



The

# CAVALIER

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

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

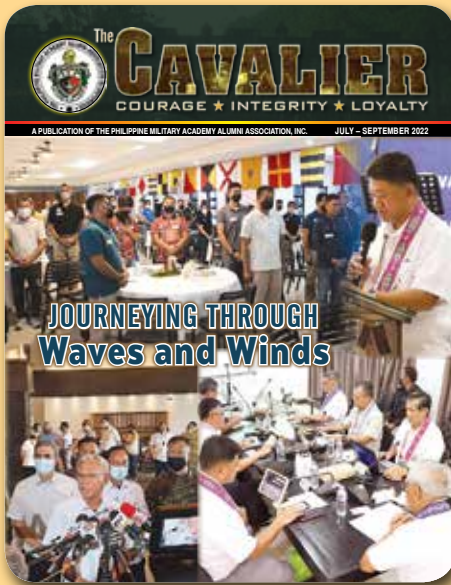
JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022



## JOURNEYING THROUGH Waves and Winds



## ABOUT THE COVER



Cavaliers from all chapters, fraternal and affiliate organizations, keep themselves busy journeying through waves and winds to fulfill their pledge of commitment to serve the country and its people.

They remain steadfast in their resolve to perform their respective roles and responsibilities for and in behalf of the Cavalier community.

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# The CAVALIER

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>From the Chairman's Desk.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>President's Corner.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Supe's Report .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Baron's Dissemination .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cavalier Newslines.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PMAAAI Consultative Meeting and Fellowship Goes to Bicol.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Wonder Years: Retirees Section .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>PMA Odd-Even Classes Clash in Fun Games</b>	
<b>During PMAAAI Jurado Cup 2022.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Adjutant's Bulletin</b>	
<b>- Nominees for Association Awards .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PMAAAI PA Chapter News</b>	
<b>- PMAAAI-ACCI General Assembly.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>- Induction of PMA Class of 2022 .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>PMAAAI PAF Chapter News.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>PMAAAI PN Chapter News.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PMAAAI PNP Chapter News .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>FEMALE CAVALIER SEGMENT</b>	
<b>- Lt Gessyka Maria Tobias Fronda PN</b>	
<b>Excelling in a Male Dominated World.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES</b>	
<b>- Cpt Raymond Ralph C Gamboa PAF</b>	
<b>Destined to Soar High .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>VISITOR'S ACCOUNTS</b>	
<b>- The Cavalier Who is Steering PCG Towards New Heights.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Letter of Cav Manuel Oxales on Fixed Tenure</b>	
<b>for AFP Top Officials .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>What if Quad, G7 and NATO Unite Against China? .....</b>	<b>26</b>
• Cav Victor Corpus '67	
<b>Why an IRR on the New AFP Retirement Law?.....</b>	<b>30</b>
• Cav Edgard A Arevalo '90	
<b>Class Call.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Last Call.....</b>	<b>80</b>

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

Readers may now view The Cavalier online at [pmaaaai.ph](http://pmaaaai.ph)

Send your letters to:

**The Editor, The Cavalier**  
 PMA Alumni Center  
 Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Q.C.  
 e-mail address: [pmaaaai@yahoo.com](mailto:pmaaaai@yahoo.com)

Some articles have been edited to meet space requirements.



# FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV AMB VIDAL E QUEROL '73

**AS if the war in Ukraine isn't enough worry, the Taiwan visit of Speaker Pelosi completes tensions from Eurasian Heartland to China Rimland.**

**The microchip USA embedded in my Filipino brain can easily somnambulate our country to costly, avoidable war.**

**Senator Loren Legarda wokery romanticizes the enemy, stupefies Cavaliers, follows with pointless clarification**

**B**arely out of the pandemic, the whole world reels from Russia invasion of its neighbour Ukraine. Many claim it to be unwarranted, unprovoked aggression while other scholars believe the invasion is Russia response to the existential threat of US-led NATO expansion right on its borders, Ukraine. No less than former US Ambassador to Russia now CIA Director William Burns sent cable as Ambassador 14 years ago that '...NATO expansion to Ukraine is the brightest of all red-lines to all of Russia, not just Putin..'

As if the Ukraine war in Eurasian Heartland was not enough for the world to worry, the visit of US Speaker Nancy Pelosi to self-governing island of Taiwan created another flashpoint between US and China in the China Rimland, this time lapping at our nation's water edge. This prompted many Cavaliers to look back again at the ageing 1951 US RP MDT which did nothing in 2012 Philippines-China standoff over the Scarborough Shoal. It was Philippine strategic loss as well as heavy loss on the reliability of the 1951 MDT. "US does not involve in territorial or boundary disputes.", this has been the narrative when US preferred to stay away from conflict. Taiwan in the center, Philippines in the south and Japan in the north are one critical area in the US-led Pacific containment ring which is undoubtedly aimed at China, the dominant military and economic power in Asia. Without Taiwan and Philippines, it would be too difficult for US to contain China PLA-Air Force and PLA-Navy both surface and submarine projection into the Pacific.

In response to Russia invasion, US leads western financial and economic sanctions on Russia to dry up its war chest particularly huge revenues from its oil and gas exports, and expels Russia from the SWIFT banking system. These undoubtedly have created huge supply deficit in the world market, anxiety and volatility and triggered unprecedented sudden spike of energy and commodity prices and shaken the tenuous global supply chain which has not fully recovered from the ravages of the pandemic. These sanctions have not done much harm to Russia so far. Europe circumvents their own sanctions, remains the biggest consumer 47% of Russia energy exports through

third party. Reportedly, Russia oil goes to US through refineries in India and China. Ghost oil tankers obviate US sanctions through millions upon millions tons of Russia oil ship-sided in the ocean. And noticeably absent are US warships to enforce US long arm jurisdiction now.

Tit for tat, Russia counters with sanctions to the West by reducing Russia energy supply to Europe and requires trade with Russia in its rouble currency to escape US financial sanctions. The EU Bloc has been heavily dependent on Russia gas, reduction of which threatens industry decline, bitter winter and cold shower. Their citizens press their governments to search for other alternatives than war to bring down prices. The financial system, the US dollar and Russia oil and rouble in the forms of sanctions are now weaponized in the global rivalry of superpowers. India, China and South America, in the name of national interests do not abide to such unilateral sanctions but the unintended consequences have brought huge sufferings to smaller countries blameless for the war. Meanwhile pump prices skyrocket; the price of humble *pandesal* rises 20% more. Agriculture fertilizers from Russia suddenly have become scarce and very expensive impacting on global basic food production. The weaponization of the US dollar, trade tariffs and the west financial transfer systems through sanctions of the US-led West countries on rival countries, has spurred China, Russia, India to ramp up the BRICS as formidable economic bloc and SCOs countries as regional bloc in the Eurasian heartland where minerals and energy resources are simply bountiful.

While Russia warrants its invasion of Ukraine as stemming the existential threat of the US-led Western expansions, and China claims on similar warrant, US and Western responses to Russia in Europe and China in East Asia are likewise warranted responses to existential threat posed by both autocratic states to Western democratic states, their collective leadership and preeminence of global affairs since the colonial and imperial times.

Despite series of failed military adventures in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and lately the chaotic departure of US-led military alliance from

Afghanistan, the US in display of undiluted global power and influence now engages its 2 dominant global competitors, Russia via Ukraine and China via Taiwan. Given continuing supply of US and West warfighting equipment in Ukraine and nothing of negotiation and diplomacy on the table and radar screen, it now appears to a costly protracted war for both US and Russia with battleground Ukraine bearing the bloody brunt and ruins, but happily with the military-industry complex or 5th estate controlling global narratives and raking in huge profits. And in East Asia, tensions are roiling on both sides of the Taiwan Strait as direct consequence of the Pelosi visit. To China, the Pelosi visit crosses the China "red line" breaching the "One China Policy" which is all defined in the 3 US-China agreements (officially termed as Communiques). Thus, when China unilaterally broke all its military links with US, it sent shivers of potential miscalculations that could lead to global disaster. This situation, on safety considerations, forced the Pelosi plane from Kuala Lumpur to Taipei to avoid the entire South China Sea and took long circuitous but innocent route of east Philippine Sea into Taiwan.

Observers and students of the Taiwan Strait are varied in their commentaries on China response to the Pelosi visit: some expect the China naval blockade around Taiwan, this time with live fire drills, missiles across the bow of Taiwan island and the Sea of Japan; others say they are too disproportionate, provocative and dangerous. Many pundits thought the Pelosi visit would trigger the 4th Taiwan Strait crisis, the first was in 1954 but most worrisome now is the fact that China of the 20th century was far shadow of China today, a global military and economic power willing to stand its ground. Looking back, that angry China PLA effectively blockaded the whole of Taiwan for days with US warships nearby unwilling to challenge with FONOPs, and the Pelosi plane totally avoided the South China Sea will be interesting foreshadow subjects of study to come. Through series of wargaming in the US, the results were China in most scenarios will prevail over the US at the early stages of Taiwan conflict. In a protracted war, the endgame would not be conclusive except that the US-China war over Taiwan would be at heavy cost for both. This is one good reason why we do not have that unnecessary war in our region so far, why both countries have indicated they do not want war. The other good reason could be the reluctance of China to draw Taiwan Han-Chinese blood, and the critical roles industry, technology specially cutting-edge semiconductors infrastructures in Taiwan play in the defense, security and economy of China itself. Russia-China "alliance without limit" if not fractured lends as one credible deterrent to US war with China over Taiwan.


Yet as a nation, there is no other choice but for our country to plod through all these global turmoils we are not part of. As one junior Cavalier wrote me, "In these times when we again need to put country above all, we cavaliers should endeavor to light the path, and lead the way. . . . The harsh reality is that many of our policymakers still adopt a mendicant mentality towards the west, and it is undeniable that even in the ranks of the uniformed, there is a preference bias towards Uncle Sam. While there is nothing wrong with that if it is what's truly advantageous for the country, the exact point being this, that we should be able to freely choose what is in our best interest, and not be forced into one-sided obligations." ***In here lie the scrutiny and spectre of US sanctions on the Philippines if we go against the sway.*** Like it or not, that's the reality even between allies all over the world where the factors of equation are heavily one-sided. We have no other option but to develop as proud sustainable nation to narrow that gap and be respected in the community of nations.

Admittedly cavaliers, some of us earned our spurs and rose to become better Officers holding important positions in the uniformed service with help from our training and schooling in USA. And why

not? I spent the best years of my military life at the Army General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, USA. We witnessed with awe how USA in our salad years was exceptional in the community of nations and primus inter pares among former colonial powers. Globally USA loomed larger than the UN for good reason; despite UN opposition, it went on to invade Iraq proffering manufactured evidence and testimonies of imaginary weapons of mass destructions. And got away with it thoroughly unaccountable. After setback with its defeat in Vietnam, US took only 15 years to win the Cold War and presided over the collapse of the Soviet Union; and quickly thereafter established a unipolar world under its clutch. It could be that this national sense of exceptionalism in global leadership and power was the culprit that sucked US wealth and diplomacy into many costly military failures and regime change in the Middle East and Afghanistan while its global rivals busied with diplomacy, political economy and developmental engagements with former colonies in Africa, South America and Asia.

Fellow cavaliers, the tensions in Ukraine and Taiwan are serious threats to global peace and prosperity, and ***our country can be easily hypnotized by beguiling narratives of 'no-choice but inevitable war together with US' against China*** in the South China Sea or around Taiwan. Given the US microchip embedded in my Filipino brain, our country can easily somnambulate to war. Yet as a nation, it is imperative that we invest in peace and development, friend to all and enemy to none, even as we assert our rightful claim and preserve our territory in the West Philippine Sea. The nostalgia of historical ties ought to admirably consort with realpolitik and the immutable tyranny of geography to effectuate conditions of lasting peace and stability conducive to national development. I still have to see a better alternative. Global affairs and trends towards multipolarity require more creative national address of a country aspiring to give to its people enhanced prosperity, stability and better living conditions. ***War is anathema to national development.***

**O**n the local scene, Senator Loren Legarda dished out irreverent, stupefying wokery of all: the CPP/NPA/NDF is not enemy of the state despite its murders and deaths of men and women in uniform; despite the fact that her government has declared it as enemy of the state. And more ridiculously, despite the fact she claimed to be a proud Reservist Officer of the military. How could we defeat the enemy of the state when political leader like her showed tendency to 'sleep with the enemy'? At the very least she exposed limited understanding of local communism as political movement of combined deception and violence to ultimately seize power. Her public stand betrayed her political base in the enemy of the state. Her statement in response to numerous criticisms from the public and military was motherhood statements for everybody in the whole world to gape on but utterly failed to deny her support to the rebellion causes of the enemy. Personally, her stand on the CPP/NPA/NDF was disrespectful to the memories of my wounded soldier whom I as junior officer shoulder-carried in the line of enemy fire in Mabalacat, Pampanga but eventually died in the same armed combat area.

Cavaliers, let's help our country elude the ruins and devastation of Ukraine in the face of warlike problems beyond our shores, help our country against direct threats of the enemy of the state and serious challenges of political leaders helping the rebellion cause of the enemy. Loving our Motherland, securing the Republic, keeping her sons and daughters safe, that's how we, Cavaliers, have been known for all the time. Specially now when storms portend in the winds and waves, in the warp and woof of the lands. Let's all go to work. 



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV JOSELITO E DE GUZMAN '93

## Journeying through mountains, waves, and winds: Status of PMAAAI Major Programs/Projects/Activities

**T**he cataclysmic tides of COVID-19 pandemic have somehow subsided, at least for now. Its effect on humankind is so enormous that it negated all known barriers to prevent its disastrous consequences. We are still lucky enough to have survived its onslaught and go on with our *"new normal"* situation of doing things.

The roads we treaded ahead were indeed too steep to traverse, the waves are enormous to maintain a smooth sailing in charting our course, and the winds are too strong to maintain a level flight.

Despite these situations, the PMAAAI Board of Directors have managed to face these challenges with a brave front in order to perform their tasks in accomplishing the Association's mission. Despite these great odds, I am proud to present updates on what the Board has done and is doing to date.

Guided by the PMAAAI Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 where the right path to accomplish our mission has been outlined, the following activities, projects, and programs of the Association are hereby presented as to their current status:

1. The Proposed PMAAAI Building in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.  
Funded from donation of Megaworld's boss, Mr Andrew Tan, this project is still on its infancy stage as this was long delayed by the pandemic. After its groundbreaking on March 23, 2022, the project management group, under the Resorts World Manila, has already secured all the necessary permits from the Taguig LGU. Other documentary requirements are still being finalized before the site development could start.
2. The annual fund-raising campaign of the PMAAAI board in coordination with PMARAI is already in full swing. Slated to be conducted on the last week of November this year,

the Committee in charge of this project is in full control of its implementation.

3. The ACES case which is now being entrusted by the Chairman to all cavalier lawyers, chaired by Cav Matthew Baccay '92, who are members of the Board, after its debacle on its first filing with the courts.
4. The regional visitation of the Board to bring PMAAAI closer to all the members. Slated on the last week of August this year, its Bicol Region sortie was conducted in Legazpi City.
5. Reviving the sports festival with limited allowed activities tentatively on November 26, 2022. Adopting a team building mechanism by company.
6. The annual alumni homecoming which will be held on February 18, 2023 with the hopes that situation will be more manageable to be able to celebrate in full swing.
7. The PMAAAI continuously giving awards to deserving cavaliers thru the Awards Committee chaired by Cav Raul S Gonzales '75.
8. Interacting with other service alumni association thru the Assembly of Service Academies and School Alumni Association of the Philippines (ASASAAP)

With all these activities and projects being undertaken by the current Board under the new normal situation, we are confident that journeying through the mountains, sailing on the high seas or flying the turbulent skies, will ultimately be an easy task for us, with the cooperation of all members of the association. We encourage all alumni to rally behind the rebuilding of our will to pursue our ideals of courage, integrity, and loyalty which have been soaked in the turbulent waves of the pandemic.





# SUPE'S REPORT

**CAV JULIUS A TOMINES '92**

*(Note: The Cavalier Magazine Editorial Board agreed to feature the acting PMA Superintendent's accomplishments during his tenure. – Ed)*

**W**hen I assumed as the Acting Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy, I was elated but at the same time filled with apprehensions. Yet, I took this appointment as both an opportunity and a challenge. I was given the distinct opportunity to steer this Academy to greater heights, leading it to where it is now. It is also a challenging chapter of my career as I am confronted with the enormous challenges to steer this prestigious institution to greater heights; coupled with the task to sustain the PMA's proficiencies against any form of threat to education amidst the pandemic and the call to maintain the quality management of the Academy's education and training.

Upon my assumption, I laid emphasis on the guidance to work hard to pursue PMA's mandate and continue all efforts to sustain the different PMA campaigns, particularly on Base and Support System Development Projects, Military Education Service, and Military Policy Advisory, among others.

I am honored and humbled to report the various accomplishments of the Philippine Military

Academy which I sustained and continued from the efforts of former Superintendent, LTGEN FERDINAND M CARTUJANO PAF. These accomplishments were made possible through the support and effective execution of functions by the different component units under this Command. I am proud to say that PMA's system integration process is effectively working knitted from the works of the Academic and Tactics Group, the support system of various staff and the Support group, and most of all with the clear direction from the command and management team.

Despite the shift in educational methodology to include a training approach, due to the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, this Command has maintained the development of capabilities and readiness to confront educational and training challenges for the past year.

**On Base and Support System Development Projects**, the PMA has undertaken several major and minor infrastructure projects. This is in the upkeep of the requirements of the Command and other stakeholders in the accomplishment of the mission of the PMA. Moreover, special projects were also accomplished such as the completion of Florendo Hall, refurbishment of Lim Hall, completion of the integrated network system of PMA, and a lot to mention.

**In Military Education Service**, the Command proved effective in sustaining the high degree of efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism of the pool of Instructors through career advancement, development, and opportunities. To increase personnel's level of competency and efficiency, the Command sent personnel to relevant training and career advancement and facilitated development through promotions.

**On Military Policy Advisory**, the Command engaged stakeholders through the conduct of partnerships; as well as upgraded and formulated different policies and guidelines aimed at strengthening and ensuring consistency and upkeep with standards for military academies. The Command engaged multi-stakeholders in converging efforts in the pursuit of educational development. Strong collaboration and effective implementation of the joint partnership was likewise implemented.

As a result, I am confident that PMA navigates well based on its sail plan, I was able to effectively steer the Command to achieve its mission and objectives, especially in training, developing, and inspiring cadets, to mold effective military leaders imbued with character and basic military skills and education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career.

Onwards to quality education and training for future military leaders in the AFP!





**JOHN TROY B ALBANO**  
Cdt F/Cpt 1CI  
"G" Company, CCAFP  
Regimental Commander

# Baron's Dissemination

## When Strong Winds and Waves Subside

**A**dapting to changes is the most life-changing lesson we learned in our cadetship. As life in the academy becomes an everyday commitment into constantly fueling one's mind and body to get through the entire day, we, the future leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, are trained to envision and achieve the mission even with multiple revisions. We learn to prepare and be able to adjust to any situation when there are last minute changes in schedule. We learn to accept and be able to understand the foresights not attained when privileges are cancelled. We are able to recuperate in any assignment we are tasked.

Our entire cadetship has already become a walk of lessons for every cadet; it has taught us to aim for excellence, maintain stability under pressure, and build our character when up against bewildering winds and colossal waves. For the past two years, the CCAFP was placed inside a bubble when a virus struck our nation and had to create several adjustments in order to secure the health and welfare of every personnel inside the academy. Embracing the new normal, the CCAFP strived in ensuring that the standard and traditions of the Academy is preserved and still enhanced despite variations in the learning and working environment.

This academic year, we are expected to have major adjustments. The transition to a Post-COVID environment poses an avenue for cadets to assess their ability to retaliate from the new normal and returning back to the kind of cadet life right before the Pandemic brought changes to the academy and its people.

Even with LTGEN Ferdinand M Cartujano PAF handing down his position as Superintendent of the academy, the CCAFP remained supportive to the goals and mission of the Higher Headquarters, and amidst these various changes, the Cadet Corps ensures to uphold excellence and maintain the standards to become that future leaders the AFP needs.

### Character

Ensuring that the values and conduct of each cadet is the one expected of a true lady and gentleman, changes have been made to mold the cadets as better and well-mannered leaders of the nation. The Cadet Conduct Policy Board and the Honor Committee crafted a new pamphlet to address the misinterpretations regarding the rules and policies as well as to


effectively inform the Corps about the importance of adhering to the code and regulations from which mitigation of maltreatment cases was made possible to the point that it was completely disregarded in the current culture inside the academy. Also, with the Gender Awareness and Development Council established, it has paved a way for the Cadet Corps to create an environment free from Gender Related Abuses or Harassments and a system where Gender Biases or Discriminations are admonished.

### Academics

As we are about to finally defeat the battle against the COVID-19 Pandemic, the academy also starts transitioning back from cyber-aided modular learning to face to face classes. Five period classes are once again conducted with civilian instructors back within corners of Melchor Hall. In addition, a more efficient teaching and an intensified pressure to learn is administered. Unlike the usual calendar of activities, the Immaculates this year, has a synchronized academic year with their underclassmen, moving their Officer Preparatory Course during the First Semester or the Summer Term and their Joint Field Training Exercise to be executed at the end of the Academic Year.

### Military

In terms of enhancing the Military skills and knowledge of the cadets, Summer Training Courses were done in and out of the Academy once again. The different classes under the different Warfare Departments were exposed to different units of the AFP to familiarize them on the tasks and responsibilities expected of them in the future. The Immaculates and the Cows have undergone various specific Branch of Service courses and modules in order to prepare them as future Ensigns and Lieutenants in their respective fields. Moreover, the yearlings were also introduced to the different major services of the AFP during their Service Orientation Tour to help them decide on their preferred field before they select their branch of service on their second-class year. Likewise, to further enhance cadets' military skills and knowledge, the Military Training Council pushes to continue the Military Skills Enhancement Programs (MSEP) during weekends for all the cadets to nurture the warrior spirit in them, preparing them on a harsher environment outside the bricked gates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Continued on page 9 



# CAVALIER NEWSLINE

**CAV ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55**

## **Cav Lorenzana appointed BCDA chairman**

Former Defense Secretary Cav Delfin N Lorenzana '73 has been appointed as the new chair of the Board of Directors of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. He replaced Gregorio Garcia III at the BCDA. The BCDA is mandated to help strengthen the Armed Forces of the Philippines to develop former military bases and properties to economic centers and communities.



**Lorenzana**

## **Cav Faustino is DND Secretary**

Cav Jose C Faustino, Jr. '88, has been appointed as DND Secretary. He would serve as senior undersecretary and DND secretary in an officer-in-charge capacity, then would later assume as Secretary on November 13, 2022 in compliance with the one-year ban on the appointment of retired military officers under Republic Act 6975.



**Faustino**

## **Cav Bacarro appointed, CSAFP**

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has named Cav Bartolome Vicente O Bacarro '88 as the new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. A Medal for Valor Awardee and former commander of Southern Luzon Command, Cav Bacarro is the first AFP Chief to be given a fixed-three year term based on the Republic Act 11709.



**Bacarro**

## **Cav Azurin is New Chief PNP**

Cav Rodolfo Azurin Jr. '89, likewise was appointed as the new chief PNP. Cav Azurin was former commander of Northern Luzon Police Area and Southern Luzon Police Area. Likewise, the assumption of Cav Azurin triggered the promotion of Cav Jose Chiquito M Malayo '89 as the new deputy chief for administration.



**Azurin**

Cav Benjamin D Santos Jr '91, meanwhile, was named as deputy chief for operations. Cav Arthur V Bisnar '90 left his post as chief of the Directorate for DHRDD to serve as chief of the directorial staff, the PNP's fourth top post, replacing Cav Malayo.

## **Cav Tolentino is New PMA Supt**

Cav Rowen S Tolentino '89 is the new superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. Tolentino formally assumed the post last August 12, during the change of command ceremony held at Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City, replacing Cav Julius Tomines who stood as the Acting Superintendent following Cav Ferdinand Cartujano's retirement last June after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.



**Tolentino**

Prior to this appointment, Cav Tolentino served as Commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, the 703rd Infantry Brigade, and the 2nd and 3rd Mechanized Battalions of the Philippine Army. He also served as deputy commander, training and doctrine command, and Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army.

## **Cav Valencia is Acting FOIC, PN**

Philippine Navy Vice Commander Cav Caesar Bernard Valencia '90 was named as its Acting Flag Officer-in-Command, PN on September 8.



**Valencia**

Cav Valencia formally assumed the post during the Navy's change-of-command ceremony presided by DND OIC Undersecretary Cav Jose C Faustino Jr '88 at the Navy's headquarters. Some key positions he recently held in the Navy include as commander of Naval Forces Northern Luzon in 2019 prior to his appointment as Chief of Naval Staff in 2021 and PN Vice Commander in August of this year.

Cav Valencia replaced Vice Admiral Adeluis Bordado '88, who retired from the service upon reaching the compulsory retirement age of 56. He will serve in an acting capacity pending the appointment of a full-fledged FOIC, PN by President Marcos.

## **In Memoriam**

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

Cav Danilo H Penafiel '82	04 June 2022
Cav Erwin Bernard L Neri '88	12 June
Cav Gary D Masedman '07	18 June
Cav Ricario U Carolasan, Jr '94	20 June
Cav Edmundo A Enriquez '51	06 July
Cav Nicasio P Rodriguez Jr '61	11 July
Cav Benito P Diamos '62	12 July
Cav Remigio N Gopez '57	17 July
Cav Antonio B Enteria '74	20 July
Cav Irving D Fajardo '86	20 July
Cav Marcelino A Cordova '66	30 July
Cav Andres N Kagaoan '60	30 July
Cav Fidel V Ramos USMA '50	31 July
Cav Cesar Cecilio L Ibo '71	15 August
Cav Miguel M Villamor '51	15 August
Cav Rafael C Llano '79	26 August
Cav Lino Horacio E Lapinid '77	27 August
Cav Romeo R Posadas USMA '75	01 September
Cav Manuel Z Dizon '59	03 September



# PMAAAI Consultative Meeting and Fellowship Goes to Bicol

Another innovative idea was adopted by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. and the Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. Boards of Directors when they decided to hold the PMAAAI Consultative Meeting and Fellowship with Cavaliers in Bicol Region, August 19.

Attended by more than 100 cavaliers, the consultative meeting and fellowship was spearheaded by the PMARAI Board members. Venue was held at the Fleet Marine Deck, Naval Forces Southern Luzon (NAVFORSOL), Legaspi City.

Earlier, prior to this fellowship, the PMAAAI Board of Directors, headed by Cav Amb Vidal E Querol '73, jived its regular meeting at the Conference Room of HQs NAVFORSOL, to initiate an out of town consultative meeting for a breather.

Cavaliers assigned in the Bicol Region pooled their time and resources to host the event. Cav Alex DC Luna '89, 9th Infantry Division commander, provided transportation and security for easy and secured movement of the cavaliers who participated in the activity. On the other hand, Cav Mario Reyes '92, took charge of the billeting facilities while Cav Jose Ma Ambrosio Ezpeleta '91, was responsible for the venue and other office equipment facilities. Relatedly, Cav Hazel Ann L Basigsig-Pascual '14, was designated as the over-all coordinator in Bicol.



It was indeed an event that the PMAAAI Board of Directors and PMAAAI staffs had to cherish and remember, particularly to those who set their foot in Bicolandia for the first time.



# The Wonder Years

COURAGE



INTEGRITY



LOYALTY

## RETIREES SECTION

• **CAV DANILO A ABINOJA '74**  
Chairman, PMARAI

• **CAV JOSE JM CENABRE '83**  
Director for Public Relations



The first PMA Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) webinar on Agri-Fishery Livelihood, held on 29 June 2022, was attended by more than 70 cavaliers and presented by the Bureau of Animal Industry on the production of native chicken and native pig; and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on tilapia and bangus grow-out operations. The speakers were duly presented with Plaques of Appreciation:

1. **COMMO EDUARDO B GONGONA '82 PCG**  
National Director  
Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry

2. **MR. MAT MADLANGBAYAN SAN AGUSTIN**  
Position: Agriculturist II  
DA - Bureau of Animal Industry  
National Swine and Poultry Research and Development Center (NSPRDC)  
Tiaong, Quezon  
Email Address: nsprdc@bai.gov.ph/bainsprdc2017@gmail.com  
Contact Number: +63926 4654764

3. **MR. RICO MENDOZA PANALIGAN**  
Position: Farm Foreman  
DA - Bureau of Animal Industry  
National Swine and Poultry Research and Development Center (NSPRDC)  
Tiaong, Quezon  
Email Address: nsprdc@bai.gov.ph / bainsprdc2017@gmail.com  
Contact Number: +639976932766

Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources



4. **LILIBETH BALAJADIA AFAN, M.SC., RFT**  
Head, Aquaculture Training and Information Section  
Senior Aquaculturist at BFAR-National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center (NFFTC), Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija  
Email Address: training.nfftc@gmail.com  
Contact number: +639228826936

5. **MARYLENE M. MANDREZA**  
Senior Aquaculturist  
BFAR-Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division  
Fisheries Building Complex, BPI Compound, Brgy. Vasra, Visayas Ave, Diliman, Quezon City  
Email address: ifad@bfar.da.gov.ph  
Contact number: +639178371811



# A HEROES Virtual Run

Last July 2022, the PMA Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) conducted a virtual run from 1–31 July 2022. Dubbed as A HEROES Virtual Run, it attracted 311 runners who participated in the month-long virtual run despite its short notice through Viber and Telegram chat groups. The event, supported by Pinoy Fitness Atleta, a running community in the Philippines, and Pep Squad Events using their running platform, was a complete success.

This event served two specific goals, to motivate retirees to lead active lifestyles and improve their overall health and wellness by running, jogging, or walking as a sports activity. Secondly,

to raise funds to support the continued education of orphaned children of our fallen comrades. To this, PMARAI entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the HERO Foundation, Inc. to co-host this event. Part of the proceeds (Php100/runner) from the registration fee will go to the Foundation.

An e-Certificate (Figure 1) and a Finisher Medal (Figure 2) were awarded to all runners who completed their respective virtual runs based on their selected distances (3K, 5K, 10K, 21K, 42K, or 60K). While an optional Finisher Shirt was also given to runners who paid to get one (Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

## From page 5... BARON'S DISSEMINATION

### Physical

Finally, Physical Fitness, despite the pandemic, remains to be an essential routine in every cadet's life. The pandemic and the confinement of cadets inside the Academy had somehow become a chance for them to put more effort into their own physical fitness's programs. Consequently, showing that the cadet's Physical Fitness Tests are improving and are getting stronger in the duration of the pandemic. With the pandemic slowly idling away, cadets included in various Corps Squads, are now back participating in various competitions outside the Academy with support from the Superintendent, bringing the Philippine Military Academy's name. Last 26 March, the cadets received multiple recognitions during the Mt. Pulag Altitude OCR World Series Asia, four out of the seven categories were aced by the cadets claiming the 1<sup>st</sup> placer, another four were 2<sup>nd</sup> placers, and 10 more cadets were able to enter the top ten. And recently, this August, marked two more triumphs as the cadets claimed gold and silver medals

during the World Obstacle Ninja World Cup held at Bridgetown, Central Park, Pasig City.

Indeed, COVID-19 has brought a lot of changes and challenges inside the Corps, however, it enabled us cadets to think more critically amidst adversities. Sailing away from the depths of the virus, a new horizon waits for us to discover. New winds and waves with corresponding sets of challenges that will test again the capability of the Cadet Corps in producing competent leaders.

Equipped with the talents and abilities we possess right before we set foot on the hollowed grounds of PMA, strengthened by the values instilled to us, with courage, integrity and loyalty, excellence is possible in every way. The CCAFP, under the Madasigon Class of 2023, will do their best to be that officers our armed forces need. Leaders ready to serve God and our country, even when strong winds and waves go forth, we will stand as one, after all "a smooth sea never makes a skilled sailor." In our upcoming endeavors, with support from each other we will be addressing the call of conquering new frontiers as,

*"Mga Mandirigmang may Dangal Simbolo ng Galing at Pagbangon."*

# PMA Odd-Even Classes Clash in Fun Games During PMAAAI Jurado Cup 2022

The PMAAAI Jurado Cup (JC) 2022, a 3-day competitive sports and social event, was participated in by PMA cavaliers both from US and from the Philippines. It was held over the Labor Day weekend, September 2-4, 2022 (Friday-Sunday) in Cerritos, Los Angeles, California. The event was hosted by PMAAAI Southern CA Chapter. Unlike previous Jurado Cups with different PMAAAI chapters or groups in the US competing, this year, it was between the PMA Odd and Even classes aimed to promote camaraderie and fellowship in mind. The sports events: golf, bowling, tennis, pickleball, table tennis, badminton, volleyball and basketball, were hotly contested, but the old karaoke competition, now called Jurado Cup Got Talent and the "boodle fight" were surely fun for all.

All Cavaliers and their families, who were making their trip to California, were enjoined to participate in this biennial sports and social event. Cav Danny Abinoja '74, Vice Chairman, PMAAAI and Cav Sunny Pequiras '77, Executive Director, PMAAAI, attended the PMAAAI Jurado Cup.

Congratulations to the PMAAA Southern California Chapter, the Executive Committees, sponsors and friends for all their preparations and support to this big event.

