

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV EDGAR B AGLIPAY '71

PMAyers Lead Fight Against COVID-19

As I pen the maiden column of the PMAAAI Chairman's Desk for the Cavalier Magazine, it comes at a time of global crisis in the magnitude of a worldwide cataclysm.

I am confident that we will overcome this COVID-19 pandemic because I know we are in good hands - we are in the hands of brother PMAyers!

In the history of our nation, it is only now that a good percentage of the national decision makers are PMAyers, specifically around one-third of the Cabinet are PMA graduates. Thus, I am sure that all of them in their tender years have covenanted and sworn to defend our country and people with their lives on the line. Not only that, they also imbibed the ideals and deeds of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty while they were still cadets.

I am doubly confident that we will subdue COVID-19 because all if not most of the PMAyers in the Cabinet are veterans of the Marawi Siege. I am quite sure that they have gained invaluable experiences during their younger years in the Service, but the Marawi Siege posed perhaps the greatest challenge of their lives. As we all know, it is in Marawi that our AFP and PNP have proven our invincibility to win wars without the physical presence of any foreign ally.

I understand that the Co-Chairmen of Task Force Marawi were Cav Del Lorenzana'73 and Cav Ed Año '83, the Ground Commander was Cav Charlie Galvez '85 and Cav Rolly Bautista '85 was the 1st Infantry Division commander. It is providential that the same PMAyers are again at the forefront of our country's fight against COVID-19. Like in the Marawi Siege, I know they will accomplish their mission under the resolute leadership of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte with the assistance from the other Department Heads, who are mostly PMAyers. Our countrymen in Mindanao, after the declaration of the end of Martial Law on 31 December 2019, now live in a more peaceful environment! Thanks to these Cabinet Members and all PMAyers-Commanders and the soldiers and policemen under them who changed the course of history towards the reign of peace in that part of our land.

I am confident we will triumph over COVID-19 because our war against the Coronavirus is led by these four Gentlemen-PMAyers again. They are raised, sworn to commit their lives if necessary and have the needed experiences to lead in conquering this Covid 19, the unseen enemy. I heard Ed Año got the Virus after working day and night to get the Enhanced Community Quarantine in place. I thank God, Ed is now well and soon we will see him again out there in the field. Del Lorenzana, even in his senior years, still braves the challenges of the virus by visiting infrastructures being readied by the government for would-be COVID-19 patients. Charlie Galvez, the youngest of our four heroes, has been on TV updating our people of the situation and the preparations being done for our country to wherever COVID-19 will bring us. On the other hand, Rolly Bautista is currently the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development who is in charge in the effective and efficient implementation of various Social Programs of the national government to ensure that the poorest of the poor will have food on their table. They are turning nights into days to win the war for us. Thanks for their selfless love for us and our country. We salute them, all and may God be with them always!

Taking the lead from our heroes, even if we are under strict Enhanced Community Quarantine, your PMAAAI Board has already met three times. We were inspired by their dedication and grit in seeing to it that something must be undertaken everyday, maybe even every hour to accomplish their mission soonest, and so we should also follow their example accordingly.

This fiscal year 2020 to 2021, your PMAAAI Board adopted the acronym PLEAD as the guidepost for goals and objectives we will endeavor to accomplish, or at least blaze the trail of efforts to give more reasons for us PMAyers to be proud of our Institution and, hopefully, for our country and people to look at us as an Organization they can depend on especially in times of national crises.

PLEAD, as an acronym, embodies the aspirations of the PMAAAI Board as follows:

P – Preserve PMA's heritage, customs, traditions and values. Strengthen PMA's, PMAAAI's and cavalier's sense of identity and continuity for future generations.

L – Live the ideals of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty. The Board will, or at least hope, to inspire and guide the Membership, and under extreme cases and wherever possible, delist from our roster those found by law to be without moral turpitude;

E – Engage the Alumni. The Board will see to it that there will be meetings with all the Chapters and the Cadets in order to solicit their inputs towards improving the services the Organization can provide them, with the PMAyer fraternal organizations in Cebu, Davao and Bicol to be recognized with a view to joining us attain our aspirations;

A – Allot investment earnings to give better services to the Graduates and Cadets. The PMAAAI will provide the needed and appropriate services to the Graduates while the consolidated Foundation will support the PMA as an Institution; and

D – Deepen Social Responsibility. The PMAAAI will volunteer as Member of the Peace and Order Council at the Municipality/ City level all the way up to the National level, and join the collective efforts to extend appropriate assistance to the victims of national calamities / crises.

There are now ongoing activities and projects that will be published in the forthcoming issues of the Cavalier Magazine, and will be threshed out during the PMAAAI Board visits to your Chapters.

We convey the challenge to all of us to be a part of our journey to become a better Organization for God and country!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV EMMANUEL B PERALTA '91

COVID – 19

A pneumonia of unknown cause was detected in Wuhan, China and was reported to the World Health Organization Country Office in China on December 31, 2019.

The outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020.

On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a name for the new coronavirus disease: COVID-19. It was further characterized as a pandemic.

The COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.

Since the COVID-19 was first detected in the U.S. on January 20, 2020, it has spread to at least 672,293 people in the country.

Of the reported cases in the U.S., at least 33,325 people have died as a result of the virus, with 14,832 of those deaths reported in New York, 3,518 in New Jersey, 2,093 in Michigan, 1,156 in Louisiana, 1,073 in Illinois and 973 related deaths reported in California.*

Worldwide, nearly 2.19 million cases have been reported and 147,632 related deaths. The lack of immune protection or an existing cure or vaccine made the Americans defenseless.

This lack of protection elevates the risk of the coronavirus evolving into a full-blown pandemic, imperiling the lives of millions of Americans.

While in Italy, the country now has the highest number of deaths in the world from COVID-19. The country had reported more than 9,100 deaths, according to worldometer, a website tracking COVID-19 cases. The country's fatality rate from COVID-19 — at 10% — is much higher than the global average of 3.4%, according to the World Health Organization.

One factor affecting the country's death rate may be the age of its population — Italy has the oldest population in Europe, with about 23% of residents 65 or older, according to The New York Times. The median age in the country is 47.3, compared with 38.3 in the United States, the Times reported. Many of Italy's deaths have been among people in their 80s, and 90s, a population known to be more susceptible to severe complications from COVID-19.

What's more, older adults appear to make up a greater proportion of cases in Italy, with about 37% of cases ages 70 and older, compared with 12% of cases in China, according to a paper on the issue of deaths in Italy.

Despite the proximity of Japan to China, Japan hasn't seen the massive outbreak of the coronavirus that has shut down much of Europe and North America. What are the Japanese doing differently to help slow the spread?

Japan so far has 10 outbreak clusters, with close to 1,200 confirmed cases and 43 deaths to the coronavirus as of March 24, 2020. Only a few dozen new infections are reported every day. These figures should have exploded — after all, Japan is very densely populated, with the world's highest density of senior citizens. And it's in close contact with nearby China, where the disease originated.

Responding to the coronavirus pandemic, the Japanese government closed all schools two weeks before the spring holidays at the end of March and canceled all public events. But shops and restaurants could remain open, and few Japanese employees decided to work from home.

When the epidemic broke out in a primary school on the northern island of Hokkaido, for example, authorities closed all schools in the prefecture and declared a state of emergency. After three weeks the spread of the virus had been stopped.

The widespread use of face masks appears to have slowed down the spread of COVID-19, as indicated by the sharp drop in the number of flu patients in the seven weeks since the outbreak of the Corona virus.

Apart from social distancing and hand-washing, the experts concluded that face masks could play a very important role in slowing down the spread of the virus, pointing out the low infection rates in Japan.

In the Philippines, under Proclamation No. 929 signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the Chief Executive mandated all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to render full assistance and cooperation with each other and to mobilize the necessary resources to eliminate the threat posed by COVID-19.

The President's proclamation enables the LGUs to utilize their Quick Response Fund (QRF) for disaster preparedness to halt the contagion and provide basic services to affected population.

The President also directed the executive and health secretaries and all other department heads to issue guidelines

* All data presented are valid as of April 24, 2020.

governing the implementation of the Community Quarantine throughout Luzon.

The government has raised the Code Alert System for COVID-19 to Code Red Sublevel 2 based on the recommendation of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

According to the District Health Service as of May 10, 2020, the Southern Police District (SPD) have a total of eight confirmed cases, with two suspected and 22 probable PNP personnel infected by the virus. Meanwhile, 75 personnel have completed the 14- day quarantine within our Special Care Facilities.

Yours truly as the Acting District Director of Southern Police District (SPD) of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) leads the implementation of the General Community Quarantine since it started on March 15, 2020 and eventually the Enhanced Community Quarantine on March 17, 2020. SPD covers six cities and one municipality, namely:

1. Makati
2. Taguig
3. Pasay
4. Muntinlupa
5. Las Piñas
6. Parañaque and Municipality of Pateros

The whole SPD has accomplished the following:

1. Establishment of nine Border Quarantine Control Points in the boundaries of Muntinlupa City with Laguna and Las Piñas City with Cavite. These Border QCPs were put up immediately from the start of the ECQ to control the movement of people coming in and out of National Capital Region.

2. At the same time, the establishment of 28 Internal QCPs in the boundaries between the six cities and lone municipality of Pateros in different locations. These were put up to prevent unnecessary and unauthorized movement of people from one city to another.

3. Starting on the 3rd week of ECQ, Barangay QCPs have been established in 225 COVID19-affected Barangays, SPD AOR has a total of 317 barangays translating the affected figure to a high 71% degree of affectation. These Barangay QCPs were put up in the entry and exit points of the Barangays where there are identified residents who are Suspect (PUIs) and Probable (PUMs). This kind of QCP targets to restrict the movement of possible COVID infected residents in the Barangays and to prevent non-residents in coming into the Barangays. Ultimately, this strategy, aims to minimize further contagion.

The District also implemented Social Distancing Patrols in a number of establishments such as the following;

a. 409 convenient stores;
b. 300 drug stores;
c. 82 supermarket/groceries; and
d. 51 wet markets.

These SD Patrols and Beat/Foot Patrols were augmented by force multipliers like Barangay Officials and Barangay Tanods. Primarily, it aims to enforce social distancing and wearing of face masks.

Another program worth mentioning in support to the ECQ is the Oplan Bandillo, an Information Operation formulated by the organization. It appears that the word *"Bandillo"* as town crier or announcer, seems related to the Spanish word "*bando*" or the verb *"bandir*" (which means "to publish an edict for an absent criminal placed under pain of death"). The word "*bandir"* is of Latin origin *"bandire*" and can mean "to proclaim" or "to condemn." In this program, a Police Officer using a megaphone manually announces rules and regulations, Do's and Don'ts and other relevant instructions. In some cases, depending on the locations a recorded message is played thru a large speaker attached to a vehicle.

Amidst all these ECQ programs, TEAM SPD still maintains its regular functions on crime prevention and solution programs and initiated Police campaign on illegal drugs, illegal gambling, loose Firearms and accounting of wanted persons, among others.

From March 15 to May 5, 2020, a total of around 4,200 SPD uniformed personnel have been deployed in all of these Police operations. JTF-NCR contributes significant augmentation force as well as the Reservists and the Barangay Officials. The PNP Special Action Force and Highway Patrol Group, as well as the Bureau of Fire Protection, also did their share in the implementation of the quarantine regulations.

During the second month of ECQ, in April 2020 there were three significant incidents that occurred in Metro Manila wherein two were committed in the Southern Metropolis. These incidents placed our organization in the limelight.

a. The April 19, 2020 PPT, BGC incident wherein a Police Major tried to enforce ECQ regulation in the common area of a residential condominium in a shouting manner with an assault rifle slung on his shoulder.

b. The April 21, 2020 fatal shooting of a discharged Army Corporal with PTSD by a team of QCPD quarantine officers.

c. The April 26, 2020 incident at Dasmariñas exclusive village in Makati where a Spanish National blatantly and rudely disregarded a police officer trying to enforce quarantine regulation.

Below is the exact copy of my viber message to my superior officer on April 27, 2020 a day after the April 26 Dasmariñas incident.

Sir, Makati CPS is already preparing the cases to be filed against this foreigner.

I suggest the following:

1. *this video taken before the actual attempt to arrest be circulated widely in all social media platforms to neutralize the 2nd video and sway public opinion towards our organization.*

2. *direct our personnel to strictly follow proper intervention techniques in arresting violators who are really*

determined to be violators. in this case, wala ng ka-buddy na PNP si Msg Madrona. Kung na subdue at naposasan agad ito, nadala sa presinto tapos ang biased story against us.

3. *always field a minimum of 2-man patrol /quarantine teams with designated team leader even if just two personnel, so that there is command and when the team leader decides to make an arrest the two of them can easily arrest, handcuff and neutralize the violator. there should be no more argument. our personnel, however, must always state the reason for arrest and the Miranda Doctrine.*

4. *the tmldr will have to command always, like in the QCPD case, Msgt Florendo was not able to command his four police trainees to handcuff suspect Ragos.*

5. *prohibit all personnel from carrying rifles, it projects police officers in combat or war mode just like in the ppt, BGC incident.*
6. *just carry pistols, rifles can be on standby in our patrol vehicles for necessary use only.*

Since yesterday when I inspected my Barangay hotspot QCPs, I was requiring my personnel to put on their bodies their handcuff and baton or sticks and to move in by twos or observe the buddy system for purposes of greater force in case of arresting a violator.

It is high time now that the leadership starts equipping our personnel with non-lethal weapons such as Taser gun, pepper spray and stun gun among others. Equipping all patrol teams to avoid resorting in using our pistols immediately.

As an alternative to the Taser gun, a new non-lethal device called Bolawrap, a "Spiderman" like device, can be tested. The Bolawrap is a device, that fires an eight foot bola-style tether at a suspect to entangle his legs and prevent him from getting away. It works at a range of 10 to 25 feet.

Reuters has documented a total of at least 1,091 U.S. deaths following the use of police Tasers, almost all since the weapons entered widespread use in the early 2000s, including 49 in 2018. In many of those cases, the Taser was combined with other force, such as hand strikes, pepper spray or restraint holds.

The Southern Police District, along with other government agencies, will continue to perform its duties to serve and protect the community from the COVID-19 pandemic and assure the public that they are being served and protected by the Philippine National Police.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the true nature and spirit of the Filipinos. The Filipino bayanihan thrives in times of crisis, that people, regardless of their social status, can set their differences aside to come together and work toward a singular goal.

Unity and solidarity were seen from LGU Executives, Minority Groups, Private Sectors and the Medical Field Frontliners in their effort to flatten the curve of COVID-19 cases in the Philippines.

The Southern Police District would like to express our endless gratitude to the Bayanihan attitude of the following Samaritans who extended financial and logistical support to SPD frontliners.

1. Mr. Michael Ray Aquino	Solaire	Tents, Monobloc chairs, hand gloves, flashlights, rapid test kits
2. Mr. Bernard Mamuad	Aboitz Group of Companies	Bottled water, Crackers
3. Ms. Carmella Bianca Diaz	Jaime V Ongpin Foundation	Bottled Water, Cup Noodles
4. Mr. Mac Dormiendo	San Miguel Food Corp.	Pandesal
5. Dr. Logie Dujungco, 6. Dra. Malou De Leon, 7. Dr. Arturo De Leon	Sagip Kontra Covid	Assorted Meals, Snack
8. Mr. Manjinder "James" Kumar	Filipino Indian Commerce and Welfare Society Inc.	Surgical Masks, Plastic Masks
9. PMaj Mark Ver Victor	Antsavvy	Washable Face Masks, El Corazon Hotel as Special Care Facility
10. PCADG, Camp Crame	H.E. Vasin Ruangprateepsaeng	Dressed Chicken
11. Hon. Allan Peter Cayetano and Cong. Ma. Laarnie Cayetano		Frozen Chicken, Fish Fillet, Assorted Root Crops, Vegetables
12. Ms. Carina Agarao	Jollibee Food Chain	Meals
13. Mr. Richard Alcantara	Megaworld Security Corp.	Rice
14. Dra. Mayen Mercado	JR Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists	Face Shields
15. Mr. Michael Gay	FOREX Company	Cash Assistance
16. PBGen Ronald Lee	IMEG	5 Rolls of Heavy DutyTarpaulin
17. Generals Allan Martin and Arnold Quiapo	San Miguel Corp.	Alcohol, Face Masks

While we are still fighting to mitigate the COVID-19, we should not forget our strong Filipino values such as solidarity in the midst of this crisis, caring and kind attitude to others which will serve as our battle cry in these difficult times.

Finally, let us take this pandemic as a challenge to become stronger and more resilient in the midst of crisis. We should help one another and resurrect the dying Filipino values of Bayanihan.

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SUPE'S REPORT

CAV ALLAN FERDINAND V CUSI '86

Greetings!

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world as we know it, from the immensity of the global scale down to the local populace.

This virus has reminded us that whoever we are, we are not invincible. In its continuing wake, this pandemic has been a cruel game for the fool and the bold alike, where the choice we make in the places we go could be the difference between life and death for someone else, if not our own. At the most, this is war for humanity; a war against the virus and the lingering societal failures that this pestilence may entail. At the least, this is a challenge for the world to adapt to a new normal. The end goal for all nations aim for only two things; to stop the transmission and save lives.

The question lies then on where are we, the Academy, in a nation where the loss of life to the pandemic is a challenge to our healthcare system and the administration's leadership. A continuous epiphany where every day, the COVID-19 would have seemed to reach a new and tragic milestone as how the World Health Organization phrases it.

Amidst all these changes, the Academy's mandate persists: *"to instruct, train, develop and inspire the cadets, so that each graduate shall possess the character, the broad and basic military skills, and the education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career."* The Academy remains faithful to the constant pursuit of excellence, even amidst the 'new normal' that the pandemic presents.

We have taken this as an extraordinary challenge which tests our problem solving and creative capacities in continuing to run the Academy. In like manner from demanding nothing short of excellence from the cadets– our educators, trainers, administrators, and the whole PMA family have delivered to the best of their capabilities in the execution of their duties in light of the present situation.

The academy has a three-fold challenge in particular: adaptability, continuity, and resiliency.

In adapting to the restrictions of the pandemic, of particular note is the timely adjustment of the existing programs of instruction (POI) for all courses offered to the cadets, from the regular face-to-face classroom meetings, to the no-contact-policies implemented in the distance learning classes. Said measure was accomplished even amid the sudden restrictions imposed on all non-cadet personnel and their contact with the CCAFP. The conduct of classes without classrooms, lectures without lecturers, and examinations without proctors have tested the capacities and ingenuity of the PMA educators and trainers.

Adapting to the change likewise called for the Academy's creation of the COVID-19 Prevention and Action Committee (PMA CPAC). This is one of the immediate responses for the crisis, taking charge of information dissemination and constant updates regarding the pandemic. This ensures that PMA personnel are well-informed of updates and management of the pandemic.

Hereon, this entails the continuity of all essential activities within the Academy, although likewise needing the suspension of other events. Examples are how classes continued using Distance Learning protocols, formations remained with the strict observation of social and physical distancing, and cadets maintained a rigorous practice of physical exercises. Additionally, the Graduation Ceremony was conducted indoors, without any visitors and with the strict observance on social-distancing protocols.

The resiliency of the Academy stands, from its well-established structures to the newly installed systems. Tested in particular was the integrity and effectiveness of relatively new PMA Information System (PMANIS) along with the Cadet Information System in relation to the distance learning classes. These system served as platforms for the IT infrastructure from command information down to the grading system of the cadets; we are proud to declare that it has been effective as it was efficient.

In the coming of the next academic year, a new system of course delivery in the training and education of cadets is being drafted as this is being written. Changes will be immense and new obstacles shall present themselves for the first time. The Academy, however, is ready.

With the resiliency of the human race and its enduring values, no pandemic is insurmountable. Along with these qualities and with the reputation and stance of the Philippine Military Academy, we shall endure.



Baron's Dissemination

MARION DALE T CORDOVA C-20113
Cdt F/Cpt 1Cl "F" Co CCAFP
Brigade Commander

Dan Millman wrote in his book Way of the Peaceful Warrior, *"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new".* The concept of change as an inevitable thing is something that we must embrace because it is a universal truth. But how do we become accustomed to it?

Philippine Military Academy is committed to produce competent leaders of character and discipline. Over the years, our institution bonded us with our predecessors through the traditions that we have been able to uphold until now. However, time has shown the Academy its ability to alter and challenge the status quo. Several issues have been put to light, questioning the culture that built the foundations of our dearest Alma Mater. But the tenacity of both the cadets and the alumni community continues to serve as a foundation that keeps PMA soaring high.

Alongside with character building, we put high importance on academic growth. Credibility as a beacon of learning is one of the concerns that is lingering amongst the cadets and other institutions. The question of whether or not we are capable of keeping up with the rapidly changing technological era is being brought up. Making it as an inspiration for the Academy to continue its way on reaching that point to be at par with other institutions. Rooms in the academic building, being installed with large screens and subjected to renovations, pave way for better classroom instructions that are considerably more conducive to learning. It is in the deepest gratitude of the members of the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines that the PMAAAI is continuously extending their relentless support and unending generosity in the pursuit of attaining international standards for the Academy.

On a deeper note, one of the greatest changes that PMA has faced is the total eradication of malpractices. Recent issues plagued the Academy's reputation and undoubtedly, even the alumni community. However, we stood as one and took measures to be able to finally put an end and flatten the curve of maltreatment. The challenge of "All Right" for maltreatment circulated for whole duration of the day. Our Commandant Brigadier General Romeo S Brawner Jr.'s declaration of "War Against Hazing" was also absolutely supported by the cadets. On the individual level, we developed a higher sense of belongingness with each other knowing that we are our brother's keepers. Together with the command, we took our part in doing our best to take both passive and active measures that have been proven to be highly effective. Maltreatment, in all forms, is not the last resort anymore, rather it is not a resort at all.

It is a clear manifestation that the Headquarters PMA strives to implement policies with the goal of making a long-lasting positive transformation. Policies laid by Vice Admiral Allan Ferdinand V Cusi, the Superintendent, such as the integration of all classes in one room, proved to be essential in fighting against malpractices in the academy. Being on top of the hierarchy in the CCAFP, I would like to stress that we give trust and support to our superiors in the decisions they make. Without their concrete pronouncements, the progress we have now wouldn't be attainable.

Coordination and harmony. These are things that helped the Corps adapt to changes. Whatever decisions that the command has made, we gave respect and followed them wholeheartedly. In the long run, we see the positive impact it has caused us and the entirety of our institution. Nevertheless, the fight doesn't end here. The real challenge is not on the implementation but on our ability to sustain it for the next generations to come. For us to be able to fully achieve that, we will need not only the support of the HTG and HPMA but of the whole alumni community.

