODEL O SERMONIA was the latest in PNP "MAKATAO". We are waiting for the promotion to PMGEN VALERIANO T DE LEON - maybe it was delayed due to typhoon Odette. 🙄🙄🙄

**C. RETIREES FROM FOURTH QUARTER TO DATE:** For the year 2022, six out of the 10 remaining PNP "MAKATAO" will be bowing out of the service, as follows;

- 1) PMGEN BERT FERRO -Mar 5;
- 2) PMGEN JOSEPH GOHEL- May 2;
- 3) PMGEN BART BUSTAMANTE -Jun 4;
- 4) PLTGEN MANNY ABU- Aug 1;
- 5) PMGEN JIREH FIDEL- Sept 8; and
- 6) PLTGEN CHIQUI MALAYO - Oct 2.



**D. ACTIVITIES:** Jun and Gaykee Azurin celebrated their 25th Silver Wedding anniversary last December 17, 2021. The ceremony was done in San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila- same church, same time and same principal sponsors (except the departed) 25 years ago.

**PHILIPPINE ARMY** - By: Cav Jun Torres

During the last quarter of 2021 and the first part of January 2022, the "MAKATAO" Army Group has experienced both victory and defeat.

Going up the ladder in the AFP organization are some of our Mistahs. Foremost is the designation and promotion of our first Commanding General of the Army, LTGEN OMET BRAWNER. ALEX LUNA was likewise designated as Commander, 9th Infantry Division to manage the campaign in Bicol region. At GHQ, CAMILO LIGAYO now heads the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Retirees and Reservists Affairs, OJ9. While DON BAJAO is the new AFP Internal Auditor. More of such designations to positions of

higher responsibility are expected in the ensuing quarter of the year.

Also trailblazing in the civilian sector are TOM SEDANO as Head Executive Assistant to the Administrator of Philippine Coconut Authority; and ALEX TUPRIO as Director for Security and Operational Risk, Peninsula Manila.

Five of our Mistahs have more time now attending to class and family activities as they have retired from the service: JOSHUA SANTIAGO, NICK SUEMITH, MEL RECAIDO, MAU LICUDINE and RANGER NONO PLAZA. Seven more members of the Army group will be retiring within the year: LINCOLN TAGLE, JOEY NARCISO, LOWELL TAN, JUVYMAX UY, MANNY SEQUITIN, ARIEL FELICIDARIO and ALEX LUNA.

In contrast to the victories stated above, we lost BAGNUS GAERLAN to COVID. We likewise were saddened with the untimely demise of Karen Pongos, wife of Nick. We commiserate with the family and continue to offer our prayers for the eternal repose of their soul.



We are living in difficult times, Mistahs. Let us always be safe by strictly observing health protocol and pray that soon everything will be back to normal!

**PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE**

By: Cav Chris Marquez

The “MAKATAO” Air Force Group received an early Christmas blessing with the designation of CONNOR CANLAS as the 38th CGPAF last 07 Dec 2021. Connors leads the PAF with the Command Framework LIPAD PAF in Performing, Advancing and Fostering towards national security and development. Along this line, the Air Force Group is in full support with Zambo-based NESTY RAYOS as Commander, Air Combat Command with two of the Air Force’s cutting edge counter insurgency units, the 15th Strike Wing and the 710th Special Operations Wings under his supervision.

In the Visayas, TOLITS VILLANUEVA heads TOWCEN and is heavily involved in the relief operations for the victims of Typhoon “Odette” in that part of the archipelago.

In the meantime, other PAF group mates are busy with their respective pre-occupations. Since retirement last March of 2020, TOTO D has assumed full supervision of PNB (Palagi Nasa Bahay) and as golf course conditions inspector along with other Hampas Lupa 89ers. Up North, LEO P’s service experience is still being tapped as

Chairperson of the AFRC and AFHRMC Multi-Sectoral Advisory Boards while being part time Financial Advisor of Sunlife. In South Luzon, CRIS MARQ claims to be very busy with gardening and got elected as one of the Board of Directors of their Home Owners Association. RETIREE LARRY T is presently working as botanist while waiting to be employed as consultant.

“MAKATAO” fly boys are also actively supporting the national economy and bringing in much needed forex. CAPTAIN PAUL is still flying with HK Air Cargo Carrier Ltd based in Hongkong and is much affected by stringent COVID-19 travel restrictions but hopes to be home in Manila by mid this year. Further east in the Middle East, seasoned helicopter pilot JERRY CABE is still with Gulf Helicopters Company based in Doha, Qatar. While pilot CALOY is still navigating Philippine Airspace as Corporate Pilot of Puregold and part-timing as driver/bodyguard ni misis (DBM) during his day off. Rounding of the Air Force Group update is ALDRICK DELA TORRE who is the advance party of the group in the Land of the Kings, doing everything that he wishes in Nueva Ecija.