CONUS Cavaliers!



# ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

## Nominees for Association Awards, AY 2022-2023

• CAV RAUL S GONZALES '75

Chairman, PMAAAI Awards Committee AY 2022-2023

The second stage of deliberations for the search of the 2023 Cavalier Awards for outstanding regular members of the Association is now set. From the initial screening of different chapters (Army, Air Force, Navy, Police, Coast Guard and the PMA Retirees Association, Inc.) a total of 43 Cavalier nominees had been recommended for deliberation. They will be evaluated based not only from their manifestation of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, the epitome of values that Peemayers hold dearest but each candidate must exemplify the best in his chosen field.

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

### Command and Administration

1. CAV JOSE CHIQUITO M MALAYO '89 PNP
2. CAV JOSE MARIA R CUERPO II '90 PA
3. CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90 PN
4. CAV JOSE MA. AMBROCIO Q EZPELETA '91 PN
5. CAV BENJAMIN C ACORDA JR '91 PNP
6. CAV GEROLD N GAGAN '92 PAF
7. CAV ROLANDO LIZOR N PUNZALAN JR '92 PCG
8. CAV EUSTACIO NIMROD P ENRIQUEZ JR '93 PCG
9. CAV JOSE M COYME '94 PCG

### Staff Functions

1. CAV VALERIANO T DE LEON '89 PNP
2. CAV JOEL ALEJANDRO S NACNAC '90 PA
3. CAV ALEX S RILLERA '91 PA
4. CAV JEFFREY C HECHANOVA '91 PAF
5. CAV ERIC E NOBLE '92 PNP
6. CAV JOEL A INACAY '94 PAF
7. CAV EDGAR L CATU '95 PA

### Special Operations

1. CAV RODEN R ORBON 2002 PA
2. CAV MARION B CAYAT 2002 PA
3. CAV MARK ERICK R GARCIA 2012 PN (M)

### Army Operations

1. CAV CONSOLITO P YECLA '92
2. CAV DON D TEMPLONUEVO '97
3. CAV LOUIE G DEMA-ALA '99

### Air Operations (Senior Category)

1. CAV ANN MARIE T GERODIAZ '98
2. CAV MARK ANTHONY N SALVADOR '04
3. CAV MARK LESTER T GANNABAN '06

### Air Operations (Junior Category)

1. CAV VENEEL JOSEPH P BONTUYAN '09
2. CAV JAMES ANTHONY A MONTEJO '09

### Naval Operations (Senior Category)

1. CAV EMERSON F OXALES 2000
2. CAV RONALDO U URBANO '04

### Naval Operations (Junior Category)

- CAV MARK ROLLY N BACANI 2013

### Police Operations

- CAV ELISEO DC CRUZ '90

### Coast Guard Operations

1. CAV TITO ALVIN G ANDAL '94
2. CAV LARRY C CENDAÑA '03

### Private Enterprise

1. CAV ARIEL O QUERUBIN '79
2. CAV ROBERT C YAP '82

### Public Administration

1. CAV REYNALDO V VELASCO '71
2. CAV RICARDO F DE LEON '71
3. CAV RODRIGO P DE GRACIA '82

### Special Field

1. CAV WALTER S VILLAGONZALO '75  
– Community Volunteer and Social Entrepreneur
2. CAV FEDERICO E LACISTE '81  
– Author/Book Distributor
3. CAV RUDY L JUANITO '82  
– UN Security Operations
4. CAV CYRUS ANGELO A CASTILLO 2007  
– Management

### Alumni Affairs

- CAV DEMOSTHENES C DOPLAYNA '82

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

The Awards Committee members are: CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76 PMARAI (09175807240); CAV RONNIE GIL L GAVAN '93 PCG (09777080964); CAV JESSE L CASTRO '98 PNP (09171321998); CAV ASHLEY N NASTOR 2000 PN (09152171879); CAV KEN T KIAT-ONG '09 PAF (09150532313), and CAV JOYCE J OMAC '14 PA (09062319269). We are most happy to receive comments and information to make the selection more thorough. Inputs may be sent to PMAAAI Alumni Center through at pmaaaai@yahoo.com. The nominees chosen by the Awards Committee will be deliberated on and confirmed by the PMAAAI Board in its meeting in December 2022.



# PMAAAI PA Chapter News

## PMAAA - ACCI General Assembly

*Army Cavaliers listen to the updates given by Chapter Secretary, Cavalier Marisol Lacorte-Fulgosino '12.*

**FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila** – The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association – Army Cavalier Chapter, Inc. concluded a Chapter General Assembly on 18 August 2022 at Ricarte Hall, Philippine Army Officers' Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

The PMAAA - ACCI conducted Chapter General Assembly on 18 August 2022 at Ricarte Hall, Philippine Army Officers' Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila which was attended by two hundred (200) active Army Cavaliers from different PA Major Units. This significant event is a first major gathering of the organization since the surge of COVID 19 pandemic due to restrictions. As the active Army Cavaliers renewed their membership to the organization, they are also excited to meet their Comrades in Arms that share the same passion and professionalism as them.

During the activity, PMAAAI affiliate organizations such as Philippine Military Academy Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI) and PMAAA Foundation for Truth and Justice, Inc. (PFTJI) being represented

by Cavalier Rufino Ibay Jr '67, Chairman, PMAFI and Cavalier Gil Meneses '80, President, PFTJI, gave organizational updates, respectively. Both affiliate groups discussed the assistance and services they provided to the deserving regular members of PMAAAI and the efforts and initiatives to improve the quality of training and education of PMA cadets. The attendees also heard from the Chapter Secretary, Cavalier Marisol Lacorte-Fulgosino '12 the plans, initiatives and activities of the organization.

To culminate the activity, Cavalier Ricky P Bunayog '93, PMAAA - ACCI President, expressed his deepest gratitude all Army Cavaliers who attended the activity. He also mentioned that, *"While we gather together for this significant event, I also remind you to live up to the ideals of our Alma Mater. We must be true to our duties and strengthen our camaraderie."* He also enjoined the Army Cavaliers to continue upholding excellence and integrity in their endeavors and to continue promoting the highest ethical standards and good governance of the Philippine Army.



*Cavalier Virgilio Hamos Jr '94, Vice President of PMAAA - ACCI gives his welcome remarks during the conduct of PMAAA - ACCI General Assembly.*



*Cavalier Ricky P Bunayog '93, Chapter President, exhorts Army Cavaliers to live up to the PMA ideals during the General Assembly's culmination.*

# Induction of PMA Class of 2022



Lieutenant General Romeo S Brawner Jr, Commanding General, Philippine Army, officiates the oath of membership of 104 strong members of PMA Class 2022 as they accept their affiliation with the PMAAA - ACCI.

**FORT BONIFACIO, Metro Manila** – The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association – Army Cavalier Chapter, Inc. convened the Induction of PMA “Bagsik Diwa” Class of 2022 as presided by the Commanding General, Philippine Army Lt. Gen. Romeo S Brawner, Jr’89 at Ricarte Hall, Philippine Army Officers’ Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.



Cavalier Dirk Kyryl A Davalan, PMA Class 2022 President, expresses his gratitude to Senior Army Cavaliers for welcoming their class to the long gray line.

Through the initiative of President and other key officers of the PMAAA - ACCI alumni body, CGPA inducted the 104 members of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Bagsik-Diwa” Class of 2022 to the PMA Alumni Association, Incorporated-Army Cavaliers Chapter Incorporated (PMAAAI-ACCI) at the Philippine Army Officers’ Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila on August 18, 2022.

Prior to the formal induction rites, the members of PMA “Bagsik Diwa” Class of 2022 were introduced to other PMA Alumni that graced the activity. Furthermore, Cavalier Dirk Kyryl A Davalan, PMA Class 2022 President, expressed his gratitude to the Senior Army Cavaliers for welcoming their class to the long gray line. He also assures the Army Cavaliers that they will carry out their respective tasks and generate excellent and quality outputs that will uplift the Philippine Military Academy’s pride and honor.

After his remarks, Lieutenant General Romeo S Brawner Jr, Commanding General, Philippine Army, led the oath of membership of 104 strong members of PMA Class 2022 as they accept their affiliation with the PMAAA - ACCI.

“Through the years, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) has served as the beacon that guides all cavaliers as they traverse their chosen paths in the military,” the Army Chief said in his remarks. Lt. Gen. Brawner called on the newly inducted Army Cavaliers to always uphold the PMA’s motto of courage, integrity and loyalty. “Always know that your brothers and sisters will always be here to guide you and give you advice whenever you need it. For we are one brotherhood and our bond is forged through time,” the Army Chief told the young second lieutenants who are preparing to embark on their field assignments.



Cavalier Romeo S Brawner emphasizes brotherhood among members of PMA Class 2022 after being inducted to PMAAA – ACCI.



PMAAA - ACCI Officers with Commanding General, Philippine Army, LtGen Romeo S Brawner Jr.

# PMAAAI PAF Chapter News

## Lipad Air Cavaliers Stronger by 56! AY 2022 2nd Quarter Updates

• CAV EDSON CARLO M TADEA '05

The 2nd Quarter of 2022 has witnessed the infusion of 56 young blood and new breed of Air Cavaliers to **Team LIPAD PAF!** Hence, we are now **STRONGER by 56!**

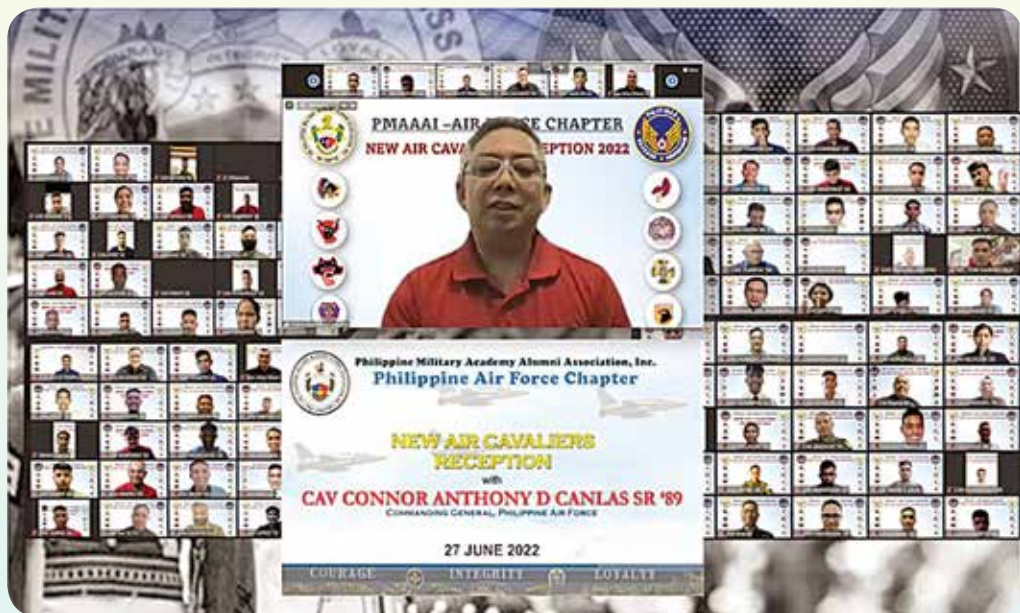
Last **27 June 2022**, the PMAAAI-PAF Chapter successfully conducted the **Blended Virtual Reception of PMA CI 2022 Air Force** attended by **more than 200 Active Air Cavaliers** with our beloved Commanding General, **LTGEN CONNOR ANTHONY D CANLAS SR PAF** as our Guest of Honor.

A total of **56 new officers** – with three graduates from **Foreign Service Academies**, joined our ranks and were warmly welcomed by active Air Cavaliers.

**CAV CANLAS SR '89**, during his message, shared invaluable pieces of advices and inspired both new and active air cavaliers alike citing:

*“As I address all of you, today, my dear Air Cavaliers, I want all of us to reflect on one of the many lessons that the Academy taught us which can be drawn from the Cadet’s prayer that says: **“Help us to live each day in the passing years in useful efforts that our lives may be spent in accord with the patterns of our creed – the true, the noble, and the high.”** To my mind, this line truly encapsulates the essence of our life and journey as the country’s defenders.*

***Our creed is our common ground – our faith and trust in the values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty keeps us to be guided in***



***our thoughts, words, and actions.** In the same vein, my command framework of LIPAD PAF emanates from this very same ethos I have hold dearly, and I hope you too, since our cadet days. We need to perform our jobs not because we are told to do so but because we believe deep in our hearts and minds that these are the true, the noble, and the high.*

*To our New Air Cavaliers, just two (2) weeks ago, I had a chance to virtually talk and give advice to all of you. With the significant modernization and transformations happening around us in PAF, I firmly believe that there is a bright future ahead of you,*



but this does not mean that you should feel entitled as the heirs of the Air Force. **You need to work doubly hard and be guided by the same creed as you prove to be the worthy successors and leaders of the Command.**

To the rest of the Bugo-Bugos, I am glad that you take time to be with our younger brothers and sisters and warmly welcome them through your virtual presence. I know, in God's perfect time, you will meet them personally in different PAF units. I also faithfully hope that you will guide and mentor them in a true spirit of a Bugo-Bugo. But more than the personal mentorship, **I hope that we, as a community, will continue to strive in creating an environment that is reflective of our shared values. We must exert efforts to be role models for each other specially to these new Air Cavaliers. Let our deeds not be blinded by our personal interests, class differences, and cultural biases. After all, we are all PMAers, and we live by the same core values taught by our beloved Alma Mater."**

Other highlights of the Virtual Reception focused on providing our new cavaliers with sound advises and mentoring regarding **Career Development, Financial Management** led by the Chairperson, Membership Committee, **CAV MICHAEL ANGELO S PATRON '05** and **CAV JOEL DS PERANTE '10** from the Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Personnel, A-1. Finally, the formal Oath of Membership to the new Air Cavaliers was administered by the Commanding General.

PAF RECOMMENDEES		
NAME	CATEGORY	REMARKS
CAV JEFFREY C HECHANOVA '91	STAFF FUNCTION	Submitted at the Mother Chapter on 27 Jul 2022
CAV ANN MARIE T GERODIAZ '98	AIR OPERATIONS	Submitted at the Mother Chapter on 27 Jul 2022
CAV JOEL A INACAY '94	STAFF FUNCTION	Received on 27 Jul 2022. Submitted at the Mother Chapter on 28 Jul 2022
CAV GEROLD N GAGAN '92	COMMAND & ADMIN	Submitted directly at the Mother Chapter on 29 Jul 2022
CAV MARK LESTER T GANNABAN '06	AIR OPERATIONS	Received on 28 Jul 2022. Submitted at the Mother Chapter on 29 Jul 2022
CAV VENEEL JOSEPH P BONTUYAN '09	AIR OPERATIONS	Submitted directly at the Mother Chapter on 29 Jul 2022
CAV MARK ANTHONY N SALVADOR '04	AIR OPERATIONS	Submitted directly at the Mother Chapter on 29 Jul 2022
CAV JAMES ANTHONY A MONTEJO '09	AIR OPERATIONS	Submitted directly at the Mother Chapter on 29 Jul 2022
CAV ADRIANO SJ DUADICO '94	STAFF FUNCTION	Submitted directly at the Mother Chapter on 29 Jul 2022

**MORE UPDATES!**

**PAF CHAPTER CAVALIER AWARDS NOMINEES**

Another equally important endeavor of the Chapter is our preparations for the **2022 Cavalier Awardees.**

On 04 April 2022, **CAV KEN KIAT-ONG '09**, Chairperson of the PAF Chapter Awards Committee attended the PMAAAI Awards Committee Meeting presided by its Chairperson, **CAV GONZALES '75** to and discuss the Rules and Criteria for the Search for the Cavalier Awards for AY 2022-2023.

Thereafter, a Radio Message was forwarded to all PAF units and GHQ addressed to all Air Cavaliers regarding the submission of nominees for the Cavalier Awards to include reminders on the rules, criteria, and date of submission of entries. Aside from the PAF Chapter Awards Committee, the Chapter also commissioned a **Cavalier Awards Search Committee** to assist the PAF Chapter Board of Trustees during the selection process and commissioned writers to help in editing of the write-ups.

Indeed, the Chapter's efforts to reach out and promote the exemplary accomplishments of its members paid off leading the Chapter to **timely submit the justifications and nominate nine (9) Air Cavaliers for different categories:**

**SUB-CHAPTER UPDATES FROM MACTAN AND CAVITE**

As part of the commitment of PAF Chapter BOTs, we have also started engaging the **Sub Chapters** in order for us to listen directly from our members on how we can help them and their respective chapters. Last 17 August 2022, during the regular BOT Meeting, Mactan and Sangley Chapters Representatives presented their respective accomplishments for 2021-2022; the status of their Chapter's funds which they receive on a monthly basis from the PAF Chapter; their upcoming activities and issues and concerns. Based on their reports, the Sub Chapters are grateful for the assistance extended by the BOTs and that they are committed to implement their respective PAPs especially now that the pandemic situation has significantly improved.

**COMING SOON!**

Finally, for our **Chapter's Upcoming Activities**, we are happy to report that the Board of Trustees, through the Ways and Means and Sports Committees, have approved the conduct of three (3) major activities which intend to foster camaraderie amongst Air Cavaliers including our dependents, and at the same time, generate additional funds to support future activities of the PAF Chapter. The activities are: **production of the PAF Chapter Commemorative Plates** which will be launched during the **PAF Chapter Invitational Golf**; and the **Movie Block Screening**. These activities will all be scheduled in the 4th Qtr of 2022.



## PMA “Bagsik-Diwa” Class 2022 Reception Rites

**FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY** -- PMA Class 2022 Philippine Navy Group was welcomed by PMAAAI-PN Chapter AY 2021-2022 board and committee members at Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, June 13, 2022.

Fifty-seven members of PMA “BAGSIK-DIWA” Class 2022 was formally welcomed to the Philippine Navy through the reception rites graced by CAV ADELUIS S BORDADO '88, FOIC, PN.

As part of the prestigious tradition, PMA CI-22 started their endeavors with an early 5-kilometer run, led by no other than the FOIC, PN himself, chanting their way from Bonifacio Naval Station Grandstand to the BNS swimming pool. It was followed by a swimming relay wherein the PMA CI-22 formed five groups to compete against each other in a 25-meter swim relay.

PMA “Bagsik-Diwa” Class 2022 was formally welcomed by CAV ZOSIMO M BOLAÑOS JR '93, President of the PMAAAI PN Chapter, as new members of the PMAAAI PN Chapter Inc. The warm welcome was further emphasized during the symbolic turnover of the company shirts to PMA Class 2022 Navy Group which was received by their marcher, CAV MOSQUERA '22, and the respective representative of each company. The said association promotes camaraderie and upholds the teachings of their Alma Mater.

PMA “Bagsik-Diwa” Class 2022 had the opportunity to share a meal and converse with other alumni who hold key positions in the Navy. The event ended with the message of CAV BORDADO '88, FOIC, PN to the PMA Class 2022 wherein he emphasized that the event is only the first step of their military career and that they must do good in the service and help each other.



# PMAAAI PNP Chapter News

## PNP Cavaliers Honor Newly Appointed CPNP



Police General Rodolfo “Jun” Santos Azurin Jr. graced the testimonial dinner in his honor held at Club Filipino tendered by the Police Cavaliers Association, Incorporated (PCAI) on August 30, 2022. Cav Jun Azurin is the first Chief Philippine National Police (CPNP) to be appointed under the administration of President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. He is the 28<sup>th</sup> CPNP and a member of Philippine Military Academy “Makatao” Class of 1989.

Said testimonial dinner deviated from the usual way PCAI hosts the traditional testimonial dinner for CPNP. Instead of having the activity at the usual Multi-Purpose Hall inside Camp Crame, the event was held at Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills. Another innovation is the way cavaliers were seated, according to their battalion upon graduation from PMA and not the usual arrangement which is according to their PMA Class.

During his speech, Cav Jun Azurin '89 affirmed the testimonies of Cav Patrick Obinque '92, Cav Benjie Santos '91, Cav Ronald Olay '90, Cav Jesus Cambay '89 and Cav Val De Leon '89 of his experiences starting from his cadet days, his exploits as a junior officer, the ups and downs of his career as police officer and his eventual ascend as the country's Top Cop.

Cav Jun Azurin '89 also presented his Peace and Security Framework, which is M + K + K = K where M stands for *Malasakit*, K stands for *Kaayusan*, K stands for *Kapayapaan*, and K stands for *Kaunlaran*. Cav Jun Azurin '89 also mentioned the **KASIMBAYAN** Program, short for *Kapulisan, Simbahan at Pamayanan*, where volunteer church leaders will help the police force establish and nurture relationship with the community. He pioneered the same program at the Police Regional Police Office 1 during his stint as Regional Director.

Cav Jun Azurin '89 encouraged the Police Cavaliers to set as an example in public service. He also said, cavaliers should make a legacy in the PNP, a legacy worth of emulation; and to put things in order. The Police Cavaliers is a vanishing breed, he said. Thus, he challenged

all members of the association to do their utmost best and contribute to the betterment of the PNP organization as a whole. “When the last of the Police Cavalier will bow out of the service, those who will take over the helm of the organization will just continue to implement the programs we have started,” he concluded.



# FEMALE CAVALIER SEGMENT

**Lt Gessyka Maria Tobias Fronda PN**

## Excelling in a Male Dominated World

**“There’s lot of opportunity for women in a men’s world” said by first female Pilot-in-Command and combat pilot of the AW109E Naval Helicopter, LT GESSYKA MARIA TOBIAS FRONDA PN, as she embarks on her journey as a Naval Aviator.**

Civil engineering was LT FRONDA’s first choice of career. However, she dared to change her fate as she took the challenge to enter the Philippine Military Academy in 2006. Intimidation has never been part of her vocabulary as she thrived to excel

in a male-dominated world, whether it may be in engineering profession or military service. For her, gender is not a hindrance in pursuing what you want to be in life. Now, she is a successful and promising female cavalier in the Philippine Navy.

She is a well-decorated female cavalier who selflessly serves the country and its people.

Through her determination, LT FRONDA finished the Naval Aviation Officer Course (NAOC) Class 08 on November 6, 2015 in Naval Base Heracleo Alano, Sangley Point, Cavite and that’s how her aviation career begun.

When being asked on how she reached her goals, faith in oneself is a great thing, she replied. Self-trust and perseverance led her towards becoming the first female Pilot-in-Command and combat pilot of the AW109E Naval Helicopter in the Philippine Navy.

*“Sacrificing opportunities just to achieve my goal,”* she said. This is one of her recipes in being the best pilot that she can be for seven years.

She successfully conducted various missions such as maritime air patrol, surveillance and reconnaissance, and medical evacuation missions. She participated in maritime security operations and bilateral exercises. She also provided close air support during the conduct of Joint Operations dubbed as OPLAN 02-21 "MAK" 21 (members) of Bangsamoro Freedom fighter – Karialan Faction. Those missions and operations led her to acquire her four Bronze Cross Medals, a Silver Wing, CSAFP Commendation Medal, and a good deal of Military Commendation Medal

LT FRONDA is the embodiment of self-love. She said during her interview that it is not about faith but it is just a matter of trusting oneself that you can do better if you'll go the way you want to be. She believed that one must learn to trust one's own capability and not relying solely on chances. Actions must speak louder than luck. She takes motivation not only from her family but also to the love she puts in her job. She turns criticism into challenges which inspires her to do better. The disapprovals and discredits she received when she joined the Naval Air Wing became her driving force to prove to them that she will excel on the career path that she has chosen.

LT FRONDA proves that she is a woman of principle and aspiration. In spite of her accomplishments, she humbles herself in inspiring others in doing more.

*"To my fellow cavaliers, do not rely in faith, but rely with your capacity and capability faithfully. Live outside your comfort zone, and you'll explore and attain what's the best for you,"* she said as she ended the interview. She appreciated those who gave her strength and motivation to pursue what seems to be impossible. Indeed, LT FRONDA is a grateful woman.



# YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES

Cpt Raymond Ralph C Gamboa PAF

## DESTINED to Soar High

**C**PT RAYMOND RALPH C GAMBOA PAF was born on 21 November 1987 in Batangas City. He entered the Philippine Military Academy on 01 April 2006 and on 28 June 2007, he was sent as a cadet representative of the Philippines at the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado, USA. After more than four (4) years of rigorous training, he graduated on 25 May 2011 with a degree of BS Systems Engineering Management and was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Philippine Air Force. He earned his Aeronautical Wing Badge on 19 February 2014 as a member of Military Pilot Training Class 2014A. During the

duration of his active military service, he was able to acquire skills and knowledge essential for his career development.

CPT GAMBOA PAF is designated as Chief, Operations Branch of the 223<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Squadron, 220<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing – a position that requires a lot of responsibility, time and focus. With his consistency, the squadron was able to ensure that compliances





and requirements are successfully completed and complied on time. He monitors and supervises all the squadron's air operations and sees to it that the flying missions are successfully accomplished. He also monitors all pilots and crews for proper deployment and ensures that all aircraft are manned.

His capability and expertise can be seen in all his memberships in different Project Management Teams (PMTs) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) such as: the 220<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing 3-Year Capability Development Plan; CG, PAF Streamer Award; and 220<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing PMT of Airbus A330 MRTT. He is well known as one of the best authors of the Wing for he is well knowledgeable of the Unit's functions and accomplishments. He also contributes as a lecturer of the Wing on the standard of safety mindfulness of the pilots and crew during Crew Resource Management Seminars and various safety meetings conducted every quarter.

The flying career of CPT GAMBOA PAF is consistently remarkable. On 29 April 2021, he unlocked another milestone in his career as a pilot when he was released as Instructor Pilot of the Nomad aircraft. With his new qualification, he willfully grabbed the opportunity to teach the ongoing Pilot Qualification Course students of Nomad aircraft. CPT GAMBOA PAF successfully recorded zero accident/incident rate in his 798 flying hours for N-22 aircraft and his more than 1,000 flying hours combined with his flying time with the C-130 aircraft. Some of the flight missions performed by CPT GAMBOA PAF as Instructor Pilot and Pilot-in-Command are: Pilot Qualification Course training and recurrency flights; transport of Class V supplies; VIP flights and military air works care of 300<sup>th</sup> Air Intelligence and Security Wing.

His efforts, dedication, and zest to perform his duties and responsibilities as an officer, pilot and a citizen are highly appreciated, inspiring and worthy of emulating which paved the way for him to be adjudged as PAF Officer of the Year 2022 (Company Grade Category).



# VISITOR'S ACCOUNTS

## The Cavalier Who is Steering PCG Towards New Heights

• CAV TITO ALVIN G ANDAL '94



As someone who deals a lot with the 29th Philippine Coast Guard Commandant, I can truly attest that Admiral Artemio M Abu '92 indeed epitomizes the Philippine Military Academy's motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

Admiral Abu and I have been working together for the past five months and I am a witness as to how he performs his role as the man at the helm of the PCG. I have observed him to be as a well-defined man who stands firm and decisive over the real test of time and has made a profound impact and purpose, especially for his family and his people.

His brand of public service is marked with the principles of courage, integrity, and loyalty – a reflection of the training and discipline he received from PMA, as part of the "Tanglaw-Diwa" Class of 1992. Being a Coast Guard for three decades, Admiral Abu's aspirations for the organization has always been clear, and his approach to challenges has often been well-thought-out and strategic.

### HIS COMMANDERSHIP

When he was appointed by former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to be the PCG Commandant on February 28, 2022, he has inspired every coast guardian to perform individual roles, obligations and functions with enthusiasm. He focuses on uplifting

personnel morale and welfare by promoting camaraderie and solidarity, exhibiting the ART of bringing people together.

### COMMITMENTS

#### 1. Inspiring the Men and Women of the PCG

I remember Admiral Abu often putting importance to being a *Philippine Coast Guard* and see it as a *UNIFORMED, ARMED, SEA-GOING, and HUMANITARIAN* service. To quote him, "I want to see officers of the PCG who are exemplars in the exercise of leadership and champions in bringing people together. As the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, I cannot do the job alone."

From the get-go, Admiral Abu, keeps reminding the men and women of the PCG that being a coast guard is as much about military professionalism as it is about serving Filipinos. He established a culture of discipline, respect, competence and genuine public service, not just through his pronouncements, but more importantly, through his example.

#### 2. Bringing People Together

Admiral Abu firmly believes that by working together towards a common goal, PCG members begin with understanding one's role in an organization and recognizing that everyone must do his part in order to accomplish the mission. Admiral Abu instills



this to all his PCG men and women making sure everyone is on board, on the same page, and equipped to do their task, as he humbly manifested that he could not do the job alone. While PCG's functions and responsibilities are far-reaching and can be overwhelming for some, Admiral Abu has expressed optimism that as long as the 22,000-strong PCG moves in one direction, no mission can be too difficult.

**3. The PCG RADIATES**

Emphasizing that with committed and dedicated Coast Guardians by his side, Admiral Abu said in steering the wheel for the future of the Coast Guard, gives him no worries. It is his fervent hope that during his watch, he is confident that the entire organization will sail as one big happy PCG family.

Among the goals he has set for his tenure, he wants to re-energize the PCG by bringing dignity and honor to the organization. With the intention of taking the PCG to greater heights, Admiral Abu has consistently encourages his men and women to always remember that the PCG always radiates. An organization that is:



**4. Strong Partnership and Good Human Relations**

**As new RECAAP ISC Governing Council Chairperson**

What is admirable in Admiral Abu is that despite his hectic schedules as PCG Commandant, he still devotes his time as chairperson of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC).

*"It is highly rewarding and an enriching experience for the PCG to participate and contribute to expanding ReCAAP's mission and network of partnership with other member states. We have*



*been able to share our practices in strengthening our capacities for combating threats of piracy and armed robbery against ships in our jurisdiction, and other maritime-related crimes,"* Admiral Abu has said during his appointment as the new chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council.

ReCAAP ISC Governing Council is the first regional government-to-government agreement to enhance multilateral cooperation on regional maritime security composed of 21 States (14 Asian countries: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam), 5 European countries: Norway, Netherlands, Denmark, United Kingdom and Germany) Australia, and the USA) which the PCG Commandant will be serving as Chairman from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2024.

As chairperson of this prestigious council, Admiral Abu puts premium to put to good use the soldierly values of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty to the hilt.

**The PCG and the PCG Auxiliary**



One of Admiral Artemio Abu's agenda after assuming office is to deepen and strengthen the ties between the PCG and the PCG Auxiliary. Both, he said, should have common denominators – the understanding, value, and dignity given to the uniform they are wearing, and the realization that the ranks on their shoulders come with responsibilities they need to accomplish with excellence and respect to the organization. I am confident Admiral Abu will see its fruition until he finishes his tenure of duty.

It is worthy to mention that a recent valuable addition to the PCGA is then Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, who took oath as Auxiliary Vice Admiral under the PCGA Executive Squadron. A total of 812 individuals have been appointed as additional members and 108 were promoted to the next higher rank in the PCGA across the country.

### The PCG and its Foreign Counterparts

As PCG commandant, part of his responsibilities is to welcome visiting ambassadors from foreign embassies and representatives of international agencies. During the courtesy call of foreign dignitaries who visit PCG national headquarters, major areas of concern are mutually being discussed by both parties, all geared towards the enhancement of

cooperation, collaboration, and promotion of stability and order worldwide. Admiral Abu's vast expertise in maritime concerns enable Admiral Abu to contribute in no small measure towards attainment of maritime peace and stability.

### Promotion of Partnership and Collaborations with other Agencies and Uniformed Services



Admiral Abu is taking big strides to strengthen the organization's partnership and collaboration with other government agencies such as the Department of National Defense (DND), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and Inter-agency Council for Traffic (I-ACT), among others. He personally extended his intention of building a strong foundation of good human relations and accountable public service.

Also, he was able to establish deeper relationships with its uniformed counterparts such as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) during various engagements through his innate charisma and friendly vibes.

In his visits to other unified commands and from his high profile visitors from the national security sector, Admiral Abu happily extends PCG's commitment to improve interoperability and cooperation with the military in the region.

WESTMINCOM Commander Lieutenant General Alfredo Rosario Jr., on the other hand, gave due recognition on the importance of sustaining collaboration between the AFP and the PCG, acknowledging the Coast Guard's inclusion in the Joint Peace and Security Coordinating Center (JPSCC), together with the PNP.

Meanwhile, Admiral Abu shared the PCG's commitment to ensure the territorial integrity of our country and maintain peace and order, to achieve economic prosperity and progress with the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) Director General Ricardo F. De Leon and National Security Adviser (NSA) Clarita Carlos at the National Headquarters during their courtesy visit to PCG.

### PCG's Modernization

Under his watch, two state-of-the-art vessels from Japan were delivered and commissioned under the PCG, which is part of the Command's continuous modernization. These are the: BRP Teresa Magbanua and the BRP Melchora Aquino – the PCG's biggest vessels with a total length of 97 meters. These vessels have a maximum speed of 24 knots, and endurance of not less than 4,000 nautical miles. It is also capable of conducting sustained maritime patrols in the country's maritime jurisdiction, including the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise.





**Making PCG a Symbol of Hope and Source of National Pride**

*“Having the mastery of the application of these tools in governance, please join me in wanting to see a brighter horizon ahead for the PCG,”* Admiral Abu said.