Despite the many changes that occurred in our time, the bond that exists between the members of the CCAFP and the alumni is one that will transcend time, regulations and everything in between.



CAVALIER NEWSLINE

CAV ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55

PGen Gamboa appointed PNP Chief


Gamboa

PGen Archie Francisco F Gamboa '86 has been appointed by the President as the PNP Chief, following his designation as Officer-in-Charge in October last year. Gamboa used to be the PNP deputy chief for administration.

PLtGen Camilo Pancratius P Cascolan '86 has been promoted to deputy chief for administration. PLtGen Guillermo Lorenzo T Eleazar '87 has assumed as the PNP deputy chief for operation.

LtGen Paredes designated as CG, PAF


Paredes

LtGen Alllen T Paredes '88 has been designated as PAF commanding general, replacing LtGen Rozzano D Briguez '86 who retired. Paredes used to be the commander of the Air Logistics Command.

Briguez has been appointed, after his retirement, as the President and CEO of the PNOC Exploration Corporation.

RAdm Bacordo designated FOIC, PN


Bacordo

RAdm Giovanni Carlo J Bacordo '87 has been designated as the new Flag Officer-in-Command of the Navy. He replaced RAdm Roberto A Empedrad '86 who retired.

Bacordo used to be the commander of the Philippine Fleet.

LtGen Faustino assumes as new commander of Eastern Mindanao Command


Faustino

LtGen Jose C Faustino Jr '88 has taken over as the commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command, vice Gen Felimon T Santos Jr '86 who was appointed AFP chief of staff.

Faustino used to be the commander of the 10th Inf Div, PA.

LtGen Parlade designated SolCom commander


Parlade

LtGen Antonio G Parlade Jr '87 has been designated as the new commander of the AFP Southern Luzon Command. He used to be the AFP deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations, J7.

MGen Edgardo Y de Leon '88, who used to be commander of the 403rd Bde of the 4th Inf Div, PA, has replaced Parlade as J7.

PDGen Aglipay assumes as PMAAAI chairman


Aglipay

Retired PDGen Edgar B Aglipay '71 has assumed as the new chairman of the PMAAAI effective 1 March 2020.

The other officers are Cavaliers Amado T Espino Jr '72, vice chairman; Emmanuel B Peralta '91, president; Steve B Ludan '92, vice president; Danilo M Servando '81, corporate secretary; Douglas S Defeles '09, treasurer; and Rey M Bes '91, corporate auditor.

PMGen Ibay elected as new chairman of PMAFI

Retired PMGen Rufino G Ibay Jr '67 has been elected as the new chairman of PMAFI.


Ibay

Elected with him is retired BGen Fredelino S Bautista '66 as president.

The other elected officers are retired MGen Jose C Lapus '65, vice chairman; PMGen Leo Angelo D Leuterio '88, vice president, retired Commo Rene Leandro P Ebro '63, corporate secretary; retired BGen Restituto L Aguilar '78, treasurer; and retired BGen Rosalino A Alquiza '55, corporate auditor.

MGen Silva is president of ACCC


Silva

Retired MGen Isagani P Silva '83 has been elected president and CEO of the Air Cavaliers Credit Cooperative (ACCC), a cooperative registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) under RA 9520. The chairman is retired Gen Eduardo SL Oban Jr '79, former CG, PAF and AFP chief of staff.

The ACCC is composed of PMA graduates, active and retired, assigned with the Philippine Air Force as its regular members.

It has a branch office in Camp Aguinaldo located between the mortuary and the Veterans Bank.

LtGen Gloria assumes as AFP Western Command commander


Gloria

LtGen Erickson R Gloria '88 has assumed as AFP Western Command commander replacing VAdm Rene V Medina '86 who retired.

LtGen Antonio Ramon A Lim '86, AFP inspector general, has assumed as acting AFP deputy chief of staff, vice Gloria, in concurrent capacity.

VAdm Ursabia appointed PCG commandant


Ursabia

VAdm George V Ursabia Jr '87 has been appointed commandant of Phil Coast Guard, vice Adm Joel Garcia who retired.

Ursabia used to be commander of CG Marine Environmental Protection Command.

VAdm Leopoldo V Laroya '88 has assumed as PCG deputy commandant vice VAdm Rolando D Legaspi '87 who died in office. **/raa**

PMAAAI Awards: Rules and Criteria

• **Cav Amado T Espino Jr '72**
Chairman, PMAAAI Awards Committee

Pursuant to Art IX, Sec 3 of the PMAAAI New Bylaws, the Association shall confer the **Cavalier Award**, the **Lifetime Achievement Award** and the **Outstanding Achievement Award** to qualified regular members in good standing of the PMAAAI for distinguished, exemplary and unblemished service and outstanding performance of duties. Likewise, pursuant to PMAAAI Board Resolution No. 15-23, the Association confers the **Valor Award** to Cavalier recipients of the Medal of Valor. Accordingly, the following Rules and Criteria in the selection of the awards are hereby prescribed.

A. CAVALIER AWARD

1. **Number of Awardees** - The Cavalier Award shall be given to twelve (12) outstanding regular members of the Association, in various fields of endeavor as enumerated in paragraph 2 below. At the discretion of the members of the Board of Directors of PMAAAI, the number may be less, but in no case more than twelve (12).

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

   2.1 **Military/Police/Coast Guard Service in**:

      2.1.1 **Command and Administration** - for commanders of AFP/PNP/PCG units with TO rank of Brig General / Commodore / P/Brig General or higher, except the AFP chief of staff, PNP chief, PCG commandant and AFP major service commanders. In Command and Administration category, there may be more than one awardee provided that total number of Cavalier Awardees does not exceed 12.

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

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

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

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

   2.4 **Contribution to Alumni Affairs** - for members who have made invaluable contributions and/or services to the PMA and PMAAAI.

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

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

   3.1 Is a regular member in good standing of the Association and preferably a regular member of all the four affiliate foundations and has contributed to the Special Fund for PMA Payback;

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

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

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

   4.1 Those who received the Cavalier Award during the last five (5) years preceding the year of Award; and

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

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

   5.1 Enhanced the prestige of the PMA and the PMAAAI;

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

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

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

   6.1 Nomination. Any PMAAAI member, Class President, or Chapter President can submit nomination for the Award not later than the last working day of July of the

applicable association year. The nomination shall be in writing, addressed to the PMAAAI Board of Directors (Attn: Awards Committee), or by e-mail to pmaaai@yahoo.com. The nomination shall specify the field of award and shall include the following:

6.1.1 Curriculum vitae of the nominee;
6.1.2 Authenticated description or summary of nominee's achievements or accomplishments;
6.1.3 Justification for the award; and
6.1.4 A write-up of the nominee's accomplishments in not more than 100 words for possible publication in the Cavalier Magazine if the award is approved.

6.2 Search Committees. The different chapters and classes of the PMAAAI shall conduct an extensive search for outstanding alumni deserving of the Award. For this purpose, all chapters, whether service or fraternal, shall create their respective Cavalier Award Search Committee. The Committee shall make a thorough search for nominees.

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

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

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

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

B. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This Award shall be given to a regular member in good standing of the Association who has rendered at least fifty (50) years of distinguished, outstanding, exemplary and unblemished service to the country, excluding cadet service. The award will be given during the Alumni Homecoming Parade in February. Any PMAAAI member, Class President or Chapter President can submit nomination for the Award not later than the last working day of July.

C. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

D. VALOR AWARD

The Valor Award shall be given to a regular member in good standing of the Association who has been a recipient of the Medal of Valor.

E. TIMELINES

1. 1 March to July – PMAAAI members, Chapter and Class Presidents shall conduct a search and selection process of nominees for the Awards.
2. Last working day of July – Deadline for submission of nominees to the PMAAAI Awards Committee. Screening by the Awards Committee starts.
3. First working day of September – Submission of list of qualified nominees to the Editor, Cavalier Magazine for publication in the July-September issue.
4. First two weeks of November – Awards Committee receives comments on the nominees from members of the Association.
5. Last working day of November – Finalization of the list of nominees by the Awards Committee by categorizing them as Principal and Alternate Recommendees, by field of award.
6. Second Monday of December - Submission of the Awards Committee's recommendation to the PMAAAI Board of Directors for the:
   a. Lifetime Achievement Award
   b. Outstanding Achievement Award
   c. Cavalier Award
   e. Valor Award
7. Third (3rd) Week of December – Meeting of the Board to select the awardees.
8. Fourth Saturday of January – Presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Awards during the PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting.
9. First week of February – Submission of list of awardees to the Editor for publication in the January-March issue of the Cavalier.
10. Third Saturday of February – Presentation of the following Awards during the PMAAAI Alumni Homecoming:
    a. Lifetime Achievement Award
    b. Cavalier Award
    c. Valor Award

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

CY 2020-2025 PMAAAI Strategic Plan

After more than five decades of operation, PMAAAI continues to explore ways on how to convince more cavaliers to participate and be counted in its programs. Stakes are high on how to encourage graduates to participate and support their alumni association. February homecomings are the best attended and celebrated PMAAAI-events, driven by the sentimental attachment of cavaliers to their Alma Mater. Golf tournaments, organized to raise funds for the benefit of a certain class or the Association or for other purposes, come next as the most participated alumni event. The format of the annual PMAAAI Sports Tournament have to be revised a few times hopefully to attract more participation and gain more fun. If we make use of the number of cavaliers visiting the PMA Alumni Center as a barometer in establishing interest in PMAAAI affairs then we are in for a disappointment. Some of the suggested how's like reaching out by keeping them updated on the activities of the Association, making every cavalier feel welcome and inculcating the meaning of the Association's existence have been tried and implemented in various ways, some wanting in the manner of implementation.

In early 2018, upon the initiative of a senior PMAAAI board member, the presidents of various PMA classes were invited to a series of meetings wherein the idea of creating the council of class presidents was brought up. Perhaps we have not actually delved into and studied the diverse behavioral levels as well as resource capabilities of each class and its members. By connecting through their class presidents, we can at least get a wider understanding of how best we can have each class get on board and "work and play" along with them. A study group was then formed to draft the charter that defined the rationale and mechanics of the Council.

After three (3) months of group discussions, the final draft of the charter of the PMAAAI Council of Class Presidents (PCOCP) was presented before the PMAAAI Board. In the last quarter of 2018, three (3) board resolutions were approved and passed namely: The Charter of the Council; The Grant of Seven (7) Seats in the PMAAAI Board to the Council and; The Grant of Authority/Proxy to Presidents of PMA Classes to Represent Absent Members of their Classes in General Assemblies or Annual Meetings.

At the start of 2019, the new leadership of PMAAAI focus on how it can systematically address the concerns of the Association. A consensus was agreed upon that there is a need to conduct a visioning exercise. For the second quarter of 2019, the exercise was conducted and has as its output the **new vision** of the Association: **PMAAAI: Perpetuating the ideals of our Alma Mater, promoting the general welfare of its members and providing support in the pursuit of national security.**

Using this newly-crafted vision as a take-off point, the incoming PMAAAI board for 2020 embarks on a modest initiative to come up with a five-year PMAAAI strategic plan. It is a roadmap outlining focus areas, goals and objectives/strategies to be attained and performed toward better serving and engaging all alumni of PMAAAI over the next five years.

We are aware that it is the inherent task of the Association to create the environment, opportunity and motivation for its alumni to engage and get every cavalier *"sail aboard our majestic ship",* PMAAAI. While we do not want to dive into the complexities of strategic planning applied to business models, it is advisable that every cavalier must know the pathways that led us to our connection with each other. Everything starts with awareness that we are proud graduates of the premier institution we call the Philippine Military Academy. And inculcated in that awareness should follow knowledge and understanding that after graduation we are all automatic members of PMAAAI, membership of which, is the link that defines our affinity to our Association. From these awareness, knowledge and understanding and, affinity interludes, hopefully, next comes engagement to our Association. Once engaged in whatever form, we can at least expect some actions to follow from every cavalier to benefit our beloved Alma Mater and PMAAAI. The interlude pathways of awareness, knowledge and understanding, affinity and engagement will just remain sentimental reminders till we, as cavaliers, build and thread these pathways and convert them into meaningful actions.

Our 2020-2025 PMAAAI Strategic Plan together with the 2020 PMAAAI projects is then presented to inspire every cavalier celebrate our linkage to our beloved Alma Mater and guide PMAAAI achieve its vision.

The Plan is structured around five (5) focus areas which were embodied in the acronym- **PLEAD**

A. **P**RESERVATION of PMA's Heritage, Customs, Values and Traditions

GOAL: Strengthen sense of PMA identity and continuity in a fast changing world

1. Reinforce support mechanisms preserving the rich heritage, customs, traditions and values of PMA
2. Keep the integrity of PMAAAI as a main support organization of PMA

B. **L**IVE the PMA Ideals of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty

GOAL: Deliver and advance the value of a PEEMAYER

1. Promote excellence in all assigned tasks and responsibilities
2. Establish advisory links with leaders of AFP, PNP, Coast Guard thru their respective active chapters

C. **E**NGAGEMENT of Cavaliers

GOAL: Develop and enhance connections among Cavaliers

1. Improvement of networking systems and services to facilitate cavalier's interaction and cooperation
2. Strengthen the PMAAAI Council of Class Presidents
3. Expand networking to other international/national uniformed academy graduates

D. **A**LLOT Donations

GOAL: Give Back

1. Increase annual alumni and friend's donation to PMA and PMAAAI Annual Fund
2. Plan and implement programs, projects and activities to uplift PMA as an Institution and PMAAAI as an Association

E. **D**EEPEN Social Responsibility

GOAL: Involvement in nation-building programs and participation in making Philippines a better world

1. Invest in the PMAAAI's capabilities as an association by participating in community development
2. Find ways to make PMAAAI contribute in making our country a better world to live in.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

PMAAAI STRATEGIC PLAN
CY 2020-2025

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

2020 PROJECTS

- Establishment of permanent home for PMAAAI
- Conduct regular meetings of PCOCP and small meeting for decade representatives
- Activate twice a month meetups/fellowship with alumni thru a walk group
- Organize a yearly assembly among PMAAAI, PNPAAAI, PMMAAAI, and other academy associations
- Merge PETFI, PDFI and PFTJI
- Conduct out-of-town fellowship in Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Legaspi City
- Resolve PMA Homecoming and other PMA significant issues
- Formulate operational systems/manuals needed by PMAAAI
- Implement fundraising projects
- Identification/implementation of nation building advocacies/projects
- Support the formation of Bayanihan Cooperative Resolve ACES investment losses by filing appropriate cases
- Adjust to developing new normal society situation arising from COVID-19 threat

PRESERVE
PMA'S HERITAGE, TRADITIONS AND VALUES

GOALS

Strenghen sense of identity and continuity in a fast changing world for future generations

OBJECTIVES

- Reinforce support mechanisms preserving the rich heritage, traditions and values of PMA and its alumni
- Keep the integrity of PMAAAI as an association

DEEPEN
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GOALS

- Involve in nation building
- Make a better world

OBJECTIVES

- Invest in the PMAAAI's capabilities as an Association by participating in community development
- Find ways to make PMAAAI contribute in making our country a better world



LIVE
THE PMA IDEALS OF COURAGE, INTEGRITY AND LOYALTY

GOALS

Deliver and advance the value of a PEEMAYER

OBJECTIVES

- Project excellence in all assigned tasks and responsibilities
- Establish advisory links with leaders of military, police, and coast guard organizations thru their respective PMAAAI active chapters

ALLOT
DONATIONS

GOALS

Give back

OBJECTIVES

- Increase annual alumni and friends' donations to PMA and PMAAAI annual fund
- Plan/implement programs/projects/activities to uplift PMA as an institution and PMAAAI as an association

ENGAGE
ALUMNI

GOALS

Develop and enhance the connections with and among alumni

OBJECTIVES

- Improve our engagement/networking systems and services to facilitate Cavaliers' interaction/cooperation with each other
- Strengthen PCOCP
- Expand networking with other international/national uniformed academy graduates

"AN ORGANIZATION'S ALUMNI ARE THE REFLECTION OF ITS PAST, REPRESENTATION OF ITS PRESENT AND INSPIRATION OF ITS FUTURE"

How the PMAAAI Supported the Resumption of PC Veterans' Pension

• Cav Ariston V Delos Reyes '71



DBM Undersecretary Janet Abuel handing over to Cav Edgar B Aglipay, Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI the SARO/NCA for the PC veterans' pension. *(Photo courtesy of PVAO)*

1. Background

1.1. In the Fourth Quarter, 2019 the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) without prior consultation with the Philippine Veterans' Affairs Office (PVAO), Department of National Defense (DND), and the Commission on Audit (COA) stopped releasing fund for the old age pension of 18,651 veterans who were former uniformed members of the Philippine Constabulary (PC). The action of the DBM was on the basis that they also receive regular pension benefits from the Philippine National Police (PNP).

1.2. Pursuant to Section 2 (a) of RA 6948, they are classified as veterans after having served in the military for at least six years as former PC personnel.

1.3. Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina, the Administrator, PVAO through Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, wrote a series of letters to the DBM dated 11 October, 27 October, and 11 November justifying the payment and repeatedly requested for the release of funds for said benefit.

2. Actions Taken by the PMAAAI

2.1. On 17 November, Cavalier Edgardo B Aglipay, Chairman of the Board, BIRCI wrote Acting Secretary Wendel E. Avisado requesting for the issuance of the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) and corresponding Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) amounting to P245.5 million corresponding to the pension requirements in the Fourth Quarter 2019 for the PC veterans which was withheld by the DBM. Same was favorably endorsed by Cav Rufo A De Veyra.

2.2. The DBM did not reply to the letter; hence, the PMAAAI Board of Directors approved Board Resolution No. 19-44

Annex A - PMAAAI Board Resolution No. 19-44

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

Board Resolution No. 19-44

APPROVING THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT REQUESTING FOR THE RESUMPTION OF OLD AGE PENSION OF 18,651 PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY (PC) VETERANS

WHEREAS, there are 18,651 veterans who served in the military as former members of the Philippine Constabulary (PC);

WHEREAS, these veterans have long been duly qualified by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) as such and are entitled to receive and in fact, have been receiving all the emoluments due to veterans pursuant to existing laws;

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) without any prior coordination with concerned agencies such as the Commission on Audit, Department of National Defense (DND), and PVAO, have suddenly stopped releasing funds for their old age pension effective October 2019;

WHEREAS, the DND and PVAO have written the DBM justifying the resumption of their pension and the release of withheld funds for the purpose;

WHEREAS, such undue deprivation has caused demoralization among the PC veterans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Board of Directors approves, as it hereby approves, that the PMAAAI send a letter to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte requesting that he order the DBM to release the necessary funds to resume the grant of old age pension to the PC veterans effective October 2019 and monthly thereafter.

RESOLVE FURTHER that the letter shall be as hereby attached.

APPROVED by the PMAAAI Board of Directors during its regular meeting on 15 January 2020 at the Aguinaldo Room, AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

RUFO A DE VEYRA
MGEN AFP (Ret)
Chairman & CEO

ARTHUR V BISNAR
PCOL PNP
President & COO

Attested by:

REY M BES
COL PAF(GSC)
Acting Corporate Secretary

approving the letter to the President requesting for the resumption of old age pension of 18,651 PC veterans (Annex A).

2.3. On 21 January 2020, Cav De Veyra and Cav Aglipay, Outgoing and Incoming Chairman respectively, forwarded the letter to President Duterte (Annex B), through Secretary Eduardo Año, Department of the Interior and Local Government who in turn, submitted same to the Office of the President.

2.4. The Office of the President took cognizance of the letter. During a meeting in Malacañang in February, the issue was discussed. Among those present were Cavalier Aglipay, Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Secretary Eduardo Año, Usec Carolina, and Cavalier Van Luspo, President of the PNP Retirees' Association (PRAI) and the DBM representative. During the meeting, it was decided that withholding the payment of the PC veterans' pension by DBM had no legal basis, hence should be resumed. The meeting ended with the ceremonial handing of the SARO/NCA by the DBM representative to Cav Aglipay and USec Carolina.

3. Finally, with funds already made available, the monthly pension for the PC veterans resumed by February 2020 with all arrears duly paid.

Annex B - Letter to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

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

21 January 2020

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace, Manila

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of more than 220,000 retired military and uniformed personnel (MUP) and veterans, please allow us to express their utmost gratitude for your approval of Joint Resolution Number 1s 2018 (JR1) which authorized the resumption of their pension indexing to the prevailing rate and which you order implemented in 2019 using available government funds. Moreover, it also authorized the adjustment of base pay of those in the active service; thereby, subsequently entitling them to the increase in all their allowances that are pegged to the base pay. Indeed, the JR1 is a boost to the morale of all the MUP, active and retired and for which they will long remember and remain indebted to you as their Commander-in-Chief who is genuinely concerned for their morale and welfare.

Mr. President, once again, we would like to take this opportunity to request another favor, this time, on behalf of 18,651 veterans who served in the former Philippine Constabulary (PC) and have been receiving their old age pension from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). Regretfully, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), without prior coordination with concerned agencies such as the Commission on Audit, Department of National Defense (DND) and PVAO, have suddenly stopped releasing funds for their pension since October 2019; thereby, resulting in their mixed feelings of disbelief, demoralization and frustration. The DBM alleged that the PC retirees though having served in the military could not be entitled to said pension because they were not dropped from rolls of the AFP when they transferred to the PNP.

The DND through a series of written communications with the DBM justified that the PC retirees are indeed qualified veterans for having served in the military for at least six years pursuant to RA 6948; hence, their pension should not be stopped. The DND further reiterated the release of P245.444 million for their pension from October to December 2019. The DBM has yet to reply to these letters which include:

1. 1st Endorsement dated October 16, 2019 of PVAO Administrator's Letter dated October 11, 2019 (Annex A);

2. 2nd Endorsement dated November 5, 2019 of PVAO Administrator's Letter dated October 29, 2019 (Annex B); and,

3. SND's Letter dated December 27, 2019 (Annex C).

Hence, we therefore respectfully request your kind favor of ordering Active Secretary Wendel E. Avisado to release the necessary funds without any further delay so that the PVAO pension of the PC veterans may be resumed effective October 2019 and monthly thereafter.

Very respectfully yours,

P/GEN EDGARDO B AGLIPAY, PNP (Ret)
Incoming Chairman (FY 2020-2021)

MGEN RUFO A DE VEYRA, AFP (Ret)
Outgoing Chairman (FY 2019-2020)

CC: Secretary of National Defense

Voices from the Barracks



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

1. Sir, it is evident in our history that PMA is modelled after USMA. However, as years pass by, we have seen that the doctrines in USMA have changed. Do you think that it may be time for PMA to adopt the same changes that USMA did especially considering that the two are alike? Or are there other circumstances that prevent us from doing so? If so, what may those be and what measures do we take?