**PHILIPPINE NAVY/COAST GUARD**

By: Cav Charles Gaerlan

For the Navy and Coast Guard Group, MGEN ENIONG HERNANDEZ, RADM WILLIAM ISAGA, and COMMODORE REGGIE

RAPANAN completed their exemplary service to our nation and have now joined the pensioners group. It’s very heartbreaking that the wife of ENIONG, Cristy Hernandez has left us but we know she is now with our Creator in Heaven.

Aside from the retirements, there were no changes in the group and the following still hold their previous positions:

1. VADM ED FABRICANTE - Deputy Commandant for Operations, PCG;
2. RADM NICK DRIZ - Comdr, Naval Education Training and Doctrine Command;
3. RADM ALBERTO CARLOS - Commander, Philippine Fleet;
4. RADM JUN ADACI - Commander, Naval Forces Western Mindanao;
5. RADM DORVIN LEGASPI - Commander, Naval Reserve Command;
6. MGEN ARIEL CACULITAN - Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps;
7. RADM CHAPPY REYES - The Naval Inspector General;
8. BGEN CHARLES GAERLAN - AJ2;
9. COMMO REI PICAR – Chief of Coast Guard Staff;
10. BGEN RAUL CALDEZ - Deputy Commandant, Phil Marine Corps;
11. BGEN RUBEN CANDELARIO- Comdr, Combat and Service Support Brigade;
12. COMMO BONG GARANA - Deputy J10;
13. NESTOR MARCELINO – into business and enjoying as an Eagle;
14. FERDES VELASCO – into business, but more on golf and big bike with mistahs;
15. BUTCH LOBATON - GM of Watercraft Venture Corp at Subic Bay Freeport;
16. ORBILLE PIOL enjoying time with his family in Australia;
17. JONG ABELLERA is enjoying in UK;
18. LEONARD TEODORO and JUN UNSON at peace with our Almighty in heaven;
19. NONON SUNIGA at California USA Bay Area;
20. FRANCIS GABUDAO is enjoying his retirement in Cavite;
21. RANDYLL FERNANDEZ still in West Coast, USA;
22. JONG MARCELO recently visited







and showed up at Marine Firing Range facility;

23. RONALD MENDOZA - still in Milan and happy for Luigi, his son who graduated;

24. JOHN LUMICAO is still in the US West Coast, too;

25. BGEN CAMILO BALUTAN is now the RD of NICA in Zamboanga;

26. TIMMY AURELIO is managing security agency in Manila.

With that, the PMA Makatao Class of 1989 wishes everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous 2022. May God be our guide and bless us!!!



**CHRISTOPHER P AGBAYANI**  
President  
**WILFREDO B MANALANG III**  
Author

Harken ye back 25 summers ago when we last dwell in the Land of the Kings...

Happy Homecoming to all Kalasag-Lahi! At this time of the year, we always find time “amidst the noise and haste” to reminisce our confusing, challenging yet hilarious days as Dumbguards up to the time when as Immaculates our mere presence shines like the rays of the sunamong the CCAFP ranks, wehhhh! This year may be a subdued celebration due to the ongoing pandemic; however, this is still a very significant occasion considering we had now officially rendered 25 fruitful and wonderful years of service as Shield of our nation.

Looking back at those twenty-five years, we can see how much we have

literally grown in size (majority have already outgrown their Dress Coat and are now considered as well-rounded Officers) and how our Class had also grown in number. Judging from the number of dependents you have signified for your luxurious billet rooms (thanks Atty Tetchie for the snappy preparations!), our Brats indeed have outnumbered the remaining folic hairs of Eugene Cabusao. More importantly, we have proven our worth as dedicated and dependable leaders and followers, not only in the Armed Forces of the Philippines but also in other fields of endeavor such as in the civilian sector (security, airlines, etc), sports (Martin- shootfest), education (course topnotcher- Lague; Bar passers; Masteral and PhD courses; AIM-Monoso, Red and Baron) and public service (PDEA, BIR, PCG).

**Class Updates**

Will this be the year we will have our very first BGen/Commodore? Go for it, Chris and Laarni Meniado!