These are just preludes to the fulfilment of Coast Guard Admiral Artemio Manalo Abu’s aspiration to bring the Philippine Coast Guard to a higher level of success in doing public service and to make the PCG a symbol of hope and a source of national pride of our great maritime nation we went cultivate the culture of respect, culture of discipline, culture of excellence, culture of teamwork and good human relations.

Admiral Abu is truly a true-blooded Cavalier who imbibes in his heart and mind the virtues of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty. The sea detail is now set, and the PCG continues to sail, coming full speed ahead in harmony and unity because there is one great cavalier at the helm of the PCG.



## A Vindication! Fixed Tenure for AFP Top Officials

20 May 2022

**Ambassador Ramon Farolan,**

My Greetings! It is a vindication of your decades long advocacy for a fixed term for the AFP Chief of Staff. The ‘revolving door’ phenomenon, which has characterized the tenure of the top official of the AFP for the two decades, is past. As cited in your weekly columns Reveille, Phil Daily Inquirer, the AFP had 27 C/Staffs for the first 21 years of the 21st century.

In less than three years the presidency of Joseph Estrada from 1998 to 2000, he had two, nine years of President Gloria M Arroyo 2001 to 2010, she had eleven, (one served for two months) President Benigno Aquino 2010 to 2016, had six and President Rodrigo Duterte 2016 to 2022, he has eleven.

During Martial Law years, one C/Staff served for more than nine years, from 1972 to 1981. His long tenure and the extension of the date of retirement of selected generals and a few colonels effectively slowed down the advance in ranks of post WW II commissioned officers. The 1987 Constitution has corrected this practice and banned extension of retirement dates of officers except the AFP C/Staff.

The new law RA 11709 expanded the list; it provides a fixed three-year term for the AFP C/Staff, the Vice, the Deputy C/Staffs, Commanders of three Major Services and Unified Commands and Inspector General. The Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy is given a tenure of four years. The law also limits number of generals from present 196 to 153, Retirement age is 59 from present 56. To me, the expected benefits are continuity and stability of AFP policies and programs, noteworthy accomplishments for the long term and enhanced professionalism.

RA 11709, which was strongly recommended by DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and sponsored in the Senate by Senators Richard Gordon and Panfilo Lacson and Rep Boboy Tupaz, reinforces the 1987 Constitutional mandate that AFP personnel shall be insulated from partisan politics. It guarantees security of tenure, avoid personal loyalties and adds stability to the military organization.

Its salutary benefits are most welcome. Expectively come June 30, there will be more aspirants and heightened jockeying for the most sought after top positions in the AFP and for a general’s rank, the number of which was reduced by the new law by 40. Hopefully, established criterion for selection of promotees and promotion process (which includes the Commission of Appointment) from Colonel to one star and up will be adhered to and not be impaired. Professionalism is the hallmark of a disciplined, effective and dependable military organization

These issues will have to be addressed by the hierarchy of authorities of the next Administration.

Congratulations! Your persistent crusade has been finally realized.

**BRIG. GEN MANUEL P OXALES, AFP (Ret.)**

Cc: Cavalier Magazine, Editor-in-Chief





# What if Quad, G7 and NATO Unite Against China?

• CAV VICTOR N CORPUS '67

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**T**HE Quad - the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or QSD, - includes India, Japan, Australia and the United States. The Group of Seven, or G7, includes Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom and the US. NATO, meanwhile, consists of 30 countries from Europe led by the US. Since US President Joe Biden's election to the presidency, he has succeeded in rallying the Quad, G7 and NATO to rally behind US leadership in stopping China's rise - economically, technologically as well as militarily. This piece will focus only on the military sphere. Can China be stopped militarily? Can the Quad, G7 and NATO combined defeat China militarily? These are the questions we will try to answer here.

The current situation is reminiscent of the period in the 1840s, when practically the same Western colonial powers cut up China to pieces and forced China to trade in opium in exchange for silver, silk and porcelain. When China refused, British and French troops were ordered to burn the Summer Palace, the equivalent of tens, if not a hundred of France's Louvre Museum. This started China's "century of humiliation." Will China's history be repeated again?

The UK, France, Germany and the Netherlands have already announced plans to send warships to the South China Sea (SCS), with the UK planning to send the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier battle group. Way back in 2004, the US assembled seven of its aircraft carrier strike groups in the vicinity of Taiwan in the biggest naval armada ever assembled, in a naval exercise dubbed "Operation Summer Pulse." The US Navy can easily do a replay or even a bigger display of strength as the US operates up to 11 of these aircraft carrier strike groups.

From the US perspective, now is the best time to stop China's rise while it has only two aircraft carrier strike groups compared to the US' 11. The US also maintains 6,800 nuclear warheads while that reported in China's inventory is only 270 warheads.

US strategic doctrine follows the Wolfowitz Doctrine: "Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere, which poses a threat on the order of that posed formerly by the Soviet Union. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power."

The Wolfowitz Doctrine came out on Feb. 18, 1992, less than two months after the collapse of the USSR on Dec. 25, 1991. At the time, the US had already fallen into the so-called Thucydides Trap. The US will not allow any country to achieve parity or surpass the US economically, technologically or militarily. It will launch a preemptive war to prevent any country from attaining parity or surpassing the US while the US is still relatively strong compared to any rising rival, thus ensuring victory.

Deng Xiaoping, China's leader at the time, figured that the Wolfowitz Doctrine was primarily targeted at China, whose GDP was growing at an average of 14.2 percent annually in 1992. Militarily, China was no match against the US at the time. China's military capacities were still under development, such as what military analysts call the "assassin's mace." Deng, in response to the Wolfowitz Doctrine, came out with his 24-character strategy: "Observe calmly; secure our position; cope with affairs calmly;

hide our capacities and bide our time; be good at maintaining a low profile; and never claim leadership.”

Deng’s strategy saved China from certain destruction on several occasions. Notice that Deng repeated the word “*calmly*” twice in his 24-character formula. If the Chinese had failed to follow Deng’s formula in 1999 (two years after Deng had passed away) when the US bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade and retaliated militarily, the US would have been given the chance to destroy China or nuke China back to the Stone Age. At that time, China was still in the process of developing its own nuclear arsenal and defense against nuclear attack. China was also in the process of developing its anti-ship ballistic missiles; anti-satellite weapons; anti-air bases weapons; and anti-submarine systems. Included in these offensive systems are defensive systems, such as more than 5,000 kilometers of strategic tunnels, more than 40 air bases with underground hangars, an underground submarine base, an overlapping and redundant air defense system covering the entire east coast of China, a defense network for anti-submarine covering China’s east coast, and an extensive system of subways covering all major cities that can double as civil defense in the event of a nuclear attack.

All these offensive and defensive systems that will allow China to survive a military confrontation with the US and its allies - and win - is what was known in military circles as the “*assassin’s mace*.” The development of these capacities is what Deng referred to in his 24-character formula, “hide our capacities.”

When Xi Jinping took over the mantle of leadership in 2013, the “*assassin’s mace*” was mostly in place and Xi improved the system even further. Two major concerns faced Xi at the time. The first was the “*Talisman Saber*,” a biennial naval exercise conducted by the US and Australian navies that rehearsed the naval blockade of the Malacca Strait. The naval exercise started way back in 2005 and continues to this day. Some \$5 trillion worth of goods and energy supplies pass through the strait annually, and some 70 percent belongs to China. Hampering “*freedom of navigation*” in the Malacca Strait would practically force China’s economy to grind to a halt. Military strategists call this China’s “*Malacca Dilemma*.”

The second major concern of Xi was the Manila Trench. The trench is the only deep portion in the whole of the South China Sea where US nuclear submarines can surreptitiously approach China’s east coast to launch a “*first nuclear strike*.” Four Ohio-class nuclear submarines, each armed with 154 Tomahawk missiles with a range of 2,500 kilometers, with each missile packing 200 kilotons (i.e., more than 10 times more powerful than the bomb used in Hiroshima) can spell the end of the Chinese nation and civilization within hours, if not minutes. Because of the proximity of the attack, China will have no time to react and retaliate.

The Manila Trench passes right beside Scarborough Shoal, the main bone of contention between the Philippines and China in 2012 that prompted the Philippines to bring suit against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in the Hague. The Philippines won the case, but China has refused to honor the ruling, saying that the court had no jurisdiction on issues of sovereignty.

Two US aircraft carrier strike groups were sent to enforce the PCA court ruling, but China refused, telling the US commander that China was prepared to go to war if the US enforced the ruling by force. For the first time in US naval history, the US was forced to withdraw without accomplishing its mission of enforcing the PCA ruling.

China started building seven artificial islands in the South China Sea in 2013, when Xi assumed leadership in China. The construction was basically finished by 2016. Three of these

artificial islands have three-kilometer long runways. With the construction of the islands, Xi hit two birds with one stone: China’s Malacca Dilemma and Manila Trench being used as an avenue of approach for a US first nuclear strike against China. China has now stationed a permanent presence guarding Scarborough Shoal, the gateway of nuclear subs to the Manila Trench. It can also trump any attempt by the US and its allies to blockade the Malacca Strait. The seven artificial islands can accommodate enough anti-ship ballistic missiles, stealth combat aircraft, and air defense systems that can neutralize any US attempt to hamper “*freedom of navigation*” in the Malacca Strait and beyond.

There is a saying that geography is immutable. But China has shown it to be untrue. The US will now have to think twice before launching a naval blockade against China in the Malacca Strait or attempt to use the Manila Trench for its nuclear submarines to approach China’s east coast for a first nuclear strike. Of course, the US can launch a first nuclear strike against China anywhere, even from the US mainland. But doing so can also trigger a massive counterattack from China’s nuclear forces and probably from Russia as well. The element of surprise is lost and the whole of American society will also be put at risk.

The US and Australia’s plan to block China’s “*freedom of navigation*” in the Malacca Strait as revealed by the biennial Talisman Saber naval exercises has been countered by China’s artificial islands in the South China Sea because once the US and Australia implement their plan, China can just fly its weapons systems to the islands, giving them geographical proximity to counter any blockade of the Malacca Strait.

In the last Talisman Saber naval exercise held in 2019, Japan, Canada, the UK and New Zealand joined, with India and South Korea as observers. It may not take long before Germany, France, the Netherlands and other members of the G7 and NATO take part in this year’s naval exercises. So, the trend seems to be Quad + G7 + NATO (the so-called democracies) ganging up against China (a non-democracy) and possibly also against Russia and Iran. What then? What if the Quad + G7 + NATO combine against China in a military confrontation? Can a united Quad, G7 and NATO led by the US Navy defeat China militarily?

Since the Talisman Saber is focused on the South China Sea and its environs, let us take it as the major theater where armed conflict would start. China’s strategy overall is active defense, meaning that China will never be the first to attack, but if it is attacked, it will surely counterattack. So, NATO, G7 and Quad will be forced to be the aggressors or invaders while China will be the defender.

However, the Western powers can turn this dilemma around and make China look the aggressor. They can woo Taiwan to declare independence, assuring the latter of the Western alliance’s full backing. If Taiwan falls for the trap and declares independence, China will invade Taiwan militarily, giving the US enough reason for coming to Taiwan’s aid and attacking China.

Another alternative scenario that can trigger war in the South China Sea is the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty with Russia. The US can now force or “*persuade*” the next Philippine president that will succeed Duterte to allow US forces to deploy intermediate range ballistic missiles (IRBMs, with a range of 500-5,500 km) in US EDCA bases in the Philippines. If the Philippines agrees to host US nuclear armed missiles that can reach Beijing and Shanghai in less than 15 minutes, such a move will be considered by Beijing as a “*first strike*” against China on the strategic level, necessitating a counterstrike. China will consider such a move as no different from the “*Cuban missile crisis*” in the early 1960s. And China surely will not wait for those nuclear-tipped missiles to rain on Beijing or Shanghai before they make their move. China will seize

the operational or tactical initiative and take out those US missiles in Philippine territory before they even become operational. This can start a conflagration in the whole of the SCS and beyond.

Being long-term planners, China would have prepared for these various contingencies beforehand. Between China and Russia, both can jointly plan and coordinate action of their nuclear submarines, with China opening a new war front on the US west coast, while Russia opening a new warfront on the US east coast. Iran's role will be to close the Hormuz Strait where Japan depends for 90 percent of its energy needs, while NATO will lose 60 percent of its oil supply.

TO attack China militarily, the Western alliance led by the US has to overcome two major obstacles: China's geographic advantages and China's "assassin's mace" involving both offensive and defensive systems.

### China's geographic advantages

China's combined land and sea power versus sea power of the US and allies. Sea power is limited by the available space afforded by floor area in surface combatants. They could carry only so many missiles, combat aircraft, ammunition, personnel, supplies and fuel in their floating flotilla. On the other hand, China's space as a land power is continental in size, with enough space for thousands upon thousands of missiles, many of them anti-ship ballistic missiles designed to sink any number of aircraft carrier strike groups. They also include missile variants for anti-submarine systems, anti-satellite systems and anti-airbase systems, and all these systems and subsystems are hidden and protected in more than 5,000 kilometers of strategic tunnels.

Even if China does not use a single warship in its PLA navy and only uses instead its anti-ship ballistic missiles such as the DF21Ds, DF26Cs and DF17s, it can wipe out and sink every major surface combatant that the Western alliance sends to confront it in the South China Sea (SCS) or East China Sea (ECS). In military parlance, this is called "*asymmetric warfare*," part and parcel of "unrestricted warfare." These ASBMs usually attack in swarms, with no known defense as of now. So, if NATO/Quad led by the US sends their aircraft carrier strike groups, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes and nuclear submarines to wage war against China in the South or East China Sea, China's land and sea power against US and allies sea power military confrontation will result in the total annihilation of the NATO/Quad naval armada led by the US Navy. The huge naval armada will have nowhere to hide, like sitting ducks being eliminated by simultaneous attacks of missile swarms. It will take only about 15 to 20 minutes, and it will be all over for the NATO/Quad armada led by the US Navy.

The famous ancient "*Battle of Cannae*" will be replicated in modern times if the combined forces of Quad, G7 and NATO led by the US mass forces in the SCS in a military confrontation with China. The combination of China's "*land power*" (i.e. anti-ship ballistic missiles like DF21s, DF26s, DF17s; anti-satellite systems; anti-submarine systems; and anti-air base systems, together with their land-based stealth fighters and bombers) and China's "*sea power*" (Chinese submarines maneuvering with Russian submarines to encircle, interdict and block the escape of surviving Western warships from the simultaneous swarm missile attacks coming from land-based anti-ship ballistic missiles of China). Like Hannibal's cavalry in that third century BC battle, Chinese and Russian submarines conduct a double envelopment of US and allied naval armada in the SCS, combined with a vertical envelopment executed by China's land-based stealth fighters and strategic bombers to prevent any escape. The end result will be a complete rout of the Western naval armada in the SCS - a modern-day replica of the Battle of Cannae.



Geographic proximity of China to the main battle area (SCS and ECS). This gives China the advantage because all of its anti-ship ballistic missiles and their variants for use against air force bases harboring US stealth fighters and bombers and those against satellite-based C4ISR are well within range - up to 4,000 km from the Chinese mainland - to include US bases in Guam. When China responds to the "*first strike*" of the Western alliance, it will be a simultaneous swarm attack by China's 'assassin's mace' against targets at sea, undersea, on land and in space. The modern-day Battle of Cannae may last for only a few minutes. That is how the tempo of modern warfare has evolved since the advent of the revolution in military affairs (RMA).

Eurasian heartland vs the rimland. A NATO/Quad attack on China would surely involve the participation of its close and informal allies, Russia and Iran. There is a good chance that the conflict could turn nuclear, especially if the NATO/Quad armada led by the US Navy is annihilated in the SCS by China's "*assassin's mace*." So, before China acts against the Western naval armada in the SCS, prior planning with Russia and Iran is a prerequisite. Before China unleashes its assassin's mace, prior arrangements would have been made that Russia sends its SSBNs and SSNs to the US East Coast, while China sends its own to the US West Coast, ready to act in the event that the US decides to go nuclear. Iran, on the other hand, closes the Strait of Hormuz where 90 percent of Japan's energy supply and 60 percent of NATO's pass through.

China, Russia and Iran are physically occupying and in full control of the Eurasian heartland. This is what Mackinder calls the geographic pivot of history. He said whoever controls the "*heartland*" will eventually control the world. The US, in its attempt to contain the "*heartland*" occupiers, has adapted



https://www.insightsonindia.com/international-relations/bilateral-regional-and-global-groupings-and-agreements-involving-india-and-or-affecting-india/

US/NATO/Quad, being the invaders, will not gain any popular support. While the heartland occupiers China, Russia and Iran, being defenders of their land, will have popular support. Mencius, some two millennia past, had cautioned: "Perfect timing is less important than positional advantage; but positional advantage is less important than popular support." It is easier for China, Russia and Iran to rally their own population to fight and drive out the foreign invaders of the "heartland." For China, this may not even come to pass, because the would-be invaders can be annihilated in the SCS and ECS. But if, by chance, the invaders were lucky enough to set foot on Chinese soil, they may not make it alive going back home.

**China's 'assassin's mace'**

Offensive: anti-ship ballistic missiles (DF21Ds, DF26s, DF17s and CH-AS-X-13s). These are medium and intermediate range ballistic missiles designed to hit moving targets at sea; with variants designed to target satellites as well as fixed targets on land like air bases harboring stealth aircraft and bombers. There are also special missiles designed for use against submarines. They are also designed to attack some targets in swarms. No other country so far has developed this kind of technology. They are land-based, road-mobile and sheltered in some 5,000 km of strategic tunnels in the China mainland. The DF26 can be both conventional and nuclear. For nuclear purposes, China has the DF41s, equipped with 15 nuclear warheads and can hit any chosen target on earth. It is also road-mobile and sheltered in strategic tunnels. China also has nuclear submarines (SSBNs and SSNs) and strategic stealth bombers (H-20s). Special weapons systems include autonomous AI-aided drone swarms above ground and underwater, laser weapons, microwave weapons, and rail guns.

Defensive. In the early 1950s, Chairman Mao issued a call to the Chinese people: "Dig tunnels deep; store grains everywhere; and never seek hegemony." From then until this day, China had kept on digging. More than 10 years ago, there was a report that China already had some 5,000 km of strategic tunnels housing their nuclear arsenal. It could be that that number is more than double or triple now, considering how they increased the mileage of their high-speed rail. They also have more than 40 air bases with underground hangars, and one submarine base that is also underground. In addition, all the major cities have extensive underground subway systems that double as civil defenses in the event of a nuclear war. China's entire east coast is covered with redundant air defense systems, while the entire eastern coastline is covered by anti-submarine detection and attack systems (autonomous unmanned underwater drone swarms). I doubt whether the US has a similar system for defense. Perhaps they are so confident that no one would ever dare attack the US mainland, which both Russian and Chinese nuclear Triad can do.

So, going back to the question: Can a united Quad, G7 and NATO led by the US Navy defeat China militarily? My answer is yes, but only if they can overcome the geographic advantages that China enjoys, and if they can survive and escape the gauntlet that China's assassin's mace has laid in their way, combined with Russian and Chinese submarines executing a "double envelopment," while China's land-based J-20s, H6Ns, H-20s, CH-AS-X-13s and J10Cs executing a "vertical envelopment" behind enemy lines, encircling and completely trapping the remnants of the US-led Western invading naval armada. If the latter fails to cope with this joint Chinese and Russian response, the attacking Western fleet will be likened to the overwhelmingly numerous Roman soldiers that were annihilated by Hannibal's numerically inferior Carthaginian warriors in that classic ancient Battle of Cannae - known among military historians as the "Battle of Annihilation."



Spykeman's rimland concept by encircling the Eurasian heartland with some 800 military bases. But because of military advances arising from the ongoing revolution in military affairs, these hundreds of military bases have turned into liabilities for the US. Such fixed targets can easily be eliminated by simultaneous missile swarm attacks from Russia, Iran and China. They can all be eliminated within minutes. That is how much the new tempo of modern warfare has changed.

US and NATO/Quad allies are forced to cross oceans (Pacific, Indian, Atlantic) to reach the battlegrounds of the SCS and ECS. In the process, the Western alliance's extended sea lanes of communication expose their logistic and personnel to ambush by Chinese and Russian submarines and interdiction by bombers with air-launched hypersonic anti-ship missiles (Kinzhal, CH-AS-X-13) and land-based anti-ship ballistic missiles (DF21Ds, DF26Cs and DF17s). In contrast, China, Russia and Iran will be moving forces inside their own territories with secured/protected lines of communication, or in the territories of their allies in the SCS, their mobility facilitated by high-speed rail nets in the heartland.

*"Never hit with both fists in two directions at the same time."*

This is a basic military dictum. But the US and its Western allies will be forced to fight on multiple fronts, such as the SCS front, the ECS (Taiwan) front, the Korean Peninsula front, the Persian Gulf front, the Syrian front, the Ukraine front, the US East Coast front and the US West Coast front. The US and its allies will be forced to disperse their forces thinly on a global scale, liable to defeat in detail. Meanwhile, China, Russia and Iran's forces can maneuver rapidly with the aid of high-speed rail crisscrossing the Eurasian heartland to concentrate on superior forces and defeat the invading US/NATO/Quad forces one by one.

*This Sept. 6, 2014 photo shows the Armed Forces of the Philippines' general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. PHOTO BY LT. JIN PANGANIBAN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.*

# Why an IRR on the New AFP Retirement Law?

• CAV EDGARD A AREVALO '90

*(Editor's Note: First published in two parts on May 29, 2022 and June 5, 2022, this op-ed article was republished with permission from The Manila Times. Cav EA Arevalo, also a member of the Philippine Bar, maintains a column "Crow's Nest" that comes out every Sunday issue of the newspaper.)*

**A**CTIVE and retired Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) personnel hail the passage of Republic Act (RA) 11709, which takes effect on July 1, 2022 and after its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two newspapers of general circulation. This new law governs, inter alia, the Retirement (Title III), Attrition System (Title IV), and Procurement of Officers and Enlisted Personnel (Title V) in the AFP. It mandates the Department of National Defense to formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this law within 90 days from its effectivity.

Being retired AFP officers, we are in no way affected by this law in the same way probably as our views on the subject matter at all. But being one of the products of the State's investments who could not have afforded the education and training without the AFP's support, it behooves me to share my thoughts.

RA 11709 envisions to 'allow the new leadership of the AFP a longer period to implement reforms and institutionalize sound policies that will redound to the improvement of the AFP. Congress specifically mentions its intent to 'obviate revolving-door accommodation promotions' among chiefs-of-staff of the AFP (CSAFPs) who were promoted to four-star rank, but some are only able to serve for a brief period. From 1936 after the AFP was established by virtue of Commonwealth Act 1 to date, there had been 57 CSAFPs.

This piece of legislation closes the revolving door. It locks away forever the possibility of having another CSAFP serving for only 78 days during the presidency of Corazon Aquino or for 102 days under President Rodrigo Duterte. While President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in her nine-year presidency had 11 CSAFPs and President Benigno Aquino 3rd had appointed seven, not one Commander-in-Chief beats President Duterte. He has appointed 11 CSAFPs during his six-year term as president.

Under the new law, President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will get to appoint only two CSAFPs — one in 2023 and another in 2026. The next general or flag officer to command the more than 150,000-strong

AFP as CSAFP is accorded a fixed tour-of-duty (ToD) of three years (Sec. 2). This opens the possibility of a 62-year-old CSAFP when one gets appointed at age 59, which is beneficial to the people and the State! We stand to reap the fruits of the country's investment in national security in terms of the education and training of these general/flag officers. When the State retires them at age 56 under the old law, some private corporations and endeavors hire them and benefit from the maturity, leadership experience and vast competencies of these 'still young retirees' that could otherwise be squeezed to the pulp.

I will skip further discussion on the new law and reserve it for the concluding part of this commentary. I would now jump to an important issue.

The law with its excellent provisions bodes well for the AFP, but a lot depends on how the law will be interpreted and implemented. A set of Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) objectively vetted and carefully crafted is necessary to breathe life to the spirit of the law. One that gives rise rather than defeat legislative intent to professionalize the AFP, cultivate a culture of excellence and engender merit system.

The maximum tenure-in-grade (MTiG) of three years for all general/flag officers that effectively sets their retirement age at 59 years old needs a deliberate and objective interpretation. Not only incumbent star ranks, senior colonels/captains who are awaiting vacancies for promotion are also asking. To whom does MTiG apply — is it also to the incumbent general/flag officers or only to those who will be promoted after the effectivity of the law? The prevailing view, it seems, is that it also applies to the incumbent general/flag officers. I am of the contrary view.

The answer can be found in Sec. 22(b) that provides, 'The maximum tenure in-grade shall only apply to officers and enlisted personnel promoted after the effectivity of this Act.' By 'officer,' the law did not distinguish between general/flag officers and colonels/captains and below. *Ubi lex non distinguit, nec nos distinguere*

*debemus*. Where the law does not make any distinction, neither should we — is a well-settled principle in law. I would argue that if the congressional intent is to exempt the incumbent, it could have stated thus: ‘Except for the incumbent general/flag officers, the maximum tenure-in-grade shall...’

It follows therefore, that the MTiG as mandated by RA 11709 does not apply to the current general/flag officers, colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors and captains (and their equivalents in grade in the Philippine Navy) until and unless they are promoted on or after July 1, 2022. Those who will not be eventually promoted after that date of effectivity will all retire at 56 years of age or upon accumulation of 30 years of satisfactory active service under the provisions of the Sec. 2 of Presidential Decree 1650 that amended Sec. 5 of PD 1638.

This interpretation also follows the concept of prospective application of laws. The MTiG of three years as introduced in the new law cannot apply retroactively to incumbent general/flag officers who were promoted before RA 11709 was passed. The new law explicitly provides to whom it applies.

There will practically be no upward movements to general/flag officer grades if their tenures will be extended! Except for the one selected as CSAFP, there will be no slots for the colonels/captains whose promotion to star rank is based on vacancies. And while the new law shortens the MTiG of colonels/captains from 10 to eight years, they have to wait three years longer for vacancies in the scarce star ranks. That seems unfair as it is absurd. Certainly, it will have a consequent morale problem neither intended by Congress nor will be allowed by the Defense department.

Another critical provision of Republic Act (RA) 11709 that needs deliberate interpretation is the second paragraph of Sec. 2. It provides that the tour of duty (ToD) of key officers enumerated in Sec. 2(a) through (h) commences on the date their appointment is signed by the President and that the duration shall be for three consecutive years. It requires that those key officers named in Sec. 2(b) through (h) shall not be eligible for any other position in the Armed Forces of the Philippines unless promoted to the position of chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP). This provision has two parts: It prescribes a fixed tour-of-duty (FToD) and when it is deemed to have begun and it proscribes lateral movement among “key officers” that were identified only upon the effectivity of the Act. How does this two-part provision of Sec. 2 apply to the incumbent three-star general/flag rank officers? I must contend, as to the first part, that by applying consistently the prospective application of the law, the incumbent three-star general/flag rank officers who were appointed by the President before the effectivity of RA 11709 have not been vested with an FToD. The only time that they will have it is when they are appointed to key positions after the effectivity of the new law.

As to the second part of the provision, I would argue that, on the same grounds of prospective application of the new law, the incumbent three-star general/flag rank officers are not covered by the proscription for lateral movement. The prohibition should apply only to those “key officers” appointed after the effectivity of RA 11709.

Another cogent reason to give this benefit to the three-star ranks at present is that the classification of “key officers” was expanded only by RA 11709. From CSAFP, vice CSAFP, deputy chief of staff and major service commanders as defined in the RA 8186, the new law now includes the inspector general AFP (IGAFP), the commanders of unified commands and the superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (SPMA). The IRR should therefore allow lateral movement *pro hac vice* (for this occasion only) to the incumbent vice chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff, the commanding generals of the Philippine Army and of the Philippine Air Force, the flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, the six unified commanders, and the IGAFP to include the SPMA — all appointed before the passage of the new law.

It is compelling, fair and attuned to the new law that the expanded classification of “key officers” under the new law should not deprive the incumbent three-star general/flag officers to move to positions of the same rank in the table of organization (TO). However deserved, they should retire at 56 years old or upon the accumulation of 30 years of satisfactory active service, whichever comes later. This is also aligned with the stipulation found in the second sentence of Sec. 22(a) that demands incumbent officers occupying key positions (key officers in the new law) to retire compulsorily pursuant to Sec. 2 of Presidential Decree (PD) 1650. This is the very same provision on compulsory retirement that, I argue, should apply to incumbent general/flag rank officers who were not promoted after the effectivity of RA 11709.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) being crafted should be able to address the situation of officers who were appointed to a position in the TO that requires a grade of one-star or higher but with less than a year remaining to serve in the active service per Sec. 2 of PD 1650. May they still be promoted to higher ranks under the new law and accorded a Maximum Time-in-Grace (MtiG) of three years? AFP Circular Number 4 dated Oct. 7, 1996 that provides the rules implementing the provisions of Sec. 4 of RA 8186 pertaining to the promotion to the grade of brigadier general/ commodore has the answer.

While Sec. 4 and Sec. 3 of RA 8186 were expressly repealed by RA 11709, the provisions still apply to officers who were promoted before the effectivity of the Act. In paragraph 7(a)(3) of the circular, it is stipulated that no officer shall be promoted to the grade of brigadier general/commodore or higher if he/she has less than one year of active service remaining reckoned on the date of approval of the promotion. Notice that the circular specified the reckoning to be on the date the President signed the “promotion,” not the “appointment.”

In conclusion, it bears repeating that in writing this piece, I offer my thoughts while hopeful that this will be read by people of consequence and by those who are drafting the implementing rules. I am praying for them because they now carry on their shoulders the burden of executing the law that was passed by Congress. Since RA 11709 will impact on the current officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP, there will be necessary consequences — some are unfavorable to the incumbent general/flag officers.

After RA 11709 takes effect and the circular implementing the law has been approved, there will be major changes in the military organization especially in the uppermost echelon of the AFP leadership. The “revolving door” appointments of CSAFPs will be a thing of the past by noontime of June 30, 2022 when President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. assumes office.

General/Flag officers promoted on or after July 1, 2022 will retire at 59 years old or upon reaching the fixed tenure-in-grade of three years, whichever comes earlier. Fourteen “key officers” are accorded a fixed tour-of-duty of three years — four years in the case of a SPMA — unless removed from post by proper authority and are not designated to or occupying any position in the TO.

The faithful implementation of the provisions of RA 11709 pertinent to the tour of duty, recruitment, promotion, retirement, and attrition of officers and enlisted personnel will have a lasting impact on the AFP. In particular, the selection and appointment of general/flag officers to key positions given the three years of fixed tenure-in-grade and the three or four years of fixed tour-of-duty weighs heavily on the board of senior officers (BoSO) and the board of generals (BoG). And the manner by which these boards exercise their solemn obligation and critical functions will bear directly on the trust and confidence in the process that will ultimately impact on the degree of professionalism and state of morale of the future AFP.



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

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

# CLASS CALL



**EDUARDO R ERMITA**  
President  
**TAGUMPAY R JARDINIANO**  
Secretary

As we welcome a new administration at the helm of our country's governance and the COVID-19 pandemic enters its 3rd year and continues on, the PMA Class 1957 family similarly continues its 65th anniversary celebrations with zoom video meetings and lively conversations on social media threads, as well as face reunions, the culminations of which was the live and well attended get together that took place on Sunday last April 17, 2022 at the Officers' Club in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. This was lengthily featured in the 2nd quarter (April-June) issue of The Cavalier magazine. Nearly four pages of much appreciated coverage was allotted to the batch, which included articles, pics of the occasion as well as the full message and reminiscences of current Class '57 President Gen Ed Ermita. For this generous space we have been given, we would like to wholeheartedly thank the editors, staff and layout artist of the Cavalier. Maraming Salamat po!

On the more somber note, in the last six and a half decades that have transpired, we have sadly bid adieu to many our comrades. Originally numbering 74 young and hopeful graduates when we first marched out from the grounds of Fort del Pilar in Baguio in April of 1957 to serve the nation, pursue promising military careers and to form families and forge lasting friendships, the Class is now down to 25 surviving members. And recently we experienced the loss of yet another one. Cavalier Remigio 'Rem' Gopez succumbed to pneumonia on July 17, 2022 after a brief confinement at the Veterans Hospital under the expert care of Brats '57 President Dr. Gigi Ledesma Pereira, who never fails to take care of all her patients, especially members of the Class '57 family. Cavalier Rem Gopez was

one of the six members of the class to go to flying school and was one of the four who went on to obtain pilot's licenses. He enjoyed a fruitful career serving the nation as a member of the Philippine Air Force. We salute you. We will miss you, and you will never be forgotten. Thank you for your service, and for our friendship and brotherhood as mistahs, Godspeed Rem!

As we look behind the last 65 years, in which we saw many highs and lows, hellos and goodbyes, and the achievements of much of the goals we had set out to do, we are also looking forward to the years that still lie ahead. Together with the Class '57 Brats, we would still like to actively take part and contribute to nation building, help keep families whole, and dispense solicited wisdom borne of the lifetime of experience. The Class '57 torch is still burning and will hopefully continue to shine even as it is handed down to future generations. Even in the midst of our twilight years, may it continue to illuminate and guide us all towards the rightful path!  
– (Frederick Cabrera/Class '57 Brat)



**ORLANDO B SALIENTES**  
President

Nestor Lim reported Bob Tagala, both based in U.S. fell on an icy floor, had a brain surgery. He is not impaired. At age 85, balance is a problem. Manny Oxales attends the Webinar of the Council of Class Presidents, he exposed four years ago the P43.8M misinvestment in ACES of the alumni body and affiliates. Also he recommended termination of P66M too risky placements in lending companies.