2. Sir, why are there instances in which "snappyness" is equated with how much we have rotted or have maltreated?

3. Sir, do you think that it would be more beneficial for the corps if we focus less on uniforms and formations and focus more on proficiency in other skills such as planning, technical skills, etc?

4. As cadets we are taught to be apolitical, that is, we must not take sides in conflicting political views. What are our limitations in sharing posts in social media regarding politics sir?

5. Over the years that passed, amidst the countless changes that transpired in the corps, what are the significant traits of the cadets that stood the test of time?

PMAAAI Strategic... FROM PAGE 10

2020 PMAAAI PROJECTS

1. Establish a permanent home for PMAAAI
2. Conduct regular meetings for PCOCP and small meetings for decade representatives
3. Activate twice a month meet-ups/fellowship with cavaliers through a walk group or any agreed event
4. Organize a yearly assembly among PMAAAI, PNPAAAI, PMMAAI and other academy associations
5. Merge PETFI, PDFI and PFTJI with PMAAAI
6. Conduct out of town fellowship with cavaliers in Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Legaspi.
7. Resolve PMA Homecoming and other significant issues
8. Formulate operational systems/ manuals needed by PMAAAI
9. Implement fund-raising projects
10. Identification/implementation of nation-building advocacies/projects
11. Support the formation of Bayanihan Cooperative
12. Resolve ACES investment losses by filing appropriate cases
13. Adjust to developing normal society situation arising from COVID19 threat.

PMAAAI Donates PPEs to Military and Police Hospitals

The PMAAAI donates P1,057,412 worth of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to AFP Medical Center, Army General Hospital, Air Force Hospital, PN Hospital and PNP General Hospital for their frontliners in their battle against the Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19).

The official hand over was done in a brief ceremony with Cav Delfin N Lorenzana '73, Secretary, DND on May 2, 2020 at the PMA Alumni Center, CGEA through PMAAAI Chapter Presidents.

Cav Edgar B Aglipay '71, Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI, spearheaded the fund- raising project for our frontliners who are in desperate need of the PPEs to be able to protect themselves from the very contagious virus.

It is indeed a very worthwhile project of the PMAAAI in the middle of the pandemic.



Cav Edgar B Aglipay '71, Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI (2nd from left), Cav Emmanuel B Peralta '91, President and COO, PMAAAI with Cav Delfin N Lorenzana '73, Secretary, DND (extreme left) turn over PPEs to Cav Benjamin D Santos Jr '91, PMAAAI PNP Chapter President for PNP General Hospital.



The PPEs for the PN Hospital frontliners were turned over to Cav Carlos V Sabarre '91, President, PMAAAI PN Chapter.



Cav Ceazar E Pascua '03 (3rd left), Secretary, PMAAAI PAF Chapter, received the PPEs for the frontliners of the Air Force Hospital from (left to right) Cav Lorenzana, Cav Aglipay, Cav Peralta and Cav Pequiras.

CHAPTER NEWS

PCAI at the Bright Side of Year 2020

The Police Cavaliers Association, Incorporated (PCAI) Annual General Assembly, Convention and Fellowship is done every first month of the year prior to the PMAAAI Convention. For this year, it was conducted last January 15, 2020 at the Maringal Hall, Crime Laboratory Building, with Chief PNP, then OIC Cavalier Archie Francisco F Gamboa '86 as Guest of Honor and Speaker.

During the program, new Class Representatives were nominated to become the new set members of PCAI Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2020 – 2021. The Chief PNP, then OIC Cavalier Archie Francisco F Gamboa '86 administered the Oath of Office of the New Set of Board of Directors, as follows:

Class '87	- Cav Alfred S Corpus	Cav Allan T Cuevillas
Class '88	- Cav Dionardo B Carlos	Cav Bernabe M Balba
Class '89	- Cav Omega Jired D Fidel	Cav Rex M Dela Rosa
Class '90	- Cav Flynn E Dongbo	Cav Oliver A Enmodias
Class '91	- Cav Conrado P Gongon Jr	Cav Benjamin D Santos Jr
Class '92	- Cav Matthew P Baccay	Cav Steve B Ludan
Class '98	- Cav Jesselito L Castro	Cav Alex G Recinto



The PCAI Board of Trustees was also elected, as well as appointed to the position of different Committee Chairman, to wit:

PCAI Board of Trustees and Committees 2020 – 2021

Cav Alfred S Corpus '87	-	Chairman
Cav Bernabe M Balba '88	-	Vice Chairman
Cav Benjamin D Santos Jr '91	-	President / Executive Committee
Cav Matthew P Baccay '92	-	Vice President
Cav Jesselito L Castro '98	-	Corporate Secretary
Cav Steve B Ludan '92	-	Treasurer / Finance Committee
Cav Jireh Omega D Fidel '89	-	Corporate Auditor
Cav Dionardo B Carlos '88	-	Public Relations Committee
Cav Rex M Dela Rosa '89	-	Professionalism and Ethics Committee
Cav Flynn E Dongbo '90	-	Membership and Welfare Committee
Cav Oliver A Enmodias '90	-	Sports and Fellowship Committee
Cav Conrado P Gongon Jr '91	-	Awards Committee
Cav Luisito P Magnaye '91	-	Convention and Homecoming Committee
Cav Honorio R Agnila '91	-	Grievance/Truth and Justice Committee
Cav Jonnel C Estomo '92	-	Ways and Means Committee



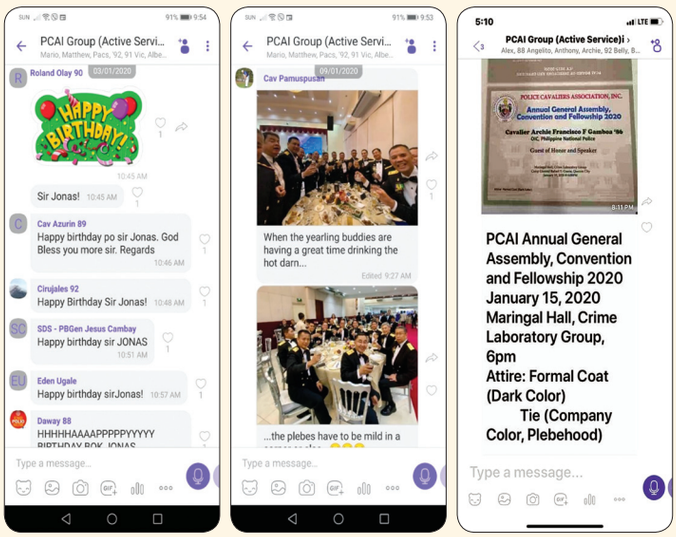


On March 4, 2020 the PCAI Board of Directors rendered a Courtesy Call to the Chief PNP, PGen Archie Francisco F Gamboa at the Office of the Chief PNP. He then administered the Oath Taking of the new PCAI Board of Trustees.





The Association recognizes the importance of every cavalier and find ways to establish an avenue that will promote camaraderie and teamwork, and to ensure that unity and solidarity of all PCAI members is enhanced. The PCAI Viber Group (Active Service) was created last March 2019 with the aim of reaching out easily with the members, disseminating information with ease, connecting with mistah's…bok…company mate…bunkmate, and sending birthday greetings from fellow cavaliers, which brings joy to the cavalier celebrant.



The Association takes pride in the distinct achievement of its members. During the PMA Alumni Homecoming last February 22, 2020, PMGen Lyndon G Cubos of Class '86 was awarded the Cavalier Award for Staff Function and PBGen Joselito T Esquivel Jr of Class '88 was awarded the Cavalier Award for Police Operation.





The PCAI Officers came up with an idea of showing the importance of each member. A monthly birthday greeting for each member celebrating his birthday is sent thru a PCAI Birthday Cake together with a Birthday Card (the color and design depends on celebrant's company seal and color during plebehood).



Lately, to help mitigate the effect of the pandemic brought by the Covid19, the PCAI participated in the #TeamPNPBayanihan Fund Challenge. Supported by the different classes from Class 86 to Class 92, the PCAI was able to raise a total amount of Php 5,270,000.00. The amount was turned over to Chief PNP PGen Archie Francisco F Gamboa last April 30, 2020 at PNP Grandstand, Camp Rafael T Crame, Quezon City.



As with the Bayanihan efforts of the Cavaliers, the PMA Alumni Association, Incorporated (PMAAAI) donated to PNP 300 pcs of PPE thru PCAI. Last May 5, 2020, the PCAI Board turned over the PPEs to the PNP Directorate for Logistics.



Cavaliers at the Forefront in the Fight Against Covid-19

• Editorial Staff

Since its inception, the Philippine Military Academy has produced some of the noblest warriors of our country. Their bravery and competence were tested in battlefields across the world, confronting a wide expanse of threats; from the conventional forces of World War II, to the jungle fighters of Vietnam, as well as local terrorists here in our country. At present, some prominent cavaliers are, once again,at the helm of our nation's fight against a very deadly, unique and invisible enemy-the Corona Virus.

When the coronavirus struck the world, no one was prepared. In a short span of time, it affected swathes of population centers across the globe causing thousands of deaths and even greater numbers of contaminated. A plague of biblical proportion like nothing the world has ever seen.

The entire Luzon was placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine beginning 16 March 2020 to contain further outbreak of COVID 19. The ECQ restricted all non-essential movement of people, forcing them to stay indoors. Commercial centers, business establishments, schools, public transportation and other common points of congregation were forced to a screeching halt. Human interaction, the very lifeblood of modern economics, ceased overnight. It was a national crisis rapidly unfolding.

The gargantuan task of managing the impact of this disaster falls squarely on the national government. The President immediately set up the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID). The Task Force, composed of the Social Welfare, Health, Public Security and Interior Departments, is responsible for the management of the crisis. From feeding millions of families locked inside their homes, rolling out critical infrastructure projects, and up to the mobilization of thousands of frontline workers, IATF became the government's primary operating arm during this period. And at the tip of this spear are Cavaliers. Fellow members of The Long Gray Line.

Among those who were handpicked to lead the fight against Covid-19 include **Cavalier Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana**, PMA Class of 1973. As the Secretary of National Defense, Cavalier Lorenzana is in charge of the mobilization and utilization of both materials and personnel of the Armed Forces in support to the National Action Plan. The role of the military in this crisis situation rapidly expanded from the usual security operations towards manning and running health facilities, logistical support to humanitarian and medical aid and communication-related activities that aim to deliver timely and relevant information to the populace.

As the incumbent Secretary of Interior and Local Government, **Cavalier Eduardo Manahan Año**, PMA Class of 1983, plays a crucial part in sustaining and cascading the overall action plan down to the grassroots level. With a population of well over 100 million, the Philippine response to Covid-19 would be impossible to implement in a centralized manner. This is where DILG under Cav Año comes in. The Department ensures that national-level policies, programs and initiatives are faithfully and effectively carried forward by the provincial, city and municipal governments while affording local chiefs with the needed flexibility to address issues and utilize effective tools which may be peculiar to their governed areas.

Cavalier Rolando Joselito Delizo Bautista, PMA Class of 1985, currently heads the Social Welfare Department. The current situation is pushing an unprecedented number of people into unemployment and poverty. With the added restriction to movement, millions of Filipinos lose vital access to basic needs



Cav Delfin N Lorenzana, Cav Eduardo M Año and Cav Carlito G Galvez Jr



Cav Hermogenes C Esperon Jr (extreme left) with businessman Kim Wong.

every day. Under his charge, the department is overseeing the largest social amelioration program in our country's history in order to deliver basic needs to the margins of our society.

Covid-19 is a new form of threat previously unheard of. But like any other threats to our National Security, this unseen enemy will lay destruction along its path if not monitored, assessed and countered. The current National Security Adviser, **Cavalier Hermogenes Cendana Esperon Jr**, PMA Class of 1974, ensures that the decision-makers of our country are well-informed and are crafting the next steps within the context of the current national security situation.

Acting as the conductor of a well-trained and competent orchestra, current Presidential Adviser on Peace Process **Cavalier Carlito Guansing Galvez Jr**, PMA Class of 1985, currently heads the IATF as the country's chief implementer. In this capacity, Cavalier Galvez ensures that all of the moving pieces of the country's Covid-19 response machinery are effectively and efficiently functioning.

Many of the traits that made these Cavaliers eligible and effective in their current roles may be attributed to skills and attitudes developed within the walls of Fort Del Pilar. First among these skills is a Cavalier's adamant nature to comply. As cadets, we all grew up to stories (and actual practices) of accomplishing impossible tasks like producing hundreds (or thousands) of items within a day. Or doing tasks that even a hundred people could not (humanly) accomplish. We were bred to do what was asked from us, or die trying. The adverse impact of Covid-19 was something never seen before. The solution to these emerging problems are equally gargantuan. As such, men and women who don't have the balls to surrender to a task, are needed to get our country through this problem.

Another trait that Cavaliers develop in their stay at the Academy is stability under sheer pressure. The ability to make sense of all the chaos in the mess hall as a plebe, (and to subsequently operate in such an environment) is something that not many people have. This epidemic ravaged our society. But more to the point, it drastically disrupted our normal way of living. It resulted to a silent chaos of empty streets, empty pockets and empty stomachs. While seemingly quiet, the situation is chaotic at the fundamental level. Cavaliers are familiar with chaos. We were bred to not only survive within it, but to actually thrive. In every direction, a sector is suffering. And with their suffering comes their cries for help. Arguably, the sound of a hurting and suffering fellow Filipino is more demoralizing than the sound of hundred bullets whizzing past one's head. Imagine millions of them. All begging to be saved and comforted during this time. Lesser men would be broken with this kind of pressure. A new kind of chaos. But chaos nonetheless.

To weave all these, the above mentioned Cavaliers have decades of professional relationship and working experience together. For some of them, their relationship started on the hollowed grounds of Borromeo Field during reception day. For some, it extended beyond the academy, through the thick and thin of fiery battles and skirmishes. Nonetheless, a strong teamwork forged in the fires of difficulties is something that top decision-makers need in a time like this. It allows them to decide real-time, as if knowing what the other guy will say or do in such situations. It allows non-formal communication to permeate a vast area of intertwined duties and responsibilities. It makes working everyday more tolerable, by having brothers of the same blood and sweat carry some of your yoke, while you catch your breath.

While it is true that no one knows exactly when this will end, one thing is certain; this problem is far from over. We are in a blind race with no finish line currently in sight. Placed upon the shoulders of a select few cavaliers is the responsibility to get us through this marathon. As reassuring as it is that these people are bred to push forward like Spartans, they will be needing the resounding support of the entire Long Gray Line as we struggle forward towards wherever this crisis takes us. To all cavaliers out there, fighting this threat, "Rest if you must, but don't you quit sirs!"



Cav Rolando Joselito D Bautista

How Military Training Helped Me with the Dreaded Quarantine

• Cav Carlos B Holganza '78

So yeah, our President just extended the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) for Metro Manila, the country's seat of power, as well as in other parts of the country where the pandemic has remained aggressive. There is much anxiety and fear over this God-awful forced isolation dealt on us. And as expected, you hear a lot of complaints, a lot of anguished cries over the curtailment of certain liberties, etc.

Lucky for me, the extensive military training I got from my previous life has helped me adjust to the restrictions and rules imposed without so much of a hoot. All I have to do is think of the 1-year of plebe training in the Academy; and the month-long 'confinement-to-quarters' suddenly looks bite-size. I think of the Scout Ranger training in Tanay, the Escape and Evasion Drill in the Special Forces; and the sparse rations and supplies look puny. I remember the taps and reveille bugle calls; and the curfew restrictions seem right out of the ordinary.

The physical, mental and psychological stress being imposed now is something our soldiers are trained for in military training. Thus, even in this new environment, and faced with an unseen enemy – with its unpredictability, its lack of clear battle lines – our soldiers are ready to serve. Our soldiers are quick to adapt, quick to move into action. No whimpering, no whining, just willful obedience to help defeat an uncommon enemy in an uncommon crisis.

And as I dig back to my past life as a soldier, I recall some small nuggets of wisdom I learned from the Army, which I believe can be useful during these difficult times.

1. Stop bickering and just do your part.

Situations like this call for tough decisions. So once a decision is made, and your mission spelled out, don't go griping and grumbling as if the world owes you some. Your mission has been spelled out for you; and to most, it is a simple: STAY HOME. Staying home may be an awful-boring thing to do, but it sure is far better than being asked to gut it out in the hospitals, or the checkpoints, or do other services that could put you – and your family – in harm's way. Your role is to make sure you and your family do not get sick. That way, you are not giving our overworked health workers more problems. Just do it, bro! Stay home.

2. Always remember the team. Always be there to assist your teammates.

Among the many things the Army taught me, one which I hold dear to my heart, is the concept of the buddy system. I protect my buddy, I support my team and my brothers-in-arms with my life; knowing that my life could depend on them as well. Your team in this case is your own community. You support your own community by ensuring that you don't bring in the enemy with you. You help your buddies by making sure you are virus-free, by helping ensure your community is clean and safe. So lace up those proverbial boots, bro, and help man those imaginary barricades so that this unseen enemy, this sneaky virus doesn't come in stealthily through you or through others.

> *"I support my team and my brothers-in-arms with my life; knowing that my life could depend on them as well. Your team in this case is your own community. You support your own community by ensuring that you don't bring in the enemy with you. You help your buddies by making sure you are virus-free, by helping ensure your community is clean and safe."*

My classmate, Pipes Buena, was elected the AFP Officers' Village (AFPOVAI) President last year. When this crisis blew up, Pipes immediately went to work beefing up the village defenses. To his credit, he has created proper protocols to make our village's health security program robust. He was also able to organize a village trading post to get neighbors in the community to help each other. Today, the AFPOVAI community is so much closer from the experience brought about by these trying times.

3. KISS means Keep it simple, stupid.

However, don't complicate your life by taking too many tasks. Soldiers are trained not to think much about things beyond their control. In order to survive, soldiers are taught when or where to focus their efforts and

limited resources. I know I said you have to help your community, but be sure you're not biting off more than you can chew.

You help in protecting your community, but you don't spread yourself thinly and get unnecessarily exposed to the enemy. Particularly if you are part of the most vulnerable age group. Maybe this is the golden opportunity to bond with the kids, to impress on them the need to stay home and stay safe; to inculcate in them good values and teach them new responsibilities; or make some home repairs or do the long-delayed yardwork perhaps. There's so much you can do at home. By staying home, you are helping your community, you are helping the cause.

My snappy underclassman, Harlie Llave, is now learning to bake, another proficiency for a very accomplished guy! Another PMA mistah, Vic Porto, has started to grow veggies in his backyard, clearly adding more trophy points to please his beloved wife, Gigi.

4. Always be prepared.

And while you're at it, keep working your plan. You have to make sure you have enough for the week or so ahead. You have to anticipate your needs. You have to anticipate what your adversary will try to do. You have to have viable options for a worst case scenario. Are you ready for an extended lockdown? Will your supplies be enough for you? If not, what are your options? What about your neighbors? Your community? Who's in charge? Who's in danger of falling behind? How do you help each other cope?

My daughter, Bianca, is the family's go-to-guy when it comes to worst-case scenario planning. If big companies have their Business Continuity Programs (BCP), my daughter has taken it upon herself to make our family's equivalent of a continuity program of sorts. It's a big comfort to know that we have our supplies and prior coordination always covered.

5. Don't worry. Be happy!

When I entered as a plebe in the Academy, there was simply too much tension and stress brought about by the sudden imposition of strict military regulations, apart from the much-dreaded upperclassmen who just loved to make our lives miserable. But we learned to deal with it. And what's the best way to deal with it? Have fun. Learn to poke fun at yourselves. Laughter has a way of lifting spirits, and even relieve pain. So stop looking for the negatives. There is just so much in life to be thankful for. Don't stress yourself out over-thinking the problem. Sometimes, too much COVID news can cause people to panic and think it's the end of the world. No, it certainly is not.

Dante Balao was my buddy during my plebe year in PMA. Dante was a bubbly guy who always found something to cheer and laugh about, including himself. No amount of harassment from the upperclassmen could unnerve him. And to a large extent, I survived plebe year because of the attitude and the funny antics of this crazy friend, Dante. We went through so many trials together, but we certainly had lots of good laughs as well. And most of them, directed at ourselves! In the end, we survived.

Come to think of it, this episode in our lives has its good points as well. There's the growing community spirit, with neighbors learning to help each other with basic needs. People have started planting. There's the resurgence of family bonding, and the growing awareness and respect for nature and the environment. Finally, there's the return to Godliness and spiritual rebirth.

Hence, before you whine about the controlled conditions you have to face daily, before you complain about having lost the beer-time with your friends at the pub, think instead of how easy your role is in this 'new normal' as they call it. Think instead of how lucky you are for being called a hero by simply staying inside and watching Netflix with your popcorn and beer. Think about – and appreciate – the risky work done by our front liners, and how you can lessen their burden by staying safe at home. Remember, you are being asked to stay at home not only to protect yourself, but to protect others as well, including your very own families.

> ***"Think instead of how lucky you are for being called a hero by simply staying inside and watching Netflix with your popcorn and beer. Think about – and appreciate – the risky work done by our front liners, and how you can lessen their burden by staying safe at home."***

Today, it is not just our soldiers who are out there in the frontlines. Today, our combatants include the doctors, nurses and the other health workers; they include the market vendors, the truck drivers, the delivery people, the cleaners. They are joined by the utility technicians, the security guards, and other support elements who must risk their lives to keep sustaining us. Let us support them in this noble endeavor as well. Let us all do our share to acknowledge their sacrifices.

This war may not be over yet. But I'm confident that we'll survive this, and we'll come out of this experience stronger and closer to one another. Let's give of ourselves now. Let's show how humanity cares. Let's SOLDIER on!!!

Here's a special shout-out to some of my friends who have gone beyond the comforts of their homes to be of help. Fellow Habitat alum, Dabs Liban, who has been constructing dorms for front liners and Emergency Quarantine Facilities for PUIs and PUMs; my mistahs Ernest Villareal and Rudy Magtibay, who have been organizing soup kitchens for hospital workers, checkpoint personnel, other front liners and urban poor communities; my Pisaymates, Bing and Elise Del Rosario, who have busied themselves producing Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for our medical teams; my officemate, Odess Lacia, who has taken it upon herself to support the 'no-work, no-pay' cleaners and support elements at Udenna; and many more who I may have failed to list here. You know who you are; we thank you for your heroism.