Congratulations to the following active mistahs who were able to complete

their crucial command positions: Army Battalion Command – Agoncillo, Arbolado, Boongaling, Carandang, Dela Cruz, De Mesa, Fagel, Fernandez, Gabi, Lague, Mariñas, Manalang, Manangan, Monfort, Nato, Onggao, Pascual, Pecson, Pereña, Santiago L, Templo, Templonuevo, Tionsgon; Command-at-Sea – Martinez M, Palisoc, Peñaflorida, Reforba, Sumpay, Toriado, Tulen; Marine Battalion Command – Virtudazo, Padua, Caluya, Bonavente, Densing; PAF Commanders – Bance, Banua, Dante, Manglicmot, Nunag-Castillo, Peña.

MNSA graduates – Agoncillo, Barrion, Dela Cruz, Fernandez, Fagel, Gastardo, Gubantes, Halasan, Martinez N, Peña, Reforba, Santiago L, Virtudazo; NSSP – Aquino, Banaria, Banua, Nunag-Castillo, Santiago J.

Updates on our overseas-based mistahs are the following: Arnold and Jean Aquino (Illinois), Berong “Mr Electric” and Myra Oliveros (Virginia), Sonny and Marie Obillos (Irvine, CA), Caleb and Jane Gemoto (New Haven), Nic and Monalisa Buyuccan (Minnesota), Angelbert and Nina Ricci Gay (Australia); Arvin and Marj



Yadao (California), George dela Cruz (Canada), Paul Rex Amindalan (USA), Ares Camino (LA/Texas), Rhodel and Joyce Macasaet (Illinois), Christopher Patindol, Wendell Salvador, and Marco and Arnel Irish Ancheta (Amphibia Marine and Subsea Services OPC). Likewise, local BIC members include Joel and Alma Alviar (Pacific Global One Aviation/Cavite), Criszer and Leslie Tolentino (Shangri-la), Sheryl Jane Uy-Cabasan (Iloilo), Speedy Calsado (PAL), Don Redentor and Portia Cruz (DSource/Eventique Manila), Dennis Plaza, Daddy Warren and Love Dagupon (Baguio), Jason and PJ Evangelista (Baguio), Ariel Firme, Willie and Marge Antalan (PLDT/Davao), Arlene Orejana-Trillanes (National University/Antipolo), Bayani and Denden Baltar (Security Manager, Ipilan Nickel), Clint and Maybn Ongue (Samar), Phil Aspiras (Taguig); Rommel Padere, Cromwell and Aileen Reyes (PAL/Davao), Art and Mary Jean Taunan (PAL), Pykes and Abigail Picar (Shangri-la), Roderick and Jocelyn Lindog (PAL), Orville and Thess Gardiola (PAL), Alvin and Evangeline Feria (PAL), Jefferson and CheTecson (Sen MP), Dennis Solomon (ARTA), Alan and Jorja Villagarcia (PAL/Mabalacat), Winfred and Michelle Caoile (PAL), Demos and Kristine

Austria (Vietnam Air), Reginald and Juniver Okko (Lipa), Alan and Sweet Cañamaque (PAL), Ariel and Melba Quinto (PAL), Isaac Gomez, Eric and Annette de Leon (PAL), Michael and Arlene Encarnacion, Nerf and Konch Monoso, Nat and Chris Cruz (PAL), Neil and Mai Bugarin (CebuPac), Chris and Len Agbayani (BIR), RR and Cathy Abendan (St Francis Square, Inc), RD and Luh Hontiveros, Donald and Love Landingin (BPI), Arnold Marie and Dorleen Obra (Laoag), Ronald and Raquel Galicia (Pasig LGU), and Onofre Paolo and Marla Alzate (PAL).

Congratulations, likewise, goes out to concerned mistahs and their significant half for celebrating their Silver wedding anniversary for the first semester CY2022: Red and Portia, Wiliboie and Honeylet, Papa Pecs and Mercy, Jun and Cherry Pascual, Sir Sonny and Arlene, Sonny and Marie Obillos, Sir Manny and Sheryl Jane, Julius and Bel, Oliver and Ching Reforba, Isagani and Frances, and Randy and Weng Bance.