Ex-Chairmen Edgar Aglipay and Amado Espino Jr. favorably acted on them. He wrote articles on defense security and geopolitics published in the prestigious

Maritime Review and Journal of Philippine Council for Foreign Relations.

Cesar Go is in Pampanga where he once assigned at Clark Air Base. Sends inspiring Bible quotes.

We, average 85 in years and still going. Fred Lards had a mild S but well now. Orly and Inday with kids in US. Have not heard much from others.



**GUILLERMO R RUIZ**  
President  
**RENE LEANDRO P EBRO**  
Secretary

A warm salutation from the Matindi Class of 1963!

Below are the entries from our Log Book:

## MAY

Marlo Canlas, mother of the current CG PAF, Lt. Gen. Connor Anthony Canlas, celebrated her 80th birthday at the CG PAF's Quarters at Villamor Air Base, Pasay City last 24 May, 2022.

## JULY

Some members of the class, along with their wives and the five loyal widows, gathered together at the picturesque home of Reggie and Marga Lacson in Tanay catching up over sumptuous dishes overlooking the panoramic view of Rizal Province. Present were Estela Andaya, Cora Blancas, Naty Laput, Aida Mayo, Gie Aquino, Jimmy Iletto, Gaps Sabarre, Billy and Rose Enerio as well as the gracious hosts.

The Philippine Air Force celebrated its 75th Founding Anniversary last 1 July 2022 where it recognized its outstanding personnel and units. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., assisted by the son of Oca



and Marlo Canlas, PAF CG Lt. Gen. Connor Canlas, granted the recognition.

**CHEERS TO ANOTHER BIRTHDAY**

May you all enjoy beautiful and bountiful days filled with happiness as well as manageable health with wonderful moments to keep. It is always a privilege to grow old gracefully and graciously.

**July**

- 2 - Judith Valdez
- 5 - Dodong Saavedra
- 5 - Zeny Salipsip
- 17 - Dick Flores
- 17 - Ed Resos
- 21 - Danny Delgado
- 26 - Annabelle Adriano
- 26 - Jimmy Iletto

**August**

- 2 - Lita Mendoza
- 3 - Ed Batenga
- 4 - Bayani Leoncio

- 7 - Cora Blancas
- 10 - Vicky Agaab
- 12 - Danny Pizarro
- 21 - Francis Mallillin
- 24 - Flor Ebro

**September**

- 1 - Yayang Manlongat
- 1 - Ching Saavedra
- 4 - Rose Enerio
- 7 - Vicky Capada
- 7 - Rudy Javier
- 7 - Reggie Lacson
- 8 - Art Capada
- 13 - Filong Pante
- 14 - Feliciano Calibuso
- 14 - Eve Venadas
- 15 - Monet Ong
- 26 - Ding Salipsip

May we all continue to live with appreciation, optimism, enthusiasm, sincerity, peace and kindness. (18121605)





**CLEMENTE P MARIANO**  
President  
**WINSTON G ARPON**  
Secretary

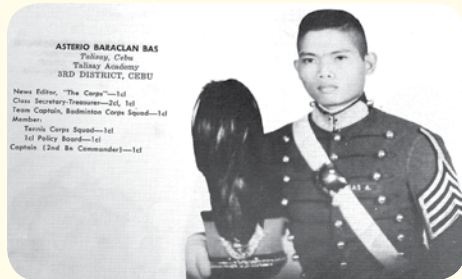
**Birthday Celebrants This Quarter**

**July**

1 – Jorge P. Agcaoili; 25 – Santiago L. Dino

**August**

10 – Asterio B. Bas (In Memoriam)



**September**

6- Jaime S Valeros; 22 – Santiago B. Bunoan Jr.; 30 - Reynaldo V. Reyes



Soon to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, **Rey** was just too pleased to meet up with former FOIC Cavalier **Ferdinand S. Golez '76** over a lunch at Navy Golf last June 2022. They were joined by the PMA 64 adopted brother, **Jim Vandevoort USNA '03**. And what better venue than one where Rey, premier golfer of the class, is intent on shooting four scores or better.

After spending much of the entire previous quarter in the US, on his "mission" (see Class Call 64-2202), to be with his daughters living there, **Rene Garcia** stayed local this time, and reports that he enjoyed his visit to his home province of Marinduque for a week; having



fun "tending to my hybrid coconuts, my *Guimaras* mangoes – never mind that my *kambings* that are dying due to *peste*; the food of crabs and native chicken with *tanglad* in *tinola* were just fine for me." To this day he still longs for that week and memories of "my *dampa* on a hill overlooking my plants.... the pleasure and strength from the sea breeze and nap each afternoon." Again, with wife **Nida** and his family back home in Paranaque, is this **Promdi** lucky or what?

**Arfs Arpon**, on the other hand, after last quarter's unplanned trip to the US to visit a seriously ill brother of wife **Vicky**, found himself going back there for three weeks, this time on schedule, and, for a happier occasion: the wedding in July of his grandson, **Nasir Alexander Arpon** to **Kirsten Leigh Wenzel** at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club in Maryland, the first among his four grandsons and three granddaughters to tie the knot.





FVR and Billy Villareal

**FVR**

Class 64 joins the entire military establishment and the entire country in mourning his passing. Most, if not all members of our Class, served this man, at one time and capacity or another; two more closely than others: **Clemente P. Mariano and Ismael Z. Villareal**, AFP Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff, respectively. Class Call 64-2023 is pleased to share their recollection of FVR, for the record and for posterity.

When FVR became President and Commander-in-Chief, **Billy Villareal** joined him in Malacañang as the first commander of the Presidential Security Group.

On an earlier close encounter with FVR, **Billy** writes:

*“One memory that stands out was my experience with PFVR during the 1989 Coup. I was at GHQ on leave at that time, and when he saw me, he ordered my immediate membership in the ad hoc command group of DND and AFP that was commanding and controlling counter-coup operations.*

*“In the two days we were under rebel fire, he showed exemplary professionalism, courage, determination that inspired the command group to carry out its primary task of rallying various loyal army, navy and air forces to support the government.”*

The early career of **Clem Mariano** dovetailed with that of **FVR** during the Vietnam War, specifically through PHILCAGV, Philippine Civic Action Group to Vietnam; FVR in the PHILCAGV I and Clem in PHILCAGV II. Quite interestingly, a total of five that served in this contingent became AFP CSAFP: **FVR and Cav Lisandro Abadia '62** from PHILCAGV I; **Cavaliers Renato de Villa '57, Arturo Enrile '62 and Clem, PHILCAGV II.**

**Clem** hastens to downplay his contribution to the memory of **FVR** in his recollection that we requested. Describing himself “now (as) just one retired old soldier making up for the time I should

*have shared with family in my younger years” he is quick to point out, “There are many gallant cavaliers, he points out, who had been with him much longer and much closer, and who had probably shared much more memorable moments in our history with FVR. Mine is just a drop in the bucket considering how great a person he was and the life he lived.”*



It was only in mid-1987 when I started working under FVR, the CSAFP, while I was deputy J3, always with him on inspections and visits to line units. My boss, the J3 was stay- behind in GHQ when FVR left town during those difficult times of frequent coup attempts. With him meant jogging by his side on early morning run with the troops, briefings and conferences with field commanders, chopper rides to remote areas and late-night meetings with local officials.

He became SND, and I continued to accompany him in visits to field units and

sometimes conferences in Malacañang with the cabinet. In staff work, he demanded thoroughness, completion, and imagination. His red ball pen scribbles in newspaper clippings and staff papers were almost always expected to drive everyone into action and compliance. Occasionally on weekends, I was invited to join him in scuba diving trips. Even in travels to the south, when we were dressed for the return trip to VAB, he would at times delay the flight to engage in a short and hurried beach activity, especially those of us proficient in water sports. We had to be in “dressing formation” alert to keep up. It was his relief and “recharge” from a hectic work schedule. I could last the runs but never could keep pace in swimming or even tried.

Later, when I was 203rd Infantry Brigade Commander in 1989 covering Quezon and Camarines provinces, I was directed to move and reinforce GHQ in Cp Aginaldo in the most threatening and bloody Coup attempt in December. I managed to




reorganize three infantry battalions, a light armor battalion and an artillery battery. We commandeered civilian buses and trucks to move the troops and equipment from wide and dispersed deployments on counter insurgency mode to shift to a semi-conventional operation. Fortunately, my PHILCAG Vietnam exposure with allied forces earlier in combined arms operation helped in the reconfiguration of the troops. He just said "thank you" to me with a nod when I saw him at the battle staff, though it was a game changer in that crises. He was then busy contacting and mobilizing local government officials throughout the country, assuring the stability of the government and the capability of the armed forces to contain and neutralize the threats. While we succeeded in our mission defending GHQ, the NPA's exploited the absence of our main maneuver units and attacked our stay behind CAGUs

inflicting heavy casualties in one remote detachment.

Fast forward to late 1996. FVR was President and I was CG, PA. When a new CSAFP was appointed, I was told: *Boss, makukuha mo rin.*" In November 1997, while golfing with him with the other major service commanders, he asked me when the incumbent CSAFP was retiring and my own retirement date, what followed was the early announcement of my new designation as the next CSAFP in December 1997. I was told to report to him in his small cubicle office where he dealt with documents and papers relative to his job. He greeted me in a few words: "You should know who your boss is." When I reacted like a cadet with a snap and brace up and replied, "yes sir", he grinned and scolded me, saying, "you are not a plebe anymore," with his trademark smile. Does it sound like an exchange between a

Commander-in-Chief and an AFP Chief of Staff or a cadet barracks scenario?

Close to my 56 years, he extended my active service until the end of his term, an option seldom exercised by the President and Commander-in-Chief during the time. At Bangkok where I was Envoy AEP, the former President briefly dropped by several times, a relief from his usual tight schedule and busy activities for a game of golf, enjoying popular Thai cuisine, and visiting old friends, while the former First Lady visited flower shops for her hobby, on their way back from a Europe speaking or meeting engagement. Now, when he just left us, I feel a vacuum created, for he was relentless in his passion for the county's progress and the people's welfare. I look up to him as my commander and leader in times of great challenge, and an energetic and imaginative nation builder when the country needed one. [@waga/cc64-2202](https://www.facebook.com/waga/cc64-2202) 



**G**REETINGS from the PMA MULAWIN CLASS OF 1965.

After almost three years of hibernation, we are excited to give updates of how the MULAWINS are now faring after going through under very challenging times of a PANDEMIC that have seriously affected the lives and

economy of the entire world. No one is spared in this COVID-19 pandemic.

When the pandemic broke out early 2020, there were thirty one (31) Mulawins who were accounted for in the Morning Report but as of this writing twenty nine (29) na lang. This is indicative of still an excellent state of health of the class despite the onslaught of COVID, there were only two MULAWINS (REX ROBLES and TONY DAZA) who passed away during the period and cause of their death was not even COVID. Unfortunately, two Mulawiness (VI SANTOS and MELY TAPIA) were not as lucky as those who survived COVID and I thank all the MULAWIN prayer group and all others

who bombarded the gates of heaven with their prayers resulting in GOD's listening and showing HIS ETERNAL MERCY AND GREATNESS..

The only major activity that the Class carried out was the Fellowship lunch buffet F2F Get together at NIU in THE PODIUM, Mandaluyong, Pasig City last July 7, 2022. Despite concerns regarding new COVID variants still affecting the country, we had to see each other and take advantage of the presence of our MULAWIN MON AZURIN and MULAWINESS NORY AZURIN who were in the country to attend, as one of the Special Guests, in the inaugural of FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS, JR as the 17th President of the Philippines.





Attending said Fellowship F2F Lunch get together but strictly following Health Safety Protocols were: Class Vice President/Treasurer EGAY VELASCO; Class Secretary TATES NARTATEZ and Mulawiness LYNN ESTRADA NARTATEZ; MULAWIN OFRING MARCELO and MULAWINESS LITA MARCELO; MULAWIN JOE LAPUS; MULAWIN RICKY PAPA; MULAWIN PAT DUQUE; MULAWIN LITO TAPIA; MULAWIN REGER BERGADO and GLORIA BERGADO;

MULAWINESS LINDA PERENA with daughter PA Chief Nurse Colonel Mimi Perena-Juan; MULAWINESS ANNIE ORTIZ; MULAWINESS ROSE MONTA; Junior Mulawin JunJun Abadilla; Junior Mulawin Raffy Alejandro; Junior Mulawin Ting Ting Velasco, and, of course, MULAWIN MON AZURIN and MULAWINESS NORY AZURIN. Five (5) days after the affair, all of us who attended submitted ourselves to either RT-PCT test or Antigen test to determine if

afflicted with COVID and we're all safe as all our tests were NEGATIVE.

Birthday greetings and welcome the new OCTOGENARIANS of the Class whose birthdays are in May, June or July: Mike Leonardo - May 8; Ricky Papa - May 12; Al Mora (+) - May 9; Romy Padiernos (+) - May 31; Warly Chee - July 22; Joe Lapus - July 9; and Pat Duque - July 13. Wishing you all more joyful and healthful birthdays and blessings.



**MANUEL P ESPEJO**  
President  
**FREDELINO S BAUTISTA**  
Secretary

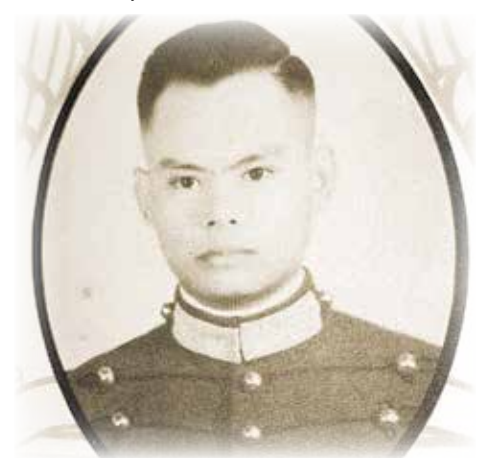
**PAMBUNGAD**

Tapos na ang halalang 2022. Mayroon na tayong bagong Pangulo, si Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos. Kung inyong matatandaan, noong Marso 20, 1966, limampu't anim na taon na ang lumipas, ang nag-administer ng ating Panunumpa

sa Tungkulin bilang 2Lt, ay isang Ferdinand E Marcos, Pangulo ng Pilipinas. Kaya ang pangalang Marcos ay bahagi ng kasaysayan ng PMA Class of 1966.

Nanalo ba ang inyong mga binoto? Kung hindi, huwag tayong mag-alala. Silang lahat, nanalo man o natalo, pare-pareho lang mga politiko. Pag nanalo na, limot na ang kanilang mga pangako. Kung may pag-asa tayong dapat bigyan ng pansin ay yaong galing sa Pangulo. Harinawa, siya ang maging, "the best President we will ever have." Sapagkat ang natitira pa nating mga taon ay sana magkaroon ng kabuluhan at kahusayan sa ilalim ng isang mahusay na Pangulo.

**GOOD BYE, BAY CORDS**



Again, the second part of Class Call starts on a sad note – a good bye to another mistah, Marcelino Cordova who passed away last 30 July at a hospital due to heart problems. Another favorite son of Cebu, he was a pilot one of the 19 new graduates who chose the then reputedly the best airforce in the region. Undeniably, among his significant contributions to the service were his assignment as an instructor pilot at the PAF Flying School and his tour of duty as Tactical Officer at the PMA. Notably, he was as a senior Tac O when he had a hand in the Academy orientation phase of the military training for commission of the then 2Lt Bongbong Marcos. Shown in the picture is Cords shaking the hand of the future President.



From Cebu, his remains were brought to the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) chapel where he lay in state for a week of vigil, thanks to the Philippine Air Force which provided all the assistance to the family and the military funeral honors. Last 12 August, necrological services were held at the LNMB chapel, attended by the family, relatives, friends and comrades-in-arms, including mistahs and their spouses. Many eulogy speakers took turns in extolling him and recalling fond vignettes of his life. To his listeners, Papa Cords, the endearing term used by those who lived and worked with him, was the model husband, father, grandfather, family man and boss. For the Class, President Noli, Bert Sabularse, Vic Belo and Jacie Aquino (virtually) delivered eulogies.

He was interred at the Heritage Park the next day during inurnment ceremonies, again with the airforce ceremonial troops providing burial honors. Louie Fernandez saw the occasion as another opportunity for an instant reunion, arranged and hosted lunch at the Navy Golf Club. Those who were around were (not in any order): Noli Espejo, Edd Santos, Louie and April Fernandez, Fred and Paz Bautista, Bert and Fe Sabularse, Ben and Cel Espejo, Bing and Elsie Rivera, Viusy and Mercy Dauz, Gerry and Cel Cunanan, Vic and Tita Belo, Jimmy and Agie Bantolo, Sylvia Agudelo, Susan Gador, Fe Cuison, Alice Alba, Lumen Dumadapat. (Troy Dumadapat was seen from a distance during the inurnment but unfortunately did not join lunch).

#### STILL KEEPING BUSY

Not to be morbid about it, but more on the lighter, funnier angle of the true subject, the walking/coffee group would say: *“how many days of noble cataline?”*

Of course, in cadet lingo, it means, how many more days before being king of barracks (temporarily) or becoming yearlings. Poetically, it is the remaining years before “crossing the bar...”

But that is what the regular members of the walking and coffee group, jokingly have in mind.

Mostly septugenarians, a few octogenarians, they now tangentially talk of what they intend to do as very senior teenagers (on their second teenhood). Earlier, somebody said we are teenagers once more – septueenager (70’s) and octoeenager (80’s).

And all these were discussed during the coffee time. Once in a while, they switched to politics, current events, health problems, never about religion and women (like in the Navy daw). All too soon, two hours were up, and a pretty one comes with our KKB bills. Once in a while, someone in the group would ask *“are you married; do you have a boyfriend?, how many kids do you have?”*

Shown below are pictures during birthday of Glo Domingo last June at Max Resto and Bing Rivera last August at “Nono’s” (stag). Because of picture limitation, pictures of some events could not be included.



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS**

Below is a list of “senior teenagers” who celebrated or will celebrate their first day on earth during the last three months.

**For July** – Jimmy Bantolo (25), Troy Dumadapat (20), Gene Parreñas (10), Precy Belleza (08), Nora Clautero (28), Patri Cordova (22), Cely Espejo (10), Lita Javier (16), Olive Perez (22), Iyay Urgello (11).

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

**For September** – Jacie Aquino (11), Serge Belleza (09), Jesli Lopus (12), Lito Cabusao (24), Tita Belo (02), Lulu de Leon (07), Puri Eco (3), Dolly Lachica (20).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FELLOW SUPER SENIOR TEENAGERS!



**CLASS ACTIVITIES**

A. Based on our consultations, only very few have indicated willingness to attend our Dimasupil Monthly Forum (DMF) in person if resumed soon. The rest are still hesitant to attend. Of relevance is the following message of Merle Odi: *“Although the number of new cases of COVID has gone down, we are not out of the pandemic yet. We are all elderly, and our levels of immunity vary. I think we should wait and watch for the time being.”* And also the following comment of May Garcia: *“Better to err on the side of caution.”* We have therefore decided to wait a little more. Had we been allowed by COVID, the following DMFs would have been held for the May - July 2022 period:

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

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

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

B. If allowed by COVID, the following would be our schedule for August - September 2022, onwards:

**August** - DMF to be hosted by Sergs and Zeny Austria, Fred Encarnacion, Ed and Myrns Espinosa, Vir and Marina Odulio, and Mar and Beth Santiago. (Trudy Carian Teh, daughter of Teddy and Emma Carian, had planned to host an intimate gathering of Dimasupils and Spouses to commemorate the 10th Death Anniversary of Teddy on 8 August, but she canceled it after receiving advice from health authorities.)

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

**October** - 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 Evelyn Villacorta.

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

**UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS**

Two quarterly issues ago, we reported that the following Dimasupils and families became COVID veterans: Mia Alino (granddaughter of Aging), Joy Casillan, Manny Dalipe, Abe and Cora Din, Jun and Ronnie Ibay and family, and Vir and Marina Odulio. Now, the list has lengthened with the addition of the following: Jun and Agnes Avenido and family, Araw Bernabe, Rudy and Graisie Gaerlan and family, Mel Gatmaitan, Ben Libarnes, Vlady Olivares,

and Mar and Beth Santiago and family. Sadly, Vic Buaquen and Romy and Frediz Enriquez were not strong enough to survive the deadly virus. We now have the personal experience to say that COVID is still very much around, that full vaccination (with booster shots) is very useful to mitigate the effects of COVID, that we really have to observe proper health protocols at all times, and that prayers certainly help.

It’s good to know that more and more Dimasupils are devoting their full time in the service of the Almighty as pastor or preacher. Aside from Joe Andaya and Vic Laurilla, Louie Ibanez - who is a PhD in Theology - is now a lay preacher of the Cavite Mission of Seventh-day Adventists and talks about *“Traveling Heavenward.”* The only son of Jake Caruncho is also a pastor in a Presbyterian church in Texas.

We recently received the following message from Lita De Guzman: *“Dito lang si Alex sa bahay. Ayaw nyang nagtatagal sa ospital. Ok lang siya. Thanks for the concern.”*

Per info from Sergs Austria and Titong Enriquez, Araw Bernabe has started his dialysis sessions. We are requesting prayers for the success of Araw’s struggle against his kidney ailments.

Oying Pinto underwent a gall bladder surgery last 13 June. He is now recovering well. The bladder was inflamed full of stones measuring 2x1x1 inches. Luckily, it was removed before it got infected.

Edsel Salvana is improving well. He looked good when he and Toto celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last May. Manny Dalipe, Hedy Duenas, and Ross and Mandie Sibal flew to Cagayan de Oro City to attend the celebration there.

Mar Santiago participated in one of the many necro services for the late PFVR at the Heritage Chapel on 7 August 2022. He read the letter of condolence from the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), Mar's alma mater, to the bereaved family of the late President.

#### UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Cora Din and family on the death of her brother, Manuel Bailon, who died in Bicol on 15 June 2022. May he rest in peace in God's loving embrace.

We also offer our deep condolences to Bernie Patino and family on the death of his sister, Alice Patino Pama (mother of Cav Alexander Pama '79), who died in Iloilo on 1 August 2022, due to pancreatic cancer, at the age of 94. May she rest in peace in the bosom of the Almighty.

Our congratulations to the following second-generation Dimasupils for their victory in the last May elections:

1. Mannix and John Dalipe, sons of Manny and Maryrose, who were elected as Congressman and Mayor of Zamboanga City, respectively. Mannix is now Majority Floor Leader of the 19th Congress.

2. Ernix Dionisio, son of Ernie and Dinsay, who was elected as Congressman of Tondo, Manila.

3. Sara, Paolo and Sebastian Duterte, children of Rody and Elizabeth, who were elected as Vice President of the Philippines, Congressman and Mayor of Davao City, respectively. Sara is now also the Secretary of Education.

Ronnie Ibay suffered an upper left thigh fracture when she fell as she was about to take a bath at home last 8 July. She underwent surgery to repair the broken bone. She is now recuperating well. Merle Odi has welcomed her to the ranks of bionic persons of Class 1967.

Nenie Abendan also had a bad fall recently but she suffered no fracture. Only swollen bruised knees, sprained swollen fingers, chest pains, and small bruises on the face and head. Glo Parena has a good

reminder for all of us: Let's all be careful, careful, careful. Marina Odulio adds: Always use your cane or walker if you have one.

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

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

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mar Santiago, our Class VP, has agreed to be our Chairman of the Adhoc Committee to determine who among the Dimasupil brats should be recognized/honored this year and related matters. The Committee will be composed of reps from Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Adopted/Honorary and Widows groups. Please contact Mar for further details.

Our Viber group named "*PMA Dimasupil Class 1967*" is now very much alive and vibrant. It is exclusive for Dimasupils (including adopted members) and spouses. We enjoin those who are not members yet to join the group. Just be a Viber user first, then inform Jun Avenido about it, and he will immediately add your name to the group. Our Facebook group named "*Philippine Military Academy Dimasupil Class '67*" and our Messenger group called "*Dimasupil Events: 2022 - A Year of Many Concerns*" remain as they are.

#### CLASS TRIVIA

(This portion of our Class Call is contributed by Bernie "*Uncle Bobo*" Patino. The opinions expressed herein are

solely his and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Class or this magazine. So, beware!)

Marriage is the biggest gamble anyone can ever get into. Sometimes one loses, oftentimes one wins. Courtship shows the fake side of a person, while marriage exposes his real character. There are marriages made in heaven; couples that remained married 50 years and more are the lucky pairs. God willed it that way. Most of us Dimasupils (not all) are in that category. All because God loves us Dimasupils!

I know a secret formula for a marriage to last long: "*The husband should be Under de Saya!*" That way, no argument, trouble, or disagreement at home. Let the wife think she controls everything. Outside the house, however, the husband does anything that pleases him. The age-old tradition of "*What the wife does not know won't harm her*" is in play! Capisce, hermanos?

However, according to our favorite Marine General, to better understand and have a happy marriage, ang asawa ay 1.) Tama palagi. 2.) Palaging tama. 3.) Kung hindi siya tama, tatamaan ka.

Here is another nugget of wisdom from our Marine General: The biggest paradox of a man's life is signing that abominable marriage contract. One miserable signature and he is compelled to give all his salaries to her. Pati mga anak niya, pakainin at pag-aralin mo po! Unfair, no?

Still another gospel according to the Marines: TANONG - Kung ang tatay ay haligi ng tahanan, ano naman ang nanay? SAGOT - Ang nanay ay syang nagpapatigas ng haligi ng haligi ng tahanan! (Ang galing ng mga Marines talaga!)

Someone asked me: "Bakit kayong mga Dimasupil and gagaganda ng mga asawa?" (Stupid question but I gave an intelligent reply!) ME: First of all, mga gwapo kami. Second of all, marami kaming pera. At higit sa lahat, magiting na mangingibig kami!

Truth be told, Lady Dimasupils have great taste in men. Isipin mo, ang guguwapo at tatalino ng mga husbands nila!

Mar Santiago added: Bukod sa maganda sila ay napakatalino pa. Imagine marunong mamili ng mapapangasawa!

May God be with us and our families always. Mabuhay tayong lahat!





**ARTURO B CARRILLO**  
President  
**WILFREDO G NUQUI**  
Scribe

Thanks to President Art Carrillo who initiated the regular Class lunch meeting on June 23 at CAGC to celebrate birthdays of those born in April-June. The participants were Art C, Diomeng, Art Juan, who recently married and personally introduced spouse Pauline, Rudy with Arlene, Bobby with Purita, Nori with Candy, Volts with Rhodie, Willy with Isay, and Oscar with Gigi. The other attendees were Art G, Mel, Rene, Hector, Abe, Shirley, Julie and Tess. Alex greeted everyone through Viber. Art Juan, who was noticeably smiling from ear to ear, and Diomeng, both June celebrants co-funded the lunch. *Los Bandidos* as usual provided excellent music.

The Class meeting took up (a) the latest AFP pension record updating guidelines. Digital technology e.g., e-sending of personal picture with latest newspaper (last 15 days), as evidence of life keeps our AFP pension entitlement current, and (b) AFPSLAI's directive on updating individual and corporate membership records to avoid termination of membership on Jan 26, 2023. In 2021, AFPSLAI terminated membership of those with un-updated

records and unfortunately did not pay proportionate dividend on unwithdrawn capital contributions. The matter needs to be clarified if compliant with specific BSP policy and a SLA industry-wide practice especially those catering to MUPs.

The Class likewise faces matters of continuing interests and concern, aside from public health issues such as (a) rising consumer prices (6.1% in July 2022) which has reduced by 13% the real value (or purchasing power) of fixed pensions and incomes since 2018; the erosion is projected to reach 18% in the 2018-2022 period, (b) foregone learning of our grandchildren resulting from less effective distance education and the long standing education crisis, and (c) the special health care and other needs of retirees and very senior survivor-pensioners. Annual F2F consultation-meetings by PVAO, VMMC and AFP GHQ units on retirees' concerns are encouraged.

On 24 March 2023, the Class will celebrate its 55th Graduation Anniversary. We agreed to produce an album that records our happy moments during the

5-year period between the 50th and 55th anniversaries. Everyone is gently reminded about the two projects which need photos, narratives and articles for publication. The materials so far gathered covering the years 2019-2021 (none for 2022-2023 yet) were saved in a flash drive turned over to President Art Carrillo. The Patriot Credit Cooperative staff was kind to make an initial lay-out for presentation to and review by the Class. The album will be distributed during our 2023 Christmas party. Succeeding albums with 5-year coverage are being considered.

The second project is a video presentation of still photos entitled "*Yesterday and Today*" with background songs, e.g., "*Yesterday When I Was Young.*" We are asked to submit two photos taken years apart to show how we age gracefully. It may be solo, with spouse or with family. Only eight classmates have submitted so far. Everyone is enjoined to submit the needed materials. Other suggestions are always welcome. Preparations for the anniversary event and project ideas shall be further taken up in our next meetings.





**JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS**  
President  
**JESUS B DULLER**  
Secretary

**(For this issue, we digress from our normal Class Call format by featuring a colorful service adventure account of our own Air Force Suaviter and their PAF Flying School counterparts as they forge a close-knit brotherhood over the years.)**

### Our Air Force Class

*By Benjie Defensor*

This is a desire to reunite with the past. In 1969, after leaving Fort Del Pilar, we joined an Air Force which had some

of its greatest moments in the 70's. It is great to have mistakes. But it is greater to have a bonus of classmates from another institution, to forge a class spirit, which by itself can create another chapter absolutely essential to complete class and AFP history. Suaviter joined PAF Flying School Class 70B and together with their aviation cadet classmates, they produced a class story in the Air Force, which was forged in dramatic air operations, given the indispensable requisite of brotherhood, flying as co-pilots, comrades-in-arms, task force partners and oftentimes bunkmates for several years.

Our magnificent seven from PMA reported to the Flying School, and two colorful Suaviter, Cris Abanes and Jake Duller, reported to the flight line but later pursued other non-flying interests instead of joining their classmates in the field. Cris actually soloed the T-28 basic trainer. Jake soloed the Cessna T-41D during the primary training phase.

Smokey Cariño went to the fighters in Basa Air Base together with Flying School classmates Roger Crudo, Vlad Delos Triño, Angel Baquir, Rudy Repasa, Roger Tomare and Toto Bocala. However, because of limited aircraft, fighter operations were not the same as its past years of glory.

Nonoy Carranza stayed in the Flying School as flight instructor together with Bada Badiola and Mike Cañete. They were our contributions to the Air Force to ensure a steady flow of new pilots.

Dan Reventar flew the C-47 troops carriers together with Joy Joya, Ivy Cartaciano, Jimmy Tapia, Baltic Baltazar and Peter Pedroza. Shortage of pilots allowed some of them to be current with other aircraft, so the Air Force can meet the AFP requirements.



*Suaviter Class breakfast at Dean and Deluca BGC on 11 Aug 22 for the August Birthday Celebrants: Ike, Inging, Mone', Marle, Menjie. Pleasant Suaviter Greetings!*



*Remembering Suaviter Boy Maligalig on his first year death anniversary with his family.*



*Nonoy and Mone' on their 3-day visit to Luz Lagman Estana Beach Resort and her still undeveloped land property featuring three layers of waterfalls in San Felipe, Zambales. Can this be a prelude of a future Suaviter class reunion/adventure?*

Lito Labao flew the U-17s with Leo Magno, Tony Martin, Camilo Menor, Domingo Bayan and Rody Repasa. Lito was the first to answer the roll call in heaven as he went missing in the eastern Philippine waters.

The most tested was the group of Benjie Defensor who joined the Huey pilots and operated with one of the most formidable squadrons of their time, the Composite Air Commando Squadron (CACs). They included Raul Perez, Joe Catarata, Archie Arceo, James Santos, Vic Mainit, Clod Estallila and later on, got additional firepower and support from flying school classmates and comrades, Domingo Santillan, Ding Buerano, Abe Abiog and Abdon Ocampo.

In the early 70's, the period when the communist and secessionist insurgencies were heating up, some of the most challenging missions were undertaken by the different squadrons of an unassuming 205<sup>th</sup> Composite Wing, starring the C-47s and later on, the C-130s, the U-17s and the darling of the ground troops, the UH-1H Hueys. The Hueys of CACS were the favorite and most in demand as ground troops no longer had to walk for days and be sorrowful or fight alone to engage the insurgents. There were times when encounters were almost every day. Together with other 205<sup>th</sup> CW aircraft, these flyboys performed the Air Force missions, non-stop, despite limitations in assets. These included air strike, air support, air reconnaissance and observation combat patrol and air evacuation of the wounded. The fighters, spearhead and pride of the Air Force offensives and strike missions, were limited in number and had to engage insurgents whenever they can.

Prior to the emergence of the AFP commands were the AFP Task Forces, the most significant of which was Task Force Lawin and TF Saranay which addressed the insurgent problems in Luzon. With the M/V Karagatan incident in Digoyo in 1972, insurgents were engaged by the fighters and choppers allowing government troops to overrun their camp. This was one of the highlights of the performance of our Air



Force class, made more significant by the operations in Central Luzon which resulted in the capture of top NPA commanders and the unprecedented promotion to the next higher rank of Huey (CACs) officers and men and made Commander Dante and other NPA Commanders the flavors of the month.