THE GREATEST BATTLE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

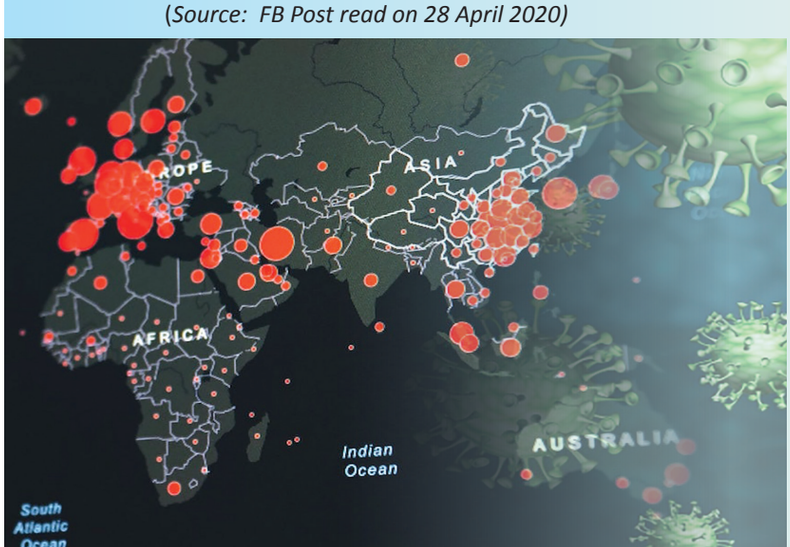
Battle vs. "The Invisible Army" Covid-19 (Sars Cov-2)

• CAV JOSE DELA ROSA BURGOS '77

Records show that pandemics strike sporadically within a century or centuries apart like in the following List of 10 Deadliest Pandemics in History:

1. **COVID-19 (SARS COV-2)** – late November 2019 up to the present. Said virus is believed to have started in Wuhan City, Hubei, China. Patient Zero (a shrimps vendor), who eventually recovered from COVID-19, has infected her co-vendors in the flea market. Per the Chinese lady's statement, she contracted the virus in a communal restroom where others might also have contracted the virus.
2. **Spanish Flu** – 1918-1920- has infected one-third of the world's entire population at that time.
3. **Third Bubonic Plague** – 1855-1960 – some 30M people were killed.
4. **Asian Flu** – 1957- a one-year plague.
5. **Russian Flu** – 1889-1890 (19th Century malady)
6. **Third Cholera Outbreak** – 1850-1860 – the virus originated from India, spread to other countries exacting some 1M deaths.
7. **Smallpox** – 1520 – historians say that the pandemic devastated the Aztec Empire giving the early Spanish colonizers an easy hand of conquest of the Empire.
8. **The Great Plague** – 1665-1666
9. **Black Death or Bubonic Plague**- 1347-1351 – the said pandemic was said to have been infected by rats.
10. **Antoine Plague** – 165-180 A.D.- it cost 5M deaths which started from Asia Minor.

(*Source: FB Post read on 28 April 2020)*



The raging COVID-19 virus has claimed more than 1M lives, the proliferation of forsaken families left behind by their parents who succumbed to COVID, including loss of business and property throughout the world. In this grim scenario, humankind has been reduced to a guinea pig-like situation where it is subjected to interferences such as the above-mentioned pandemics and other new diseases such as Cancer and Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) which to date have no definite cure. Sometimes I wonder and ask the question: "Is this nature's way of humankind's belief in the Master Creator and the latter's degree of following-up His handed-down orders to a free, prosperous, and peaceful society?" In older times, it was normal for the Aborigines, Incas, Mayas, Barbarians, Indians or Egyptians to offer some form of sacrifices to their idols or demi-gods to drive away evil spirits or malignant diseases inflicting the whole tribe.

If I may recall, when I was still posted in Brasilia, a few months before the opening of the 2016 Rio World Olympics on 05 August 2016 (the Rio Olympics ran until 21 August 2016), an epidemic called "Zika" virus inflicted the Amazon, North, Northwest states of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro (tourism capital), Sao Paolo (industrial capital) and other nearby states and have sown fear and genetical defects to newly born babies with smaller-sized heads. The target victims of the virus were expectant mothers. Considering the expected high cost of the virus to political, economic, and social affairs of the state, then Madame President Dilma Vana Rousseff mobilized the entire Brazilian Army and to a lesser extent, the Brazilian Air Force, Navy and the entire Police Force to wage war against the dreaded Zika. The latter threatened to sabotage the upcoming 2016 Rio World Olympics and everything that the host government has invested and what it meant to host the first ever in history World Olympics in South America if not, the whole of Latin America. But at the end, the Olympics went on with Ms. Hidilyn Diaz winning the Silver Medal for Women's Weighlifting (50-60 kg category) giving singular honor and prestige for the Philippine Olympic Team to the 2016 Rio World Olympics.

Moving fast forward, the prevalence of COVID-19 virus pandemic has caused chaos and havoc in a fast developing, prosperous, and free world. The so-called "Invisible Army" has taken center-stage and dominated world political, economic, and social affairs. The landscape of warfare will forever be changed shifting from conventional-unconventional warfare to biological warfare, international information warfare, cyber-security, and even exploration into the deep cosmos to seek a possible alternate new world for humankind (just in case WWIII would be imminent or the end of the world). I cannot forget the words I learned during my seminary days; "God so loved the world that He will not allow this to happen," which I conform with.

Everybody will agree that the road to the top is slippery, bumpy, rough, and sometimes misleading lest one aspirant gets

lost along the way. It is strategic rivalry that has caused wars, conflicts, and pandemics like what we are experiencing today. The centrifuge or cause of war or conflict has been always trade rivalry or if not the most coveted throne. Application of the Machiavellian Principle seems easier to do, that is, "the end always justifies the means" which is a contravention to the Aristotelian Principle which is: " the means does not justify the end." Though it is slowly becoming quite clear as to where, when, who, how, and why the pandemic virus started, still the entire world has to come to its real senses that at the end, everyone has to be blamed for not doing his own role from preventing this catastophe from engulfing the world. I mean, at an early stage the international community dilly-dallied in stopping a monster from becoming a giant predator like a "Hydra", the five-headed killer animal in the movie; "Captain Sinbad" and in Greek mythology; "Jason and The Golden Fleece." The lesson learned is: out of man's sheer wits, wisdom, might, and strong determination, the "Five- Headed Hydra" capitulated, was decapitated at the end by Captain Sinbad's and Jason's men.

Personally, COVID-19 Lockdown (ECQ) (a 60-day Lockdown period from 16 March 2020 - 15 May 2020) will forever be an eye-opener. Everything in this world indeed is temporary and ephemeral, all matter above the face of the earth is short, whimsical, and seems to be just gold-plated. My best weapon is; knowledge, virtue, love, surrender to the will of the Divine, and end to so much cravings to material things. Love of family, generosity, kindness, and to be understanding to your fellowmen is the order of the day. For when your Last Taps (last salute) is sounded or sung, you shall have given thanks to Him for giving you a life more meaningfully well-lived and at the last breathe (before closing your eyes) you pass this world with a sigh of relief having served your neighbor, countrymen, God and family unselfishly.

"The Invisible Army", I believe has a 'self-destruct' mechanism to warrant its end or death. Man, we "Pinoys", should change, reform to a better stage of society: " It is high time to follow our National Leaders, obey Protocols to stop the spread of the disease (which is reaping remarkable results) and as the late US President John F. Kennedy has said: "Don't wait for your country to do something for you but ask yourself what you can do for your country." I also firmly believe, that there is nothing that we cannot overcome or defeat, so long as we are ONE and have FAITH in HIM. Our warmest salute to Frontliners and all those who have unselfishly offered their services to the greatest battle of the 21st Century. The Invisible Army, I suppose, is nearing its termino with the hastening discovery of cure or vaccine (whether locally sourced or imported). It is our only SWORD to fight the onslaught of COVID-19, if not, in order to save more lives, for the sake of loved ones and most especially our families. God willing after the smokes of war have dissipated and the spoils settled, everybody has its own accountability to settle and face the consequences of this highly murderous and treasonous act of hatching its birth and spread to more than 143 countries throughout the world, we could shout in resounding voice; WE ARE ONE IN THE FIGHT, WE ARE ALL THE NEW SUPRA HEROES OF THE 21ST CENTURY! MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!!!

CHRONOLOGY:

30 January 2020 – First COVID-19 case was confirmed in M. Manila.

02 February 2020 - Second COVID-19 case was confirmed. A 44-year old Chinese man who died, who was also the first confirmed death from the disease outside the PROC.

05 March 2020 – A 62-year old who frequented a Muslim Prayer Hall in San Juan, M. Manila, (raising suspicions that a community transmission of the virus was already underway in the Philippines.) The man's wife was confirmed to have contracted the virus on 07 March 2020, which was also the First local transmission to be confirmed.

March 2020 – Rapid spread of contagion, lockdown, quarantine, curfew, checkpoints, transportation stops, churches and schools close, stay at home, work from home, face masks, social distancing, relief goods, cash ameliortion, and other preventive measures.

16 March 2020 – Lockdown (ECQ) in NCR and Luzon started.

01 May 2020 – First target date of the lifting of the Lockdown in NCR and Luzon.

15 May 2020 – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has extended the lifting of the Lockdown for the benefit of everybody and in order to save more lives without sacrificing the economy in mind.

March 2020 – Start of discovery of the cure/vaccine to COVID-19:

US – Hydroxychloroquine Sulfate (HCQ) paired with "Azithromycin" pill have been under laboratory validation and testing.

Philippines – Dr. Fabunan Pharmaceuticals' injectible vaccine/ cure (under continuing testing by FDA).

Japan – "Avigan", an Anti-COVID-19 pill developed by Fujifilm Teknika Medica, which is said to be working effectively in COVID-19 patients and have recovered from the virus.

China – "Steaming Process", hotwater mixed with mint or eucalyptus extract whose hot steam vapor is being breathed by a patient and whose head is covered by a clean, white towel. The process is preferably administered at home and found to be very effective in killing the COVID-19 virus as attested by Chinese residents in Wuhan City, China. Wuhan is said to be the "epicenter" of COVID-19 when it struck its Zero Patient in late November 2019.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



CAVALIER JOSE DELA ROSA BURGOS '77, is a Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (AEP) of the Philippines to the Federative Republic of Brazil (2015-2017). He hails from the Philippine Military Academy Masikap Class of 1977 and was born in Midsayap, Cotabato on 09 March 1952 to business and farmer migrant parents, namely; Francis Brillantes Burgos Sr. and Salonica Edralin dela Rosa (both parents are deceased). Before joining the Career Foreign Service in 1983, he was an Aviator of the Philippine Army, Airborne, Scout Ranger trained, and other feats in the Army and the Armed Forces. Amb. Burgos spent his seminary days at the Oblate Juniorate Seminary, Notre Dame University, Cotabato City with AB (Philos), Minor (Socio). After PMA graduation and after finishing fixed-wing and rotary-wing Pilot training with Philippine Airlines and Tropical Airways Flying School (1979-1981), he went for further studies at the Mapua Inst. of Tech (BSECE). He took his scholarship studies in International Relations and Development (IRD) at The Hague, The Netherlands with further studies in Int'l. Diplomacy in W. Berlin, W. Germany and Rome, Italy (1985-1986). Amb. Burgos also took his Post Graduate Studies at the Lyceum of the Philippines University MA-FSPP (2010-2012). The Author had earlier foreign postings in Singapore, Los Angeles and San Diego CA, USA, Bangladesh, Kingdom of Bahrain, and Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.



Sitio Hinadyungan

Helping the Needy in the Hinterlands of Tanay, Rizal

• **Cav Roberto P Santiago '68**

Even before the COVID-19 crisis, a group of concerned citizens, mostly seniors including retired AFP officers, have banded together to help the needy in the hinterlands of Tanay, Rizal. With the advent of COVID-19, these needs have exacerbated to a large extent. Aside from providing the mostly medical and dental services in the past, there came an urgent need to provide for food as well, as the lockdown resulted in the loss of critical livelihood in these impoverished communities.

The Kapatiran sa Tanay Highlands (KsTH), registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, is an organization of property owners and heads of institutions and business establishments in the mountain barangays of Tanay, Rizal. Founded in 2013, one of its objectives is to help the government's effort to uplift the living conditions of the less privileged people in the area. Over the years, KsTH had been involved in medical and dental missions and other projects to promote the area as a favorite tourism and pilgrimage destination. When the entire Luzon was placed under Community Quarantine causing many people to lose their means of livelihood, the KsTH started to mobilize to generate funds to help reduce the economic impact of the quarantine on the community.

Beneficiaries included daily wage earners like jeepney and tricycle operators anddrivers, construction workers, hotel and resort workers, tour guides, and business aides and helpers, farmers and small business owners who cannot bring their produce to, and get their supplies from the market in the absence of public transportation. It also included the indigenous people of Tanay and the Sierra Madre mountain ranges bounded by Bulacan and Quezon provinces - the Dumagats and the Remontados.

Donations came from personal contributions of KsTH members, the Sierra farm in Sitio Hinadyungan of Barangay Sampaloc, the Matikas farm whose owners are retired AFP officers and the Religious congregation running the Regina RICA, the Jollibee Foods Corporation Group Foundation and from a retired Officer with a farm in Barangay Cuyambay who personally helped his barangay mates.

The 8th and the biggest relief operations was on April 30, 2020, when three different groups of KsTH members, reached out

to about 1,000 families, mostly Dumagats and Remontados in the most remote areas.

The whole operation is best described in his report by the 77-year old president of KsTH who led the group that went to Sitio Magata of Barangay Laiban. "Dumagats and Remontados are the Indigenous inhabitants in the Sierra Mountain range boundaries of the provinces of Rizal, Bulacan and Quezon, mostly along the wide, at times turbulent, Agos River and its tributaries. Eight of the ten mountain barangays of Tanay are all along the Agos River or tributaries. Since the tribes are greatly affected by the lockdown, KsTH decided to bravely go to these communities to ease the pain of at least 1,000 Katutubo families who are desperately trying to survive. Partly challenged by the thought of having the elderly and children enjoy a Jollibee Chicken Joy meal, a rare if not altogether impossible experience, dedicated KsTH volunteers endured the heat, crossing bridgeless rivers and hiked steep hills bringing with them sacks full of rice, canned goods and delicious Chicken Joy! Older and younger tribe volunteers gamely carried the heavy sacks on their backs, some were loaded on horseback and in bancas. This 8th wave of distribution was finished way ahead of schedule as the beneficiaries were most orderly."



92-year old resident of Sto Nino, Tanay receiving her packs of rice, sardines and frozen chicken joy.

There were some administrative and operational issues encountered in all the relief operations conducted but these are being looked into, both by the LGU and the KsTH, and have not affected the success of all the undertakings. We are aware of issues with the cash assistance from DSWD's Social Amelioration Program or SAP and DOLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced workers or TUPAD but the LGU is attending to them. Our efforts are also intended to minimize the impact of these problems.

Realizing that relief efforts as are currently being undertaken are only good for emergency situations, the ongoing projects of KsTH which are anchored on Tanay being a popular tourist and religious destination, may have to be focused on more lasting programs that will provide employment and food production opportunities that will not be affected by unforeseen events like the COVID-19 pandemic. Tapping under utilized lands for communal farming as already being done by a member and being proposed for a part of a farm of another will be pursued by the association in coordination with the local Agricultural authorities.



One of the several deliveries of frozen chicken packs from Jollibee Foods Corporation.

Of concern however is the current policy not allowing seniors to leave their homes during the enhanced community quarantine that hangs the KsTH program and those of other senior citizens in the balance. There is a lot that this and other organizations have done, are doing and will be doing that will require them to leave their homes and continue with their humanitarian projects. It is hoped that the national leadership is made aware of these activities so that those running them will be given the needed exemption from the rule requiring seniors to stay at home.

Although Tanay remains to be COVID-19 free as of this writing, the return to normalcy is not expected anytime soon. KsTH is committed to support the LGU in formulating ways to achieve a slow, rolling recovery for the mountain barangays of Tanay, Rizal.

A Call to Reexamine Our PMAyers' Values

• **Cav Salvador M Mison '55**

(Speech delivered by LtGen Salvador M Mison '55 during the PMAAAI Convention in January 2006 at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The subject, ***"Leading the Righteous Way,"*** *was relevant then and still is very relevant today.)*



Honored guests, fellow Cavaliers.

Firstly, I wish you a Happy New Year on the eve of the Chinese New Year.

This day is also the eve when our Association is launching an effort under the theme ***"Leading the Righteous Way."***

As Chairman of the Board of Directors of this Association, I had suggested as the theme for this year "Integrity in Public Service." Since the Board operates in true democratic spirit, I was outvoted and the majority chose the challenging theme ***"Leading the Righteous Way."*** I sincerely hope that those who chose the current theme for the Association appreciated the implications of the challenge ***"Leading the Righteous Way."***

Before everything changes in our country because of the proposed Charter change, which is being rabidly pursued by our political leadership, I shall raise the reasons for choosing the theme in a truly responsible manner that should push us to Lead the Righteous Way. I shall be prudent in my words so as not to provoke Cavaliers in the high nests of power and give them reason to exercise Calibrated Pre-emptive Responses. Nonetheless, I shall present the TRUTH about our alumni and society before the ideal of TRUTH is erased from among the national values embodied in our present Constitution.

The present national developments should rouse us to the pressing need to evaluate and remedy the situation in our beloved Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police or the Armed Services of our nation. The Righteous Way should show us how to approach the moral crisis.

Righteousness demands from us a total reexamination of our behavior as graduates of our beloved Alma Mater, under a set of values in accordance not only with morals laws, but divine ones as well. Righteousness demands us to observe and act on universal principles of human behavior. This is truly a tall order, but there is a lot to be gained if we lead by following the righteous way. The sum total of our individual righteous efforts will redound to the moral improvement not only of the armed services but also of our society.

As alumni of PMA, we have lived for four years, for some more than that, under an Honor System in the classrooms and barracks in Loakan, Baguio City. To my mind, the Honor System follows the Righteous Way. The demands of the Honor System are simple. We are not to lie, to cheat, to steal and to take advantage of others.

However, the Honor System is not only to govern our behavior as cadets in order to level the playing field in our academics. The Honor System and its Code is designed to inculcate in us the leadership qualities needed by our nation. To my mind, the Honor System is to govern us even outside the limits of Fort Del Pilar and in our daily private and official lives. It is a grievous mistake to think that, having graduated from the Academy, we are no longer required to abide by the noble principles of the Honor Code. Indeed, we must still respond to any challenge of "All Right" as a check on our personal and official behaviors.

In the Academy, we are trained to be leaders. As cadets, we all aspired to eventually become deserving generals. That is to be expected. And to be one, we had to strive and improve in our profession in order to deserve our promotions. Expectedly, each one of us strove to excel in our respective fields of operations. In those times, we frowned on officers who exerted efforts to curry favor from superiors and politicians in order to rise in the ranks. To do so is obviously to take advantage over others who had no opportunity to be close to the appointing authorities.

We were then truly apolitical. The people had faith the Armed Services can be neutral in the political exercises. There was then also the assurance that elections can be undertaken without fraud if the military kept watch over the process. And for those officers with political ambitions, the proper way is to leave the military and engage in partisan activities to their hearts' content.

I believe that every graduate of the Academy can rightfully aspire to become the Chief of Staff or Chief of the Philippine National Police but we must accept the fact that not all of us can attain that ambition. There was a time when promotions and assignments to important positions were primarily based on competence.

Those days are obviously gone. Since the Martial Law days, the common perception is that the process involved in the promotions and assignments of officers, particularly among the higher ranks, has become politicized. I believe there are exceptions to this but we must do something to correct these perceptions. I am truly aware as you are, that promotions and assignments obtained through political connections involved quid pro quos. The power brokers who arrange undeserved promotions and assignments require compliance to demand even if the means to satisfy these demands is patently unconstitutional and immoral.

Promotion to higher ranks and positions are perceived to be no longer necessarily dictated by competence and dedication to duty. The recent spate of restiveness among our junior officers is obviously caused by this perception and reality. Promotions to higher ranks and assignments to important positions seem to be dictated by political connections. To my mind the politicization of the military remains



unabated these days. The term "an apolitical military" has become fiction. A lie.

There was a time when the word of an officer, especially of a PMA graduate, is taken at face value. There was integrity. PMA graduates were entrusted with positions of trust. We are truthful to our friends. Deception is reserved against our enemies.

However, in these trying times, lying is pervasive and practiced even against our people who deserve to know the Truth. These days, those who hold positions of trust, especially those who handle financial matters, are no longer thought to be worthy of faith and trust. There will always be suspicion that something anomalous goes on, especially those whose lifestyles do not necessarily match the pay scales of their ranks. The temptations of "conversion" has sapped the moral strengths of some of our officers. Integrity in PMA graduates seem to have become another fiction.

> ***"Nonetheless, I nurture the hope that my efforts will still bear fruit, knowing that now you know what is to be done. Doing nothing to cleanse our ranks will only make our Academy maxim – Courage, Loyalty, Integrity – a mere empty swagger."***

The recent exposes on the crimes of some of the alumni of the PMA who deviated from the Honor System alert us to the immoral virus contaminating our Armed Services. I am sure there are still others who will be uncovered and must be purged from our Association. We seem to be in a regime where stealing public funds, lying and cheating have become the acceptable norm for one to succeed. Mistrust is tearing our nation into small pieces.

The real meaning of Loyalty in our PMA motto is lost. Loyalty is no longer given to the institution or to the country, but given to ambitious persons with doubtful motives and self interest. I would venture to say that personal loyalty is given to persons who are not to flaunt the law and deceive the people in their efforts to retain power and position. Loyalty to principles among some PMA graduates have become fiction. Ostracism seems to be reserved against the idealists and not against those who stray from the Righteous Path.

Are we to allow the degeneration of morals in our professional corps of officers to continue? We are now under the spotlight of shame. The point is reached that when a crime is unearthed in the Armed Services, the question is asked: "Is he a PMAyer?"

You may be distressed by the dismal picture of our moral state of affairs I have given. Nevertheless, I consider it my duty to do so. I need to do it. As Rizal once said, the cancer of society must be presented to the public in order that appropriate cures may be obtained.

What is to be done?

For the past year, I have tried to cleanse the Association of the rot that is infesting our group, but I am hamstrung by the requirement of "due process." I could not prevail to delist from the roster of the PMAAAI of the undesirables even if these personalities are already convicted of their sins. Nonetheless, I nurture the hope that my efforts will still bear fruit, knowing that now you know what is to be done. Doing nothing to cleanse our ranks will only make our Academy maxim – Courage, Loyalty, Integrity – a mere empty swagger. Image without action is worthless. A mirage.

I now address myself to those who like me, have retired from the Armed Services. Although we, who are already retired, can no longer directly take action in reforming the Armed Services, we must nevertheless, exercise our moral suasion to insist on the urgent and necessary institutional changes for the good of our society and of the nation. We owe our young and idealistic officers our moral effort, support and example.