#### **Awardees galore**

Congratulations goes out to the following mistahs for their non-touring awards they have received: Cavalier

Awardee – Reforba (Navy, 2008), Bance (Airforce, 2008), and Melvin Banua (2022); TOPS Awardee – Bance (2008) and Oliver Banaria (2016); Legion of Honor (with the Degree of Legionnaire) – Ramon David Hontiveros (2016); Distinguished Conduct Star - JJ Apura; Officer of the Year - Junie Agoncillo (FSRR, 2001), Arlene Trillanes (PMA, 2003), JJ Dator (PSG, 2009 and PMA, 2014), Librada (PMA, 2015), and Don Templonuevo (11D, 2020 and 2021); AFP Anniversary Awardee – Ronald Virtudazo (2018) and Templonuevo (2019); Honeylet Manalang (PMA's Model Civilian Employee of the Year, 2011); Major Service Anniversary Awardee – Leah Santiago (Army, 2014), Wil Manalang (Army, 2016); Boongaling (Metrobank Outstanding Filipino, 2021); Bance (Golden Aviator Award, 2008 and Outstanding Son of Capiz, 2011); San Juan (Hukbong Bayani, UP, 2021); Ray Tiongson – Best Performing Information Officer (PIA-W.Vis, 2015). Civilian education –JFos Manangan (Magna Cum Laude, MDM@UC-Baguio), and Phillip Fagel (Cum Laude, MPA@UB). All of you have made the Class proud.

Again, Happy Homecoming, fellow Silver Jubilarians! Mabuhay ang Kalasag-Lahi 1997!





**EMERSON F OXALES**  
President  
**PAUL AV AVIQUIVIL**  
Secretary

**G**ood day Sanghaya Class 2000! The year 2021 was quite a challenging year to all of us. The pandemic is still around the corner but we have managed to adjust to the new normal. Again, the class has proven its resiliency and despite the challenges, some have proven their tenacity in achieving excellence in their respective fields. Accordingly, members of Sanghaya Class 2000 breezed through the CGSC Class of 69 and SIC Class 41 with flying colors! They did so through patience, dedication, and perseverance. They demonstrated adaptability through remote learning, committed to not only surviving but thriving.

For the most part, we acknowledge that last year was predominantly about delivering what was possible armed with an arsenal of tech tools, platforms and strategies. In an increasingly Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous (VUCA) world, Sanghayans delivered and ensured excellence, thereby bringing honor in their respective branches of service.

**From the Philippine Army,** LTC Francel Margareth PADILLA-TABORLUPA received the Vice Chief of Staff AFP Award, graduating Nr 2 in a class of 140 as an Outstanding Student Awardee (The last awardee for outstanding student in CGSC was way back Class 54). Likewise, her paper on Cyber Peace was also nominated for the Best Commandant's Paper. On the spotlight as well is LTC Jerald "Jed" REYES, bagging the Best Commandant's Paper and Honor Graduate. Obtaining the Leadership Award and also an Honor graduate is LTC Vladimir GRACILLA who likewise served as the CGSC Class 69 President. Other Class 69 Army Sanghayans who graduated as

Honor graduates are: LTC Gilbert BOADO, LTC Allan TRIA and LTC Marlon SALVADOR.

**From the Philippine Navy and Marines,** CDR Leah GAITANA-ESTABILLO received the FOIC Award and along with CDR Aldrin GACUSAN, CDR Vincent CASTAÑEDA, LTC Henry ESPINOSA, and LTC Ashley NASTOR PN(M) who all emerged as Honor graduates. Likewise, the Philippine Marine Corps is celebrating the success of LTC NASTOR for bagging the Cavalier Award for 2022. Prior to this award, LTC NASTOR served as the Commanding Officer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 stationed in Sulu Province where his unit was adjudged as the Best Battalion for CY 2019 and 2020. He is also a recipient of the Distinguished Service Star, Gold Cross, Distinguished Navy Cross and the

Order of Lapu-Lapu, Kamagi Medal which was awarded by President Rodrigo Duterte. Truly, the Sanghayans are proud to have produced four (4) Cavalier Awardees already (CAV SEÑORON- 2013, CAV GUILLERMO - 2018, and CAV AVIQUIVIL - 2021).

**From the Philippine Air Force,** the last batch of Air Force Sanghayans to take the CGSC finished the course with LTC Alfred SARMIENTO receiving the CGPAF Award and together with LTC Billy Costales as Honor graduates. Meanwhile, LTC Paul Anthony AVIQUIVIL graduated at the top of his class on the recently concluded Strategic Intelligence Course (SIC) Class 41. Aside from bagging the Top 1 award, he also received the major awards for Best Regional Conflict and Best Country Studies. Again, the



Sanghayans are proud to have produced two (2) consecutive Top notch students in the Strategic Intelligence Course (LTC MORALES graduating on top of SIC Class 40).