When fighting started in Mindanao, many members of the class saw action with the consolidated Air Force units of the Regional Air Command (RACMIN), which had command supervision of PAF units like CASF Cotabato, TF Lanao and the famous Sulu Air Task Group (SATAG) in Jolo, coordinating with the Central Mindanao Command, headed then by Gen Fortunato Abat. The action was unprecedented as clashes were frequent in Marawi, Lebak, Central Mindanao, Davao and the most action-packed in Basilan and Jolo.

PAF Classes including 70B played key roles in the battles of Jolo in 1974 when thousands of rebels attacked the 4<sup>th</sup> Inf Brigade and SATAG, the Air Force unit, both close to Jolo airport. C-47s (with Joy Joya) and Hueys engaged the rebels and one Huey flown by Clod Estallila (70B) went down, and the other by Benjie Defensor, who extricated those wounded including the defenders of SATAG from the scene of the fighting.

During the campaign against the rebels, many class 70B members flew missions

which included fighter jets, light gunships, helicopters and the newly acquired C-130s.

One of the bigger battles was in 1972 in Sibalú Hill in Jolo which was one of the largest single operation in military history, where dozens of aircraft supported the Phil Marines in bloody battles. Bragging nights were also claimed by class 70B members who participated in the missions by asking: "Have you landed in Sibalú Hill?"

Several years later, reunions became the order of the day. For some time, veterans of TF Lawin and Saranay held regular reunions hosted by the PC Officers who were members of these forces led by the late Gen Tom Diaz and the CACS veterans which included class 70B and other Air Force classes, especially their forerunners PAFS 69 (PMA 67).

Today, class 70B meets regularly in the new urban getaways like BGC and reminisce with international cuisine what used to be durian, marang, curacha, inasal and repeating stories and anecdotes that refuse to die.

Class 70B aviation batch pride themselves of having its share of generals. They were Major Generals Estallila, Delos Triño, Perez and Joya. Its student officers were Suaviter Nonoy Carranza who commanded the Western Command and Benjie Defensor who rose to become PAF CG and later on, AFP Chief of Staff.



**Class Main Events**

**Transpiring event - NiRoy's hiatus**

Former DENR Sec Roy Cimatu came out from what appeared to be a hiatus

of sorts after leaving his post for health reasons timed with the last presidential election. Thankfully, he resurrected in the pink when he hosted his birthday party, 9 July 2022, in his home counting on the usual coterie of classmates, associates and friends. It was capped with a Class meeting to address two works-in-progress class projects - the VMMC Magiting Wing and The BEACON for PMA. We should expect some progress reports on them next time around.

**Unfolding event - Golden Sword Supplement (GSS70)**

The GSS70 coming out coincidentally held during Roy's birthday party 9 July 2022. The GSS70 overseen by past prezy Rufo de Veyra (see inset) came two years in the making. Far from being perfect, some 89 copies (266 pages per copy) were distributed among regulars, associates and honoraries here and abroad with Cavs Jimmy Mauricio and Ernie del Rosario covering US and Canada, respectively,



NiRoy's birthday party, 9 July 2022.



Cav Madrid's GSS70 in the hands of Basti, Rufo's apo for delivery.

backed up by the logistics of Cavs Willy Parayno and Bert Lina and just-in-time pouchman Ed Jonson. Features from Irwin Ver, Maning Reyes, Jimmy Mauricio, Ed Castellanes, Vic Signey, Bang Adriano, Ed Galvante, Romy Acop, What Galvante, Rudy Maluyo, to name a few, provided contexts and historical perspectives coming from classmates abroad we locals were unaware of. Hopefully, the GSS70 will not be the last chronicle of the Magitings even as it looks forward to its Diamond Jubilee. Unheralded till today was Vic Signey who provided timely funds support and others who diligently worked on their individual pages.

#### Developing event - The Doctor is Out

The third event was Dra Tessie Atienza's release 6 Aug 2022 from VMMC after recovering from a knee replacement operation where husband Pete enslaved himself as her full-time (24-hrs), no-day-off-even-on-weekends caregiver, unimpeachable proof of his unconditional love and devotion bar none.

Seen before the operation (inset) was Mas-Magiting Tessie with her brood spanning three generations, daughter Ella and grand daughter Olivia at the Las Casas Filipina.

Now, can we really blame Pete?

Watch out for our Class' upcoming events next quarter! It will be like no other. Abangan.



Dra Tess, Cilia and Olivia, three generations of Atienza ladies.



**JOSE C LALISAN JR**  
President  
**ARTHUR G BALMACEDA**  
Secretary

#### May COVID-19 pa rin kaya ingatz tayo

As of August 12, 2022, the latest report on covid cases was 4,533 new cases with 27 new deaths. This brought the country's total confirmed coronavirus

infections to 3,818,480. The total number of people in the country who succumbed to the respiratory disease was 60,916. This was the report of the ABS-CBN Data Analytics Team headed by Edson Guido. With this information, it is important therefore not to be complacent but be aware of the minimum health protocol that should be practiced by everyone. Thus, it is important that all must be vaccinated to strengthen one's immunity system. My advice therefore to the Matatags and Mas-Matatags, *ingatz tayo palagi*. Let us hope and pray that this virus will go away sooner.

#### Fellowships

The class did not hold any quarterly face-to-face fellowship for the first and second quarters. The reason was simple. The danger of viral infection was the culprit. Being seniors and with some having comorbidities, the class officers deemed it necessary to cancel the usual quarterly birthday celebrations and plan it when the situation gets better.

However, on a limited scale, some members did have face-to-face encounters observing the required health protocol. Most of the Matatag golfers had their

games while the mas-Matatags had their “me” time occasionally.

The Hampaslupas of Class ‘71 held many golf games to hone their skills in the game. HL71 had an election recently and mistah Rey Acop was unanimously voted as President. He appointed mistahs Rey Rivera and Rey Alcasid as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Prexy Rey immediately scheduled a game at his home course in Forest Hills and after the game, a fellowship was held at his Antipolo resort where boodles and hot darns were abundantly prepared. Mistahs Tex, Bing, and this writer even had a chance to do some laps in the swimming pool before boodling. Other games that followed were held in Villamor, Veterans, Beverly Golf Course in Pampanga, Aguinaldo, Baguio Country Club, Pinewoods, and Southwoods. The brave ones who went out and played were Tex Balmaceda, Rey Rivera, Rey Velasco, Rey Alcasid, Rey Acop, Egay Aglipay, Ed Matillano, Bing Alano, Jerry Albano, Teody Viduya, Joey Lalisan, Rollie Garcia, Rex Paid, Bay Seron, Oca Martinez, Dong Tabamo, Twiggy Zubia, Marte Chioco, Bobby Sacramento, Huoy Tabanda, Dan Belonia, and Jun Paynor. Mistah Atot Paredes, though not playing, was present during fellowships in Morong and Tarlac.

Meanwhile, the ladies had their moments of fellowship, too. Termed as their “me” time, they had a trip in Tagaytay, Siquijor, Morong, Makati, and Tarlac. Those who attended were Mawie Aglipay, Jane Honasan, Lita Gil, Aleli Belonia, Jennie Domingo, Eden Sacramento, Celia Lalisan, Verna Albano, Malou Garcia, Fim Velasco, Jane Paid, Vicky Seron, Jing Martinez, Benjie Rivera, Evelyn Ocampo, Jane Paid, Sara Paredes, Tess Paynor, Malou Garcia, Beng Ibo, Puring Cruz, Lulu Tabamo, Tetet Chioco, and Beth Ramos.

**Novena Prayers and Daily Mass Intentions**

The Mas-Matatags, led by Aleli Belona, Ging Martinez, Marie Velasco, Puring Cruz, Celia Lalisan, and Mawie Aglipay, are holding nightly rosary prayers at 9 in the evening which jive with the prayers at the Lourdes in Paris. In addition to this, daily mass intentions are offered, too, for those mistahs and mas-Matatags who have health challenges. Let us pray some more for their speedy recovery.

**Congratulations to Mistah Dick de Leon, the new NICA Helmsman**

Our congratulations to mistah Ricardo “Dick” de Leon for having been appointed recently as the head of the National



Intelligence Coordinating Authority or NICA by PBBM. This is a very sensitive position, and we wish Mistah Dick all the best in his new task. He was formerly the President of the Philippine Public Safety College for eight (8) years and has done a lot to improve the quality of education for the PNP, Bureau

of Jail Management and Penology, and the Bureau of Fire Protection. Again, our congratulations Mistah!

*seeking gifts, we find our quest.*

*Whatever be thy longing or thy need, that do thou give; So shall the soul be fed, and thou indeed shalt truly live.” From The Secret of Success by James Allen/ JCL/12 Aug 22//*



**Quote for this Issue**

*“It is in loving, not in being loved, the heart is blessed; It is in giving, not in*



Warm greetings to all.

It seems the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year is uneventful and insignificant in terms of face to face fellowship and social interactions among us is concerned. Due to COVID scare, we seldom meet together in person that we used to do in past years. Instead, we are happy and contented seeing and interacting with each other virtually. If not for the Viber we can't imagine how boring and depressing our life would be. Despite that we are fully vaccinated, foremost in our minds is our health and safety and that of our family. Speaking of the Viber, we have now at our disposal the new and well-organized VCGs being administered by two competent and hard working Mistahs from Bravo Coy; Elmer Ignacio and Willy Mejia. Ably assisting them is Bing Valencia, another Bravo bull. Despite challenges and trials at the beginning, we have adjusted gradually and ultimately embrace the rules and guidelines set forth by the Admin. It's worthy to note that postings in the wrong fairways are very minimal. Thanks all for your cooperation. Let's maintain our VCGs to be wholesome and useful all the way. After all we don't have any choice especially during these trying times due to pandemic.

by Mistahs. More orders are expected in due time. For now, let's be patient and understanding on the issues at hand with regards to the publication of MGS. To be fair, Teody and Choly and the Editorial Board have invested their time and effort long enough shall we say. Let's give them a break. This is the time for us to be more tolerant and understanding. Let the Masigasig spirit prevails. We shall overcome all odds that come along the way.

**b. Anti-Pneumonia Vaccinations:** For health and welfare, the Class spearheaded the conduct of free anti-pneumonia vaccinations for Mistah and Mas last July. Others took advantage of free lifetime vaccines from VMMC through the kindness of Dr Mar Mejia, our persistent benefactor.

We are happy for the fast recovery and healing of Mistah Gil Batestil who was confined at VMMC due to stroke and heart problem. We feel good watching him in the fairway once again and enjoy golfing; his first love aside from his beloved, Neris. Likewise, we are also happy and rejoiced for the recovery of Rock Tor from surgery due to prostate problem after weeks of confinement at VMMC. Our prayers and words of encouragement helped tremendously for their well-being and fast recovery. Best wishes to Gil and Rock. Above all, thanks Lord for your love and mercy.

**c. The Masigasig Easterners** (Gene Senga, Monying Dizon, Manding Naval, Ric Nobleza, Og Buenaventura, Omar Conaco, Egay Paguio, Johnny Salvana, Rock Tor,



**News updates:**

**a. Masigasig Golden Sword:** As of now, the proto-typed copy of the Golden Sword is in the process of final editing and proof reading by the Editorial Board. This is to insure that the four pages allocated to each Mistah must have their final blessings and approval prior to the printing. The 434 pages book cost Php 3,835.00 per copy. As per Board approval, there will be no free copy for everyone; except for widows and families of deceased Mistah. They will be given a complimentary copy each for free. Extra copies as ordered will be paid by the concerned individuals. Right now, based on the list posted in the Viber, at total of 243 copies (still counting) were ordered





Bobby Santos and Celso Castro) are inviting other Mistahs as guests during our monthly Coffee Time at Valley Golf Club at 3pm every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. You are most welcome, join us and enjoy the fellowship and bolahizing session.

**Birthdays Greetings:**

Warm greetings and felicitations to the following who will be celebrating their birthdays. For **August:** Tony Simangan, Edsel Lumawag, Melba Buenaventura, Gil Batestil, Orly Ambrocio, Rosie Rosete, Olive Oliveros (+), Jack Cordero, Boogie Agustin, Percy Brawner, Ed Adan, Nick Olarte, Marido Ambrocio, Rolly Hermoso, Lads Ladia (+), Vangie Dizon and Ric Nobleza. For **September:** Bobby Santos, Elsie Castro, Renee Ignacio, Rudy Aguinaldo (+), Dulce Bismonte, Suzette Sabado, Pepe Vidad, Freddie De Vera, Ernie



De Leon, Jun Luspo (+), Leony Narcida, Paco Fuentes and Alex Quirante. Best wishes and happy birthdays to our celebrators.

Till next Class Call. Be safe and healthy always.  
Happy reading to all.... Oslec.



**The whole universe must conspire to make it happen**

On 12 June Independence Day 2022 rites in Luneta Park, who would not dread the sight of our Mistah SND Delfin Lorenzana fell backwards ramrod straight and surely would hit the concrete pavement with the back of his head taking the full impact, most probably with very serious if not deadly consequence? But at that moment, the whole universe conspired to save him, sent guardian angels to cushion the impact of the fall.

Newly-elected Manila Mayor Dr Honey Lacuna, the first ever female Mayor of Manila, was serendipitously there behind SND Lorenzana and instinctively caught the fall with her hands and somehow slowed

it down to simple tyke lump on the head rather than cracked skull. My friends in light-humoured banter, "Wow, Sec Lorenzana was like PMA cadet in attention even during the fall."

**INNOCUOUS HEAD BUMP COULD BE FATAL LATER**

**Veterans hospital craniotomy rivals the best**  
JUST FEW DAYS BEFORE THAT, Mistah Tito Angcanan collapsed unconscious in his home and had to be rushed to hospital in Imus, Cavite. Initial medical evaluation indicated blood clot in the brain which we later found out to have been caused by accidental head bump on his home gate week ahead. The medical case of Mistah Tito sent me, Mistah Sec Del Lorenzana and the rest of Maagap and Ladies calling doctors if not praying for his safety. At first, the family wanted St Luke Hospital Global City to do **craniotomy** but I personally advised that Veterans Memorial Medical Center would do it knowing the remarkable upgrades in medical facilities and competence. And so

it happened and in 12 hours, Mistah Tito engaged us in our chat group and manifested full comprehensibility. Why the dangerous result of seemingly innocuous head bump manifested only after week or so could be attributed to the fact that normal brain shrinkage develops with old age and so with added spaces in our cranium where, in Mistah Tito's case, iota of blood accumulated innocently initially but when it filled up later triggered the fainting spell.

**Maagap bodies are past beyond their prime**

Mistah SND Lorenzana came straight from weeks of hectic schedule that included activities in the ASEAN region as departing Philippines Defense Secretary. At some point, Mistah Secretary Lorenzana officially and personally bade farewell to allies in the region he had worked with in many occasions to promote Philippines defense and security interests. On that very day, he flew from Singapore Meeting of Defense Ministers into the country at diluculum with just enough time to shake up cramped legs



Office of the Chairman  
**BCDA**  
 Bases Conversion and  
 Development Authority

**BCDA welcomes former  
 Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana  
 as Chairman of the Board of Directors**



*As Chairman BCDA.*

*Medali Perdamaian (Indonesia Peace Medal) awarded to  
 former Sec Lorenzana 03 Aug.*

and dress for the celebrations. We all are witness to how skillfully he had navigated the tricky waters of the South China Sea and the West Philippine Sea issues involving, not really between Philippines and China but on the more dangerous, potentially kinetic US-China rivalry lapping on our own water edge. Due to ambiguities of the MDT, he publicly implicatively called for its renegotiation baring officially the danger of relying on *“the narratives of the day”* as measure of response by the parties to the treaty. That sent nerves to both the US and China who in the backrooms prefer extant ambiguity of responses. (I was in a hotel private meeting with Chinese embassy officials who clearly wanted the MDT to be as it has always been, ambiguous.)

**The Indonesia Medali Perdamaian (Peace Medal)**

Mistah Lorenzana on 03 August 2022 also received the prestigious Indonesia

Medali Perdamaian for his role in the rescue to safety of Indonesians abducted by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Mindanao in 2019-2020. In behalf of Indonesia President Widodo, the Indonesia Ambassador, His Excellency Agus Widjojo handed the award. The award although previously approved by the Indonesia government was finally conferred to Sec Lorenzana only after Philippines Congress consented him to receive the award.

**Mistah LORENZANA as the new Chairman, BCDA**

*“When you are good, your good”*, as they say ties in with Mistah Lorenzana. Even before the ink dried up as the outgoing SND, he was designated by Pres Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos as the new Chairman, BCDA; and for good reason, he holds Masters Degree in Business Administration from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and Graduate Diploma from the Australian National

University and Senior International Leaders Course of the JFK School of Government Harvard University. The vast network he has gotten on his 6-full year stint as SND will serve well the attainment of BCDA goals and objectives.

**THE MAAGAP PRIDE**

During the virtual Change of Leadership of the Defense Department (incoming Defense OIC, Usec Faustino was down with COVID) on 01 July 2022, the MAAGAP’73 led by Class Prez Amba Querol awarded the PRIDE OF MAAGAP to outgoing Mistah SND Lorenzana. The testimonial was given for his excellent performance as Secretary of National Defense years 2016-2022 and as Martial Law Administrator for Mindanao years 2017-2019 which liberated Marawi City and environs from terrorists groups, and as Chairman of National Task Force against COVID-19 years 2020-2022 which effectively contained the spread of the

pandemic in its early stages in the country. His sterling performance has benefitted immensely the nation and the Filipino people. MAAGAP Sec Delfin N Lorenzana is source of pride of PMA MAAGAP Class 1973. Specifically as Martial Law Administrator, he demonstrated creditably that Martial Law could be implemented effectively without transgressing the law, in compliance to the constitution through and through and in observance of the international humanitarian law. To follow is Mistah Sid Lapeña for similar achievements in various capacities in government.

**Perception abroad on the Presidential elections**

From Mistah Lito Hernandez living in Canada, *“The just concluded National Elections in the Philippines was received by the Filipino community in Canada with infectious enthusiasm, joy and expectations. The community noticed it was the most peaceful, credible and honest; the winners were determined and proclaimed quickly because of digitization and digitalization of the election processes. In no small measure it registered the highest percentage of voter turnout and the winning candidate BBM got more votes than the rest of the candidates combined. I have yet to meet a single Filipino who showed disgust in the outcome of the elections.”*

Mistah Fern ‘Pati’ Patawaran found time to take to higher level his home garden in Fontana, California. One day, I will visit his residence and drink coffee in his garden



*Mistah Sid strolling “the Little Ones” when he recently left the government service.*

bedecked with coiffured pines, displaying soothing ease and elegance despite the searing heat of California summer. Meanwhile, Mistah Bobby Aviso now residing in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania continues to hone his guitar skills for the Golden Anniversary Saturday Dinner Ball 18 February 2023. We will hear songs from him, Mistah Boy Gudani, Mas Maagap Janet Magsino, and piano accompaniment from Mas Maagap Gloria Luis. To fight boredom, Mistah Max Manzano emerged from 4-years of federal retirement and now works in Guam. He used to work as Federal Highways Engineer in the US territory. He says, *“I still have to figure out the right mix and fit of job and pleasure at our senior age. For four years I went all out for*

*pleasure and I got bored.”* For Mistah Bobby Aviso and Rody Luis of Long Island, New York, summer golf is always a must do either in Rody’s New York or Bobby’s Pennsylvania. The duo recently joined Grandfather’s Cup Golf Tournament hosted by Mistah Bobby Aviso in Bethlehem Golf Club.

In the meantime, Mistah Romy Alamillo has busied himself with affairs of the Veterans Foundation of the Philippines. He helped the DND put up additional Veterans facilities outside Metro Manila. And abroad he attended meetings with fellow veterans of ASEAN countries (Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), the latest meeting was held in the young federal city Putrajaya, south of capital Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Also, being a rated practical shooter, Mistah Romy organized practical shooting competitions in order to keep our eyes and brain cells focused on the target. Being active amidst our *“wonder years”* tones up and is a way to stem the onset of Alzheimer’s. Class Prez Mistah VQ, as Chair and CEO, PMAAAI dived deep into Cavalier Affairs, the latest was the Board Meeting ITF jibed with Consultative and Fellowship with Cavaliers in Bicol area on 19 August 2022. It was the opportune time for the Chair and CEO to once again remind everybody how the AFP and PNP both remain very professional during the latest elections and thus both stand as the most reliable and respectable institutions of the Republic in national recovery from the ravages of the pandemic and in nation-building.



*Navy MAAGAP Birthday FELLOWSHIP for Mistah Dennis Sanchez.*

**Maagap toddlers, F2F, Omicron and Dengue**  
As school year begins, everybody, particularly doting grandparents and



Mistah Rody Luis and Bob Aviso on summer golf at Bethlehem Golf Club.



Mistah Romy Alamillo and the Veterans Foundation of the Philippines, honoring the OIC DND, Sec Faustino.



Mistah Romy Alamillo busies himself organising the Bukayo Bugo-Bugos of Pangasinan.

parents, have been thinking of the F2F mode of toddlers and kindergartens; that includes the MAAGAPs and Mas MAAGAPs who are very concerned about the health safety of the Little Ones. Many grandchildren are back once again in the school premises to meet f2f teachers and other little ones, and hopefully not the dengue mosquitos. The steep rise of

dengue cases could not be denied and has posed grave concerns to parents and more so to busybody grandparents.

Running buff Mistah Sid Lapeña recently recorded as Finisher of the Heroes Virtual Run/Walk sponsored by the Heroes Foundation for the educational benefits of orphans.

### Disturbing Balance of Nature

Cav Vidal E Querol '73

The little ones tilted heads to the sky,  
And ran from their field of fun and game,  
Whipping raindrops, dark clouds daunting,  
Some shouted, grabbed toys and shook dry,  
In huddle under enduring tree, only for a while.

*"The swale birds are out, swifts dancing, riding high,  
Aren't pretty signs above hovering drones of dragonflies?"*  
So the little ones anxiously headed to their waiting play field,  
Pointing, arguing whose turn to take the burden of their scheme.

On several distant fields the storm clouds benign were mean,  
Roared down the breaches, tumbled tenements of beasts and men,  
Drowned fortress of gold and grime, deluged their gilded play pitch,  
Some cried over nature's savagery, and of immutable mortal fate.

Angry torrents of vengeance mustered from headwaters balded,  
Nature scorned, exacting price of its balance so long disturbed,  
By unwilling savage partner with nature, man of bottomless greed.  
Fair future nature nurtures for all the little ones since ancient time,  
Until nature fighting the untamed man for the whole length of time.



Mistah Joe Reyes on golf secret practice.

**ABRA EARTHQUAKE**

The 7.0-magnitude earthquake which struck and damaged the highland province of Abra on 27 July for a time jolted our peace and quiet: initially sketchy news wires claimed that La Fayette and Baguio Country Club Hotels were damaged, and the two are our hotels for the 2023 Alumni

Homecoming to coincide with MAAGAP Golden (50-year) Anniversary. After several phone calls not only with the hotels but with Baguio City authorities, both were declared structurally sound. And soundly, we slept. Indeed!

The tradition of military service runs in the blood of Mistah Val Prudencio;

her daughter Lt Isabelle Prudencio '19 is now certified PAF Pilot. In the MAAGAP, it is only he who has produced a Cavalier child. On the other hand, Mistah Joe Reyes, former CG, PAF, produced a Cavalier grandson who joined the Navy and is now undergoing SWAG training.



*The tradition of military service runs in the blood of Mistah Val Prudencio; her daughter Cavalier Isabelle Prudencio '19 is now certified PAF pilot.*



*In the California summer, Mistah Fern Pati Patawaran tries his landscaping skills on his own home garden.*



*Landscaping of Mistah Fern Patawaran*



*Mas Maagap Mayet Querol preparing grandson Esha for school F2F.*



*MAAGAP at work on the GOLDEN Anniversary Celebrations Feb 2023.*



*MAAGAP Golden Anniversary TWG on Hotel bookings.*





**AVELINO I RAZON, JR**  
President  
**WILFREDO V GARCIA**  
Secretary

For this issue, we would just like to highlight some of the activities of the Marangal Ladies Club (MLC) headed by Cecille Razon, the gorgeous wife of Class President Sonny Razon. Recently, MLC had a very successful fellowship to build and promote better friendships among members. It consisted of road trip, visit to a church, lunch and sleepover at the cool Sunny Farm, hosted by Sonny and Cecille Razon in Lipa City. Having enjoyed the get-together, the Club promised to have more easy, fun and inexpensive group activities in the future especially now that COVID pandemic appears to have become endemic.

Below is the narrative of Mitz dela Paz, the petite wife of Ricky dela Paz, our Sports Class Coordinator regarding their latest fellowship get-together:

**MLC'74 Old Grove Farmstead and Sunnyhill Farm Road Trip, 28-29 Apr 2022**

After more than two years of being cooped up at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the horrible experiences some of us suffered as a result of this, the Marangal'74 Ladies Circle decided to have a get-together the soonest possible time so that we can once again bond together and share our experiences during the pandemic lockdown.

Initiated by our gracious and generous host, Marangal '74 Ladies Circle (MLC'74) President Cecille C Razon, with the assistance of Mitz dela Paz (coordinator) and Jo Cabrieto (treasurer), we finally set the date on 28-29 April 2022. This was an offshoot of our spur of the moment outing in March this year when our hobbies decided to tag their ladies along in one of their many golf sorties in Calatagan, Batangas. The boys decided to check-in overnight at the Matabungkay Beach Resort so that the ladies can have their own fun too while they playgolf. Only five of us were present (Cecille Razon, Malou Crucero, Bong Cedo, Mitz dela Paz and Irene Obaniana). We had an enjoyable time together. But, that's another story.

The group decided to organize an outing for the whole MLC'74 group during the summer season and take advantage of the glorious summer weather. Prexy Cecille offered to host an overnight stay at their Sunnyhill Resort farm in Lipa City, Batangas. I googled the 10 top most tourist destinations

in the area and found an interesting place called The Old Grove Farmstead near Cecille's place where we can have a day tour. Organizing the road trip was easy since we already have an existing viber chat group where 97% of the members are present. Twenty members signified their interest to join but only 15 actually came (Cecille Razon and Becky Aromin who provided the vehicles for the trip, Mitz dela Paz, Jo Cabrieto, Malou Crucero, Bechie Romero, Marian Pamplona, Sim Abinoja, Hazel Garcia, Myrna Delfin, Ellen Tolentino, Bong Cedo, Irene Obaniana, Julie Garcia and Mila Radovan) a good enough number to manage. We booked our reservation at the Farmstead on the first week of April 2022 and started our virtual group practices for our Tiktok challenge, an activity suggested as part of our program before dinner at Sunnyhill Farm.

**Suggested Schedule of Activities:  
28 April 2022 (Day 1)**

- 7:00 a.m. take off time for two vans at designated meeting places
- 8:00 a.m. meet up at Jollibee for breakfast at Shell station, SLEX
- 10:00 a.m. meet up with the rest of the ladies at the Old Grove Farmstead, Lipa

City, Batangas - 12noon lunch at the Harvest Cafe

- 2:00 p.m. visit at Our Lady of Mediatrix Carmel Church, Lipa City
- 4:00 p.m. go to Sunnyhill Farm
- 6:00 p.m. Tiktok Challenge by three groups
- 7:00 p.m. dinner/birthday celebration for quarterly bday celebrators
- 9:00 p.m. nite

**Swimming/Bonfire (Day 1)**

Our day tour at the Farmstead turned out to be so much fun. The ladies enjoyed a surprise group tiktok number (willingly participated in by all members present) at the childrens' playground area where we started our photo ops. The place was really interesting that we actually didn't mind the heat especially as it was almost noontime. We were lucky that it was a bit cloudy that day so the summer heat was at least bearable as we enjoyed exploring the place after lunch. God is truly good. Thank you Lord for answered prayers.

**The Tiktok Challenge**

All the ladies gave their best shot enjoying their dance numbers and were hilariously bickering at each other's performances as



*Surprise tiktok number by the whole group to start off our day of fun and laughter.*



*Lunch at the Harvest Café.*

everyone wanted to win first prize. Our fair and honorable judges Becky Aromin and Irene Obaniana (who refused to join the dance numbers for personal reasons) then announced the winner. Cecille's group composed of Hazel, Jo and herself - won first prize because the rest of her members were a no-show for this trip. There was a loud protest from the two other groups - but we acceded of course in deference to the judges - hehehe.



*The Champions: Cecille Razon, Hazel Garcia and Jo Cabrieto.*



*Special number by the Tiktok group leaders.*



*Our visit at the Our Lady of Mediatrix Carmel Church in Lipa City to thank the Lord for the gift of life and for the many blessings we have received was a deep personal experience for the ladies.*



*Exploring the Farmstead . . .*

Our sumptuous dinner prepared by Yaya Tess was an enjoyable one, too, after the usual blowing of the candles by our quarterly birthday celebrants.



*2nd Prize Winners: Sim Abinoja, Ellen Tolentino, Bechie Romero, Bong Cedo.*



*3rd Prize Winners: Mitz dela Paz, Mila Radovan, Malou Crucero, Myrna Delfin, Marian Pamplona.*

*Birthday celebrants: Hazel Garcia, Malou Crucero, Myrna Delfin, Becky Aromin and Irene Obaniana. We capped the night roasting marshmallows in a firepit just beside the pool and night swimming, of course.*



Ladies who stayed overnight: Jo Cabrieto, Myrna Delfin, Cecille Razon, Marian Pamplona, Malou Crucero, Mitz dela Paz, Sim Abinoja, Hazel Garcia, Bechie Romero and Becky Aromin.

### Day 2

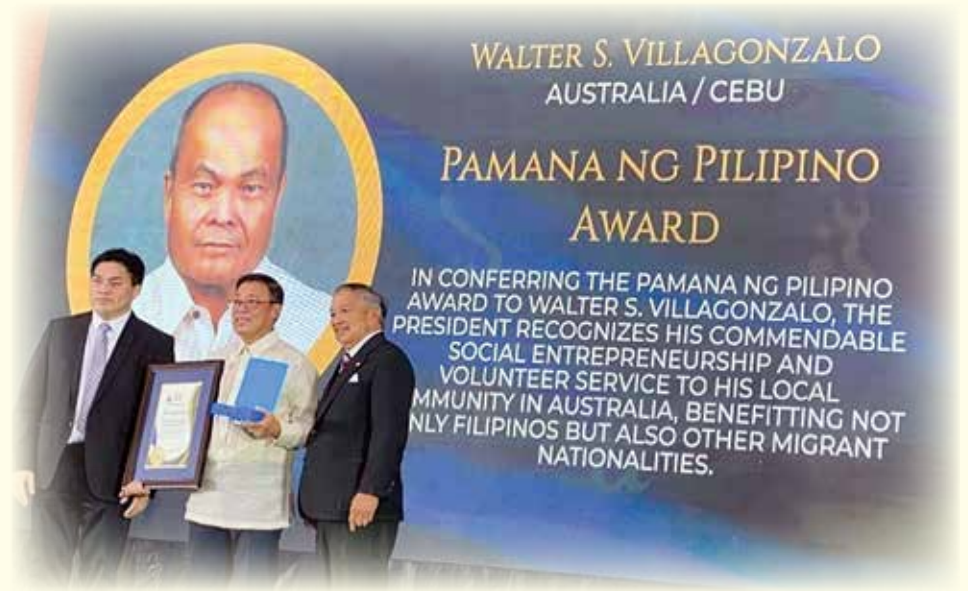
Everyone was up and about by 7:00 a.m. We had a hearty breakfast of tinapa, fried galunggong, scrambled eggs, fried rice, suman sa lihiya, puto (c/o Julie Garcia), tuna spread, pipino, and sour dough bread (c/o Mitz dIP) and unli kapeng barako served at around 8:00 a.m. After breakfast, we discussed: 1.) plans for the Marangal'74 Golden Jubilee celebration in 2024; 2.) financial matters of MLC'74; and 3.) other relevant issues. It was a fun and very productive meeting and everyone was happy./ written by Mitz dela Paz.



**RAUL S GONZALES**  
President  
**DANTE T FERRER**  
Secretary

Before the Duterte administration ended in June 30, a PMA Makabayan, intrepid in the field of community work, was awarded the *Pamana ng Pilipino Award*. Walter S Villagonzalo, now a resident of Wyndham City, Melbourne, Australia, was one of the fifty-six (56) outstanding overseas Filipinos recipients of the prestigious Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. The award was presented in a ceremony befitting a national event at the Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City on June 29, 2022. Retired Justice Francisco P. Acosta, Chairman, Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) presented the award consisting of the Gawad ng Pangulo Medallion and a plaque of recognition. Two mistahs namely, Noe A. Wong and Pete C. Cadungog, were present to witness the award ceremony. Noe A Wong received the award on behalf of Walter S Villagonzalo who could not make it to the awarding ceremony owing to some personal indispositions.

Walter S. Villagonzalo, together with the other awardees, were thoroughly vetted, following a four-stage evaluation process, from a total of 117 nominations received by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Presidential Awards for Filipinos Individuals and Organizations Overseas (PAFIOO) from 31 countries and were endorsed by 39 Philippine Foreign Service Posts. This award is bestowed on Filipinos overseas who exemplify the talent and industry of



Walter S. Villagonzalo on the backdrop of the awarding ceremony of the *Pamana ng Pilipino Award* held at the Manila Marriott Hotel, Pasay City on June 29, 2022.