We must not disappoint them.

Now is the time to breath new life into the Honor System and restore the PMA alumni to the high esteem of society.

Now is the time to revive and strengthen the righteous spirit of Courage, Loyalty and Integrity among all alumni and members of this Association. Otherwise, the future for those who will come after us will be in doubt. In the dark.

Leading the Righteous Way is the imperative for all of us.



The Role of PMAFI in the Development of Cadets

• **Cav Anselmo S Avenido Jr '67**

(Taken from his speech before the CCAFP on 16 November 2019 during the visit to PMA of the PMAFI Board of Trustees in his capacity as then Chairman of PMAFI.)

The Philippine Military Academy Foundation Inc., or PMAFI, is now 31 years old, considering that its certificate of registration as a non-stock, non-profit corporation was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC on 23 September 1988. Incidentally, the founder, or founding father, is here with us now. He is Gen Rosalino A Alquiza, the topnotcher of Class 1955. He was the one who conceived the idea of having a PMA Foundation, proposed it to the Board of the PMA Alumni Association, and prepared all the documents required for the registration of the Foundation with the SEC. He used to be the President and later Chairman of the Foundation for several years, but he had to give way to others because there is a provision in our bylaws to the effect that an officer can hold a particular position for a maximum period of five consecutive years only. It is for the same reason that I inform you now that this will be the last time that I will be standing before you as Chairman of the Foundation, because this is now my 5th successive year in this capacity. The same is true with my mistah Gen Rufino G Ibay Jr who is now serving his 5th year as the President of our Foundation. But just like Gen Alquiza, we in the Board of Trustees of PMAFI, regardless of the position that we hold, are committed to actively support our dear Alma Mater in any manner we can.

We are proud to emphasize -- and we do this in every opportunity there is -- that the PMAFI is the only organization in the entire universe whose sole mission or reason for being is to help the PMA further improve the quality of its instruction in pursuit of academic excellence and character development of the cadets. Of course, there are many individuals and organizations who have been helping PMA but supporting PMA is not their only mission or purpose, unlike the PMAFI.

Every year, we make it a point to come to PMA. While every alumnus welcomes the opportunity to visit PMA as often as possible, because just seeing once again the familiar places here already gives us the feeling of being recharged, we in the PMAFI look forward to this opportunity to dialogue with the staff and faculty and also with the cadets to see for ourselves if what we have been doing have indeed contributed to the continuing efforts of several stakeholders in making our beloved Alma Mater more effective and efficient in accomplishing its noble mission, and for us to make appropriate adjustments accordingly.

Even if the composition of the Board of Trustees changes every now and then, we have so institutionalized what we have been doing that we can safely assure you of the following:

1. That PMAFI will exist and continue to support PMA as long as there is PMA; and
2. That PMAFI has the resources and will continue to look for more resources to support PMA.

We do all this because we believe that the PMA cadets should be given the best education and training possible. We also believe that for a school like PMA to produce quality graduates, it must have quality administrators, quality curriculum and program of instruction, quality faculty, quality facilities, and quality students.

The common belief is that since PMA is a government institution, the government is supposed to attend to most, if not all, of its needs. But the reality is that this is not actually the case. While certainly PMA has had good administrators, as exemplified by the incumbent Superintendent, Vice Admiral Allan Ferdinand Cusi, and while the curriculum and program of instruction have been undergoing review and upgrading, there have been gaps in the aspects of upgrading or enhancing the quality of the faculty and the facilities. So, the Foundation has been allocating around P5M every year mostly for these concerns. In fact, we are now supporting eight members of the faculty and staff who are taking up doctorate courses and two who are taking up master's and other courses. Our aim is for all faculty members to have doctorate degrees. We also support the conduct of relevant research projects, theses and dissertations that pertain to the instruction in PMA and to the performance of the cadets as well as other topics that contribute to the literature in other disciplines.

On the facilities, our support ranges from the renovation of the classrooms to the improvement of the library and laboratories, from the procurement of sports and laboratory equipment to the donation of books, computers, projectors and other items of equipment.

In the 31 years of its existence, PMAFI has already actually donated to PMA a total of P88M worth of programs and projects.

Regarding the last but equally important factor -- quality students -- it is presumed that the PMA has them, considering that all of you cadets have undergone very rigid and competitive mental, medical and physical fitness screening procedures before being finally admitted to the Academy. In fact, more than 33,000 applicants take the entrance examinations every year and only around 400 are finally admitted.

What is the role of the cadets? Very simply, your role is just to study, to follow rules and regulations, and to be able to graduate. But it is really more than that. For it is the responsibility of every cadet to pursue excellence in every undertaking as it is the cadet's responsibility to maintain or even surpass the standards of excellence that the Academy and its graduates are noted for.

And this brings us to the big question. How can we even dare to claim excellence in every undertaking that we do if all that is talked about or discussed in the media, particularly social media, or even in barber shops, is hazing in the PMA. While the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018, or RA 11053, penalizes several acts constituting hazing, what we are particularly concerned about is the maltreatment or brutality inflicted on plebes.

Yes, the PMA officialdom and the Cadet Corps have pledged to stop this malpractice. But how about the alumni who have passed the portals of the Academy ahead of you? We are accused of sending wrong or confusing signals to you here. For it is alleged that while we say that there is no more hazing in PMA or that it is strictly prohibited, our "body language" seems to suggest that it should continue because it is needed to make the new cadets tough.

Well, that is a myth. We, your elders, are here to tell you that we are against hazing and that we believe, based on actual experience, that cadets can become tough not because of hazing but even without hazing.

In a recent meeting of PMA Class Presidents which I attended, being the President of our class, when this topic was discussed, we were unanimous in saying that hazing must be stopped and that no sympathy must be given to this malpractice.

In the US Military Academy in West Point, the institution which was the model in organizing our PMA, hazing has been completely stopped since, forty years ago. Has this made its graduates any less tough? Well, the ones who are running their defense establishment or even occupying many key civilian positions now are products of hazing-free system in West Point and they are all doing good. If they can do it there, why cannot we do it here?

In everything that you do, please remember that you carry the name of PMA. We the PMAFI Trustees and the other PMA Alumni try our best to always remember that we also carry the name of PMA. So, let us all join together in keeping the PMA spirit alive and glowing for all time.



A Glimpse in the Life of a Female Navy Cavalier

• **Cav Arianne Mae G Ayanggod '13**

Every woman's experience in the military is unique. While the role of women in the military has been a long-debated issue all over the world, in the Philippines, Republic Act 7192 or the Women in Development and Nation Building Act of 1992 opened the doors of the Philippine Military Academy to females. The first batch graduated in 1997 and they were known as "*The Magnificent Seven*." Following their footsteps was the Class 1998 and since then year after year female cavaliers continuously join the long gray line. There are around 600 female cavaliers in the roster as of this day.



In reality, despite the influx of women in the military we cannot diminish the truth - women compared to men, endure an extra layer of scrutiny on top of the expected challenges. Regardless of our roles, female cavaliers serve. Women have played an important role in the Philippine Military Academy and in the military as a whole. They have had their own taste of encounters and had to face enemy fire in the field, or when they are aboard military planes and naval warships. The military has mostly been dominated by men; but the women have also had history of military success. One good example is **COMMANDER ELVIRA RODRIGUEZ GONZALEZ O-12588 PN.** She grew up in Mati, Davao Oriental and the eldest among three siblings. It was her parents who have the greatest influence on her since their constant advice for her was to work hard in order to be successful in whatever field she may choose.

Commander Gonzalez joined the Philippine Military Academy in 1994 and she never regretted following her childhood dream. *"I have always been fond of the sea, being used to travel by small boats when I was young. When I was in high school, circa 1991, a patrol ship docked in Mati Pier and conducted an "open house". That was my first exposure to the Navy and I was quite amazed with the ship's weapon system. So when I got the chance to be a cadet and had to choose a branch of service, naturally, the Philippine Navy was my first choice."* She graduated as a member of PMA MASINAG Class in 1998.

Her most unforgettable experience in the Academy was during the long foot marches to the peaks of the Cordillera Mountains where a radio transmission station is located. She fondly calls them the two "*big electric fans*" in Mt. Sto Tomas. Who would have forgotten this very difficult trail in their cadetship? The way leading there can give mixed impressions and memorable moments and I am very sure every cavalier will agree that the view and experience of the trek are so worth the effort.

Cavalier Gonzalez is usually described as "*magan*" by her mistahs and acquaintances. But surely there is more to her than meets the eye. She has achieved many firsts in the Navy: She became the first female cavalier skipper or Commanding Officer of a Navy ship; the first female Commanding Officer to assume the Command of BRP Iwak (LC289) from her better half Cavalier Homer D Gonzalez, also a member of PMA Class 1998.

Further, Commander Gonzalez served as Commanding Officer of various vessels such as RPS Explorer, BRP Tausug (LC295), BRP Iwak (LC289), BRP Dagupan City (LS551) and BRP Bacolod City (LC550). She was able to accomplish various missions in different areas like: Territorial Defense, Security and Stability Operations through the conduct of Maritime Patrols, Joint Military Exercises, and Rotations and Reprovisions of security personnel in KIG. Moreover, with her strong sense of leadership she continued to sail in West Philippine Sea and territorial waters; and conducted Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations.

Over the course of her career, Commander Gonzalez proved that she is no ordinary woman in the Navy. Aside from being a seasoned sailor, she also served in non-traditional posts such as Intelligence Operations, ISAFP, assigned as Operations Officer in HPMA Tactics Group, Deputy Director in Naval Personnel and Management Center, and was even tasked for special duties such as Assistant Team Leader Technical Working Group in Strategic Sealift Vessel Acquisition. All these posts compose a work portfolio rarely achieved by women in the military. However, most often than not every cavalier faces a barrier or challenge in his/her career. According to Cdr Gonzalez, one of the most difficult experiences she dealt with was hurdling the challenges as a female CO. Pressure, expectations and huge responsibilities were placed on her shoulders. She recalls that when she was a skipper, she also encountered machinery derangement while on mission. Through personal resiliency and social support from her spouse, mistahs, and even fellow cavaliers she was able to see through it and get the job done.

At present, when asked about the achievement that she is most proud of, her answer was, "*Finishing my Command at Sea. As a navy officer, that is my greatest dream. I cannot be grateful enough to all the people who had motivated and inspired me to complete my Command at Sea. A lot of them are cavaliers.*"

Working mothers have a tough time achieving balance between work and family especially when you are in the military.*"My family serves as my greatest inspiration. My raison d'etre."*

Looking at how good her career is going and her being one of the most decorated female officers, I asked how she was able to balance family and work? *"It was more difficult to balance family and work, especially when you are assigned aboardship. I have three children and my spouse is also a Navy officer, who is currently assigned aboardship as well. Good thing my mother took care of my children while I was at sea. Technology was also a great help. It bridged the distance,"* she explains.

Now many female cavaliers can be found in the front lines. Also, an increase of women in the military has impacted the military by having different job roles, expanding military positions, and being gender sensitive in the workplace. When asked what she thinks as the differences in women's and men's experiences in the military, she has this to say: "*Men and women have different ways in dealing with situations. I am grateful that women are given equal opportunities in the Navy, even to hold shipboard commands.*"

Surely, after two decades, female cavaliers have gone far from being typical women in the society to being able to hold key positions in the military. Some female cavaliers can be placed in almost any position because of their skills and competencies. According to her, *"I am proud of the training that I got from the Academy. It was largely instrumental in whatever success I achieved so far. A lot or most female cavaliers are doing well in the organization. And we can do more with the support and guidance of fellow cavaliers."*



Lieutenant Commander Elvira Rodriguez-Gonzales, Philippine Navy, MATL Class of 2013,* magna cum laude. *Elvie is the executive officer of the survey vessel BRP Explorer.

At present, she is taking up Command and General Staff Course at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Education and Training Command, GHQ in Quezon City.

"I am grateful for the MATL program and the IGSL experience as a whole. It gave me a fresh perspective on leadership – one that includes stewardship. In whatever assignment or leadership responsibility I have, I remind myself that God brought me there for a purpose: to be a good steward of the position, the resources, and the people whom I am called to lead."



Four Classes Barracks Integration Scheme:
Perception and Implications

(Part 3 of 3 Parts)

• HEADQUARTERS ACADEMIC GROUP, PMA

The Philippine Military Academy aims to eradicate maltreatment and other forms of malpractices in the CCAFP. In attaining these goals vis-a-vis the nature and character of military training, innovations and changes to the institution and its system are necessary. As a result, the Four Classes Barracks Integration Scheme was introduced.

As part of the Command's Quality Assurance Process and to assess if the implemented program is relevant, effective and responsive to the needs of the Academy, a survey was initiated to acquire the cadets' level of response and perspectives on the implications of the Four Classes Barracks Integration Scheme. The survey was conducted on 25 October and 07 November 2019. There were 255 Fourth Class Cadets, 245 Third Class Cadets, 152 Second Class Cadets, and 169 First Class Cadets who participated in the survey.

Table 13: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 12, "Upperclassmen can exercise leadership under the new integration scheme."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	51.48%	34.32%	5.92%	5.92%
Second Class	152	63.82%	35.53%	0.00%	0.00%
Third Class	245	42.98%	47.52%	7.44%	1.65%
Fourth Class	255	57.25%	40.00%	2.35%	0.39%

All Classes except for the 3CL cadets "strongly agree" that upperclass cadets can exercise leadership under the new integration scheme. These figures reveal that the upperclass cadets, with the aid of the integration scheme, are empowered to lead the underclass by means of role modeling and mentoring.

But there is a gray area under the level of understanding of the 3CL cadets regarding their misconception on the level of "authority" to the 4CL. In the verbal response, few 3CL cadets stressed to give back their authority over the 4CL cadets. It seems that the 3CL has misconception on their role. In the small unit organization, both 3CL and 4CL cadets are considered as team members in a Squad. The 3CL cadets are expected to do "self mastery" and at the same time acted as buddy to mentor the 4CL squad mates (CLDS, 2015)

Table 14: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 13, "Camaraderie is developed under this scheme."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	46.15%	39.05%	6.51%	5.92%
Second Class	152	57.24%	42.11%	0.66%	0.00%
Third Class	245	40.50%	54.13%	4.55%	0.83%
Fourth Class	255	53.73%	39.61%	5.88%	0.39%

With the definition of camaraderie in the organization, as a mutual trust and friendship among people in an organization, the 1CL, 2CL and 4CL cadets perceived that the integration program is an avenue where camaraderie is being developed. While 3CL cadets responded with a level of "Agree" in this item statement. Camaraderie is not a rocket science. In the integration program, the respondents perceived that camaraderie among cadets from four different classes was nurtured through regular appreciation to underclassmen for their work and team efforts, mentoring and coaching, collective discussion and participative management within the room.

Table 15: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 14, "I see my roommates as my mentors and leaders."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	34.91%	35.50%	16.57%	8.88%
Second Class	152	55.26%	36.84%	7.89%	0.00%
Third Class	245	39.26%	54.55%	5.79%	0.41%
Fourth Class	255	62.35%	34.51%	1.96%	1.18%

It is noteworthy that the 2CL and 4CL cadet respondents have a strongly agree response compared to the 3CL and the 1CL who responded with an average level of agreement. The Fourth Class respondents perceived their upperclass roommates as their mentors and leaders contrary to the common notion that the upperclassmen are their tormentors. 1CL cadets' response in this statement may not be that high because 1CL cadets see themselves as mentor and not as a mentee. Thus, this affects the level of response. 3CL cadets may have a different perception in this item. But generally, the response showed that underclass cadets need someone to show around and help them adjust to their new roommates and surroundings. The response indicated that each cadet long for a trusted mentor or coach. This type of relationship has been effective when used to aid the protégé in acquiring new skills and settling into a new environment (Belanger, 2012).

Table 16: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 15, "I get enough number of hours of sleep."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	50.30%	34.32%	5.92%	6.51%
Second Class	152	54.61%	39.47%	3.95%	1.97%
Third Class	245	35.54%	54.96%	8.26%	1.24%
Fourth Class	255	45.49%	43.92%	8.63%	1.96%

For item number 15, all classes, except for the 3CL cadets, "strongly agree" that they get enough number of sleeps. The respondents perceived that the integration allows them to observe the barracks routine such as TAPS and TATOO. Such scheme addresses the concern of the cadets on lack of sleep. Thus, possibly reducing the number of cadets who are dozing in class and this maybe an indicator why cadets also reiterated that their new environment leads to greater performance in class.

In like manner the result of this study proved that the assumption of Velasco, et al, 2004, was right. The said authors were questioned almost two decades ago when they proposed the integration program. Critics cited that upperclass roommates might be the one to maltreat the 4CL roommates or if not might be the one to instill suffering to the 4CL cadets. Velasco, et al, 2004 concluded that the assumption is probable... and never denied that the culpability might starts right there in the room. However, if the upperclass cadets' roommates will be given responsibility to look into the welfare of the underclassmen, no rational cadet would ever maltreat, nor allow cadets from other rooms to borrow 4CL cadets fully knowing well that the roommates will be the primary suspect from the beginning. Thus, unknowingly, authority of the upperclass cadets leads to responsibility and in turn 4CL cadets are protected from reporting or "shabbity" to other cadets billeted in other rooms that most likely to happen after TAPS. Thus, sleeping early on time was a positive effect of the integration program. This is an indicator that authority and responsibility when joint together creates positive multiplier effect. Authority and responsibility must go hand in hand and should be delegated to meet the responsibilities. When a person is given some responsibility with sufficient authority he can perform better and also could accomplish the desired goal (Management Diary, 2019) because of the feeling that he is accountable to the tasks delegated to him or her.

Table 17: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 16, "Observance of personal hygiene is improved."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	63.91%	27.22%	2.96%	2.96%
Second Class	152	56.58%	43.42%	0.00%	0.00%
Third Class	245	47.11%	48.76%	2.07%	1.65%
Fourth Class	255	67.45%	30.98%	1.18%	0.39%

With respect to the observance of personal hygiene, the responses of the cadets reveal that they have a positive perception as reflected by the strongly agree response with. Personal hygiene is a priority issue among the cadets. Upperclass cadets let their 4CL roommates to take a bath everyday. Moreover, each cadet billeted in the room strive their best to exhibit cleanliness and orderliness. Upperclass cadets strive to show best example to its underclass men, while the underclass cadets tried to maintain the cleanliness of the room to please the upperclass cadets.

Table 18: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 17, "The new integration scheme is a form of punishment to upper classmen."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Disgree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
First Class	169	38.46%	39.05%	10.06%	8.88%
Second Class	152	36.84%	33.55%	19.08%	9.87%
Third Class	245	22.73%	57.44%	14.88%	4.55%
Fourth Class	255	46.27%	47.84%	5.10%	0.78%

With the negative statement suggesting that the upperclass carry the burden of imposing strict discipline to their subordinates, the respondents expressed their strong disagreement regarding this matter. 1CL and 3CL cadets strongly disagree, while 2CL and 4CL cadets disagree that the new system is a form of punishment to the upperclass cadets. In the qualitative response, majority of the Corps members responded that the integration provided a venue to enhance and promote leadership development skills of the cadets. 4CL exhibit strengthening of followership skills and the upperclass Corps members enhanced and exercised their leadership skills to the lower classes.

Table 19: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 18, "The new integration scheme deprives upperclassmen of rest and sleep."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Disgree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
First Class	169	45.56%	37.28%	8.28%	5.33%
Second Class	152	29.61%	40.79%	19.08%	9.87%
Third Class	245	22.73%	56.20%	14.88%	5.79%
Fourth Class	255	56.47%	36.86%	5.49%	1.18%

Contrary to the notion that the new integration scheme deprives the upperclass Corps of rest and sleep, the ICL and 4CL respondents expressed their strong disagreement. Also, the 2CL and 3CL cadets expressed an average level of disagreement under this item. The differences in the responses are brought about by the hassle and follow up made by the squad leaders and yearling buddies to the 4CL who are billeted in separate rooms. Usually the roommates are not squad mates. Thus, cadets are requesting that the roommates should be members of the squad for ease of monitoring and facilitation.

Table 20: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 19, "Respect for human dignity is emphasized in the integration system."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	49.11%	36.09%	7.10%	4.14%
Second Class	152	48.03%	46.71%	5.26%	0.00%
Third Class	245	26.03%	68.18%	4.96%	0.41%
Fourth Class	255	38.82%	54.12%	6.67%	0.39%

Human dignity is equated with respect among the members of the organization that can be manifested by trust and mutual support. With the integration scheme 1CL and 2CL cadets strongly agree in this statement while 3CL and 4CL cadets responded with an "agree" answer in the survey.

Table 21: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 20, "I can attend to my personal necessities."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	48.52%	38.46%	7.69%	1.78%
Second Class	152	46.05%	51.97%	1.32%	0.00%
Third Class	245	28.10%	58.68%	11.98%	0.41%
Fourth Class	255	36.47%	54.90%	7.84%	0.78%

Only the 1CL cadets group, where majority of its members responded with a strong agreement that the integration program enabled the said group to attend to their personal necessities. While majority of the 2CL, 3CL and 4CL cadets answered only with an average level of agreement.

Table 22: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 21, "I feel good about the new integration scheme."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	44.38%	36.69%	8.88%	6.51%
Second Class	152	50.66%	46.71%	2.63%	0.00%
Third Class	245	26.45%	55.37%	16.53%	1.24%
Fourth Class	255	38.82%	52.16%	7.06%	1.96%

The majority of the responses of the 1CL and 2CL cadets regarding this item fall under the "strongly agree" portion while 4CL and 3CL cadets only answered with a level of "agree." In general, this showed that the cadet corps has a positive response and positive view towards this new and unique scheme.

Table 23: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 22, "There is no maltreatment under this scheme."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	63.31%	27.81%^	2.37%	2.96%
Second Class	152	59.21%	30.92%	5.26%	4.61%
Third Class	245	45.04%	48.76%	4.55%	1.24%
Fourth Class	255	39.22%	44.31%	12.16%	3.92%

The highest percentage of responses in 1CL and 2CL cadets under this item fall under strongly agree; the First while the 3CL and the 4CL cadets has an average "agree" response. Their responses reveal that although all classes has a positive response that the integration system has hopes of eliminating maltreatment, there are some revelations that has floated in the qualitative response. 4CL cadets revealed that cases or scenario of maltreatment lessened but the new scheme has yet to eradicate maltreatment. 4CL cadets further added that maltreatment is being done in a discreet manner. But nevertheless, the new scheme greatly solved the rampant cases of maltreatment.

Table 24: Cadets' Response per Class on Item 23, "The new composition of cadets per room deters maltreatment."