However, as we persevere in the pandemic situation that we are in, the

bottom line is that we triumphed in this feat as great leaders who are resigned to uncertainty but are well equipped and prepared to adopt to change. It has been an adventure so far, and we look forward to more challenging times

ahead as the new breed of CGSC and SIC qualified Sanghayans forge on towards new leadership roles and responsibilities taking the helm of command towards creating meaningful impact in the lives of the Filipino People.





**TED C CEREZO JR**  
President  
**MARISSA LIBRANDO MANGAHAS**  
Secretary

**P**asa, Masid". The command we've been waiting for when we were Cadets, especially during Alumni Homecoming Parades. After the grueling pain of waiting, whilst standing under the glaring sun, the icy breeze of Baguio seems uncool. Though hearing this command, now we can march forward after being "kultitized" by the Long Gray Line Cavaliers. Twenty-one years had gone by, as we welcome 2022 the Doom Kaakibat Class of 2001 is still solid as a diamond, marching forward amidst the still evolving pandemic and doing what has to be done. Last year, the Kaakibats accomplished commendable endeavors fulfilling the AFP's covenant of "Protecting the People, Securing the State." This year Kaakibats will continue to be the best of the best, as the class in one voice vow to perform their respective mandate in service to the nation.

**Class call current updates:**

**Navy Group:**

With the recent natural disaster Super Typhoon Odette, **NAVY KAAKIBAT** group Commanding Officers spearheaded the Philippine Fleet's Operation "TABANG" that provided warships to assist and tons of care packs and other essential relief goods and equipment shipped to affected areas. Our Skippers, Pilots, and Marine BatComs served our needy victims and sacrificed their Christmas and New Year's break to be of service to our fellowmen. Kudos Kaakibat Skippers, PICs, and MBLT Cos. Hooyah, Huraaaah!

**Frontliners of the Seas** - Jess PILAR – CO, BRP Ang Pangulo (ACS25); Jinggoy RUIZ – CO, Manobo (LC297); Marco SANDALO – CO, BRP Iwak (LC289); Romeo MOSUELA – CO, BRP Subanon (LC291; Jowel DE VERA – CO, BRP Heracleo Alano (PC376); CAPT PHILIP Plaza – CO, (PS36); Paul HECHANOVA - Ex-O, BRP Jose Rizal; Raymund UMBAC - D,FTG; Joy TAÑAG - D, NAVMETOC; Ariel TORRES – AF1; Warren LOPEZ - Director, FMPC; Ted CEREZO – D, F3; Manny PANTALEON - CO, HSU LCF; and Rowene COLITA – CS, FTDC;). The **NAW** is the Fleet soaring above the skies - Ariel COLOMA – IG; Keith MARQUEZ – CO, NASEG60; Mickey SIMEON – CO, MARPATCON32; and Dennis RESUELLO – CO, LUP531. Cyber-Security – Henry MABBAGU - CS, NICTC. For the **MARINES**: Rowan RIMAS – AC of MCS for



Operations MC3; Prisco TABO – ExA, VCOM PN; Al POLA – CO, MBLT-2; Tino MASLAN – CO, MBLT-5; Wowie OLASO – CO, MBLT-7; and Cliff BASCO – Ex-O 9<sup>th</sup> MARU. While the rest: Alfred CAYABYAB – C4, NLC; HPN dudes - Kris ILARDE, ExO, N2 and Marissa LIBRANDO-MANGAHAS (N9), Joe MARCELO - Chief PBDB N10, Bryan VALDEZ (J8); Imee BUTAC-MARIÑAS – NIC 1; Jomel Panes- PSG; Flor MURITO – UN Peacekeeping; Antonio BOSCH –GSC, USA; **PCG**– Nelson TIMBANG ongoing GSC, AFPETDC. **Private and public quasi group**: TAMBA- CPG Property Mngt SM PHI; PEREZ- Country Sec Manager of Multinational SC Co; ELUMBA- Country Sec Mngr of Global SC; FAJARDO PRETILA - Australia; ROSOS- US; while BABANG, PONTEJOS, DAQUILANEA, LABORTE are on their respective companies.