Noe A Wong receiving the award from retired Justice Francisco P. Acosta, Chairman of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, on behalf of Walter S Villagonzalo.

the Filipino and have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession. Recall that among the advocacies of Walter S. Villagonzalo which earned him top honors is helping the migrants settle in the community. In fact, he was named Citizen of the Year in Wyndham City, Melbourne where he urged the migrants to integrate themselves and be effective members of the community. His outstanding contribution in the community was recognized by the local executives and this includes providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers and motivating new migrants to use their skills to start small business thereby creating more local jobs.

**We are the Champions.** Our very own PMA75 Makabayan Golf Team deserves back-to-back congratulations for hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter golf tournament dubbed as the Corps of Classes 74567 (consisting of PMA Classes 74, 75, 76 and 77) and at the same time, garnering the championship. The games were held last June 8, 2022 at the exigent yet obliging Riviera Golf Course in Silang City, Cavite.

Kudos to our class president Raul S Gonzales and Jeff Sodusta, the class sports coordinator, for spearheading the preparation. Enormously, the successful outcome would not have been a winner if not for the collective effort of the rest of the team. As the host class, we arranged for the golf venue, tendered lunch, provided raffle prizes, and handed giveaways after the game.

The runaway championship did not come without the hard-working and unmitigated practice rounds initiated by members before the tournament. Members of the team are Raul Gonzales, Jeff Sodusta, Noe Wong, Gerry Doria, Willie Palugod, Arsenio Arugay, Pete Magno, Nap Cachuela, Chito Blanco, Domeng Manuel, and Ruel Hiteroza.

Thanks to all our golfing Mistahs who contributed their talents and time to make the hosting a success. Ang saya talaga!

This is a portentous sign for the championship of The Battle of Classes for Homecoming 2023!

**Updates on the 2025 Golden Jubilee Homecoming**

Class president Raul S. Gonzales called for a special class officers' meeting on July 4, 2022 at the Manila Executive House, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City to



Raul Gonzales and Gerry Doria presiding over the awarding of prizes after the games.

discuss plans for the Christmas Party and the updates for the 2025 Golden Jubilee Homecoming. In attendance were Raul Gonzales, Noe Wong, Pete Cadungog, Pet Magno, Gerry Doria, Ernie Boac, and Willie Palugod.

The following Makabayan ladies were also in the same venue to discuss on the preparation of the Christmas Party, namely Ollie Gonzales, Angie Cadungog, Beth Magno, Inday Palugod, Baby Doria, and Tess Logronio. It did not take a while to decide that the Class will have a Christmas Party. Two years without it due to the

pandemic was enough to cause the heart to go fonder and yearning. The party will be held on December 3, 2022 (Saturday) from 6-10 p.m. at the Acropolis Clubhouse, Acropolis Greens, Q.C. It was unanimously carried that only husband and wife will attend. The food will be catered but classmates may donate additional food. To uplift the spirit of gift-giving, wherein Christmas is known for, an exchange gift worth not less than P1,000.00 will cap the party.

Regarding the 2025 homecoming preparations, Noe Wong assured the class



PMA 75 Makabayan golfers relaxing after the games at the Riviera Golf Club.



Corps of Classes 745678 members pose after the golf games at the Riviera Golf Club.

that the reservation has been secured by depositing one-night worth of stay with the Baguio Country Club hotel that could accommodate all the participating members of the class. Noe Wong, in a flashback, said that during the 2020 Homecoming, members of the Class were lodged in three separate hotels which gave rise to problems on communications and movements. That problem will be aptly solved with only one hotel to accommodate the attending classmates as a group.

Noe Wong said that while the fund-raising campaign is working, there is still the exigent need to sustain the momentum. Noe Wong enjoined the vice-presidents to remind their group members to consider completing their donations by year 2023 as this is the year the Class will make an evaluation of the financial capacity.



**MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA**  
**President**  
**LUIZO C TICMAN**  
**Secretary**

The alarming escalation of covid cases, the resurgence of dengue infection, and the threat of monkeyfox spreading did not daunt the Magilas class from moving forward to attain our goals of getting together face-to-face for fellowship meetings, class tours, and participating in various sports and physical well activities.

Ever cautious in our movements, and strict compliance with government safety and health protocol, the Magilas class had successfully done the following:

#### Bohol Trip

Rey Ramirez, who hosted an all-Charlie Cats fellowship lunch in early May, proposed that available Charliemates should spend a 4-day tour of Bohol, from May 28 to 31, having been informed that Charliemate Caloy Cagaanan would be arriving in his hometown Lila to celebrate with his wife Mely's birthday. Several mistahs belonging to the other companies signified their intention to join the tour. Some tagged along their wives.

Caloy Cagaanan prepared an itinerary of the tour, took charge of their transportation from the airport to the resort where they would be billeted. He likewise suggested the places to see near the resort. The second and third day was spent on seeing other places. Finally on the fourth day, the group

were transported to the Cagaanan heritage house to join Caloy and Mely in celebrating the latter's birthday.

#### Charlie Cats Golf Tournament

On 29 June, Charlie Cats Golf Tournament was held at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. Spearheaded by Sonny Razon '74, who himself was once a Charlie Company Commander, the tournament was participated in by Charlie Cats golfers from several PMA classes. Forty-five (45) Charlie Cats played out of 75 who signified to join. From the Magilas golfers, only Mon Punzalan and Vic Boco were able to attend due to previous other commitments of the rest.

#### BSMA Golf Challenge

On 18 May, BSMA Golf Challenge was held at the Philippine Navy Golf Club. This tournament was under the auspices of the Bank Security Management





Association of the Philippines, where our Mistah, Joey Salvacion, is one of the Board of Directors. Joey invited all available Magilas golfers to participate. Emerging champions in the tournament were: Class A Sonny Cachuela, Class B Jo Solidum, and Class C Mon Punzalan.

**Manila Golf Club Tournament**

On July 5, several Magilas golfers participated in a fellowship golf tournament was held at Manila Golf Club on invitation of Mistah Wilson Young, a prominent MGC member. Inasmuch as a club member can only sponsor a maximum of three non-members to play, golfer Wilson managed to invite enough club members to join the tournament, each club member joining three Magilas golfers to form a flight. A sumptuous lunch was served after the game for all players including those non-players who attended.

**Oath Taking of Mayor Pol Bataoil and Limited Tour of Lingayen**

On June 30, the Magilas members particularly those living in Metro Manila and suburbs, drove five-long hours to Lingayen arriving thereat about lunchtime. As initially planned and coordinated with Mayor Bataoil, the group was billeted at Purok

Marcella Resort owned by the grandparents of the mayor. After settling down in our respective rooms, we went to the hall where lunch had been prepared. Mayor later joined us in the dining hall where he welcomed the group. Before the lunch was over, class president Tanggol Gatdula gave Mayor Pol Bataoil a token of appreciation and a memento of our visit.

After a 2-hour rest, we were brought to the Lingayen City Hall to meet his vice mayor and other officials. Then we proceeded to Casa Real to see some historical artifacts and cultural artistic pieces. We returned to the resort just in time for the dinner along the beach fronting the resort which lasted from 7 to 11 p.m.

On July 1, the class had an early morning mess, after which we boarded a hired vans to bring us to the town's civic center to attend mass prior to the oath taking ceremony. Pol Bataoil formally took his oath

of office before Judge Teodoro Fernandez of Lingayen RTC Branch 38.





**RIC A DAVID JR**  
Pangulo  
**VIXI ABAT**  
Kalihim

**Naganap na ang HALALAN 2022.** 🗳️

**C**ongratulations and goodluck! to mistahs:  
1. Mayor Fidel Cimatu - Bangui, Ilocos Norte  
2. Mayor Ric Padilla - Bongabon, NE

The class also lauds other mistahs on their political ventures short of victory. Better prospects next time. 🙏

**June 19**

**FATHERS DAY:**

*big salute and loud cheers to all Jolly Masikap fathers!* 🙌

hindi matutularan ang haligi ng tahanan.  
sapagkat ang buhay nila sa pamilya nakalaan.

**TSIKENKLAB:**

1. US-based mistahs Raul 'Bakal'zo, Gil V, and Mervyn 'Spade' visit Manila. They host separate tsikenklab lunches.  
2. Butch S hosts "tupada" tsikenklab.  
Salamat!  
Bon appetit, freedom fighters!

**June 30**

An administration ends in this covid pandemik. 🙏  
🎻 "and so I face the final curtain..."  
The baton is passed.  
We commend our mistahs who served in the Duterte administration for their charge.  
Mabuhay kayo!

**APPOINTMENT in new Marcos administration:**

Congratulations to: USec Deng Ferrer is Administrator, OCD, DND Executive Director, NDRRMC

**SHOOT!**

**June 2022.**

We greet "pistolero" Benjie Belarmino for topping the BPSA (Bulacan Practical Shooting Association) Manunudla Opening Shoot.

**HEALTH CRISIS**

Covid remains a health crisis.  
Virus variants hit some Masikaps.  
Fortunately, they are boosted 📄 and they only have mild symptoms.

**OBIT** 📄

The class condoles:  
~ with Nobols Noblefranca on the passing of his mother.

She rests in peace.  
~ with Per Palad on the passing of his father.  
He rests in peace.





**RODOLFO Y MAGTIBAY**  
President  
**FELIPE HB BUENA JR**  
Secretary

**Honoring Our Departed Mistahs on Remembrance Day**

The members of Philippine Military Academy 'Makatarungan' Class of 1978 (PMA '78) celebrated Remembrance Day last April 11, 2022 to honor the memory of our Makatarungan classmates who have passed away. A total of 38 of our beloved classmates have left ahead of us, out of the 139 who graduated from the hallowed halls of our beloved Academy; plus the ten others who were invited to join as honorary or associate members for their genuine friendship and warmth. In all, a total of 149 classmates or 'mistahs', as we call each other fondly.

The date, April 11, was chosen as it was on that fateful day of April 11, 1978 when our class suffered our first casualty, **2Lt Manolito 'Lito' Herrero** of the Philippine Constabulary (PC). Having just graduated in February of that year, our class had been given a 1-month

vacation leave, before being required to report to our designated branches of service: the Army, the PC, the Air Force and the Navy. Barely days after reporting to his first field assignment in Jolo, our mistah would succumb to loss of blood after an extended firefight against MNLF elements.

Months later, on October 17, we would suffer our second casualty. Army **2Lt Dante Grafil** would be felled by friendly fire in Jolo, as a mentally-troubled soldier gunned him down as Dante tried to pacify him.

The following year, **2LT Tito 'Toti' Abat** would expire after a brief night encounter with NPA rebels in Samar on Feb 2, 1979. He was part of a Scout Ranger test mission in the area. PC **2Lt Sulpicio 'Bernie' Bernardo IV's** patrol base in Samar was overrun on Aug 29, 1979. Bernie was our 2nd casualty for the year, and the 2nd in Samar.

Marine **2Lt Brian Pacheco** was our first Navy casualty. He died in a sea ambush in Tawi-Tawi on Mar 9, 1980. Brian was visiting and helping orient our Ranger mistahs who had just been deployed in the area. **Ensign Albert Majini** died on Oct 7, 1980 in a sea encounter with sea pirates in Tawi-Tawi. He was manning the patrol boat's machine gun when he was hit square in the head, killing

him instantly. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, we would have two casualties in a year.

On Oct 18, 1981, we would suffer from yet another disaster. **2Lt Danilo 'Danny' de la Cerna** was waylaid by NPA terrorist elements in a vehicular ambush in the hinterlands of Samar.

For four years, the blood of our mistahs had poured on the grounds of troubled Jolo and Samar, alternately. Danny would be the last of the Class' casualties in those fateful first four years in the military service. Henceforth, members of the class would start to find assignments in less-risky fields.

In 1985 however, Air Force **Capt Renato Yap's** chopper would mysteriously vanish while flying from Tacloban to Mactan. Rene was our first Air Force casualty.

On Feb 4, 1988, PC **Capt Rosello 'Boying' Radovan** was killed in an unfortunate misencounter with fellow police operatives in Quezon City.

Air Force **Maj Robert 'Bobby' Jugao** would die in a C-130 crash in the hinterlands of Bicol while bringing in relief goods for typhoon victims on Dec 14, 1993. On Apr 4, 1995, Army **Maj David Sabido** was in Imus, Zambo Sur when MILF rebels torched the town. Dave would be our last field casualty.





**Carlos** died on June 14, 2012. Army Ret **BGen Francisco Lanuza** died on July 1, 2012.

Our Chief of Staff, Ret **Gen Delfin Bangit** died on Dec 13, 2013 from a long lingering illness. He would be followed by Ret **Col Demetrio 'Demy' Andrada**, our first honorary mistah in the list. Others who would follow from a variety of health complications were: Ret **PNP C/Supt Marcos 'Mark' Badilla**, Ret **PC/Supt Benedict 'Ben' Fokno**, ex- **Mayor Leovic Dioneda**, Ret **PC/Supt Florencio 'Flor' Caccam Jr**, Ret **PDir Rodolfo 'Boogie' Mendoza**, Ret **Col Evaristo 'Resty' Rio**, Ret **Navy LCdr Orencio De Asis Jr**, Ret **Navy RAdm Cornelio dela Cruz**, Ret **Air Force MGen Celedonio 'Odette' Boquiren**, then **MMDA Chief Danilo 'Danny' Lim**, Ret **Air Force Col Andres 'Andy' Laurilla**, and **'Butch' Calayo**.

In summary, the Makatarungan Class of 78 has had 38 casualties through the years, broken down as follows: Army – 14; PC/PNP- 14; Navy -5; Air Force -4; and from the civilian sector – 1. Eight of our mistahs are classified as Killed In

Police **Chief Inspector Cesar Maneclang** expired on Dec 18, 1995 due to a heart attack. He would be the class' first casualty on account of health reasons. On June 2, 1998, Navy **Commander Nestor Fernando** died after being in a coma for a week, shot by an errant soldier at the AFP CGSC. Retired Army **Capt Leodegario 'Leo' Adalem** was felled by a NPA assassin's bullets in his home in Tarlac on Apr 11, 2000. Leo would be the last in the class to die a violent death. He would also be the first casualty from the ranks of the retired.

Police **C/Insp Dionisio 'Dionie' Disonglo** died on June 5, 2001 due to a lingering kidney illness. So with Police **S/Supt Voltaire 'Voltz'**

**Calzado** who died on Nov 11, 2005 due to a sudden heart attack. **Ignacio 'Anto' Antonio** died four days later, on Nov 15, of a lingering illness. Army **Col Herbert Avinante** died on Sep 21, 2006 of kidney failure. Police **S/ Supt Sales Zaragoza** died on July 25, 2007 of heart failure. He would be followed by **Daniel 'Danny' Costales** on Feb 14, 2010 of cancer.

Army **MGen Rudival 'Odee' Cabading** was the AFP Chief of Engineers when he suffered a heart attack on July 18, 2011. Odee was the last in our class to die while in active service. From hereon, health issues would be our bigger challenge. Army Ret **BGen Florante 'Flor' Martinez** died of heart failure on Mar 30, 2012. Air Force Ret **Col Zamiel**

**Action (KIA)**. It has been 44 years since we left the Academy, and we honor them each year with a simple ceremony to celebrate their lives and the positive contributions they have provided us—collectively and individually. Our mistahs may have departed this earth, but we know of the many beautiful memories, the countless small episodes of kindness and of love, that they have left us with. They have us, their families, and their children, all of whom will surely make an indelible mark of **Courage, Integrity and Loyalty** to our country and people.

To our dearly departed mistahs, our sincerest gratitude, and our snappy salute!!!



**ARIEL QUERUBIN**  
President  
**TATTU SANCHEZ**  
Secretary

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*It is with great honor and privilege to have supported President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, our honorary batchmate and member of the PMA Matapat Class of 1979, in his campaign for unity across the nation.*

*In an unprecedented move, the PMA Class of 1979 spearheaded the creation of a Manifesto of Support for the presidential bid of Bongbong Marcos securing the support of nearly 200 retired AFP/PNP generals and senior officials. As men who stand by the principles of the Philippine Military Academy - **Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty**, I am truly grateful to call these men my brothers.*

*Last May 9, 2022, the voice of the Filipino people was heard all over the world with a resounding message of unity for the next six years. As Class President, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to members of*

*PMA Matapat Class of 1979 for joining me in this endeavor and providing vital support to the campaign of President Marcos.*

**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:

**July:** 5 - Luz Palmea, 6 - Tony Alcantara, Meggy Manalo, Arnold Palmea, 7 - Arlene Alivio, Elmo Segura, 8 - Winnie Banua, Beng Vizcarra, 12 - Titan Kison, 13 - Malou Gundao, 14 - Ram Alivio, 16 - Carmi Durano,



17 - Carlette Pama, 18 - Alex Cabales, Delia Hipolito, 25 - Boygee Pangilinan, 26 - Julius Abad

**August:** 2 - Camille Llave, 3 - Amy Victor, 6 - Rupert Naparan, 9 - Eva Llano, Oca Mapalo, 11 - Romy Calizo, 12 - Rene David, Cecile Heredia, 15 - Arnold Revilla, 16 - Lala Mapalo, 17 - Menchie Soria, 19 - Elmor Pulanco, 20 - Vivian Villarete, 21 - Etta Olan, 22 - Nelia Brillante, 23 - Tavi Anonuevo, 24 - Mon Lising, 26 - Ronnie Bacolod, 27 - Ric Butalid, Pivi Cruz, Toots Luces, Roly Tenefrancia, 29 - Sol Damian

**September:** 1 - Aaron Fidel, Rey Lanada, 3 - Ellen Lindaya, 6 - Milai Valentin, Eleanor Vizcarra, 7 - Zeny Bolodo, 8 - Vicsie Felix, Ylee Raposas, 9 - Amy Alvarado, 10 - Helen Tenefrancia, 11 - Marlyn de Castro, 16 - Bong Golez, Amy Revilla, 18 - Cyril Albano, 19 - Marvilyn Reyes, 22 - Diego Hipolito, 23 - Veronica Fidel, 25 - Chot Lindaya, 26 - Nilo Wong, Boy Valmores, 27 - Mel Inductivo, Grace Pangilinan, 28 - Yolly Corvera, Tony Reyes, 29 - Addie Olan

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

**July:** 13 - Cip and Malou Gundao, 21 - Toots and Olive Luces

**September:** 14 - Essel and Evelyn Soriano, 25 - Tony and Bubbles Alcantara

**AIR FORCE "Mandrigma" UPDATE:**

The PMA Matapat Class of 1979 Air Force Group "*Mandrigma*" remains resilient and strong amidst this continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Some of us may have been afflicted by this virulent virus or by other degenerative diseases, but because of our resolve to continue living and enjoying the remaining days ahead of us with the divine guidance of the Almighty God, we all are

still here and looking forward to better days ahead. Tattu, our BOS President, ceased calling Zoom meetings as the COVID-19 Alert Level in the NCR was lowered. As soon as the Buffet 101 Mall of Asia re-opened to the

public, the Mandrigmas took the opportunity to have their first Face to Face meeting since the start of the pandemic along with our OAOs.

The food was good, but the company was better. Never mind repeating the same old stories and jokes as it remains to be effective in refreshing the minds and uplifting the souls. For the ladies, it was not only a time for health updates but also a chance to bring out the "*marites*" among them. With all the good food to choose from, everybody was so satisfied with the lunch as well as happy being together again after some time that we hardly noticed that the air conditioning and the lights were already put off.

Meeting with good friends and feeling that nothing has changed truly brings out the happiness in you. In the end you always go back to people who were there in the beginning.

Having missed each other's company for quite a long time, this memorable meeting was immediately followed by another one at NIU by Vikings at SM Aura on July 15.



We were also happy to welcome home Dra. Malou Gundao, who found time to be with us despite her very limited stay in PH, which was just a little more than a week break from her work at CA, USA.

Once you get to meet again with good friends after a long time, especially mistakes, then only then would you realize how hard it is part ways from them. After the lunch meeting, we all then proceeded to Paul Boulangerie et Patisserie to have a taste of their rumored French Coffee, but more than that, to continue our fellowship and the unending good old stories of Bong Garbo.

It was indeed an enjoyable moment to see the Mandirigmas, together again after not seeing each other for a long time. We all hope and pray that the coming days for all the Mandirigmas would be mostly flyable: clear and blue skies and wind calm. God be with us always.

#### ARMY UPDATE:

True to the PLEBE song which goes, "As each Saturday adds to our past, every month's 'filled with memories that last', the Army Matapats make it a point to meet over lunch or dinner every quarter just to reach out. After the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and the presidential elections, the ARMY Matapats had dinner at the La Picara Spanish Restaurant at the Bonifacio High St in BGC, Taguig City last July 2022. It was an evening of fun. Matapats Vicsie, Ernix, Paloy, Rene D, Rolly T, Titan, Fajie, Fred P, Pete S, Butch B and Arnold P came to enjoy the dinner. We had a run of our Spanish under Mr Martinez (Humanities Department) when we were welcomed at the restaurant with a polite, "HOLA". Mark Supnet was supposed to join us in the dinner but his schedule was so hectic as his plane from Europe landed at about the same time that we were having dinner. We missed you Mark. Now, he and Maloli are in the US adding fresh memories that last for a lifetime.

On the lighter side, Mistah Ambassador Gene Calonge just retired from the Foreign Service. He was last seen jogging around the Manila Bay area. On the other hand, July 25 was the birthday of our very own Boygee. Mistah, wherever you are, HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Boygee was the latest loss of our class who reported to our Creator last January 2022.

#### THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE UPDATE:

'Faithfuls without Boundaries'

*"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."* 1 Timothy 6: 17-19

As we face new challenges in discovering the Word of God, we trained our minds and



hearts in this idiom... 'Sharing is Caring'. Spearheaded and facilitated by our spiritual counselor, Brother Essel, we have started studying the Book of John, one of the four Canonical Gospels. Each member, as lead sharer during our Wednesday fellowship, is assigned specific Gospel topic (verses in each chapter) and shared his thoughts about it, its message and application in our daily lives, and, in turn, we all then shared our respective responses. We thought of having this fellowship format as our way of following the 'Great Commission', of being a true disciple of Jesus Christ. We help in spreading His Gospel as we care for spiritual salvation of all. As true believer and follower of Jesus, we carry our Cross through sharing His Gospels, in words and in deeds.

After being confined to virtual fellowship since day one of our spiritual journey, we finally had our first face-to-face fellowship last 08 June at Aguinaldo Golf Club with Brother Mel Inductivo as our lead sharer.

We hope that this will be followed soonest as we prepare to transition our fellowship from virtual to physical one. We

would like to welcome also a new member of our group, Brother Jerry Diamante. Thank you for sharing your very enlightening spiritual thoughts on the Word of God. Welcome back also to Brothers Essel and Sam from their recent trip abroad. And likewise to Brother Bobby who came from down under to spend some quality vacation time here.

Though we come from different Christian religious denominations with different doctrines, it does not hinder us from coming together as one "Faithfuls without Boundaries" Christian group. And we reiterate the purpose and objective of this spiritual fellowship i.e. to discover and fully understand the Truth of the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We hope other members of our class could join us in this spiritual journey of ours to include their respective family. And hopefully.... other cavaliers as well.

*"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 1:24-25





With the new set of Class Officers in place, the Class agreed to hold our fellowship of birthday celebrations per quarter of the year, instead of monthly. For the 2nd Quarter of the year, the Fellowship Lunch was held last June 11, 2022 at the Pavilion of the Villamor Air Base Golf Clubhouse, with golf games prior to the lunch fellowship. In attendance to this first ever quarterly fellowship for birthday celebrants were 34 mistahs.

The birthday celebrants for this 2nd Quarter (April-May-June) were as follows:

- |                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| 1. Tan, Nabil       | 02 Apr |
| 2. Estrada, Jake    | 03 Apr |
| 3. Yebra, Efren     | 07 Apr |
| 4. Reyes, Raoul     | 11 Apr |
| 5. Costes, Dante    | 12 Apr |
| 6. Almada, Anthony  | 13 Apr |
| 7. Kison, Leo       | 20 Apr |
| 8. Segovia, Jorge   | 23 Apr |
| 9. Dela Cruz, Larry | 30 Apr |
| 10. Zubiri, Joey    | 30 Apr |
| 11. Siongco, Danny  | 03 May |
| 12. Sandoval, Ricky | 04 May |
| 13. Garbo, Marvin   | 05 May |
| 14. Calleja, Bobby  | 07 May |
| 15. Yano, Cesar     | 10 May |
| 16. Nario, Nelson   | 11 May |

- |                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| 17. Guzman, Armando    | 14 May |
| 18. Mantele, Benjardi  | 17 May |
| 19. Pereyra, Celestino | 19 May |
| 20. Torres, Rafael     | 27 May |
| 21. Palacio, Leopoldo  | 27 May |
| 22. Sarmiento, Emelito | 28 May |
| 23. Revilla, Quirino   | 04 Jun |
| 24. Casumpang, Noel    | 05 Jun |
| 25. Pasamba, Ricardo   | 11 Jun |
| 26. Chua-Chiaco, Chuck | 14 Jun |
| 27. Lomeda, Jesus Jr   | 17 Jun |
| 28. Lorenzo, Delfin    | 17 Jun |
| 29. Ramirez, Roque     | 20 Jun |
| 30. Taliño, Dante      | 22 Jun |
| 31. Meneses, Gil       | 25 Jun |

Following this 2nd Quarter Fellowship, the next Fellowship for the 3rd Quarter is slated to be held on September 10, 2022, coinciding with the Mid-Autumn Festival, when the full moon is apparent and believed to be in its brightest and fullest.

And what better place to celebrate it than at the Philippine Navy View Deck/Social Hall, at Roxas Boulevard, Manila. For true to its name, the HPN View Deck allows a perfect view of the famed Manila Bay sunset, and the magical moon river tailing a rising full moon.

Our gratitude to FOIC VAdm Adeluis Bordado '88 and the entire HPN leadership for granting us this privilege of knowing what it is like to be....In The Navy.

And since many of us are turning 65 this year, there is a challenge posed by our Class Sec Edmund Tan for a part three, for those of course, who can still make it.

Here are the birthday celebrants for the 3rd Quarter (July-Aug-Sep) of the year:

- |                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1. Marayag, Joel          | 07 Jul |
| 2. Perez, Arnulfo         | 11 Jul |
| 3. Escueta, Ed            | 11 Jul |
| 4. Ancheta, Francisco Jr  | 13 Jul |
| 5. Enriquez, Diogenes     | 17 Jul |
| 6. Solomon, Vicente       | 24 Jul |
| 7. Bernardo, Ariel        | 27 Jul |
| 8. Adriatico, Jufel       | 28 Jul |
| 9. Joco, Antonio Jr       | 28 Jul |
| 10. Manabat, Noel         | 29 Jul |
| 11. Palmones, Angelo      | 08 Aug |
| 12. Pamintuan, Rene       | 09 Aug |
| 13. Tamayo, Edgardo       | 13 Aug |
| 14. Gupana, Emiliano      | 15 Aug |
| 15. Amat, Emmanuel        | 17 Aug |
| 16. Ontog, Ager Jr        | 21 Aug |
| 17. Ramos, Roberto        | 21 Aug |
| 18. Ramos, Edwin          | 24 Aug |
| 19. Muyargas, Ramon       | 31 Aug |
| 20. Ojeda, Emmanuel       | 02 Sep |
| 21. Cruz, Ricardo Rainier | 06 Sep |
| 22. Ordoy, Caesar         | 08 Sep |
| 23. Tacan, Boy            | 08 Sep |
| 24. Layug, Gerardo        | 12 Sep |
| 25. De Guzman, Alex       | 16 Sep |
| 26. Cabantac, Romulo Jr   | 18 Sep |
| 27. Balao, Dante          | 23 Sep |
| 28. Francisco, Rustico C  | 24 Sep |
| 29. Carbonell, Domingo R  | 25 Sep |
| 30. Rodriguez, Mike       | 28 Sep |

Happy Birthday to each one of the birthday celebrants, and may you all continue to have blessings of good health, long life, peace, love and happiness not



*Lunch Fellowship for Second Quarter Birthday Celebrants attended by 34 Mapiitagans held at the Pavilion, Villamor Air Base Golf Club (VABGC) on June 11, 2022, led by our Class President Larry Dela Cruz (center, 6<sup>th</sup> from right, front row) and Immediate Past Class President Nick Bartolome (5<sup>th</sup> from right, back row).*



*In a solemn and meaningful ceremony with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., rendering their final salute are: (R to L): former Captain Mervyn Espadero (Security Escort Officer), former Lieutenant Colonel Delmar Magno (from the Office of the Senior Aide-de-Camp and Presidential Nurse of former First Lady Imelda Marcos), former Lieutenant Colonel Fe Castro (Presidential Nurse of former President Marcos, Sr.), and former First Lieutenant Menandro Espineli (Security Officer of Presidential sister, Irene Marcos-Araneta).*

*President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. walks with former security officers (Leftmost is Mistah Mandy Espineli) who served under the term of his late father, President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr., in a 'Walk of Closure' at the Malacañang Palace Grounds on July 1, 2022.*

only this year but all through the years.  
Cheers to you all!

#### **Walk of Closure: PBBM Honors FM Staff**

Thirty-six years after their tumultuous separation, President Bongbong Marcos, Jr and his late father's trusted aides and staff met on July 1, 2022, his first day in office at Malacañang, for a reunion of sorts dubbed as "Walk of Closure."

At the event were former Captain Mervyn Espadero, who served as a security escort officer; former Lieutenant Colonel Delmar Magno, who used to work for the Office of the Senior Aide-de-Camp and was the nurse of former First Lady Imelda Marcos; former Lieutenant Colonel Fe Castro, who used to be a nurse of the former President Marcos, Sr; and former First Lieutenant Menandro Espineli, our mistah, who was a security officer of Marcos' sister, Irene Marcos-Araneta.

Radio Television Malacañang photos and video showed some of the former security aides becoming emotional as they shook hands and walked with their late boss' only son, who is now our country's President.

#### **Mistah Nabil Tan as Member of BTA**

We congratulate our Honorary Mistah Nabil Alfad Tan for being appointed as a member of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA). A mass oath-taking of all the 80 members of the BTA to serve for



*Mistah Nabil Tan being congratulated by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr after their mass oath taking as members of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) held last Aug 12, 2022 in Malacañang Palace.*

2022-2025 headed by Ahod Ebrahim as BTA interim chief minister, was conducted in Malacañang Palace with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr as the Administering Officer on August 12, 2022.

Under Republic Act 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), the BTA "shall be the interim government in the

*Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) during the transition period,"* with legislative and executive powers and functions of the Bangsamoro government.

We are proud of you, Mistah Nabil and good luck to you on this endeavor. Cheers!!



*Celebrating PC/PNP Anniversary on Aug 8, 2022 after 42 years: Seated left to right: Gil Pacia, Tony Baraquiell, Nick Bartolome, Jardie Mantele, Efren Yebra, Paco Francisco. Standing: George Regis, Emil Sarmiento, Nolet Ojeda, Arnold Peres, Gil Meneses, and Bong De Asis.*



Election fever is over and I hope everyone has exercised his right to vote. We pray that the new set of leaders will steer the country towards progress and prosperity despite these trying times. While bidding goodbye to the former President and Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency Rodrigo R Duterte, we express our gratitude for his genuine concern for the members in uniform with the increase in the soldiers' as well as veterans'/pensioners' benefits, and for his support to the Modernization Program of the Armed Forces. We also would like to thank him for his trust and confidence in our Mistahs who served under his administration. - Cavs Litoy Cuy, Bong Morente, Alex Monteagudo, Bobot Laciste, Alan Luga, Omech Poquiz, Intong Victorio, Dan Servando, Noli Morales, Obet Santos, Rene Samonte, George Rabusa, Charles Calima, Leo Ferrer, Edwin Remotigue, Manny Bautista, Felix Catro, George Catameo, Benny De Leon, Paght Hernandez, Norman Legaspi, and Jojo Reyes. Congratulations Mistahs for having "Graduated" from your government posts. You have done the Class proud, with your dedicated and selfless contribution to the country.

At the moment, the present dispensation is still filling-up vacant positions in the government. Do we

see a new set of mistahs in the present administration? Hopefully!

Well, not much has happened lately except for a few rounds of fellowship golf in Villamor, Navy and Riviera Golf Courses where grudge matches continue. A few meet-ups with some Dimalupigs and Manlulupigs happened. COVID is still here. We still have to be careful. But, it should not stop us from having a few fellowship activities every now and then. Maybe this third quarter, we can have another

Birthday-Golf gathering, to be sponsored by the celebrants?

Before we end, the Dimalupig family expresses its sadness over the death of another former President, HE Cavalier Fidel V Ramos. We condole with the members of his family and may he Rest in Peace.

Let us continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being specially those who are sick. May they receive complete healing soon. Mabuhay ang Dimalupigs! God bless us all.





**HENRY G SABARRE**  
President  
**PERFECTO O QUILICOT JR**  
Secretary

Seasons must pass so that rebirth can be possible and new hope ushered. Change, as proverbially put, is permanent and nothing can be more predictable than changes due to politics and government leadership.