CLASSES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
First Class	169	56.80%	34.91%	1.78%	2.96%
Second Class	152	55.26%	38.82%	3.95%	1.97%
Third Class	245	40.08%	50.00%	7.85%	1.65%
Fourth Class	255	35.29%	49.41%	11.37%	3.14%

The highest percentage of responses under this item are the responses of the 1CL and 2CL cadets that yield to a result that majority of the group members strongly agree that the composition of cadets per room deters maltreatment. While majority of the 3CL and 4CL cadets answered agree under this item. The reason for these differences of the level of response was answered by the 4CL cadets in the verbal response wherein cadets clearly cited that the eradication of maltreatment in each room will depend on the upperclass composition in each room. Those cadets who were billeted under the rational and kind hearted upperclassmen were protected from cases of maltreatment, while those who were billeted with "Magan" (tormentors) upperclass cadets still exhibit maltreatment.

Q2: The Difference on the Cadets' Perception of the Integration Scheme in Terms of Classes

The respondents of this study consisted of 821 participants that formed into four groups of classes; fourth class, third class, second class and first class cadets. The difference on the cadets' perception of the integration scheme among the 4CL, 3CL, 2CL and 1CL cadets were statistically probed. The One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was utilized to test the following hypothesis.

Table 25: Statement of Hypothesis

Null hypothesis	There is no significant difference in the perception of the cadets on the integration scheme.
Alternative hypothesis	There is a significant difference in the perception of the cadets on the integration scheme.
Significance level	$\alpha = 0.05$

Equal variances were assumed for the analysis.

Table 26: Analysis of Variance Statistical Result

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Factor	3	0.7719	0.25729	4.42	0.006
Error	92	5.3592	0.05825		
Total	95	6.1310			

Since the p-value which is 0.006 is less than the significance level of 0.05, the result suggests for rejection of the null hypothesis. The four groups of classes have different perception on the integration program. There exist enough evidence to conclude that there is a significant difference in the responses among four varied classes in the Cadet Corps.

Table 27: Model Summary

S	R-sq	R-sq(adj)	R-sq(pred)
0.241354	12.59%	9.74%	4.82%

Table 28: Means

Factor	N	Mean	StDev	95% CI
4CL	24	3.3099	0.2151	(3.2120, 3.4077)
3CL	24	3.1098	0.2335	(3.0120, 3.2076)
2CL	24	3.3159	0.2469	(3.2181, 3.4138)
1CL	24	3.1665	0.2669	(3.0687, 3.2644)

Pooled StDev = 0.241354

Since the result of the ANOVA yield to a conclusion that there is a significant difference in the cadets' perception on the Barracks Integration Program among four classes, the Tukey Pairwise Comparisons was applied following significant main effects to identify pairwise differences among the four groups of respondents. Differences between responses in categorical variables were analyzed using Chi-square tests of significance.

Table 29: Tukey Pairwise Comparisons

Grouping Information Using the Tukey Method and 95% Confidence

Factor	N	Mean	Grouping	
2CL	24	3.3159	A	
4CL	24	3.3099	A	
1CL	24	3.1665	A	B
3CL	24	3.1098		B

Interpretation: Means that do not share A letter are significantly different.

When evaluating the data, the post-hoc testing results revealed the following: (1) demonstrate clearly that the mean of the 3CL cadets' perception on the program is significantly different from that of the other three classes; and (2) that the 2CL Cadets exhibited the highest response level of 3.32, followed by the next higher response given by the 4CL with a mean of 3.31.

Based on the above statistical result, this study tried to determine the area that leads to the difference of the perceptions of the 3CL cadets with the other three groups. The difference in the perception is noted in the deviating view of self efficacy, leadership and mentoring, and the misconception of the CCAFP organizational role of the 3CL cadets based on the Cadet Leadership Development System (CLDS) Framework.

By analyzing the responses of the cadets, it revealed that the three classes (1CL, 2CL and 4CL cadets) have a very high self efficacy response while the 3CL cadets have a very low efficacy response to the integration program. As noted in the verbal comments, the three groups with similar perceptions most likely approach organizational change in a more resilient manner as compared to the deviating group (3CL Cadets). The latter viewed the organizational change as a little bit challenge, hardship and threat to the 3CL cadets' self-esteem. Bandura (2004) explained that cadets' beliefs about their capabilities to produce the designated levels of performance that exercise influence over events that affects their lives differs significantly, based on how the person response, views, and perception.

CLS	COURSE	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEK 11	WEEK 12	WEEK 13
1CL	HMT431	9.3%	8.37%	0.93%	—	—	—	—
	LAW431	6.98%	6.98%	2.33%	—	—	—	—
	RES 431	1.4%	--	--	—	—	—	—
2CL	POM 331	21.55%	25.97%	22.65%	14.92%	13.33%	20.56%	4.44%
	PHY 331-Lec	18.23%	15.47%	13.26%	11.6%	13.33%	10.56%	8.89%
	MIS 331	2.76%	2.76%	2.7%	—	—	0.56%	—
	PHY 311-Lab	1.66%	4.97%	13.26%	2.76%	1.11%	2.22	—
	ENG 331	--	0.55%	0.55%	—	—	—	—
	SP 331	0.55%	0.55%	0.55%	0.55%	—	—	0.55%
	PHILO 331	0.55%	--	—	—	—	—	—
3CL	MAT 231	73.61%	73.47%	75.7%%	75.7%%	73.2%	73.2%	69.69%
	ECO 231	33.45%	20.07%	11.3%	8.9%	3.44%	6.87%	3.14%
	FNS 231	32.09%	8.84%	8.84%	19.6%	7.56%	7.56%	4.18%
	COM 231	29.39%	10.88%	7.88%	3.08%	3.08%	2.57%	3.14%
	HRS 231	1.35%	2.04%	1.71%	0.68%	0.34%	0.34%	0.34%
	SGD 231	1.35%	1.02%	0.68%	0.68%	0.68%	0.68%	0.68%
4CL	COM 131	9.84%	11.78%	11.78%	11.78%	7.06%	8.31%	4.18%
	HIS 131	7.38%	6.03%	5.82%	5.54%	3.32%	5.26%	1.11%
	PSY 131	5.74%	9.04%	4.43%	1.94%	1.11%	4.43%	0.28%
	OM 131	4.37%	1.63%	0.55%	0.55%	1.39%	0.55%	0.55%
	STS 131	3.01%	2.47%	1.94%	1.39%	0.83%	0.82%	0.55%

Based on the per item analysis, the deviant mean per item statement in the responses of the 3CL cadets is observed in the following categories: academics, non academics and leadership

development. Moreover, there is also an implicit meaning on the verbal responses of the 3CL cadets. The latter group emphasized that having a 4CL roommate is considered as a great challenge and expressed the rigors of mentoring. Moreover, a misconception and misunderstanding on the leadership role of the 3CL cadets based on the Academy's Leadership Framework was also observed.

Q3: Impact of the Integration Scheme on the cadets' academic performance

Table 30: Cadets' Perception on the Academic Aspect

	4CL	3CL	2CL	1CL
1. I perform my academic compliances better.	3.39	2.96	3.22	3.06
2. I learn better under the new integration scheme.	3.58	2.97	3.18	3.05
3. Academic compliances are more difficult under the integration.	2.94	2.65	2.68	2.49
4. I am more motivated to study.	3.23	2.95	3.19	2.95
5. I can read my lessons in advance under the integration system.	3.03	2.71	3.11	2.81
Grand Mean	**3.0075**			

Table 30 presented above showed that the Corps has an overall average positive response (mean of 3.01) on the impact of the integration program on the Academic aspect. Fifteen percent of the members of the Corps indicated that the said response was affected on the following aspect: First, all classes cited that there is a difficulty and hardship in coordination and communication among members of each class since their roommates are no longer their "mistahs". Second, team teaching and group study among roommates were no longer practiced in the new scheme that is why the respondents from four groups suggested that an EI Room will be allotted for each class. Lastly, at the time of the survey, the integration was implemented just a month ago, that is why cadets may still be in the adjustment period and conclusive significant effect may be determined in the post implementation study of the program.

However, still majority of the members of the Corps indicated positive impact of the integration scheme to the academic performance of the cadets. The 4CL cadets indicated in both quantitative and qualitative responses that integration program gave the latter more time to sleep and strongly agree that the integration yield to better academic performance. As cited in week 11 weekly deficiency report, the 4CL CDs reported that the 4CL cadets are now attentive and less sleepy in class. Moreover, the table below showed the weekly deficiency report of the cadets that can serve as indicator in the cadets' academic performance.

The weekly deficiency report presented below also showed that the cadets' level of deficiency started to wane three weeks after the implementation of the Integration Scheme. As observed in the above table, the percentage difference of cadets' deficiency in various classes was highly different. The deficiency mark on week seven has decrease significantly in week 13.

Table 31: Weekly Deficiency Percentage Per Course

Q4: Implications of the Integration Scheme

Positive Implications

More than 60% of the respondents cited that in general, the integration system is good, beneficial, and effective. A total of 15-20% in each class commented a negative response on the implemented program, whereas other respondents had no verbal comment on the integration.

The following are the good implications brought about by the Four Classes Barracks Integration Scheme as follows: (1) encourages the practice of leadership and assumption of responsibilities by the upperclass cadets; (2) enhances followership and observation skills of the underclass cadets; (3) presents more opportunities for mentoring and coaching of the upperclass Corps and in like manner, 4CL cadets also learn through imitation and observation to the upperclass cadets; (4) promotes the practice of proper personal hygiene, and room orderliness and cleanliness; (5) furthers character development - upperclassmen are compelled to do the right things to set as good example to the lower class cadets. Upperclassmen are compelled more to act with maturity in the barracks. This also strengthens cadets' discipline and enhanced followership skills of the 4CL cadets; (6) promotes better cadet performance in the aspect of academics, non-academics, leadership, personal development and purges mediocre cadet performance; (7) develops relationships, camaraderie, and bonding among roommates from different classes; (8) presents new challenges to learn something new; (9) presents chances for upperclassmen to monitor, follow-up, and help their underclassmen in their compliances- thus enhance both authority and responsibility; (10) promotes chances of upperclassmen for an immediate giving of caution, correcting mistakes and advise to the underclass; (11) deters the conduct of maltreatment; (12) promotes respect for roommates and their personal belongings; and (13) develops a peaceful atmosphere in the room.

Negative Implications

Around 15-20% of the respondents cited the following negative implications of the program and whereas the remaining respondents left this portion blank: (1) It is observed that underclassmen, especially the 4CL and 3CL cadets are not comfortable with the new atmosphere at the start; (2) 3CL cadets find it hard to follow up their 4CL cadets' buddies billeted in other rooms; (3) 4CL cadets felt too much physical and emotional pressure; (4) the said program proliferated 'shabbity' from upperclassmen, especially in producing boodles and passing to the 4CL the personal necessities and tasks of the upperclass cadets; (5) the new system encourages 'familiarity,' some 4CL cadets familiarized so much to their upperclass roommates. During company "masemase" and mass general cleaning, some 4CL cadets cannot join their "mistahs" because the latter is under the blanket of protection of their 1CL roommates. Some upperclassmen prohibit plebes to do their 'jobs'; (6) academic compliances are harder to comply due to the lack of class communication among cadets in the same class; (7) some of the cadets are not open to express their emotions. Thus, class integrity and communication among "mistahs" started to wane; (8) difficulty in venting out some negative feelings because roommates are from different classes; (9) standards of cadetship have lowered; (10) underclassmen have less 'freedom' in doing things that they like or other personal necessities; (11) there are no classmates present as study buddies; (12) squad mates are not roommates; (13) routine in the barracks is difficult to observe; (14) was good at the beginning of its implementation, but the Corps started to revert back to the old system- violent ways of instilling discipline; and (15) lack of concrete planning and orientation to the cadets relating to the new integration.

Measures and actions should be done to address the negative implications.

SUMMARY

In general observation, the Cadet Corps has a positive response on the Four Classes Barracks Integration Program. Although 15% of the members of the Cadet Corps cited valid negative implications on the outcome of the new system but still majority of the cadets have a positive perception and acceptance of the program. Second Class and Fourth Class Cadets have a very high agreement on the integration, while Third Class and First Class Cadets perceived an average level of agreement on the implementation of the program. In the per item analysis, cadets responded an average positive response and perception in the academic and non-academic item statements and a very high level positive response on leadership and personal development statements.

In testing the significant difference on cadets' perspective in terms of classes, statistical results revealed that there is a significant difference in the responses among four varied classes in the cadet corps. Fourth Class, Second Class and First Class have the same perception on the integration, which are all statistically different from the Third Class cadets' perception.

The most prominent key themes observed in positive implications are as follows: imitation and observational learning of the Fourth Class cadets fostered good environment in the barracks. Likewise, mentoring and coaching also honed upperclass cadets' leadership skills. This also promotes good communication among the four classes of the Corps, improve barracks routines and procedures, and enhanced cadets' hygiene, orderliness and cleanliness. Integration Program deters the cases of maltreatment but did not totally eradicate this malpractice in the Corps. The new scheme also has an average positive impact in the cadets' academic performance and a good intervention in decreasing deficiency rate of the cadets.

A minority group of respondents cited the negative implications of the program as follows: this strengthened the shabbity as another form of malpractices in the Corps; minor cases of maltreatment still happen; lack of planning and orientation in the implementation; too much familiarity between the upperclass and underclass cadets; and this lessen class integrity and communications among members of classes.

On the impact of the integration program on the cadets' academic performance, cadets have an average positive response level and Corps agrees that this greatly improves cadet performance. Moreover, the indicator of this result was manifested in the decreasing rate of deficiency shown in the weekly deficiency percentage rate.

CONCLUSION

The entire Corps wholeheartedly accepted and supported the Program. Although, undeniably, few cadets are amenable that it is not yet a perfect system. But majority of the cadets cited many good implications of the new scheme than negative ones. The program is responsive and contributory to cadets' development in academics, non- academics, leadership and personal development aspects.

Although the Corps has a positive response on the implementation of the program, 3CL cadets were seen to have different perception as compared to other classes in some aspects like self- efficacy, challenge and hardships of leadership and authority over the 4CL cadets.

In general, it can be concluded that the new system should be continued and sustained as it exhibits more of advantages. However, actions should be done to address the infractions and limitations in the system to ensure its effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to correct some negative implications on the implemented programs, hereunder are the proposed recommendations of the study group:

1. Crafting of Four Classes Barracks Integration Program and Policy Framework- Together with planners who will make a program planning and framework, there should be a clear Command policy relating to the objective, purpose and implementation of the program. The purpose of this proposal is to institutionalize the program and to eliminate all forms of misunderstanding and misconception on the real intent of the program. Further, all efforts must form part of the Academy's overall strategic planning process.

2. Conduct of Integration Program Orientation- Initiate an orientation program in each class so that each cadet will be oriented on the objective, purpose and goal of the Program. Further, each cadet be oriented on his role on the integration and how can he best support the effectiveness of the program.

3. Conduct of CLDS Orientation- as cadet will be promoted to the next rank, they must clearly know their duties, responsibilities and leadership roles based on what is stipulated in the Cadet Leadership Developmental Framework. The exhibited ignorance of the 3CL cadets on their leadership role is very dangerous and this can be corrected through education and orientation.

4. Roommates Composition and Rotation- To avoid familiarization within the ranks of cadets, room rotation should be done every term. (1) Homogeneity of roommates' composition should be within squad level. The first room shall be composed of SL, Yearling A and 4CL A. The second room shall be composed of ASL, Yearling B and 4CL B. Every term, the 3CL and 4CL cadets shall be rotated or swapped to join the SL and ASL respectively within the academic year. (2) The 1CL cadets who were billeted with a particular squad shall be designated as the room commander and at the same time shall act as table commander during mess. (3) The cadet officers in Brigade, Battalion and Company level who performed organizational role in tactical decision-making should not form part in the Integration. The Cadet Officers in the Command Team will billeted in one room being the main concern of these cadet officers is more on organizational planning and management.

5. Conduct of Financial Management and Study of Cadets' Allowance- to eliminate the malpractice of "shabbity" and financial whacking in the Corps, each cadet must be taught on how to properly manage his respective allowances. The goal behind teaching financial literacy to the cadets is to help them develop a stronger understanding of basic financial concepts—that way, they can handle their economic resources better and subsequently avoid "shabbity." A study should be made on the actual allowance that a cadet should possess.

6. Strengthening of the Cadets' Leadership Courses- The military leadership courses offered by both the Academic and Tactics Groups must be strengthened to align the expected outcome stipulated in the CLDS, that will turn cadets to not just a mere officer but great military leaders with a "heart and soul." This is also to clarify the roles of each upperclassmen.

7. Relationship Team Building and Psychological Processing for the 4CL and 3CL Cadets- the death of a cadet and the subject to court proceedings of some upperclasscadets created psychological, emotional and physical effect to these two classes. The diverse opinion also of the responses of these two classes has some adverse to the classes' relationship. Thus, a team building and psychological processing is best recommended.

8. Inclusion of one Special Law Course under the BSNSM Program- that will tackle AFP Regulations, Special Laws that affects the PMA and the AFP. The said course will orient and prepare cadets on the legal knowledge in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities.

9. Continue to conduct survey and assessment on the relevance, effectiveness and implications of the Integration Program.

10. Psychological Process to all cadets- it is best recommended that cadets shall pass through a psychological processing relating to the performance of their leadership organizational roles in the CCAFP. Cadets should be outcasted from the shadow of psychological numbing. They should clearly understand that the use of discipline is not all about inflicting force but rather for establishing relationship with the fellow cadets. Further, cadets need to understand when and how to use the operant conditioning –the proper use of rewards and punishment in the teaching of underclassmen– in the exercise of Corps leadership.

The following enumerated recommendations per class have been collated from each cadet respondent's answer. These are subjective perceptions which may not have been presented in the objective portion of the survey questionnaire but are freely suggested by the said respondents. Although limitedly enumerated, these responses have been repeated or have been emphasized by more than one respondent.

First Class Cadets:

1. Observance of the hierarchy of ranks should be emphasized.
2. Remove the Integration Scheme.
3. There should be access to social media.
4. The most senior member of the room should assume as room commander.
5. 1CL cadets should have their own rooms; only the underclassmen should be integrated.
6. Provide a separate common room per class for common academic compliances and 'bonding' time by "mistahs."
7. Upperclassmen should treat each of their underclass roommates as roommates.
8. There should be leaves and privileges.
9. There should be a balanced mix of classes in each room as not all rooms have diverse class members.
10. The integration system should be enforced more and implemented further.
11. Give consideration that upperclassmen are still adjusting to the system.
12. Remove the Fourth Class System.
13. There should be an "All Right" 24/7 for maltreatment.
14. There should be separate barracks for each class.
15. There should be innovations of cadet facilities.
16. There should be a strong stand against 'shabbity'.
17. Room assignments should be arranged by Branch of Service.
18. Although the room is proper in the presence of 1CL Cadets, it is unsure if it remains proper in the absence of 1CL Cadets.
19. There should be further studies to be conducted on this integration scheme.

Second Class Cadets:

1. Need for faster internet connection.
2. There should be indoctrination to the cadets in terms of the objective and purpose of the integration and the basic roles, duties and responsibilities of each cadet in each room.
3. To promote and enhance class integrity, there should be an EI room per class in each Company Barracks.
4. 4CL cadets should be billeted in the same room as their SL's room.
5. Need to enhance barracks facilities, provide chairs and EI rooms should have Boards.
6. Cadets should be oriented on the purpose of the Barracks Integration. Reporting system should be clear.

Third Class Cadets:

1. Give back the authority of the 3CL over the 4CL.
2. There should be a 4CL in all rooms.
3. To promote and enhance class integrity, there should be an EI room per class in each Company Barracks.
4. Give break and privileges to the cadets- to socially unwind.
5. Best move of the Command but there should be a strict implementation.
6. Better room facilities.
7. Remove the Squad System. Reporting should be room system.
8. There should be an orientation to the cadets on the Integration and roles to perform in each Class.

Fourth Class Cadets

1. Rotation of cadet roommates to experience different types of leadership.
2. 3CL should be excluded from the room integration.
3. Put CCTV in blind spots, upperclass cadets still do maltreatment.
4. Tac-o to visit the rooms more often.
5. Squad mates should be in one room.
6. 2CL and 3CL cadets should also observe.
7. Evaluate the new system conduct survey.

Over Bottles of Beer

• Cav Socrates L Brazal '71

It all started over bottles of beer.

2001 was 30 years after our graduation from PMA. In one of the informal social functions in Baguio during the February alumni homecoming, Mistah Jun Fabros, who was already running marathons, half marathons and other distances, was trying to encourage those around the table to start running. He said we needed a change of lifestyle to control our bulging mid sections. He was proposing we run the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) in October that year - eight months of training he said would be sufficient. I agreed. Nobody else did. I must be the only one drunk. Well, there was a need to change lifestyle anyway.

We trained separately in our respective cities. The 2001 26th MCM sold out within 28 hours of registration opening, filling the 30,000 runner capacity. It was "dedicated to the memory of our fellow citizens who lost their lives, the survivors of these tragic events and the selfless heroes who worked tirelessly to save lives on September 11, 2001." On Oct 28, the participants showed their patriotism by carrying flags throughout a course that ran as close as 50 yards from the damaged Pentagon just weeks after the terrorist attacks. Jun Fabros, underclass Gil Osorio and I ran together passing historic memorials and monuments. We finished near the Iwo Jima Memorial.

A year later, Jun and I decided to do another marathon together - the New York City Marathon. We applied six months before. Participants, except for the elite runners, were selected by lottery. We were lucky that our names were picked. We - Jun came from Washington DC and I came from Ottawa - met in New York Saturday Nov 2 2002, a day before the race. We did the tourist things in New York City and did our carbo loading in one of the restaurants in Chinatown. Very early the following morning, we were bused to Staten Island, the starting point of the New York



Kevin Alano, Soc Brazal, Dan Perico, Bing Alano and Jun Fabros while waiting for the start of the NYC 5 Boro Bike Tour.



Jun Fabros, Gil Osorio and Soc Brazal showing off their medals after 26th MCM run.

Marathon. We ran through the five boroughs of New York City. Running in the mostly concrete streets of NY was hard on the knees. Approaching the finish line in Central Park, the spectators, 10-15 people deep, were cheering for the runners loudly. We were encouraged to give our final sprints even though we were already exhausted after running more than 40K.

When Bing Alano visited his family in NYC, the three of us, Bing, Jun Fabros and I decided to join the Yonkers, NY, Half Marathon. On Sep 19, 2004, we ran the 21 kilometers undulating course around Yonkers. The cut off time for completing the half marathon was three hours. The three of us crossed the finish line laughing and relaxed, a minute just before the cut off.