**Air Force Group:**

Congratulations, to Bene and Atoy who were awarded Group of the Year AY-2021 and ARCEN of the Year 2021 respectively and to all who have finished their Command and General Staff Course. Updates Kaakibat PAF Group: **Recently graduated CGSC 69** - Medroso, and Aguhob; Castro - CGSC Korea, De Leon - ACSC USA; Gavilan - C, AFPIMAC; Balico - GM, AFPPF; Somera - C, RDD and C, ESOD, OJ3; Eugenio - OJ3; Tolentino - OJ6; Ty - C, JCTD,OJ8; Daus - Cadungan - OSS, HPAF; Piquero - JC4, AFPETDC; Lacbain - U4, WESCOM; Cabalquinto - DO, 420SW (Clark); Quiming – CO,PAF ALEN (Lipa); Olave - Cmdt, NCOS (Lipa); Tabuto I- GC, TOG2 (Cauayan); Gado r- GC, 540ABG, 5th Fighter Wing; Parugrug - GC, 430AMG, 5th Fighter Wing; Chan - GC, 590ABG (Sanglely); Benitez - GC, 450<sup>th</sup> MSG (Mactan); Sevilla - GC, 550ABG (Lipa); Buan - CO,3<sup>rd</sup> ARCEN (Lipa); Hallara

- CO, 6<sup>th</sup>ARCEN (Zamboanga); Baquiran-CO, 4<sup>th</sup> ARCEN (Palawan); Isla – Blackhawk Pilot, 205<sup>th</sup> THW; **PDEA** - Alvarino and Plaza; Grande – DD, TESDA; **PAL** - Vergara, Marinas, Magluyan; **PAF reserves in civilian/business sectors**: Hussein, De Guzman, Penaflovida, Caronongan, Vasquez, Carandang, Macarubbo, Fabic, Asis, Anonat-Daniels, Matias, Ariola, Bajesta and Rosete.

**Army Group:**

Congratulations to CAVGLADIUZCALILAN for the Army Operations Cavalier Award. He is currently the G3, 5ID. Army Kaakibat whereabouts: **Battalion Commanders of Infantry and Special Operations** units: Aris ANTONIO – 29IB; Lemuel BADUYA – 95IB; Jelson BUYUCCAN – 75IB; Paeng CAIDO – 65FBN; Harvey GERNALE – 35FBN; Juls MUNAR – 66IB; Benjie CADIENTE – 33IB; Iko SASING – 4IB; Ven NOCHE – 44IB; Olick SALAYO – 11IB; Jason ESTRADA – 12IB; Erwin CARIÑO – 15IB; Ally DEPAYSO – 47IB; Nelson MICO – 22IB; Ric DAYATA – 4SRBN; Manny DEGAY – 43IB; Battalion Cmdrs of Civil-Military Operations units: Rey TAQUEBAN – 12CMOBN; JP BALDOMAR – 6CMOBN; Jerome CABIGON – 9CMOBN; Battalion Cmdrs of Support and Service Support Units: Perci ALCANAR – 2SigBN; Odi BARRIENTOS – 4SigBN; Joe PERLAS – 10SigBN; JV PULMANO – 2SSBN; Earl PANGANIBAN – 3SSBN; Mokha ABDULLAH – 2FSSU; Army Units: Romar MARVIDA – Deputy, APMC; Homer ESTOLAS – Deputy G3, 6ID; Mike RAYMAN – Chief, FACDO; Jason DOMINGO – EXO, 1Mech Bde; Glen APRESTO – CS, AVNR, PA; Lamcel CARANGUIAN – GM, PA PROFUND; Don FRIVALDO – Commandant, TAS; Chris Jacon CORDERO – GSMO, FSRR; Cons CAHAYON