The Duterte administration is by far the one that went with the highest approval rating. Controversial, yes, but the achievements it has accomplished are as incontrovertible. But even the most loved too will have to give way so that new possibilities can be had. The cadence of its “Build Build Build” mantra has created opportunities for the country to continue its recovery notwithstanding the pandemic. We believe that in no small measure, the positive vibes and praises bestowed upon the past administration can be partly ascribed to our class through the participation of select members who composed its dream team. They pressed on for the full implementation of the government policies from the bright start

of the administration and even through the bleak years of pandemic. We dedicate this class call to honor and pay tribute to them: both those who survived and those who passed on in dedication to service.

Leading the pack is Secretary **Eduardo M. Año** who steered The Department of the Interior and Local Government. His term came with brilliant accomplishments and horrors having been placed under the knife twice after he contracted COVID twice. Undeterred, with the assistance of USEC **Bernardo Florece** who once served as the OIC of the Department, Joel Canapi as Chairman of NAPOLCOM and ASEC **Manuel Felix**, they put aside comfort and safety to push forward in forging together the local chief executives (LCEs) and their respective units to combat all threats in all fronts and forms: local terrorists [Islamic extremists, and armed communists], corruption, drug cartels and most importantly, the invisible menace of COVID 19. This is made possible in part, by utilizing a retooled version of the Community Security Program of the AFP. This preempted any form of threats from evolving on the local scene. It is through these efforts that the phrase “**whole-of-nation approach**” was coined. To make these gains endure, he created institutions within the bastion of public safety. The Philippine Public Safety Academy was

created and made separate from the Philippine National Police Academy to provide graduates with specialized training for the BFP and BJMP. With the drive for professionalism as a backdrop, the Department presided over the various fora of matters on transnational crime and took the lead in developing shepherds against human trafficking which caught the attention of the US government and earned the country the TIER 1 category: a much-coveted standard of no equal among ASEAN members.

The National Irrigation Administration led by Administrator **Ricardo Visaya** with the assistance of **Abe Bagasin** as his Senior Deputy Administrator; the late **Romy Gan** as his Deputy Administrator for Admin and Finance; and, a score of consultants from the class in various capacities who are all conquerors in their spheres of past commands: the late Asher Dolina for Legal; **Bimbo Colina** for Northern Mindanao, **Gerry Barrientos** for Eastern Mindanao, **May Dela Cruz** for Western and Southern Mindanao, the late **Jojo Donato** for Cordillera, **Larry Espinelli** Regions 1,2, 3 and **Jun Asanias** for Region 2 took the management of the organization by storm. Together, they breathed life back to projects that have been in hopeless slippage for decades

and put back on stream dams that have either been considered dormant or utterly dysfunctional. They also transformed the agency into one cohesive bureaucracy that became spritely responsive to the requirements of the farmers. They also modernized equipment and irrigation methods through the establishment of water and land-based solar systems. Known and famous as *“the Presidential Troubleshooter of Pinoy,”* he brought to the fore all the concerns that have created trouble in the agency and shoot them until they shaped up or shipped out.

Even with his very secretive nature as a complete intelligence operative and strategist, the stellar accomplishments of Secretary **Allen Capuyan** cannot be kept sub-rosa. Fully immersed in the nuances of life of indigenous people (IPs), [how they were exploited, and manipulated by some groups] having hailed from the Manobo tribe himself, his dedication and deliberate life-long plans of giving them recognition and bringing back to them their heritage, rights and domains materialized when he was appointed as Chairman of the National Commission on Indigenous People. Concurrently serving as the Executive Director for the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) he exposed all the machinations and subterfuges of the communist terrorist groups in mobilizing the IPs for their evil objective of a violent government takeover. What he has done in the two organizations literally speaks of volumes that he translated into books and reports that will certainly become text references for generations. Analytical frameworks and originally crafted principles abound in those materials including the widely praised 40 milestones to enhance the IPs rights and roles in nation-building that he embarked on while in office. He works without lit up for three years almost 24/7. During the pandemic, he visited 125 Clusters of IP communities in 65 continuous days at two meetings a day from Monday to Sunday covering 325 Ancestral Domains. His tenacity is legendary and utterly tireless. His former officemates in the Manila International Airport, **Arnulfo Junio** who was his Assistant GM, and **Romy Labador** who later joined as the Airport Police Chief would surely agree.

Usec **Ricardo Jalad** with the assistance of **Noli Orense** as his regional manager in Davao proceeded with his duties as Administrator of Civil Defense in a stoic and uncelebratory manner. There is no reason for fanfare when you're in the midst of a brewing pandemic while managing

one of the most disaster-prone locations. Straddling two of the world's major bodies of water [the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean], howlers and on some occasions, super-typhoons are among the challenges that he has to unflinchingly face. Add to the brew earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and you'd have a blend that would fry the nerves of average mortals. As if not yet enough, he has to grapple with man-made hazards like the settlement of the displaced residents of Marawi in the aftermath of the local jihad. Every day in his office is a sacrament of indulgences that only the rare of us who are gifted with such calm forbearance can withstand.

**Alex Mandirigma Balutan** made unprecedented feats in the realm of lottery. Appointed as General Manager of PCSO in 2016, he embarked on a campaign to increase revenue in the otherwise sedate shop. To make the change possible he enlisted a team of uncompromising innovation-hounds from the class as consultants: **Elvin Hermogino, Kenneth Paglinawan, Boy Pollo, Alan Rosal, Tom Bañas, Ecks Dela Cruz, Edwin Mackay, Allen Bantolo, Mon Renales, and Vir Garcia** to name them. Together they breathe down at the languid operators to hasten the cadence of sales in sync to the beat of the marine battle drums. The result was an uncharted level of receipts: P63.7B from the already all-time high from the past year of P37B or a whopping 72% increase. That frazzled the minds of the bewildered stakeholders of the Office and put to shame its former handlers. For this, in no time, a hero was punished for his feats like all the others before him.

Taking the cudgel that Alex left, **Anselmo Pinili** took the helm of PCSO in a grander stature concurrently as Chairman and General Manager of the Office. He was transferred from his equally significant post at the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime (OSETC) a post with an equivalent rank of an ambassador. With optimization and efficiency at the top of his mind, he immediately initiated an office-wide digital transformation covering both vertical and lateral: a reform that spared no crannies in the organization untouched. Policies were streamlined; Duplications in functions were raided; acuity in cost accounting resulted in optimal procurement; and, human resources reduced to a squeaky rationalized minimum were just among the many other laudable changes that accrued from his advocacy. Provisionally, these very same operational shifts lend the

office a smooth ride even in the oppressive period of the pandemic. **Gil Bombita, Alen Bantolo, and Jojo Llorca** served as his consultants throughout his term. Sadly, **Wesly Barayuga** in his dedication to make real the transformation and his adherence to the new policies lost his life while serving as Corporate Secretary of the Office. Benny Jose replaced him not long after.

**Alen Bantolo's** appointment as the head of the Regulatory Enforcement of FDA was met with pregnant expectations from the class. Knowing the apparent lapses of the industry and the fierce adherence of Alen to the rules, the prospect is set for sparks to fly. Sooner than expected, the industry felt the whiplash. Raids among the establishments of *“gray”* supplement providers, unlicensed parallel importers of foreign products, and even undeclared potions and elixirs in some obscure corners in Chinatown felt for the first time that an agency called Food and Drug Administration exists. No one was spared from the righteous wrath of Alen. Even the richest and the most popular beauty providers toed the line lest they get the end of Alen's stick. But as swift, as he came, the culture intolerant of good morals has to usher him out officially. Notwithstanding, he still holds positions not safe to reveal that would make any villains shudder to know that overwatch is still done by our version of the cape crusader.

Usec **Jimmy Manabat**, silently pursued his mission as Executive Director of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) of the Office of the President. Together with his Deputy Executive Director **Robert Soriano**, they orchestrated various relevant agencies of government to expose and interject the inroads and channels of crime cartels. With Alen as one of his consultants, they have deprived attempts of some organizations to establish human trafficking cells, activities with negative environmental impacts, and even prosecuting the manufacturing of counterfeit meds.

Sharing the same building with PAOCC is the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime where the late **Allan Guisihan** once served as its Executive Director. While the rest of the country was preoccupied with its domestic criminal problems, Toto is watching over a bigger field of engagement. One that should prevent the following from even taking root: Illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; Money laundering; Terrorism; Arms Smuggling; Trafficking in Persons; Piracy; and, other crimes that have an impact on the stability

and security of the country. Readily one can see the overlaps of the concerns of the agencies that were earlier mentioned. This implies that close coordination among mistahs is sanctioned and even considered necessary. It is no wonder that the Tier 1 Category of the Philippines can be ascribed to intense official exchange between the people in this center and its neighbors.

Coming from the highest earning Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC), **Carlos Quita** left BCDA for an agency where his efforts will form part of future legacy. He joined the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) as its Deputy Director General, and Undersecretary for Admin and Finance. To capacitate the agency, he initiated a series of planning and operational workshop to streamline the very same organization with the task of imposing bureaucratic efficiency, transactional convenience, and reduction of processes to its barebone. To expedite and assist in its transformation, he enlisted the help of **Jess Cardona**, who just came from his stint from the Bureau of Customs and ATC-PMC, to serve as Senior Operations and Special Project Officer of the office. Already their teamwork has already yielded results with impressive promises: the completion of the strategic plans and manual of operations; the rollout of the Go Smart App; the commissioning of an army of volunteer support organizations; and various entrapment operations resulting in varying levels of prosecution and even conviction.


In the meantime, **Paterno Padua** has been busy ridding the roads and

byways of Koronadal and Cotabato City of *colorumsas* the regional chief of LFRB in the area. Taking to heart the thrust of the government to modernize the public utility vehicles, he filled his impounding area of infirmed vehicles ranging from the smoke belchers to the downright ghastly specimens.

For some [surely] undeserved reasons, one of the lawyers of the class earned his stripe as the longest-staying Officer-In-Charge in the government bureaucracy. Atty **Jun Manalastas**, who is on his 43rd Month now as OIC of the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center (ATC-PMC) of the Office of the President has proven his mettle in the bar of legislation, notwithstanding. Starting as head legal of the same office and with the late **Mike Manquiquis**, **Jess Cardona**, and **Rolly Aquino** as his officemates and some help from other agencies, they orchestrated in codifying one of the landmark bills of the Duterte administration: the Anti-Terrorism Bill (ATB). Together with the grizzled luminaries of the Solicitor General, and the Department of Justice, he faced the broadsides of the progressive legislators in the house of Congress and Senate dodging conjectures in exchange for legal brickbats that eventually eroded the cons' appeal. Largely through his epic endeavor, the ATB fused with Senators Lacson and Imee Marcos' bills, it passed to become the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 and will forever be etched in

the country's history.

Just as he was ready to pack up for the boondocks to become a full-fledged farmer, another fateful call came and **Abelardo Villacorta** is once again consigned to the life of "*cloak and dagger*." Serving the full six-year term as the Deputy Director General of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency during the Duterte Administration is a profound testimony of the value he packs in the arcane world of intelligence. Twice over - is a fable. So once again Abe with his partners: **Resty Santos** who is the Deputy Director General for operations and **Rolly Asuncion**, the Assistant Director General for production, will continue with the saga they have started in 2016. With the dictum "*Need to Share*" [as opposed to "*Need to Know*"] as their newly established guideline, it can be expected that the benefits of different agencies of government from getting friendly and timely intelligence will continue.

It has been said that life begins at 60 and that 60 is the new 40. While there could be mixed views on this, we in the Matikas are one in the thought that our journey has taken a new leaf. The adventure continues and for certain, more can still be written. And as the country continues to receive more of our selfless service in varying fields, we vow to remember to share the very thought that gives each Peemayers the quest for excellence and not put to shame the wellspring of our common identity "I am because we are..." 



In 2024, we Maharlikans will mark our 40 years since our graduation from our Alma Mater, a major milestone for us all. During our tenure, Maharlikans have played key roles in the pivotal events in our history which have defined and continue to shape our society and democracy. From the front lines of insurgency and in the enforcement of law and order, in the board rooms of the corporate world and in the forums of public dissent, Maharlikans have been in the thick of the fight and have led the way and helped restore balance. Now in retirement from the service, we do

hope that we have made a difference and leave behind a better service and a better society.

There are Maharlikans though who have soldiered on beyond retirement and served with distinction in the previous administration. In particular, we salute the following Mistahs for their continued dedication to our country. You have made our Class proud and made our Alma Mater Greater!

**Bureau of Custom:**

Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero  
DEPCOM Raniel Ramiro-Deputy Comm  
ADMIN Officer Atong San Juan  
Eboy Enriquez  
Jun Loyao

**Department of Agrarian Reform:**

Secretary John Castricciones  
ASEC Jun Sadiarin  
Director Artie Sindac

**Department of Transport:**

USEC Raul del Rosario

**Department of Interior and Local Governments:**

USEC Nestor Quinsay JR

**DILG/Philippine Public Safety College:**

VP Ferdinando Sevilla

However, it pains the Class to see that despite the valuable contributions made by our Mistahs to their respective agencies, there are detractors who without proof nor basis seek to disparage their services and malign their very reputation to serve their selfish personal interests.

In particular, we pledge our support to our Mistahs who have accomplished so much in the Bureau of Customs and yet are unjustly accused! Indeed the fight goes on, not only to correct deeply embedded institutional weaknesses but to ensure



Maharlika Class 1984 Strategic Planning Meeting in progress.

that the truth shall prevail always and that the pernicious segments of our society never ever gets the upper hand.

And this is why the Philippine Military Academy will continue to be relevant and indispensable to the Filipino people...it is the pillar of stability in times of national turmoil, a beacon of light when the nation loses its bearing, a refuge for our values, laws and traditions and the ultimate protector of our country and our freedom. It does not aspire for nor crave power but ensures that it resides in the people where it rightfully belongs...

We also would like to congratulate the following Mistahs on their appointment in this new Administration.

1. PMGEN Nap Taas, Sgt at Arms, House of Representatives
2. Director Artie Sindac- DAR reappointed
3. Asec Jun Sadiarin - DAR reappointed
4. USec Isagani Nerez – Office of the Presidential Advisor for Military and Police Affairs (OPAMPA)
5. PBGEN FG Sevilla - President, Phil Public Safety College
6. Mayor Jon Aying (re-elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

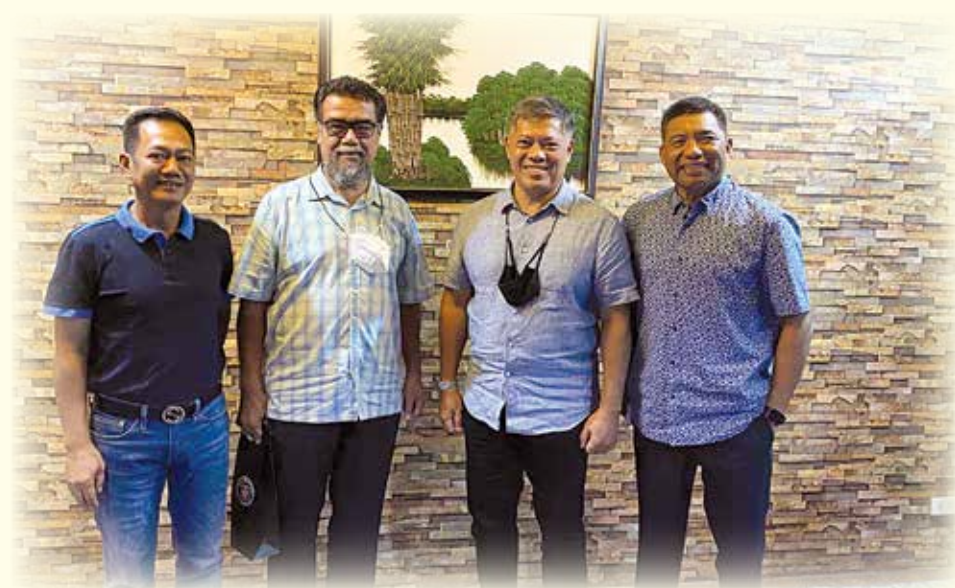
As always, you have support and loyalty of the Class! You make us Proud....

Dear Classmates, as the flame, fervor and idealism of youth crystallizes into hard-won wisdom, we are in our best form and ability to assist in the pursuit of a just, peaceful, prosperous and happy society. We may be retired dear Mistahs, but never tired to lead the change for a better future....

Stay safe and best regards to your Families. God bless....



The newly elected Class President Banji Ramos and VP Joel Pagdilao with Maharlikans.



From left: Cavalier Joel Pagdilao (Incoming Class VP), Cavalier Raffy Valencia (Outgoing VP), Cavalier Salvador Mison Jr (Outgoing Class President), Cavalier Banji Ramos (Incoming Class President).



**JOSE CHIQUITO M MALAYO**  
President  
**RODOLFO S AZURIN JR**  
Secretary

The class, with its majority having few months in the active service and to a few, with a year and few months left, is striving our best effort to update the members and the PMAAAI in our activities and contributions to the PNP, AFP, Coastguard and to the entire nation as well. And for this period, here is the updates for the PMA MAKATAO Class of 1989:

**ARMY GROUP, BY JUN TORRES:** As the Makatao Army Group march forward to the fourth quarter of this year, the number of retired members far outweighs those who are still slugging it out in the army. Thirty-seven (37) has since retired, with Manny Sequitin as the newest entry to the Pensioner's Club with his retirement on 19 Aug 2022.

Fourteen (14) from the Army Group are still in the active service headed by the Commanding General of the Army, Omet Brawner. Two from the group got a new designation, with Rowen Tolentino as the new Superintendent of PMA which made him the first ever superintendent to benefit from the 4-year fixed term. With this, he commits to host the venue for our annual alumni homecoming for the next four years. Rowen is still the Commanding General of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division as of this writing as his replacement is still being deliberated upon.

Camilo Ligayo was likewise recently designated as the Vice Commander of the Philippine Army relinquishing his post as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist Affairs. With this position, he now heads



the very influential Board of Senior Officers of the Philippine Army.

Nowadays, it is very noticeable that more and more mistahs are attending the regular golf games, various retirement ceremonies and other pleasurable bonding activities - a sign that we are now finding more time and effort in strengthening our bond and camaraderie as we usher to another chapter of our lives beyond the military service, but for some it may be an extended period of military service with the implementation of RA 11709 providing for a Fixed-Term positions in the AFP - For those who may be affected by this new law, CARRY ON!!! We shall remain ever supportive to ensure that you will always succeed.

**PAF GROUP, BY CONNORS CANLAS:** The Makatao Flyers (PAF, PN(M), PA) recently visited the Alpha Aviation in Clark to try out Airbus simulators courtesy of Capt Vic Casibang (PAFFS Class 1991, CEO of Alpha Aviation). Likewise, the brats and other family members were able to experience flying the Level D sims for the A320 and A330. With the love and fascination of everyone to the thrill and awe of powerful aviation machines, pretty much soon a

number of sons and daughters will be enrolling at the flight school. Later in the day, others who were on two wheels rode to Basa Air Base, Floridablanca to witness the ROKAF Black Eagles Aerial Demonstration Team hosted by the PAF thru its 5th Fighter Wing. It was indeed a fun-filled and satisfying day for the Makataos as everyone headed home tired but gratified. God bless us all!

Still in the active service are: LtGen Connor Canlas – CG, PAF; MGen Nesty Rayos – C, AETDC; and BGen Lito Villanueva - C, TOWCEN. Enjoying retirement while engaging in their second careers are: USEC Toto Dela Pena – DENR; Leo Peralta – Consultant; Cris Marquez – Consultant; Paul Mendoza – Pilot, Hong-Kong based; Jerry Cabe - Pilot, Qatar based; Caloy Cristobal – Commercial Pilot; Larry Tianchon – VGC Opns Consultant; and Aldrick Dela Torre – Manager/Consultant.

**PN/PCG, BY RAUL CALDEZ:** Navy 89ers are now blessed with the assumption of Command of MGen Charlton Sean M Gaerlan PN(M) as the 35th Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps. Chappy Reyes is still "The Deputy Chief of Staff" TDCS, AFP, who makes sure the GHQ J Staffs and



other units of the AFP are always on their toes in their journey to excellence. Abet Carlos is guarding our “Western Frontier as the Commander Western Command. Ed Fabricante is still the Deputy Commandant for Operations of the Philippine Coast Guard and scheduled to retire comes October 15, 2022. James Bond Nick Driz is still commanding the Philippine Fleet and spearhead its strategic development for the future. Jun Adaci “the Panero” is still at Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command and busy securing the southern front. Raul Caldez remains the busy man of PMC as the alter ego of the new Commandant Philippine Marine Corps. John Garana remains in GHQ as AJ10 working hard in the management of AFP resources. He has now regained his status as a top caliber golfer. All in all, we have eight still in the active service: Five in the Navy, two in the Marine Corps, and one in the Coastguard.

Those who just recently retired are Ruben Candelario as Commander CSS Bde, PM planning to join the San Miguel group of Company, Dorvs Legaspi retires as Commander Naval Reserve Command, Ariel Caculitan appointed as Under Secretary at the Office of Presidential Adviser for Military Affairs with his 883cc Harley Davidson. Ferds Velasco is still in Bacoor Cavite with his family and quite pre-occupied with his business, golf, and riding his 1250cc GS BMW. Nestor “Mars” Marcelino is still in San Jose del Monte Bulacan spending most of his time with his family and attending church activities, with his org, the Eagles and now, with his Golf. Francis Gabudao still enjoying his retirement in Cavite near Tagaytay with his flourishing business. Those whom we haven’t heard from recently are: Timmy Aurelio, William Isaga, Butch Lobaton, Bong Abellera in the UK, Rey Baraca, Maeng Climaco, Randyll Fernandez, Jong Marcelo, John Lumicao and Nonon Suniga in the US while Orbille Piol in Australia, Ronaldo Mendoza in Italy and Atty Raul Cortez, our new honorary member currently working at his own law firm.

As of this writing: 8 are still in the active duty (Chappy SD Reyes; Abet B Carlos; Ed D Fabricante; Nick A Driz; Chunks M Gaerlan; Jun D Adaci Jr; Raul L Caldez; John R Garaña);

**PNP GROUP, BY JUN AZURIN:** With the remaining six active MAKATAO in the service, this time, we made it to the top with Jun Azurin as the 28<sup>th</sup> Chief of the



Philippine National Police leaving his post as the Commander of the APC, Southern Luzon. He is supported by Chic Malayo as the Deputy Chief PNP for Administration, Rhodel Sermonia as the Commander, APC-Visayas, Jess D Cambay as the Director for Comptrollership, ValT De Leon as The Director for Information Communication Technology Management; and Jireh Omega D Fidel- The Director for Investigation and Detective Management.);

Eleven are now retired compulsorily: Bart R Bustamante; Sterling P Blanco; Uly C Caton; Rex M Dela Rosa; Bert D Ferro; Uly C Gohel; Edwin L Paras; Bert D Solomon;

Mario C Sinocruz Jr; Manny Abu and Ed Cacayan. While three are optionally retired, namely: Manny L Chu, Hammy P Geonzon, and Erwin Robles.

Floro Lozano and TY Salamat are joining us viberically from the US while we are waiting for the updates of Jojo A and Jun B. And lastly, the PNP group remembers Allan B Flores and Perfecto N Sagun who already joined our Creator.

**MABUHAY MAKATAOs!!!** Let us maximize our remaining few months in the active service and may God be our guide and protector...





**JOSE MELENCIO C NARTATEZ JR**  
President  
**ARVIN R LAGAMON**  
Secretary

**H**ello Cavaliers. Class 92 is very much alive and kicking. We are giving our best in service to God, country and people.

**For the Army Group**, we now have 21 Generals/incoming Generals, most of whom have been leading the charge in the government's efforts to win the peace! We have Rey Alemania (2MechBde), Rommel Almaria (401Bde), Aldwine Almase (903Bde), Pete Balisi (1Mech Bde), George Banzon (901Bde), Yegor Barroquillo (AIR), Eugene Boquio (1101Bde), our bunso Leo Caranto (AJ4), Freddie Dela Cruz (FSRR), Jess Durante (1001Bde), Alvin Flores (Deputy Cmdr, TRADOC), Arvin Lagamon (CMOR), Kris Mortela (702Bde), Ferdie Napuli (SFRA), Adonis Ariel Orio (402Bde), Demar Pauly (Dean of Acad, PMA), Archie Pel (AJ6), Edmund Peralta (902Bde), Mike Santos (603Bde), Julius Tomines (Commandant of Cadets), and Doy Yecla (1003Bde). Worthy to note are the unprecedented achievements of two of our mistahs who, as Brigade Commanders, finished the fight in Davao Area and currently sustaining the peace thereat. All the Tanglaw Diwans are very proud of you mistahs Jess Durante and Dodoy Yecla! While sustaining the gains in their respective campaigns, Jess can now have

more time to do his motocross routine in his once "Red" area while Dodoy can now have more time for his most favorite place-the FAIRWAY!

From the snappy **PNP Group**, Police Cavaliers from the illustrious Philippine Military Academy "Tanglaw-Diwa" Class 1992 led their respective unit in expressing unwavering support to the new administration of His Excellency President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr., and the leadership of the 28th Chief of the Philippine National Police, Police General Rodolfo S Azurin Jr.

Sixteen TD92 stalwarts now occupying key positions in the PNP organization figured prominently in police operations that paved the way for the Philippines' most peaceful and orderly elections ever during the 2022 National and Local Elections.

On their 30th year of police service this year, two TD92 Police Cavaliers retired after completing their respective tours of duty in the PNP. They are: Police Brigadier General Antonino Cirujales, erstwhile Director of the PNP Health Service who retired in May; and Police Brigadier General Ysmael S Yu of the Aviation Security Group who retired in June.

Still in active police service are: PBGen Matthew Baccay – Deputy Director, DPRM; PBGen Bernard Banac - Director for Plans; PBGen Mafelino Bazar - Regional Director, PROCOR; PBGen Romeo Caramat Jr - RD PRO 13; PBGen Ulysses Cruz - Director, EOD/K9; PBGen Jonnel Estomo - Acting Regional Director, NCRPO; PBGen Leo Francisco - Regional Director, PRO-6;

PBGen Sidney Hernia - RD PRO-4B; PBGen Ronald Lee - Acting Director CIDG; PBGen Steve Ludan - RD PRO-2; PBGen Jose Melencio Nartatez - Regional Director, PRO-4a; PBGen Eric Noble - Acting Director, PNPA; PBGen Westrimundo Obinque - Deputy Director, DC; PBGen Mario Reyes - Director for Police Community Relations; PBGen Belli Tamayo - Regional Director, PRO-1; and PBGen Sidney Villafior - Deputy Director, CIDG.

Imbued with undying virtues of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, 16 TD92 Police Cavaliers who are still in active service commit themselves to live up to the ideals of the Alma Mater as they continue to serve with distinction for God, country, and people.

For our classmates in **Philippine Navy**, Joe Orbe is stil the Commander, Offshore Combat Force in Sanglely; Mac Racacho is the Deputy Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command; Franc Tagamolila is the Commander, Naval Forces Northern Luzon in San Fernando, La Union; Alan Javier is Commander, Naval Forces West in Puerto Princesa, Palawan; Willie Chavez is the Director, Naval Safety Office; Dado Caluya is the Commander, Naval Logistics Center; Lem Espartinez is the Deputy Commander, AFP Education, Training and Doctrine Command; and Lloyd Casis is currently taking up MNSA at NDCP and the Class Mayor of RC57 and set to graduate in September this year.

**For the Marines**, Eric Macaambac is the Commander, 1st Marine Brigade; Greg Hernandez is the Superintendent, Marine



Corps Force Development Center; Chuck Mangoroban is the Marine Corps Inspector General; Bronx Gabor is the Deputy Brigade Commander, 4th Marine Brigade in Luuk Sulu; Dodz Albalate is the Deputy Commander for Marine Operations, NFWM in Zamboanga City.

For our snappy active Tanglaw Diwa flying boys at the **Philippine Air Force**, here are their whereabouts: Col. Antonio Z Francisco Jr – Commander, Air Installation and Base Development Command (AIBDC), Newly promoted MGen Joannis LB Dimaano, Commander, Air Mobility Command (AMC), BGBNEAB, Mactan; BGen Fermin M Carangan, AJ7, CGEA; Col Juliano C Llenas, Deputy Wing Commander, 15th Strike Wing, Sangley Point, Cavite City; BGen Pedro S Francisco III; Wing Commander, 5th Fighter Wing, BAB; Col. Edgar C Torres, Wing Commander, 300th Air Intelligence and Security Wing, CJVAB; BGen Erick Q Escarcha, Chief, AFP Command Center, CGEA; Col Gerold N Gagan, Wing Commander, 420th Supply Wing, CAB; Col Malaya V Francisco, Dpty Cmdr, Air Mobility Command; Col Josel J Zuñiga, Deputy Wing Commander, Tactical Operations Wing, Western Mindanao; BGen Aristotle D Gonzalez Wing Commander, 15th Strike Wing; BGen Jeffrey M Vilela, Wing Commander, Tactical Operations Wing Eastern Mindanao; BGen. Pablo E Rustria Jr, Wing Commander, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, CJVAB; BGen

Bienvenido J Casaclang, Wing Commander, 220th Airlift Wing, BGBNEAB, Mactan; and, newly promoted BGen Rommel P Roldan, AJ1, CGEA.

For our mistahs in the **Philippine Coast Guard**, we have ADM Art Abu, Commandant PCG and VADM Doy Punzalan -Deputy Commandant for Admin PCG; Radm Jojo Ramos - Commander Civil Relations Service; Commo Joesven Fabul- Commander, Logistic Systems Command; Commo Ramon Lopez- Deputy Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command; Commo Rudyard Somera - Director, Coast Guard Strategic Studies and Internal Affairs Center and Commo Totie Borja.

For our Tanglaw Diwas mistahs who opted to serve in the **private sector**, they are all doing well and very active in discharging their best in their respective chosen field of endeavor: Joel Simbulan - Security Consultant; J De Vela - Regional Corporate Security Manager; Jun Manso-Security Operations Manager, NUSTAR Resort and Casino; Ed Arriola - GM, Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative; Teody Valdez - Cebu Pacific Airline, Captain Airbus 320/321; Ruben Palepec- PAL, Captain, Airbus 321/3 20; Dante Lito Benitez, PAL, Airbus Narrow Body Captain; Jam Mariquit - (a) APAC Business Strategy Consultant, Actionable Insights; (b) Adjunct Faculty of Strategy and Negotiation, Asian Institute of Management (AIM); (c) Chief of Staff,

Threadly Inc, USA; Ysmael S. Yu - Domestic Manager - Family Household Incorporated; Bong Noceto - Asia Pacific Security Director, Securitas Security Services USA; Sam Pallorina - Security Manager - Grand Hyatt Manila; Noel Rodriguez - Philippines Area Security Manager, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; Conrad Dieza Jr - Chairman /CEO, CTD Group of Companies, QC; Choosy - Director IV, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity; Sam Sagun - Founder, PEACEKAMP Inc.; George - SM LRMC/LRT1; and, Ronald M Villapando - Admin Pilot, LR SKY AVIATION; and Chris Villacorte, who shed off his military uniform last 31 July, is now a Free Lance Consultant.

Ed Arriola is the General Manager of Lakas Bayanihan Credit Cooperative; George Dominguez is still with LRT1 as Security Manager; Noel Rodriguez is the Area Security Manager of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Sam Pallorina is the Security Manager, Grand Hyatt Manila; Bong Noceto is the Vietnam-based Security Director of Securitas Asia Pacific; Nap Suarez is with the Department of Consumer Affairs in California; Manny Bello and Joel Simbulan are both consultants-at-large.

There you are folks. Tanglaw Diwas will continue to bring light unto thy paths ready to bring light and spread peace all over the archipelago.



**Army MAALABs on the GO**

**M**AALABs physically and virtually trooped to Hqs NOLCOM on a rainy August Monday afternoon to witness the Retirement from the military service of an esteemed Army MAALAB – Rodney Intal. Rodney, in the words of his Commander, “kept his integrity intact.” He likewise fully understood that he joined the military profession not for the glitter of the arms nor the glamour of the uniform but for the glory of the service. An accomplished Infantry Battalion Commander credited in part with the neutralization of CTG Leader Commander Parago when he was battalion

commander in Davao, Rodney quietly positioned one of his sons to follow his footsteps in the Academy and extends his bloodline in the AFP. He also established himself as another proud son of Paniqui whose claim to fame is that of having his Retirement and Plebehood Reception in his home province of Tarlac. Again, congratulations on your graduation from the active military service Col Rodney G Intal PA (RET) (RES)!!!

Curiously, though, Rodney’s retirement merely punctuated the irreversible rise of Army MAALABs. Slowly but surely making their presence felt among PAMU Commanders (Chi Coronel), Brigade Commanders (Alex Musngi), ADCRRAs (Lennon Babilonia), Infantry Division Chiefs of Staff (Jason Almagro, Jun Mandanas, Jun Espuelas, Ronnie Babac and Chris Tampus), Task Force Commanders (Joey Escanillas, Jon Goyena and Ambo Rustia), Senior PAMU Staffs (Tony Dulnuan,

Greg Nieveras), DBCs (Eddie Pilapil, Allan Taguba, Pipay Licayayo, Jack Jacinto, Leroy Daanton, Ed Delos Reyes, Ali Macawaris), PAMU Deputy Commanders (Ray Abaya, Pete Burgonio, Mars Gayat, Jun Abad and Vlad Cagara), HPA Staffs (Pat Amata, Dencio Iddoba, Arsing Sadural, Randy Remonte, Vic Llapitan, Rudy Magallanes and Rey Ga) as well as J-Staff mistahs (Rommel Cordova and Ronald Alcudia). Army MAALABs have now positioned themselves in a way improbable not to be noticed. In fact RA 11709 has even resurrected the chances of some MAALABs with the timely repeal of Section 4 of RA 8186 which somehow levelled the playing field by ensuring that those who have less years in the service might just have more years in Time in Grade!