We were not fast runners. We ran for fun, the camaraderie, the exercise and the travel. Our mantra was "to complete, not compete."

We also did our own races. Jun did several Rock and Roll Marathons across the US. He also ran the San Francisco Half Marathon with Irwin Ver '70 and other cavaliers. Bing Alano, together with Bob Inco (USNA '70), participated in several triathlons. Most of the time, they finished first and second in their age group. Since I was into marathons, I decided to run the original course ran by Pheidippides in Greece. On Nov 7 2004, I did the Athens Classic Marathon which started in what used to be the place called Marathon and finished in Panathenaic Stadium, Athens, the main stadium of the 1896 first modern Olympics.

In 2008, Jun Fabros and I ran the 33rd Marine Corps Marathon, the course of my first marathon. Bing Alano was registered to run but on the race day he was not able to join us. It would be my last run. I had come full circle. After seven years, 13 marathons and about a dozen half marathons, I hung up my running shoes.

After several years of running, the pounding on the knees was starting to take its toll. I started to transition from running to walking and trekking. My first foray into trekking was in Nepal in 2007. With a guide and a porter, I did a back to back trekking of the Annapurna Circuit and Everest Base Camp (EBC). Before that



Jun Fabros, Soc Brazal and Bing Alano at the summit of Mt. Tagapo.



Guide, Bob Inco, Jun Fabros, Bing Alano and Soc Brazal resting on the slopes of Mayon Volcano.

my only mountaineering experience was when the cadet corps marched and bivouacked in Mt. Santo Tomas.

In the Philippines, Jun Fabros and Bing Alano were still running short distance races but at the same time were also transitioning to walking and hiking. We discussed about climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Jun and Bing climbed Mt. Apo, the highest mountain in the Philippines, to train for the Tanzanian climb. In January 2010, the three of us and Weet did it. (See Bing Alano's "A Walk in the Park").

After the African adventure, Bing and Jun did a lot of trekking and mountain climbing. They climbed the mountains of Batangas and Benguet. They and other hiking friends got together and called themselves Hapò Hiking Society.

Whenever I visited the Philippines, I joined the Society in their activities. We climbed Mt. Pinatubo. We touched the clouds hovering on top of Mt. Pulag and scaled the rocky slopes of Mayon Volcano. We strolled to the grassy summit of Mt. Tagapo in Talim Island, Laguna and to the crater within a crater of Taal Volcano. We hiked Tirad Pass to see the spot where Gen. Gregorio del Pilar was shot by an American sniper.

When travelling from Manila to Baguio, we always see Mt. Arayat proudly standing on the plains of Central Luzon. Have you ever you noticed how many peaks it has? I realized that it has two peaks only when Jun Fabros and I climbed it. We went up the northern slope, traversed the top from the north peak to the south peak and then descended. Jun suffered severe leg cramps when we reached the north peak. Luckily, a Korean acupuncturist was also climbing. He poked Jun's legs and other parts of his body with needles. The whole climb, including Jun's acupuncture session, took six hours.

In 2016, I climbed Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, the highest mountain in Southeast Asia. That same year, Jun and I climbed Mt. Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan. We reached the summit late in the afternoon. Most of the time the mountain peak was covered by clouds so we did not see the sun set. We decided to sleep on the higher slopes and get to enjoy the sunrise before going down the following morning. So, we hunkered down beside a big rock to sleep. Early the following morning we woke up to a beautiful sunrise which lasted for about an hour or so. After that, the clouds rolled in.

If given a chance, would you like to bike the streets and freeways (free of cars) of Manhattan, New York City? Bing Alano, June Fabros, Dan Perico and I did that in 2010. The New York 5 Boro Bike Tour takes the riders through all five of New York's boroughs and across five major bridges. We volunteered as marshals - that saved us from paying the registration fee. As marshals, we patrolled the route to provide assistance to the participants who needed help with flat tires, loose chains and other mechanical problems. We started under the shadows of the skyscrapers and ended in Staten Island. We enjoyed ourselves so we did it again the following year.

Doing things together was fun. Travelling together was exciting. The camaraderie and bonding were priceless. As we age, we still crave for adventure. It does not have to be as crazy or strenuous as it used to be. As long as our knees hold up. What is important is getting together, catching up and reminiscing the past ..... over bottles of beer.



Sign along the Mt. Pinatubo trail. How long do you think it took us to reach the summit?



A Walk in the Park

• **Cav Bienvenido P Alano Jr '71**

The park is Kilimanjaro National Park of Tanzania. Kilimanjaro is a large strato volcano composed of three distinct cones: Kibo (the highest), Mamezi and Shira (the lowest). With an elevation of 5,895 meters (19,341 feet), it is the highest peak in Africa.

This tale of daring and adventure is about three Matatags (Soc, Jun and Bing) who joined the Navy, possibly envisioning a merry life at sea (although Soc eventually ended up a Marine) while enjoying the hospitality of accommodating townsfolk in the many exotic ports of the Philippines. While it is not clear even to them what goaded them to venture to a far-off mountain, it would not be far-fetched to surmise that the urge may have been partly driven by the pursuit of a bucket list that was likely drawn up while in mid-life crisis. The attire says it all. The trio, however, agreed on one overarching objective: to bring the Matatag banner to the highest peak in Africa.

African Safari

The various websites on Kilimanjaro emphasized the importance of acclimatization to a successful climb, so the trio, together with Weet, Soc's Mas Matatag, started the process by going on a 3-day safari of the Serengeti plains and Ngorongoro crater to immerse in the African culture and its inhabitants.

The lore that the plains of the Serengeti is lorded over by the Lion King was driven home by a majestic pride of lions that welcomed the awestruck visitors by the roadside. The group was also privileged to have joined a morning stroll of a herd of giraffes.

We managed to walk in on a cheetah at lunch without ending up being a part of the menu and ogled at a herd of elephants at nursing time.

Each day was capped with extensive conniving over dinner about the wondrous encounters of the day.

The Climb

The Kilimanjaro climb was through the Machame Route, which involved a 7-day trek through the Karanga Valley. Often called the "Whiskey Route," it is a scenically beautiful trail, longer and much gentler than Umbwe or Marangu (the "Coca Cola Route"). The itinerary provided valuable time for acclimatization by having extra, but shorter walking days during the trek.

Day 1 started at the Machame Park gate and involved 5-6 hours of walking through the original montane forest carpeted with "busy lizzie" flowers, begonias and ferns while ascending 1,200 meters to the first camp among the giant heather at 3,000 meters.







The photo below shows the Matatag foursome with the rest of the trekking group at the Machame gate.



The photo below shows our objective: the ice-capped peak of Kilimanjaro towering over the giant heathers:



Day 2 saw the group emerge from the giant heather zone to hike for five hours through open moorland and ascend 840m to camp by the Shira Cave at 3,840m.

The photo below shows Weet and Jun in the foreground trying to keep up with the guides.



On **Day 3** the group started the climb towards the main peak Kibo from Shira, with the western glaciers clearly visible across the rugged high-altitude desert of volcanic rocks and boulders. The route skirted around the base of Kibo under the imposing Western Breach, then descended into the sheltered Barranco Valley for mid-way camp at 3,950m. The trek involved 5-7 hours of walking and only 110 meter of total ascent. But having climbed higher and then dropping back down to the campsite assisted in acclimatization.

The periodic rest breaks during the trek afforded opportunities to rehydrate, refuel and take iconic pictures with the awesome sights as backdrop..... or listen to Jun try to solve the most weighty problems of the world.



Day 4 involved scrambling up the steep Barranco Wall (shown below), requiring an ascent of around 300 meters, then climbing back down to the Karanga Valley to finally camp at around 4,000 meters. This was a relatively short walking day (around four hours), especially for Jun who likes to leave everyone in the dust.



Day 5 required an ascent of 700 meters to a new camp just below the summit. As the photo at the next page shows, the trail appears to be well above the clouds. At this point, the dreaded symptoms of acute mountain sickness (AMS) began to be felt, as almost everyone experience difficulty in keeping food down. The trek was actually already above the altitude at

which life threatening high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) or high altitude cerebral edema (HACE) could occur. These are the most severe forms of AMS. Thus, trekkers had to be aware of the symptoms and listen closely to their bodies. It was another relatively short walking day (around four hours), to allow for enough rest before the midnight assault of the summit.



The camp (shown below) was about 100m above Barafu Hut perched high on a rocky bluff with fantastic views across to Mawenzi peak.



The climb up the steep frozen scree to the summit started at 1:00 a.m. of **Day 6**. With everyone feeling nauseous from AMS and weakened from not being able to keep nourishment down, it was a slow and arduous trek, especially for the four lowlanders. Sadly, after around four hours of climbing with leadened feet, the chief guide decided that the AMS situation had become too dangerous for the group to continue. The group therefore turned around and climbed back down to camp just a few hundred yards from the summit at Stella Point. However, because of their proximity to the summit, everyone was nevertheless given a climbing certificate for Stella Point.

Day 7 saw the group descending the mountain using the Mweka route, again through the giant heather forest. The photo below shows the Matatag trio after crossing the Mweka gate, clothes hanging loosely and with hollowed cheeks from weight loss, but nevertheless thankful for having survived the difficult climb.



After an evening of farewells back in Arusha, Bing and Jun took a bus to Nairobi the next day for their flight out, where they also tried to gain some of the weight they lost on the mountain by gorging on game meat at the Carnivore Restaurant (shown below). The Brazals, on the other hand, took a flight out of Arusha to an undisclosed exotic beach resort on the coast to engage in more relaxing and possibly more placid activities.



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

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

CLASS CALL



MIGUEL M VILLAMOR
President
JESUS T DIZON
Historian

I am back. I regret not writing for one issue of THE CAVALIER. I have been in a state of lethargy for six months, not of my choice, but as a result of debilitating chronic sicknesses that drained me of the energy and motivation to write.

I write for THE CAVALIER out of a sense of duty that the space reserved for Class '51, under Class Call is filled up. It is also a means to let the entire alumni know that there are still nine surviving originals and three adopted members of the BANAT Class, the first post war class of the PMA.

Because of limitation in allotted space, I will dedicate my column to publishing the Eulogy delivered to honor the late Maj Gen Delfin C. Castro (Ret) who died on 7 Feb 2020. Gen Castro exemplified a true military professional and in my view, he was the best Southcom Commander we ever had.

EULOGY

I was requested by my class, the "BANAT" Class of '51 of the PMA to deliver this Eulogy.

"My deceased classmate, Maj Gen Delfin Castro (Ret), was the epitome of a true military professional. The best tribute that we can give him is to glorify his death. Tomorrow at about 12 noon, he will be interred at the Loyola Memorial Park with full military honors. As his body is lowered to Mother Earth, he will receive a final salute of three volleys from a firing squad followed by a lone bugler sounding the sweet, sad, nostalgic refrain of TAPS. There will be an eerie silence and you can feel a hair-raising experience as if his soul closely trails the very last notes of TAPS to the space beyond, to eternity, to meet his Creator. Delfin now belongs to the ages.

I write for the Cavalier Magazine, but I missed the last issue because of sickness. As part of my column under Class Call, I started writing a personal tribute to each of my surviving "BANAT" classmates, I thought this was a better tribute writing for the living and not a eulogy for the dead. I did not expect to do both for Delfin.

My eulogy will be almost a repeat of what I wrote about Delfin in the Nov-Dec 2017 issue of THE CAVALIER. I sourced my information from the three publications of Class '51- THE SWORD (Graduation Yearbook); the SILVER SWORD, and the GOLDEN SWORD.

Delfin and I lost touch after graduation. We took different career paths. We met again when we were assigned to the 1st PHILCAG in Vietnam in 1966-68. We were both in the Korean war but with different BCTS. I regret that I can't factually speak on his distinctive accomplishments both as CENCOM and SOUTHCOM Commanders, which should be highlighted in writing his Biography. Our country owes him a debt of gratitude that during his stint as Southcom Commander, the Muslim Secessionist movement was under control and there was relative peace in Mindanao. I may be biased because Delfin is my classmate and compadre, but I believe he was the best Southcom Commander we ever had.

Let me back track of how the Class of '51 assessed Delfin in its Graduation Yearbook, THE SWORD. In his cadet years Delfin was known and even nicknamed "MASAYA". He took things in stride and was never pressured from the groan and grind of cadet life. He was assessed as a potential great military leader and his achievements would be part of military history. He would be known as a sensitive, caring and private person respected and loved by his publics and his family. This forecast of Delfin was very accurate.

Delfin retired from active military duty in 1986. If not of the EDSA revolution he could have been retained much longer as Southcom Commander by then President Marcos. He held the baton of the class in their final race to full retirement.

It is too long to talk about Delfin's military service but we can derive his most important assignments from some of his distinctive awards and decorations: 3 DSS, 4 MMM, Wounded Soldiers Medal, Anti-Dissident Campaign Ribbon, MIN-Sulu Campaign Medal, U.N. Service Medal, Korean Campaign Medal, RVN Honor Medal, AFP Parachutist Badge. He graduated from the Airborne Course, Ranger Course and the Special Forces Course. Also, Delfin was the author of the book, THE MINDANAO STORY, which was published in two volumes.

I had asked Delfin what was his most important and memorable accomplishment in his life-time, and he said unhesitatingly, that it was his marriage of 56 years to his "OAO", the most beautiful lass of Marikina City, the late Corazon S. Trinidad, blessed with three well-accomplished children- Donald (deceased), Delfin Jr. and Ferdinand, four grandchildren and one great grandchild, who are challenged to outshine their Grandpa.

To the family and relatives of Delfin, may I express my sincerest condolences and that of my family, and pray for the eternal repose of his soul. May they find comfort and pride in the legacy of their father as a brilliant military professional, an officer and gentleman."

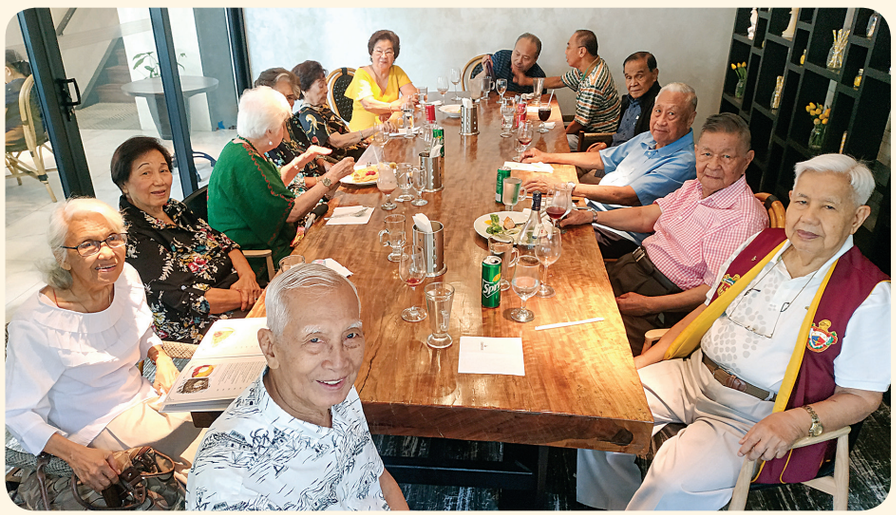
Let me close my report that the month of February was not kind to the PMAAFI. We lost Cavalier Mamerto Bocanegra one week earlier before the death of Gen Delfin Castro./ **JT DIZON**

AMANTE S BUENO
President
BIENVENIDO G GOROSPE
Secretary

Sammy Ramos celebrated his 89th birthday anniversary last January 26 at the La Creperie Restaurant at Quezon City. Nena Ramos and sons and granddaughter Bianca hosted the party.

The '54 Clan was on hand to raise the wine for Sammy's continuing good health. (In fact, he seems to be the sturdiest among us.)

Those who attended: Pike and Daisy Depapakibo and son Nold, Joe Sorreta, Mante and Glo Bueno, Nita Punsalang, Lorna Lomongo, Inday Muñasque and son Mark, Gopeng Gorospe and son Balani who took the picture.



Nena distributed large scented candles which if lighted opens your nostrils wider. It also drives away evil spirits, rats, cockroaches and mosquitoes.

Thanks Sammy and Nena. Don't go out of your house but if you do, wear your anti-COVID-19 protective mask. Scent it with candle drops. **/Gopeng**

SALVADOR M MISON
President
VANGIE P RIVERA
Secretary

VERY SAD NEWS

On 13 Feb 2020, another sad news for the class. Genoveva "Joven" Cordero, widow of our classmate, the late Eusebio Cordero, passed away following a lingering illness at the VMMC. Among her surviving children are Fr Cris Cordero and Gemma Cordero-Ibus.

The wake was held at St Peter Funeral Homes in Quezon City, where our class president Buddy Mison presented the check of P100,000, representing the abuloy from our Class 55 Foundation, to the bereaved family. The remains of Joven were brought back to her hometown in Nueva Ecija where she was finally interred.

On 28 March 2020, still another sad news. A very sad news indeed affecting the same family. Lorenzo Cordero, one of the sons of Joven, also passed away following a lingering illness. Our Foundation owes his widow, Zoraida Feria-Cordero, P50,000 as abuloy.

The class conveys its deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the bereaved Cordero family. May the souls of Joven and Lorenzo rest in peace.

ON CLASS ACTIVITIES

The February class lunch was held at the AFPCOC Dimasupil B Hall on Sunday, 23 Feb 2020, hosted by the February born ladies headed by Ione Mison. The lunch was preceded by a mass celebrated by MSgr Tirso Dolina, former AFP chief chaplain.

Present from the 1st gen were Buddy and Ione Mison, Johnny and Pilar Sanchez, Rene and Mila Tanseco, Ros Alquiza, Grace Alcaneses, Zeny de Guzman, Remy Ilagan, Tess Isaac, Letty Jotie, Estel Silva, Romy Solina and Gigi Zaide. Accompanied by her daughter, Remy seldom attends class affairs because of her old age (more than 90) and physical condition.

Attending the affair from the 2nd gen were Jomari and Grace Alcaneses, Veronica Alcaneses-Pantig, Von Alfabeto, RJ and Teena Alquiza, Didi Parado-Baladad, Agnes Isaac-Banez, Rowena Ilagan-Estrella, Teng Zaide-Garnace, Greg Jotie, Bing, Sarah and Tommy Miranda, Freddie Mison, and Joy Solina.



From left: Rene Tanseco, Ros Alquiza, Johnny Sanchez, Buddy Mison, Gemma Cordero-Ibus, Fr Cris Cordero, Mila Tanseco (partly hidden), Pilar Sanchez and Grace Alcaneses.

The class 65th graduation anniversary dinner was scheduled on 21 March 2020 at the Milky Way Restaurant along Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) in Makati. But it was indefinitely postponed because of the quarantine imposed effective middle of March, which has been extended up to 15 May 2020, in view of this corona virus pandemic.

ON CLASS 55 FOUNDATION MATTERS

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

The release of the P500,000 money of the Foundation invested in PAFCPIC in the name of the late Muni Munoz, along with its dividend, has been delayed due to lack of correct marriage certificate of Muni and his wife Ondette. For the same reason, the monthly retirement pension of Muni has not been transferred yet to Ondette. But lately, all the required documents have already been submitted and we expect its release soon.

The class, through the Foundation, has donated P100,000 to the VMMC for the purchase of PPE and other much needed equipment for the medical practitioners and other front liners in the fight against this corona virus pandemic. (Ros Alquiza also donated to VMMC P15,000 equivalent to three months old age pension thru PVAO and PMAAAI, plus P13,000 in cash equivalent to one-tenth of one month retirement pension thru AGFO.)

We wish everybody, confined at home during this quarantine period, to stay safe and healthy always. **/raa**



The 20 survivors of the class (39% of the 51 graduates) after 64 years are this year 86 to 90 years old in various state of health, all striving hard to live life to the fullest and longest. All are aiming hard to be at Loakan on February 2021 to celebrate their 65th Graduation Anniversary and once more take pride in trooping the Long Gray Line of the Cadet Corps, revisit old and new features of their beloved Alma Mater and deeply reminisce with gratitude what PMA did to make them responsible and hard working citizens of our country.

After the holidays of Dec 2019, the golfers of the class repaired for lunch at the Choi Garden at Annapolis St., Greenhills on 8 Jan 20 to connive on the current topic of talks regarding the frequent changes of command in the AFP leadership. To avoid loose talks and jokes among the same invited guests who are seated in the same section of the grandstand, the AFP leaders have realized that it is more prudent to hold the frequent changes of command ceremonies indoors. But some say that the longer cocktails held indoors could trigger more talks and jokes. There is a pending bill prescribing the tour of duty of the AFP Chief of Staff that had been shelved by the powers that be. Why not revive it for the good of the AFP which will make the top position a very valuable and most cherished prize (unlike a diploma mill) that can enhance better strategic thinking and planning and promote a deeper selection process within qualified members of the officer corps.

On 23 Jan 20, Mon Farolan invited the golfers to lunch at the Alba's in Morato Avenue, QC, attended by Ching Corachea, Mel Goyena, Levy Malto and ACP Paiso. Romy David was absent due to heavy traffic at EDSA, according to him, but the group felt that he got lost somewhere and could not find his way.

On 30 Jan 2020, ACP Paiso invited the same group with their ladies, including the widow, Cecile Ampig, to dine at the TREAT, Shangrila EDSA to enjoy and savor the buffet lunch with an array of exquisite dishes that we are privileged of tasting not quite often. Everybody took their time in selecting what dishes to tackle first and returned to the food line for the second, third, etc, — only to give up and accept the fact that our food intake is already very limited due to old age and no longer the boodlers of bygone years.

At the lunch hosted by Ching Corachea on 6 February 2020 at the Choi Garden in Annapolis St., Greenhills, all the class golfers were accounted for except Romy David again, who had been missing in action (MIA) for three consecutive pow wows. Romy had been at-large, untraceable and just simply roaming elsewhere in the USA last January and other places. He reported by cell phone that he is in Mt. Arayat in his home province of Pampanga being considered as Commander of something, we know not what.

In the absence of Romy David (temporarily reported in our MR as MIA), Levy Malto braced-up to host lunch after golf at CAGC on 13 February at the Kimpura in Greenhills to enjoy genuine teppanyaki steak, but luckily, Comdr. Romy resurfaced to take over the lunch bill without bringing cash or credit card to pay the bill. Mel Goyena and Levy Malto rescued him from being detained at the diner. He informed the group not to expect him on next week's lunch meeting because he will be in Guam for a confab.