– G2, 3ID; Cheng REAÑO – G7, 7ID; Mario BAUTISTA – G2, 8ID; TJ DALANGIN – 8ID; Sid VICENTE – G3, 7ID; Francis RUGAYAN – G1, SFR(A); Rino GUDA – G3, SFR(A); Gen IGNACIO – G4, SFR(A); Angel VALENZUELA – Chief, DPM, 11ID; Ben RAMOS Jr – EXO, 2SFBN; Evelio ILANGA – 3ID; Jerold JALE – 4ID; Cris MUGOT- Dep G1, 4ID; Mark CABUNOC- EXO, RFA WesVis; Henry GUILVERMO – ALDEC, TRADOC; Jess JUMAWAN – Fire Bde, HHSG, PA; Stephen ENCARNACION – 6ID; Peewee SOLOSA – AIR; AFPWSSUs: Nini SOLAMO – CO, Presidential Escorts, PSG; Mags MAPALAD – CO, Presidential Guards, PSG; Frank GARCIA – Chief, OFM, PSG; Ron TORCELINO – Chief Opns, SIF, ISAFP; Lazaro QUIGAO – Commandant, Peacekeeping Opns School, AFPPKOC; Jason PANALIGAN – CS, AFPCES; Naz AROJO – Head, RDDD, SITS, ISAFP; Mariglo RAMOS – Asst Manager, GHQ PROFUND; Fara ASLKALANI-CANDELARIA – PMA; Vangie MARCELINO-ESPAÑOLA – PMA; Richard AGOJO – OJ2; Ray DELIMA – AFPSOCOM; Nante OCCIANO – DIF, ISAFP; **For graduation, CGSC Class 69:** Rye VILLAR; Vic VILLANUEVA; Rowel TABAS; Orly RAMOS; Ian HAMLAG; Romil CALERO; Manny DIASEN; William SABADO; Reggie COLOMA (Attempting to retire). They (CGSC 69) are being supervised by: Joel DELMENDO – Head, Admin Dept, CGSC and Ron DESINGANO – JC1, AFPETDC. OFW (posted as MILOBS, UNMOGIP): Alfred SAN AGUSTIN and Bert BATINGGA. **Foreign Service:** Mongkol KHOM-ARWUT – Thailand



Army Kaakibats on civilian/business sector: Arbern ABIVA – enjoying retirement; Angel ARANETA – U.S. of A; Joseph ARRIOLA – somewhere in QC; Aldrin BALDONADO – somewhere in the south; Paulo BUSOG – busy sa business; Alex CABALES – enjoying retirement; Gomer DELAROCA – **Corporate world**; Julius ESPIRITU – enjoying retirement at the same time working again; Mel ESTACIO – near Manila Bay; Mario HIDALGO – enjoying retirement and hosting Western Visayas

Kaakibat gatherings; Rithcie MABALOD – somewhere in NAIA; Ron MALCON – busy sa security; Jemer PAMPLONA – busy din; Antero PRADO – busy sa ports; Bry PUNCIA – mas busy; Warjam TAYABAN – corporate security; Ronnie VENTO – somewhere in Central Luzon.

***“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength”- Philippians 4:13.*** KAAKIBATS, let us keep moving forward.



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

# LAST CALL

## **PCOL FLORANTE J BAGUIO '75**

25 Nov 1951 – 15 Nov 2021

Cav Baguio, who would have been 71 years old on his birthday which was ten days away, died on November 15, 2021 in his residence at the AFP Officers Village Incorporated (AFPOVAI) Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. He died after a sudden and tragic accident in his Taguig home. He was born in Salug, Zamboanga del Norte. He served in the Philippine Constabulary and in the Philippine National Police until his retirement in 2006. He is survived by his wife Baby; his three daughters Kristin Mae, Kayla and Karla Ann; two grandchildren; and siblings Elias Jr, Nicarter, Luzviminda and Venus. He was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on November 23, 2021 with military honors.



## **BGEN ISAURO C GUIANG '53**

03 Feb 1929 – 30 Nov 2021

Cav Guiang died peacefully at his residence in Tierra Pura Homes, Quezon City on 30 November 2021. Wake was held on Dec 1-4, 2021 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Commonwealth, Q.C. His last position held in the AFP was as Commanding General, Southern Support Command, Zamboanga. He left behind his loving wife, Estela with whom he has three children: Arlene Guiang Robles, Blesida Guiang Penafiel, and Isauro Quinto Guiang Jr.



## **COL RODOVALDO S MALUYO '70**

21 Oct 1945 - 21 Dec 2021

Cav Rudy Maluyo suffered a stroke and died peacefully on 21 Dec 21 in the USA. A successful businessman, he was a recipient of PMAAAI Cavalier Award for Private Enterprise/Entrepreneurship for his outstanding business leadership, his excellent management as CEO of CAREMAX, his responsible community involvement and his demonstrated compassion and charity to fellow PMA cavaliers.



## **COL MANUEL A TAYAG '82**

09 Sept 1959 – 23 Dec 2021

Cav Tayag died at the Lung Center of the Philippines due to cardiac arrest on 23 Dec 2021. Wake was held at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels along Araneta Ave., Quezon City. He was buried at their family mausoleum at the Manila North Cemetery on 28 Dec 2021. Cav Tayag was the CO, HHSB, ASCOM, PA when he retired.



He is survived by his wife, Ma. Victoria with whom he has four children: Ma. Josefa Therese, Bernardo Ino, Maria Angeline, and Ma. Crista Ysabelle.