In the meantime, congratulations to Rey Ga and Emong Lachica who assumed their new posts as NCRRC DG Commander and Commander, VPSG.



**Navy MAALABs Welcome its Newest Flag Officer**

The MAALABs are very proud to welcome another “Star” in its rank in the person of the Commander of the Philippine Navy’s Sealift Amphibious Force. Mistah Soc Daza has been appointed to the rank of Commodore effective 22 July 2022 by His Excellency President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. With this recognition, we are all truly proud of the feat achieved by our mistah who has always been very hardworking and dedicated, some of the trademarks of being a MAALAB. Soc’s latest promotion brings to ten the number of star rank among the MAALABS as of this writing.

Commo Soc Daza, prior to assuming the post of Commander, Sealift Amphibious Force, has also held various critical positions, such as the Deputy Commander, Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao; Commander, Naval Intelligence and Security Force (NISF); Commanding Officer, SSU in Defense Intelligence and Security Group, DND; AC of UC for Intel (U2), WESCOM; AC of IS for Operations (IS3); AC of FS for Intel (F2), Philippine Fleet and Chief of Staff of the Philippine Fleet Offshore Combat Force. Soc’s Naval career is also highlighted by the Command of the following PN ships, namely: PS11; PS28; PS31 and AM700 which earned him the coveted Command-At-Sea Badge.

Again, congratulations Commo Socrates M Daza...a star that well deserved.

**Flying Air Force MAALABs**

For the past quarter, three significant changes happened at Air Force MAALAB wing. MAALAB Amado Dela Paz successfully finished his tour of duty as the



DAFA-USA and is now patiently waiting for his eventual O-7 position. Congratulations in advance, Mistah Madz.

Another change in the MAALAB PAF directory is the assumption of Jonathan “Noki” Aquino as the Air Force Chief of Engineers (AFCE). After almost four years in the AFPETDC as instructor, he is now busy following up TIKAS projects, PAF

modernization projects and all other engineering projects of the Command. Such a heavy task, but knowing Noki, he will surpass all these challenges.

Last but not the least is the appointment of MAALAB Leo Fontanilla as the Wing Commander of 5th Fighter Wing. The MAALABs is wishing you for the best Lakay Leo!!!





**MA. NOEL T TOLENTINO**  
 President  
**IVAN R PAPER**  
 Secretary

After so many missed deadlines for Class Call article, the Bantay Layans are back. Pandemic not only limited our ability to physically connect with one another, but also the urgency to provide update thru Cavalier Magazine Class Call Updates.

First and foremost, the Bantay Layans proudly congratulate the newly promoted Brigadier Generals from the class. The Bantay Layans are greatly honored and proud for Brigadier General Proceso Rebanco, Commander of the 53<sup>rd</sup> EBDE, PA, Brigadier General Stephen Agtoto, Dean of the Corps of Professors, and Brigadier General Jun Omar, Chief, Office for Legislative Affairs. Finally, the Bantay Layans are reaching much coveted stars as a result of their hard work and perseverance.

Currently, the class now have a total of five generals and admirals from the AFP and Coast Guard ... Rear Admiral Joseph Coyme, Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command, and Rear Admiral Tito Andal, Chief of Coast Guard Staff, PCG.

In the advent of the new law RA 11709, we are hoping and praying that its provisions to be implemented, and as intended to help the brightest and the best officers, by virtue of

meritocracy, and not the traditional seniority approach, will provide more opportunities for the Bantay Layans, as well as other deserving officers, from whatever sources of commissions, to go up the ladder of success, not only for their individual growth, but more importantly for the growth and betterment of the AFP as a whole.

We are also saddened that our mistah Ric Carolasan, joined our Creator last June. We greatly appreciate the voluntary assistance provided by the Bantay Layans to the bereaved family of Ric. Our continued prayers for Ric to rest in peace with the Almighty, and for health and safety of his loved ones.



Ric Carolasan

Our beloved Erwin Pipoy Calimag was also finally laid to rest with his wife Hernida at Heritage Park last July 3, 2022. Pipoy is one of the first victims of Covid last August 2020.

For the last two years, there have been many changes in the status of assignments and dispositions of the Bantay Layans.

For our **Air Force Group**, among our active service flyboys, Edmon Gupit is the DWC, TOWSOL; Romell Genete is the DWC, 710th SPOW; Robert Bitas is the Dep A6, HPAF; Felix Balanza is the CCS, AFRC; Myroade De Leon is the Ex-O, OSSSM, GHQ; Joel Inacay is the A4, HPAF; Ritche Pabilonia is the Director, Leadership Development Center, AFPETDC; Erwin Solomon is the Assistant AFIA, HPAF; Joseph Archog is the A-5, HPAF; Onorlie Brillantes is the CO AFRDC; Johnson Grayda is the A-8, HPAF; Ryan Sonza is the PhilDAFA Malaysia (outgoing); Julius Nazi is the GC, 505 SRG; Ace Ventura is the A6, HPAF; Henry Estoesta is the C3, AETDC; Gene Menor is the Deputy Wing Commander, TOW Eastern Mindanao; Adrian Duadico is the A1, HPAF; Paulo Teodoro is the Ex-O J8, GHQ; BGEN Jun Omar is the Chief, OLA AFP; Nomer Tumesa is the CO, PAF Logistic Training Center; Kim Agatep is the DO, 220TH Airlift Wing. For BIRC Air Force group, Ulysses Tumpalan is a Commercial Pilot/Auditor; PAL; Jaime Peralta is a Pilot/Manager, Ayala Aviation Corp; Jonahs Liwag is a Helicopter Pilot/Quality and Flight Safety Officer INAEC Aviation Corporation; Bong De Lima is a pilot for A330/A350 CAPT/Flight instructor/flight Checker; Joseph Sempio is a pilot for A320 FO Allegiant



Air, St. Petersburg/Clearwater Florida; Wilbur Abadiano is flying A330 PAL; Nitoy Parra is a Capt for A320 Vietjet, Vietnam; Noel Cadiz is a pilot for Airbus A330/ A350 FO, PAL; Baron Jon Ibarra is the Deputy Chief Pilot, Airbus Narrow Body Division – PAL; Erwin Opena is the Chief Dialysis Technician/Bio med, West Nassau Dialysis Center, Valley Stream NY and Dialysis Technician (CCHT) - Mercy Medical Center, Rockville Centre NY; Rey Panaguiton is a Helicopter pilot, MAPTRA; George Marzan is a pilot of A320/A321 Capt/Flight Instructor, Cebu Pacific Air; League Gil is a pilot of A320/ A321 Capt/Flight Instructor, Cebu Pacific Air.

For our **Navy Group**, Ivan Papera is the Chief, AFPSEO, GHQ; Willy Manalang is the PhilDAFA to Pakistan; Jun Ruiz is the CNIF Northern Luzon; Richard David is the CNIF CAV Cavite City; Ed Nera is the Commander Submarine Group, PN; Chute Adecer is the Dep Commander, NavResCom; Edwin Olaer is the Commander, PNFC; Lito Lagadia is the N1, HPN; Mac Buena is the N2, HPN; Jeg Orio is the N5, HPN; Junjie Tabuada is the N8, HPN; Roger Luna is the Director, TDC, NETDC; Charles Villanueva is the Commander BRP Antonio Luna (FF151); Jones Gianan is the CS, NFWM; Joel Tamayo is the Commander, PNPC, AFPPS; Norsal Dimaporo is the Deputy Commander, OESPA-PN; Armand Custodio is the Commander, JSOF2, SOCOM, AFP; Jun Bolor is the Superintendent, FTDC; Gieram Aragonis is the DBC, 3MBde, PMC; Francis Cacho is the AFPSNR to CMF, Bahrain; Larry Batalla is the CMS, PMC; Bayani Curaming is the DBC, 1MBDE, PMC; Ferd Marcelino is the Force Commander, SIF, ISAFP; Val Abayon is the Commandant, SITS ISAFP; Enstein Calaoa is the Commander, FRG, PMC; Ricky Alba is a student for MNSA RC57; Agee Ariles is the PhilDAFA to Brunei Darussalam; Dino Delfin is the CNIF WM; Jerry Garrido is the CNISF, PN; Ipe Bautista is the Commander, Naval ICT

Center; Doods Manzano is the CNIF-West; RADM Tito Andal is the Chief of Coast Guard Staff, National Headquarters PCG; RADM Joseph Coyme is the Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command; BGEN Stephen Agtoto is the Dean, Corps of Professors, AFP; Julius Valdez is at the Naval Task Force, NCR; Jeff Nadugo is the DC, AFPFC, GH; Rhonald Juan is the outgoing PhilDAFA to India- HISAFP; Glenn Dizon is on foreign schooling - NPS, Monterey, CA; Joey Colico is on local schooling - CGSC, AFPETDC; Ed Popa is the Deputy Head Academic Group PMA. For Navy BIRC, John Dela Cruz is the COO, Armscor Shooting Center Inc and Bong Villanueva is the Deputy Consul General, Philippine Consulate General Frankfurt.

The **Army Group** of the class stands proud in its latest feats. Cavalier Proceso Rebanco, one of the registered engineers among the mabangis Bantay-Layans set the record by grabbing the star rank recently after being posted as the Brigade Commander of the 53rd Engineering Brigade in the Visayas. As one of the innovators in the field of Army engineering, Pros rightfully claimed the honor as the first star-officer in the class. His buddy, Cavalier Maynard Camarao, the highly accomplished Chief of the Army Housing Office, is also in line to get the much awaited command position very soon. Three mistahs had also made a mark in their pursuit for excellence in their advanced education. Vince Dy mastered the golf courses of California while earning a post graduate course at the Naval Post Graduate School. Not to be outdone, John Jadloc, finished his Master of Science in Defense Analysis in the same institution with two published academic works (Small Wars Journal) under his belt. Roy Derilo harnessed his strategic thinking skills

by finishing his war studies at the Army War College in Pennsylvania. Lurking at the GHQ are mabangis mistahs who are either policy makers or implementors. The human resource administrators at OJ1 include Cesar Conte, Ted De Ocampo, and Noel Tolentino. Nice Diaz remains focused in visualizing the AFP Strategic Plans as the Ex-O of OJ5. Three mistahs have ventured in the art of Civil-Military Operations as division chiefs at OJ7: Osang Rosana, Larry ‘Palmix’ Palma, and Meroy Romero. Vic Del Fierro is still preoccupied with doctrines development at OJ8 while Derrick Balbanero is managing resources as Ex-O of OJ10. Jun Malig is thinking about defense self-reliance while serving at AFPSEO. Darius Resuello and Darrel Banez are bosom buddies as the James Bond operators at ISAFP. Mabangis mistahs are now conglomerating at the Army headquarters as G-Staff officers or Deputies: Mon Flores-G1; Noki Aquino-DG1; Anto delos Santos-G2; Alvin Luzon-G3; Espines Espina-G6; Chito Bello-G10 and Jun Hamos as DG10; and Dan Estranero as the incumbent OSAGS. Foinks, the Cyber Ranger, is now the Deputy of the Army Signal Regiment. Recently, Tom P and Gani Criste swapped positions as deputy commanders of both FSRR and PSG, respectively. All other mistahs are silently working in different capacities in the field. Among the Deputy Brigade Commanders are Uzi Osias (201stBde), Dave Mercado (502Bde), Jun Ruiz (903Bde), AJ Lamaton (1002nd Bde) and Rico Amaro (802nd Bde). The warrior of Sulu, Mon Almodovar, has opted to enjoy the beauty of Tanjung and Silangan beaches as the G2 of 11th Infantry Division. The boys of Central Luzon recently logged their grid coordinates: Jam Samonte and Harold Cabunoc are both school Commandants while Julius Cabarloc oversees their work efficiency as Command Inspector General at TRADOC. Leading the ranks of the retirees are Congressman Raul ‘Boboy’ Tupas, Val Lopez, Chris Biscocho, and many others who are enjoying their lives as law-abiding citizens of the Philippines.

Finally, the Bantay Layans are truly proud for the academic feat of our mistahs who recently completed their PhDs. Congratulations to Hon Raul Tapus, Mhel Barizo, Harold Cabunoc, Dan Estranero, Jun Omar, and Vone Villanueva for earning their PhDs while juggling and balancing time for work and studies.

As we all try our best to live under Covid threats, now called as the “new normal”... may the Lord Almighty continue to bless all the Cavaliers and their families, and continue to have a healthy and happy life.





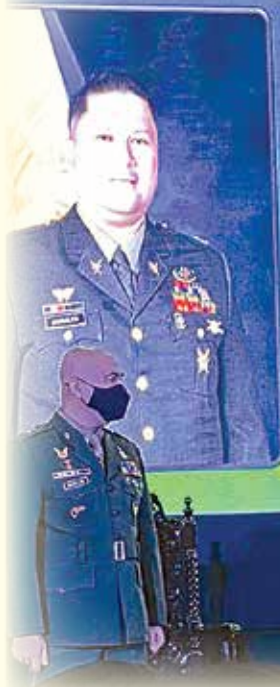
**EMERSON F OXALES**  
President  
**PAUL AV AVIQUIVIL**  
Secretary

For the period, there is a lot to celebrate for the class members' recent accomplishments. Nineteen Sanghayans graduated from the just concluded CGSC Class 70-22. Six of them graduated with honors led by Giant Morales who brought home almost all the awards available as he was handed the CSAFP and CGPA award for graduating at the top of the class besides being adjudged as having the Best Commandant's Paper and recipient of the Leadership Award as the class president. The other honor graduates were Michael Bautista, Vincent Viray, Ronald Pascua, Noli Belleza and Laurence Calimag. Moreover, Rowel Gavilanes, Jojo Villanueva, Tony Yago, Dante Gania, Arnold Cabeza, Michael Aquino, Steve Morata, Floyd Gano, Juni Cantal, Alan Sonon, Tyrone Salacut, John Tupas and Noel Calimquim were the other graduates of CGSC Class supervised by another Mistah, Michael Colanta as the Course Director. The new graduates are expected to occupy key positions that would deal the country's final blow against the Communist Terrorist Group as Battalion, TOG and Ship Commanders.

Another CGSC Class is also ongoing wherein 11 members are part as student officers. Sanghayans who are members of CGSC Class 71-22 are Dennis Guillermo, Paul Yamamoto, Joel Cabigon, Brix Dumanig, Gab Ataiza, Christian Cabading, Jeremy Agum, Julius Paclibar, Frank Mabbagu, Raul Verceles, and Joseph Bugaoan. The group is set to graduate before the end of this year to follow the footsteps of previous CGSC classes.

There are also currently installed Sanghayans as Battalion and Group Commanders, and Navy ships Commanding Officers: namely, Sandy Majarocon of 261B, Giant Morales of 15A1B, Harold Hernando of TOG-10, Khan Alpa of TOG-11, Ronald Gaboy of 301SMG, Jeng Mangaya of 960AMDG, Chris Mendoza of PADCC, Villamor Costales of 430AMG, Chris Pablo of 480AMG, Marson Mendoza of 581ACWG, Jerrick Dollente of 584ACWG, Cris Naing of 530ABG, Alvin Sevilla of 5ARCEN, Peng Sotto of PAFCMOG, Alfred Vicente of Proco, Monchang Ramon of 7FSSU, Badong Salvador of 681B, Allan Mangaser of 9CMOBn, Jed Rayot of 7CMOBn, Cham Esmines of 10FABn, Mener Gutay of 2FABn, Francel Padix of 7SigBn, Mhon Panopio of 771B, Bong Catubigan of 821B, William Merong of 761B, and Mike Bote as MFO of PSG. In addition, the Battalion of

LTC CRIS ANTHONY B MORALES (MI) PA



Individual Awards  
Chief of Staff, AFP Award  
Commanding General Philippine Army  
Award  
Honor Graduate

"Understanding Student Ra...  
Through the Lens of Marx...  
ism Thought Ideology...  
ment Counter Narr..."



Bong Valdez, 691B, was adjudged as the best battalion of 71D. Commanding navy ships are gallant Skippers Benny Demetillo of LD602, Cy Mendoza of PS39, Clyde Domingo of PF15, and Mers Oxales of LD601 whose Strategic Sealift Ship was adjudged as Phil Fleet Ship of the Year 2022. Meanwhile, twenty (20) Army Sanghayans had just finished their stints as battalion commanders and are now occupying key positions in various PA Major Units and SOCOM, AFP.

Other Air Warriors, Sailors and Marines are also assigned to important positions in the GHQ, Major Services, Unified Commands, and AFPWSSUs. Jack Dancel as the DO of 15SW, Paul Aviquivil as DO of 300AISW, and Villamor Costales as Acting DO of 5FW. Recently, two fearless Marines were appointed as Chiefs of Staff of Brigades. One is our latest Cavalier awardee, Ashly Nastor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Bde in Tawi-Tawi, and the other is Alan Tolentino of 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Bde based in

Jolo. Navy Spox is still Benjo Negranza. In Cavite City, Bata Gacusan is the F1, HPF; Zar Pangan is the ASupt of FTDC; Tirso Binasoy is the CS of NAVSOCOM; and Vince Castaneda is the SSIG, NSSC. Moreover, Manay Manlapaz is the CO MTMBn in Zamboanga City, Dino Aznar as ASupt of MCFDC, and Ramil Holgado whose unit is attached to JTF-NCR. Further, Leo Lachica serves as NF3, NFEM and Leah Gaitana as U-Staff of WESCOM. The GHQ Boys include Jayzoren Manaligod as HEA to TDCSAFP, Henry Espinosa, Shwen Caringal and Alfred Mentong at O/J5, Rodelio Sarmiento at O/J10, Mike Ubaldo at AFPFC, and Byron De Ocampo and Doms Benauro at JDDC, AFPETDC. Not too distant is Felia Briones at AFPHSC. In PMA, Bong Nullar heads the Dept of Naval Warfare.

In the international deployment, Paul Aviquivil is set to thread the path of ADAFA to Australia and Hermie Calubiran, who already took his post as the ADAFA to China.



**TED C CEREZO JR**  
President  
**MARISSA LIBRANDO MANGAHAS**  
Secretary

*"Although our intellect always longs for clarity and certainty, our nature often finds uncertainty fascinating" - Carl Von Clausewitz*

So much for the updates, let us go back in time to reminisce what bound us together as we trace our roots as Kaakibats. Some facts about the class, did you know that...

Graduation Day: 25 March 2001  
No. of Cadets Appointed: 365  
No of Cadets Graduated: 197

Graduation Speaker: Pres Gloria Macapagal Arroyo  
Class Crest Designed by Stephen Jerome C. Peñaflores  
Bull Ring Stone: Black Star Sapphire

PMA Class of 2001 has a moniker name of "Kaakibat", which is a combination of two Filipino terms "kaakbay at kabalikat". This moniker translates togetherness, being cohesive and integrated. This is how the class intends to serve the republic, to serve in unison. The class is "ONE" towards serving the best interest of the AFP, the country and every Filipino people. For more than two decades now, the class has been true to this intention, and each member has each other's back all these years reminding one another of our commitment. Which leads me to the class motto of "Katarungan, Kapayapaan

and Kalayaan" which translates to "justice, peace and freedom". These served as our guide in our journey for these are the very reason why we committed ourselves in the service and these are worth fighting for. As cadets, we were at the midst of a changing curriculum. That time, the classes of 1998 to 2000 were offered academic specialization (Management, Computer Science, and Engineering). But not in our case for we were offered a degree in Defense Studies with a major in Army, Naval Studies, and Air Force Science. We were the only class that was given such a degree for the next class had been given a generalized Single-Track BS degree, which down the lane had eventually led to the offering of academic specialization.

#### KAAKIBAT Class Seal

The Kaakibat seal embodies the vision, characteristics, and camaraderie of the whole class. The vision of the class is for its members to become capable and credible officers serving the nation with sustained vigor as written in the words "Katarungan, Kalayaan and Kapayapaan". The integration of knight, anchor and eagles represents the Army, Navy and Air Force. United like the "Chain" interlocks in protecting the Philippine Flag as depicted by the Sun, three Stars and the colors Yellow, Blue, Red and White.



Each Kaakibat possesses the characteristics of wisdom, chivalry and integrity which are symbolised by the torch, laurel leaves, knight and shield. The lighted torch and laurel leaves symbolize experience and knowledge each class member possesses which are molded in the Academy by preparing the cadets to become officers as denoted by a cadet sword "Saber" and officer sword "Cutlass". Each Kaakibat is a knight who sworn to protect his homeland and to be gentlemen always. The virtue of integrity is the class strong defense against corruption is symbolized by the "Shield" which inscribed the class year 2001, written in the Roman numeral "MM" and English word "ONE" depicts the class' appreciation of the past while living the present and planning for the future.

The camaraderie of the class is boldly written, "KAAKIBAT" meaning working together as one. Each member protecting each other's back shown in the back to back position of the eagles.

All symbols placed in together to show that no one is above or below. An emblem of unity, logo of pride and a seal of excellence.

#### PMA environment/training system during your cadet years

✓ Phase transition (phase change) is the best description for the 4-year training period PMA KAAKIBAT CLASS of 2001 has gone through. The period between 1997-2001 occurred with most of the changes, modifications, adjustments and amendments in terms of the training system within the Academy wherein it was in this period that 3CL cadets became the lowest mammal

during the Field Training Exercises consecutively conducted at Taklang Damulag, Nueva Ecija (1997) and at Ternate, Cavite (1998), 4CL cadets were experimentally incorporated into the rooms of their Squad leaders (Kaakibats were 2CL cadets then), BS Degrees of Engineering, Management and Computer Sciences were replaced by the BS in Air Force, Naval and Army Studies with the class as the first recipients, Turnback System was modified and became a Back-Subject System, Semestral Rotation of Cadet Corps Officers are implemented with mass realignments to break the ill-motivated and badly instituted cultures within cadet companies, and regular mass body stripping to all plebes to ensure that maltreatment/hazing incidents were to be rid-off or minimized.

✓ These changes that were made during our period of training have given us the opportunity to be better cadets and eventual leaders of the AFP. These vicissitudes have made us even more adaptable as individuals and as a class which we ourselves then jokingly referred to our class as the "The Doom Class, Academy's Bane". However, this signature brand was translated into a more positive outlook that we are actually "The Academy's Boon" for having survived those tumultuous training environments during our period which impressed to us one and most important thing which that change, indeed is a concept which is truly permanent in this world. Changes may lead to disappointment if not sustained, and transformation is a sustained change, and it is perfectly achieved through practice and persistent adaptability to its inherent challenges.

✓ We are the fifth class to have female cadets, so compared to class 97, PMA environment was more accepting/more adjusted to the presence of female cadets, especially in terms of facilities, though still a work in progress. The average female cadets upon entry during those years was 20, with MOL 50% mortality rate.

✓ Laptops for cadets were newly introduced during our generation, but cellphones were strictly prohibited and Internet access is only at the computer laboratory.

**KAAKIBATS, let us keep moving forward. We rise as ONE.**



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

# LAST CALL

## **MGEN ERWIN BERNARD L NERI '88**

16 February 1964 - 12 June 2022

Cav Erwin Bernard Neri, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines passed away on 12 June 2022 at St. Luke's Medical Center, BGC at the age of 58. Wake was held at the Mortuary, Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) from 13-17 June 2022 and was interred at the LNMB in Taguig City on 18 June.

He served as ISAFP commander since November 2018 before his retirement. Prior to his ISAFP stint, Neri was commander of Task Force Davao and the Army's 1001st Infantry Brigade in Compostela Valley.

He is survived by his wife Michelle, children: Ma. Carmen Rowena, Jan Frederick and Erwin Bernard II.



## **MAJ GARY D MASEDMAN '07**

15 January 1985 - 18 June 2022

Cav Gary P Masedman died on 18 June 2022 after a shooting incident at 5FSFO, FCPA Camp Weene Martillana, San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur. Wakes were held at 9ID, PA and PMA before he finally lay to rest on 25 June 2022 at Tawang Cemetery, La Trinidad, Benguet.

He left behind his wife Ria Kared and children: Danielle and Gabrielle. Cav Masedman was the Assistant Chief, 5th Finance Service Field Office, Finance Center Philippine Army at the time of his passing.



## **COL RICARIO U CAROLASAN, JR '94**

20 May 1972 - 20 June 2022

Cav Carolasan passed away on 20 June 2022 at the Chong Hua Hospital, Mandaue, Cebu. He was the Operations Officer of AFP Pension Gratuity Management Center at the time of his passing. Wake was held at



the Green Meadows, Mintal, Davao City and interment on 25 June 2022 at Forest Lake Memorial Park, Maa, Davao City. He is survived by his wife Elena, children: Julen, Eric John and Raven.

## **COL EDMUNDO A ENRIQUEZ '51**

17 February 1928 - 06 July 2022

Cav Enriquez passed away on 06 July 2022 at Chong Hua Hospital, Cebu City due to acute coronary syndrome and heart failure. Wake was held at Viscom Camp Lapulapu Mortuary from 07-15 July 2022.

Cav Enriquez was a former Brigade Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division which conquered Buldon, Maguindanao, cleaned up the Selon-Tarikan Complex and conquered Libungan Turreta, headquarters of the MNLF. He retired from military service in 1977.

He was married to former Estrella V Cellona with whom he had ten children: Rebecca, Enrique, Teresa, Edmundo Jr, Gina, Ernesto, Cecilia, Ophelia, Sarah and Eduardo.



## **LTGEN NICASIO P RODRIGUEZ, JR '61**

26 December 1939 - 11 July 2022

Cav Nicasio P Rodriguez, former Commanding General, Philippine Air Force, (CGPAF) passed away on 11 July 2022. Necrological service was held at the Villamor Air Base Mortuary on 16 July and interment on 17 July at the Heritage Park, Taguig City.

He entered the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City where he graduated no. 2 in 1961. He then took military pilot training at PAF Flying School and graduated in 1963.

He held numerous significant positions in the Philippine Air Force before assuming the position as the 22nd CGPAF from 14 December 1993 to 26 December 1995.



## **CPT ROY N AGUILAR '60**

18 Dec 1935 - 12 July 2022

Cav Aguilar passed away peacefully in his sleep on 12 July 2022 in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. His remains were brought to St. Peter Chapels in Bacolod where he lay in state from 12-16 July 2022. Interment was on 16 July 2022 at the Bacolod Sacred Heart Memorial Park.

He was married to Magdelana Liwayway (+), with whom he had two children: Bjorn and Charmaine and four grandchildren: Nicci Bernelle, Ivanna, Bjorn Yuri, Reese Chantel.

During his time in the Philippine Armed Forces, Cav Aguilar was a Scout Ranger. After his service to his country, he was requested by his father, Serafin V. Aguilar, to take over their hacienda, Hacienda CLESMAR (now Hacienda Bjormaine) in Sagay and Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. A DeMolay in his younger years, he was raised as a Master Mason at the Kanlaon Lodge No. 64, of the Free and Accepted Masons in 1968. Since then, he maintained a life true and faithful to his oath as a Master Mason, eventually becoming Worshipful Master of his mother lodge.



## **CDR IRVING D FAJARDO '86**

22 September 1964 - 20 July 2022

Cav Fajardo, former DND Director for Administrative Services, passed away on 20 July 2022 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center due to acute coronary syndrome. Wake was held at the BNS Mortuary Chapel on 23-27

July 2022. Final memorial service was on 28 July at the Bonifacio Naval Station Evangelical Church. From there, the body of Cav Fajardo, was transferred to the Libingan ng Mga Bayani for interment. His last position held in the AFP was as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, J4.

He is survived by his wife May Ann and children: Nikki, Ian, Angelina, and Isaiah.



# GEN FIDEL V RAMOS, USMA '50

18 March 1928 - 31 July 2022



Former president, Gen Fidel V Ramos died on 31 July 2022 from complications of COVID-19. He was 94. The wake was held at the Heritage Chapel in Taguig City. He was lay to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 9 August, after the morning mass.

Gen Ramos served as the 12th President of the Philippines from 1992 to 1998. Prior to his election as President, Cav Ramos served in the cabinet of President Corazon Aquino, first as Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and later as Secretary of National Defense from 1986 to 1991. He was credited with the creation of the Philippine Army's Special Forces and the Philippine National Police Special Action Force.

After his retirement, he remained active in politics, serving as adviser to his successors. He is survived by his wife Amelita Martinez, five daughters: Angelita Ramos-Jones, Josephine Ramos-Samartino (+), Carolina Ramos-Sembrano, Cristina Ramos-Jalasco, and Gloria Ramos, in-laws and grandchildren.

*The PMAAAI Board of Directors headed by its Chairman Vidal E Querol '73 paid their last visit and respect to the late former RP President Fidel V Ramos on 08 August 2022 at the Heritage Chapel, Taguig City, from left: Cavs Marces T Gayat '93, Loreto B Pasamonte '93, Vidal E Querol '73, Henry G Sabarre '83 and Adriano SJ Duadico '94.*



## CPT REMIGIO N GOPEZ '57

01 October 1933 - 17 July 2022

Cav Remigio 'Rem' Gopez succumbed to pneumonia on July 17, 2022 after a brief confinement at the Veterans Hospital.

Upon graduation in PMA he joined the PAF but like his other classmates in his batch, he could not resist the challenge of a private airline. He resigned and joined the Filipinas Orient Airlines. Thereafter, he went into various business activities and was actively engaged in recruitment for overseas job placement.

He is survived by his wife Rosemary and children: Bobby, Derry, and Sandy.



## COL MARCELINO A CORDOVA '66

26 April 1941 - 30 July 2022

Cav Cordova died on 30 July 2022 at a hospital due to heart problems. He was 81. Among his significant contributions to the service were his assignment as an instructor pilot at PAF Flying School and his tour of duty as Tactical Officer at PMA.



From Cebu, his remains were brought to the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) chapel where he lay in state for a week of vigil. Interment was on August 13, 2022 at the Divinity Area, The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Cav Cordova left behind his caring wife Gloria Patri with whom he had five children: Aldrin, Blanche, Chams, Debra, and Edwin.

## CAPT ANDRES N KAGAOAN PN '60

30 November 1938 - 30 July 2022

Cav Andres "Andy" N Kagaoan 83, died peacefully on 30 July 2022. He was surrounded by his spouse, Angelina; children: Susanne (with husband Allen), Caroline (with husband Emilio), and John (with wife Myla); and grandchildren: Andrew, Eric, Sean, Matthew, Kyle, Amelia and Caylan at his bedside at the Richmond University Medical Center, in Staten Island, New York. A beloved Naval officer, husband to his wife Lina, father, grandfather and friend.

He rose through the ranks of Captain within the shortest period of time; and



commanded essential naval operations through the mid 80's.

Wake was held the Matthew Funeral Home, Inc. 2508 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY. Funeral departing and mass was celebrated on August 6 at Holy Family R.C. Church followed by private cremation.

## BGEN MIGUEL M VILLAMOR '51

31 March 1926 - 15 August 2022

Cav Villamor passed away on 15 August 2022 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, he was 96. Wake was held at St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Aguinaldo from 18 to 22 August and interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 23 August.

He was President of PEFTOK Veterans Association Inc. at the time of his passing. After his retirement from the military service, he was Manager for Personnel at the Philippine Rabbit Bus Corporation and was also with the Anti-Smuggling Commission in 1980.

He is survived by his wife Teresita and children: Carmelynda, Frederick, Miguel Carlo, Merliza and Paolo Arturo.





*PMAAAI Jurado Cup 2022*



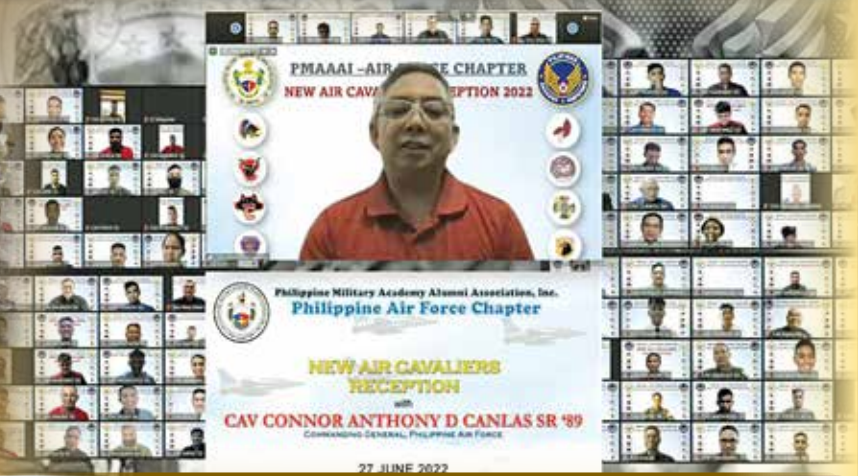
*PETFI Fund Raising Drive*



*Testimonial Dinner for CPNP Azurin*



*Oath Taking of New PN Cavaliers*



*PAF Reception of New PMA and FSA Graduates*



*Induction of PMA Class of 2022 Army Cavaliers*