## **COL ALFONSO M LUMIBAO '62**

21 April 1935 – 2 Jan 2022

Cav Lumibao died on 02 January 2022 of heart attack at PMA Station Hospital, Baguio City. He was a former Assistant DZCHD III PCZ and RVAD for Personnel, Recom 7 in 1978. He is married to Ching+ with whom he had six children: Dinna, Cecille, Don Alfonso+, Antonio (PMA Class 1991), Ala-may and Isabel. Wake was held at the PMA Mortuary on 03-06 January 2022. He was interred at Loyola-Marikina Columbarium.



## **CPT VIRGILIO M IBONES '88**

16 June 1965 - 05 Jan 2022

Cav Ibones passed away on 05 January 2022 due to a vehicular accident. He is survived by his wife, Procesa and children: Virgilio III, Zuriel, Faith, Patrick, Sakura, Diana, John, and Ace. Wake was held at their residence in Purok 4, John Bosco District Mangagoy, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur from January 6 to 21, 2022.



## **GEN LISANDRO C ABADIA '62**

29 May 1938 – 09 Jan 2022

Cav Abadia, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, passed away on 10 January 2022, he was 83. He served in the AFP for 36 years, starting his military career in 1958 and retiring in



1994. He served as chief of staff from 1991 under President Corazon Aquino, until 1994 under President Fidel Ramos.

Cav Abadia's leadership paved the way for the professionalization of the military and the return of meritocracy in its promotion system. He also led the AFP Campaign Plan "Lambat Bitag" that saw the decrease of strength of the communist rebels. He was accorded appropriate military honors in recognition of his legacy and sacrifices as a soldier and head of the military.

## **LTGEN GAUDENCIO S PANGILINAN JR '79**

25 July 1955 – 20 Jan 2022

Cav Pangilinan passed away at 3 p.m., 20 January 2022 at St Lukes Hospital in BGC. His body was cremated at 7 p.m. on 20 January. Wake was held at the Heritage Funeral Homes in Taguig and inurnment on 24 January. Cav Pangilinan was the Commanding General, NOLCOM when he retired and later appointed as Chief of Bureau of Corrections. He is married to the late Grace Divinagracia Pangilinan with whom he has four children: Rosabelle, Annabelle, Jobelle and Jam.



## **CAPT ROBERTO P TAGAMOLILA '72**

29 April 1950 – 01 Feb 2022

Cav Tagamolila died at Las Pinas Doctors Hospital on 01 February 2022. His last position held in AFP was as Commander, BRP (Cebu). He was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio on 12 March 2022. He was married to the late Virginia Canlas Tagamolila with whom he has two children, Roberto Jr and Vina.



## **CPT BENJAMIN D TESORO '75**

04 Aug 1952 – 2 Feb 2022

San Manuel Municipal Vice-Mayor Cav Benjamin "Bening" Tesoro, died on 2 February 2022 due to a sudden cardiac arrest. Internment was held on 6 February, immediately after a necrological service at San Manuel Cultural Center and at Our Lady of Remedies Parish.



## Message

The yearly Alumni Homecoming celebration provides cavaliers with a festive opportunity to reconnect with the institution that nurtured us to become the noble men and women that we are today. At the organizational level, this event serves as a rallying point; a particular “when” and “where” that satisfies a group’s longing to congregate and gather. At the individual level, this serves as a point of recollection; a specific time and place to go back not only to where we used to live, but more importantly, to who we used to be.


Before we can go back to who we were, we first need to answer the basic question of “who were we exactly”? Who were we before the real world bombarded us with moral and ethical dilemmas? Who were we before the imperfections of our society dampened our spirits? Who were we before we were forced to compromise, to submit, or to settle?

We were loyal patriots back then. Newly minted officers who pledged our undying allegiance to the Flag, the Constitution, and the Government. But most important of all, we were public servants who pledged to serve the People. Back then, our loyalty lies on specific ideals, and not on specific personalities. Back then, we were looking after the welfare of others, instead of ourselves.

This homecoming, I wish for everyone to be able to come back to the place where it all started. To remember who we were back then and find our way back to who we used to be. To try and reaffirm our shared values and non-negotiables. To renew our commitment in preserving the supremacy of freedom and justice. Wherever and whoever we are at this moment.

And lastly, let us not forsake the three core values of our institution: **COURAGE, INTEGRITY and LOYALTY**. Always live by it and go for it even outside the PMA ground.

God bless and welcome back home.

  
**CAV AMADO T. ESPINO JR '72**  
Outgoing Chairman - PMAAAI