The 27th Epic Golf Tourney between Classes 56 and 57 was held at the PNGC on 20 February 2020 played by four golfers from 56 (Boy Paiso, Mel Goyena, Levy Malto and Ching Corachea) and five from 57 (Eddie Ermita, Jardi Jardiniano, Vic Buenaventura, Rene De Villa and George Templo). Class 57 made their 13th win with a total score of 404 vs. 421 of class 56. Class 56 as the loser was spared paying the lunch bill, which was taken over by George Templo, who celebrated his 88th birthday at the VIP room of PNGC.

With COVID 19 looming world-wide sparing no one in its path, the class bogoos are now confined in their respective quarters, mostly alone with their wifeys - no problem for those who had experienced long confinement terms in Loakan like Onchie Mendoza (eight months) and Mel Goyena (six). Whatever, let's all play safe from the scourge and pray for its exit ASAP. After more than two months of ECQ, no member of the class and their families have been afflicted with the pandemic.

ORLANDO B SALIENTES
President



Members of the PMA Class of 1960 gathered together to celebrate another very momentous event in their lives, their Diamond Jubilee (60th year) as graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

On February 15, 2020 the class hosted a dinner – dance party at the Grand Sierra Pines Hotel, Baguio City for its members. The celebration was attended by 14 of its local and foreign-based classmates and their families. Those in attendance were:

Orly and Inday Salientes
Marcelo Blando
Pong and Jessie Panes
Jose FIlio
Esting and Fanny Cariño
Chit Paredes
Fred and Lydia Lardin
Lilian Kintanar
Tony and Nelia Leviste
Leni Balbas
Robert and Letty Tagala
Julpha Maniquis
Bill and Norman Iban
Glo Banaticla

The program started with the recitation of the Cavalier's Prayer and commemoration of Class Members who have gone ahead. Then after, the Diamond Jubilee Medallion was accorded to the class members by their wives or family member. The wives of our departed classmates likewise gave heartwarming messages, remembering their late husbands and their appreciation to the Class.

The evening was filled with merriment and exchange of pleasantries. The Singing Soldier provided entertainment with both nostalgic and new songs. Class members and their families joined with individual song and dance performances. The reunion became more fun filled with the celebration of Valentines, where the gentlemen of Class 60 serenaded their ladies with the singing of My Kaydet Girl, while offering flowers and a slow dance. To the delight of everyone, Tony Leviste made everyone burst with laughter with his witty jokes and Magic show.

Look...! We have our own little Italy in the Philippines courtesy of Esting Cariño. On February 16, he hosted us in a magically perfect place in Santiago, Ilocos Sur named Villas Vitalis, just like Santorini of Northern Greece, with its cubi formed villas painted in a wash of white and blue. The accommodation given by Esting Cariño is most iconic and luxurious. On that same day, we visited the Candon Museum donated by the family of Esting Cariño and in there, were several historical mementos and photos. It was like going back to the old times wherein we can see the old photos, historical books, exquisitely laced gowns, and intricately curved wooden furnitures of that era indeed, our two-day sojourn is a one of a kind exhilarating experience for all of us!

The following week, February 22, 2020, five members namely Orly Salientes, Pong Panes, Ernie Arzaga, Marcelo Blando and Roy Aguilar proudly represented the class of 1960 in the celebration of the PMA Alumni Homecoming. Together with the other celebrating Jubilarians, Orly, Pong, Ernie, Marcelo and Roy received and wore their Diamond Jubilee Medallions. Ernie Arzaga joined the parade to represent the Class and march with the alumni daring the trooping of the line.



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

This class call is being prepared amidst the corona virus (COVID 19) pandemic. We started the year 2020 foreseeing another active year for Class '62. Alas, we now find ourselves in an ECQ (extended community quarantine). Many of the plans for the first quarter were shelved. Class president Nano Mariano's much anticipated birthday celebration for 28 March was cancelled. Birthday greetings were nevertheless extended to him through the internet. At this time of lockdown, the social media has become the common means of getting in touch and greeting classmates and their ladies. Luz Alcudia was greeted by classmates and Holy Land friends at Messenger and Facebook. So with Al Lumibao who observed his natal day with his family. Nano and Ray Logan are active in the AGFO Viber. We are also updated of the activities of Willy Cruz through Facebook.



At the birthday of Ernie Dauz.

Maury who transferred from his California Garden condo and now stays with daughter Annabelle at San Mateo, Rizal regularly uses the phone to ask classmates of their situation. At this time, no news is good news. The ECQ commenced about mid-March. Happily before this date the birthdays of Ernie Dauz and Maury Evangelista, and the wedding of Alan and Cookie Cusi were celebrated.

ERNIE DAUZ'S BIRTHDAY. Sunday, 28 January was Ernie's big day. Much



During the birthday of Amaury Evangelista.



At the wedding reception of Allan and CookyCusi.

earlier than the lockdown, this birthday event pulled through. We joined other classmates, Ernie's family, some coming all the way from Canada and the States, relatives, Flying School classmates, and friends at the Villamor Air Base Golf Clubfor dinner and dancing. Ernie and Hazel still displayed their lightness of foot at the dance floor. Maury, Ophy, Heidi and myself enjoyed doing the boogie and the cha-cha. Other classmates who enjoyed the night were Nano, Manny Salimbangon, Silver Silverio, Al Lumibao, Freddie Filler, Mike Hinlo, Joel and Rio Hinlo, Charlie Tanega, and Paco Atayde.

AMAURY EVANGELISTA'S BIRTHDAY. Maury's birthday was marked just in the nick of time, so to speak. On 4 March, about a week before being "confined to quarters" by the ECQ; at Vikings, SM Megamall. We enjoyed the good food and camaraderie among friends and family. Nano, Heidi, our daughter Kay and myself joined Maury's children Arthur (Class '84) and wife Precy and children, Annabelle and husband Joe and children, Amalia and children, and B-Boy (Albert) who came all the way from the States.

ALLAN FERDINAND CUSI AND COOKY DAVIS WEDDING. Allan is the son of Kelly and Linda Cusi. He is a member of PMA Class 1986, a Vice-Admiral of the Navy and presently the Superintendent of PMA. Along the hills and trees of PMA last 20 January, he and Cooky Davis got wed. Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, Class '82 officiated the wedding. After the wedding, we walked down to another picnic grove for the reception and lunch. Classmates who joined Linda in this happy occasion are Maury and children Arthur and Precy, and Annabelle and Joe; Nano and his lawyer son Cornelius Victor; and Heidi and myself. **###(JRRIMANDO)**

CLEMENTE P MARIANO
President
ORLANDO T CABANLIG
Secretary

Due to the impending Covid-19 epidemic that has affected the country and the whole world this 2020, there were no activities that the class have pursued. Among those lined-up and cancelled were:

1. February 14 Valentine's Day
2. 2020 Alumni Homecoming in February
3. Meeting with AFPSLAI management on status of Class 64 funds

Classmates here and abroad have to abide with government's quarantine restriction and that is to stay at home. Status of some of our classmates are:

a) Clem Mariano – home quarantine at Taguig
b) Rey Reyes – Lipa City, home quarantine
c) Arts Arpon – Lipa City, home quarantine
d) Terry Dela Cruz – home in Quezon City after on and off hospitalization
e) Ding Odono – home quarantine active pursuing his political views
f) George with wife Merrian Agcaoili – is in USA – home quarantine
g) Billy Villareal – home quarantine in Taguig
h) Santi Bunoan – Masbate
i) Garic Garcia – home quarantine at Better Living Paranaque

In the same manner, the Class '64 Golf Club has not been playing for the past months of 2020. The last meeting they had was sometime January 2020 and have decided every Friday as the playing day.

Good luck classmates! Let us just pray that this epidemic will end soonest.



MANUEL P ESPEJO
President
FREDELINO S BAUTISTA
Secretary

PAMBUNGAD

Dumadaan tayo ngayon bilang isang bansa sa isang krisis na likha ng isang kaaway na hindi nakikita ng mga mata ng tao. Lahat tayo ay apektado, mayaman man o mahirap, may katungkulan o wala, bata o matanda. Sa panahong tulad nito, kailangan natin ang maging matatag, malakas ang loob at matibay ang pananampalataya sa Panginoon. Kailangan natin ang magkaisa, magtulungan at sumunod sa mga patakarang iniatas ng pamahalaan. Dahil sa krisis, ilan lamang ang mga pagtitipon ng Klase na maiuulat sa isyung ito ng Cavalier Magazine.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2020

The Alumni Homecoming last February 22 at PMA should be the most significant during these times, for it placed a member of the Class, and for that matter, the whole Class of 1966, on a pedestal. The reason - our very own mistah, Edd Santos, accompanied by Lil Santos, was the selected Guest of Honor and Speaker during the traditional Alumni Parade at Borromeo Field. Upon arrival, he was accorded the usual military honors - Arrival Honors, led the Trooping the Line and delivered the inspirational Speech, with the alumni, the Cadet Corps and other guests as audience.



Unfortunately, because of the corona virus scare, only five male sixty sixers joined and finished the trooping the line, namely: Class President Noli Espejo, Louie Fernandez, Viusy Dauz, Fred Bautista and Bing Rivera. The ladies present, namely: Mercy Dauz, Tess Reyes, Paz Bautista, Sylvia Agudelo, Tita Belo, Baby Baylon, Fe Cuison, and Susan Gador, joined Lil Santos at the grandstand. After the parade, Edd did not join the lunch hosted by PMA for VIPs and instead, joined the sixty sixers and his family in a lunch at Marios Resto in Baguio City which he and Lil hosted.

LUNCH WITH THE MARCH BORNS

Fortunately, there was no lock down yet in Taguig City in connection with the Corona Virus, on March 10. On this day, some of those born in March hosted an eat all you can lunch at NIO, Aura. Throwing all caution to the winds, 34 male and female sixty sixers, a really big attendance for such an occasion, tried all the menu items without any trace of fear. Read the following list, not in any order: Temy and Tess Arugay, Louie and April Fernandez, Edd and Lil Santos, Fred and Paz Bautista, Gerry and Cel Cunanan, Ben and Cel Espejo, Jimmy and Agi Bantolo, Viusy and Mercy Dauz, Vic and Tita Belo, Bert and Portia Varona, Pons and Cena Millena, Bert and Fe Sabularse, Leo Alvez, Sylvia Agudelo, Baby Baylon, Tess Reyes, Edna Gopilan, Fe Cuison, Glo Domingo, Susan Gador, Lulu de Leon, Greg Llorca and Cavalry Hills neighbor Quintin and Mrs Alcudia. The latter day boodlers thanked the following hosts for the occasion - Temy Arugay, Bert Varona, Mercy Dauz, Fe Cuison and Susan Gador.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

Happy birthday to our birthday celebrators during the period!

April - Mars Cordova (26), Gerry Cunanan (6), Rod Eco (6), Noli Espejo (18), Bay Galon (22), Luz Baylon (7), Edna Gopilan (10), Fe Sabularse (13), April Fernandez (21).

May - Charlie Batayola (22), Rey Gopilan (29), Buddy Perez (26), Tony Romero (3), Raul Urgello (5).

June - Andy Andres (1), Bert Sabularse (8), Rec Sarmiento (27), Elsie Rivera (9), Edna Bello (12), Dee Cagurangan (13), Agi Bantolo (23).

May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come.



ANSELMO S AVENIDO JR
President
RUFINO G IBAY JR
Secretary

CLASS ACTIVITIES

The following were our activities for the January – March 2020 period:

10 January – Many Dimasupils attended the BIRCI Annual Membership Meeting at the Aguinaldo Golf Clubhouse, Camp Aguinaldo. The BIRCI is the PMAAAI Chapter where we belong.

18 January - Jun and Ronnie Ibay celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary at the St. Joseph Church in Camp Crame with the reception held at the AFP Museum, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. Several Dimasupils attended the memorable event.

21 January – Several Dimasupils attended the PMAAAI Annual Convention at PICC, Pasay City. Our delegation was very much bigger than those of other Classes. Our very own mistah PRRD was the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

23 January – We thank the sponsors of our Dimasupil Monthly Forum (DMF) – Jun and Agnes Avenido, Bobby and Penny Lastimoso, and Joseph and Reina Young – for a sumptuous lunch at The Alley resto, Bonifacio High Street, BGC, Taguig City.

22 February – Despite the fact that we already celebrated our 50th Golden Anniversary in February 2017, 16 Dimasupils and many Ladies attended the PMA Alumni Homecoming this year. The occasion was made more memorable with the presence of balikbayans Pol Aliac, Araw Bernabe, Titong Enriquez and Oying Pinto. After the parade, we had our Lunch (instead of Class Picnic) at Fortune resto, Paragon Hotel. In the evening, we had our Post-Valentines Dinner at our hotel, Golden Pine Hotel. The lunch, dinner, and hotel rooms were shouldered by the Class. (We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PMA Superintendent and his staff for detailing a shuttle bus for use of our Class in going to PMA and back to the hotel during this Homecoming.)

23 February – From Baguio, the Class honored the invitation of Orly and Reem Tucay to a lunch-boodlefight at their hideaway Villa Amelia, Lingayen, Pangasinan. Two whole pieces of litsong baboy damo and plenty of seafood were wiped out, not to mention the bring-home bags. Our thanks to Orly and Reem for this unforgettable occasion.

Our DMF (Lunch) to be hosted by Manny and Maryrose Dalipe, Jun and Ronnie Ibay, and Nic and Glo Parena, which was scheduled on 19 March to jibe with the celebration of our 53rd Graduation Anniversary, did not push through due to COVID-19.

Our regular Class activities will resume as soon as allowed by COVID-19.

UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS

We lost two adopted Dimasupils in the early part of this year, namely: Fr Fernando Suarez, who died on 4 February 2020, and Atty Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez, who passed away on 20 April 2020. Fr Fernando suffered a massive heart attack while playing tennis in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Sonny, on the other hand, was a victim of COVID-19. His wife Cecile, who was confined in the same hospital also for COVID-19, was able to recover shortly after. We pray for their eternal repose in the bosom of the Almighty



Dimasupils 67 group pic during our evening fellowship.



Lunchtime fellowship after the Alumni Parade.



Dimasupil ladies during Alumni Fellowship dinner.

and we convey our deepest condolences to their families.

Congratulations to Jun Ibay on his election as Chairman of the PMA Foundation Inc (PMAFI) for 2020-2021. He replaced Jun Avenido, who finished the maximum tenure of five consecutive years. Our Class is among few Classes with 100% membership in this Foundation.

Congratulations to Romy Odi on his reelection as Board Director of PSSLAI for a term of three years (2020-2023). With Romy there, the financial stability of PSSLAI is assured.

We received from Myrna Andaya the following update on Pert Molato: "We visited Pert in his house last 8 January on his birthday. He looked good, even with tube feeding. He could be wheelchaired."

UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES

We also lost two Dimasupil Spouses during this period, namely: Noemi Casillan, who died on 5 February 2020, and Yolly Encarnacion, who passed away on 3 May 2020. Noemi had been bedridden and confined in VMMC for several years after having a stroke. The commemoration of her 40th Day last 15 March had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Yolly's death was due to heart congestion. Her body was cremated on the same day she died. By the way, Yolly was a classmate of Abe Din in NDCP Class No. 21 in 1987. We pray for their eternal rest in the kingdom of our Lord and we convey our heartfelt condolences to their families.

We also express our sincerest condolences to the families of: (1) Ronnie Ibay, on the death of her brother, Teodoro Valentine Roa Segura, on 6 January 2020 in Cebu City; (2) Abe Din, on the death of his brother, SP02 Leovino Din PNP, on 15 January 2020 in QC due to heart failure; (3) Claude Francisco, on the death of his brother, BGen Andrew Francisco '59, on 2 February 2020 in NCR; and (4) Mar Santiago, on the death of his brother, Cav Crispin Santiago '73, on 12 April 2020 in NCR due to cancer. May they rest in peace with our Lord.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

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

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

CLASS TRIVIA

We received the following messages in connection with our 53rd Graduation Anniversary on 19 March 2020:

1. Vlady Olivares: It's an honor to be part of this Class.
2. Elen Reventar: I'm very lucky and very happy to be part of '67.
3. Aging Alino: It's great that we have reached it. Hallelujah!
4. Ross Sibal: That was the happiest day in our long stay in the Academy, next only to our Recognition Day.
5. Vic Garcia: It escaped my mind, perhaps proof that we have aged considerably.
6. Nic Parena: Medyo ingat tayo ngayon dahil matanda na tayo at susceptible sa viruses at infection.

Bernie and Aying Patino celebrated their 50th (Golden) Wedding Anniversary last 2 May. When asked if a reenactment of their first night together was part of the celebration, Bernie replied: "Wala na ibuga, Mistah. It's all in the mind na lang."

Mabuhay tayong lahat!



Dimasupils Jan Lunch Forum sponsored by Jun and Agnes Avenido, Bobby and Penny Lastimoso, and Joseph and Reina Young at the Alley Resto, Bonifacio High Street, BGC, Taguig City.

ARTURO B CARRILLO
President
HECTOR M TARRAZONA
Secretary

During our class meeting on January 20, 2020, the class installed the following class officers for the Calendar Year 2020: President - Art Carrillo, Vice President - Volts Gazmin, Secretary - Hector Tarrazona, Treasurer - Alex Costales, and Auditor - Nori Azcueta.

On January 21, 2020, Mel Rosales, Sonny Penilla, and Rudy Rabago represented Class 1968 during the PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting at the PICC wherein President Rodrigo R. Duterte was the guest of honor and speaker.

On February 24, 2020, shortly before the COVID-19 quarantine in Luzon, six class members and eight ladies braved the possible presence of NCOV virus in Boracay and pushed through with the trip planned months earlier. The adventurers were Bobby and Purita Santiago, Oscar and Gigi Cabaron, Volts and Rhodie Gazmin, Rudy and Arlene Rabago, Willie and Isay Nuqui, Nori and Candy Azcueta, Cecille Canson, and Tess Pangantihon. The timing was perfect because there were less people than the usual crowd in Boracay.





The quarantine led us to celebrate online our 52nd Graduation Anniversary. Pictures were taken after which a collage was made with the help of Joana, daughter of Nori and Candy Azcueta. In the collage are Rene and Ofelia Santos, Rudy and Arlene Rabago, Angging Dumlao, Alex and Shirley Costales, Volts and Rhodie Gazmin, Willy and Isay Nuqui, Bobby and Purita Santiago, Hector and Pee Wee Tarrazona, Cecille Canson, Diomeng Villanueva and daughters Yumi and Kit, Julie Ruiz, Art Carrillo, Tess Pangantihon and her grandsons Juan Carlos and Jose Gabriel Barcelon, Nori and Candy Azcueta, Sonny and Luth Penilla, Abe and Roxanne Abiol, Mel and Millete Rosales, Mon and Baby Montinola, Lindo and Evelyn Erolin, Tita Pangan and grandson, and Ying and Amy Palmos.

With an exclusive Viber group, the PMA Class 1968 members and their spouses have become a solid group of people who love each other.

Enrique T. Gazmin Graduates from USAFA

Last April 18, 2020, Enrique T. Gazmin graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry degree, sub-discipline in Engineering. Out of the original 1,268 cadets in his batch, 967 were able to graduate including 13 foreign cadets.

Enrique was in the Dean and Athletic Director's list in Academic Years 2018-

2019 and 2019-2020. He was also a Group Standardization and Evaluation Officer or Regiment Officer. His Chemistry Research Paper was chosen to represent his school. It was presented at the American Chemical Society during the Spring 2019 Conference in Orlando, Florida, and at the 2019 Inter-academy Chemistry Symposium held at West Point Academy in New York.

2Lt Gazmin is the eldest grandson of former Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin, PMA Class 1968, and Rhodora H. Gazmin. His parents are Ezechiel H. Gazmin and Lucia T. Gazmin

A product of De La Salle Zobel School, Enrique was a consistent honor student in elementary and high school. In addition to being a student leader, he has diverse and passionate interests including playing the trombone and participating in open shooting events.

In high school, he was the president when he was in fourth year and first year, and vice president in third year.

He was a member of the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band, De La Salle Zobel Symphonic Band, and Philippine Youth Symphonic Band Big Band.

As a member of the Philippine National Shooting Association, he was able to participate in international shooting competitions in Kuwait, China, and Singapore.

He earned a gold medal in Standard Pistol Team event, and a silver medal in Air Pistol Men's Team event during the Philippine National Open Shooting Championships in 2014; and a bronze medal in the Air Pistol Men's event in the same competition in 2012.



Top schools in the US put a big weight in extra-curricular activities of candidates for college admission. With the unique achievements of Enrique in music, shooting, and leadership, it was not surprising at all that he was the choice from the Philippines to go to USAFA in 2016. He qualified both as a civilian applicant and as a PMA cadet applicant because his acceptance to USAFA happened when he was already a plebe.

We join Cavalier Voltaire Gazmin and his family in celebrating the outstanding achievements of 2Lt Enrique T. Gazmin.



JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JUSTO P MANLONGAT
Secretary

The ECG has adjusted and rationalized the priorities and concerns of the class. As a sincere gesture, we donated to the fund-raising of PMAAAI for the benefit of VMMC frontliners. In this issue, Ike Begonia shares his first-hand experience on the pandemic.

ECQ VS COVID 19

There is a global war going on against COVID 19 today and has brought down humanity to its knees. This is a nasty war against an invisible enemy that silently annihilates its victim. It cannot be killed because it is suspected to be inanimate so unlike in any conventional war there is no enemy to kill. In fact, the enemy is most effective when confronted face to face, which makes it difficult to defeat it. So, the only recourse of humanity is to hide from it, for if left alone for 14 days, as health officials say, COVID 19 will just wither away. But as long as it is hosted by human beings, the enemy is there to thrive.

Thus, the Enhanced Community Quarantine, to hide humanity from the enemy and let it wither naturally. This strategy requires total adherence to the protocol as provided by health service practitioners which must be enforced by the state. The adherence to the very strict protocol with least state intervention is a measure of the discipline of a given race. Can we Filipinos measure up to it? I think we know the answer, being Filipinos ourselves!

AVOIDING COVID 19

I was a survivor of the 2002-2003 SARS in China. I was then Philippine Consul General in Guangzhou from 2000 to 2003. I was supposed to be recalled on September 30, 2002 but my tenure was extended up to March 31, 2003.

Sometime in the fall of 2002 the French Consul General in Guangzhou shared with us in the diplomatic community that his country warned its people in China that there was a deadly virus which is more deadly than the Ebola strain that was infecting people in Guangzhou. He told us that an entire hospital had been locked down because most of the doctors and nurses working there were infected by their patients. We learned later on that the authorities locked the gates of the hospital and allowed no one to enter and to leave the premises. The people locked inside had to be rationed with provisions.



Benjie Defensor as an active frontliners in COVID-19

The authorities tried to keep the information to themselves until the first cases of SARS had appeared in other countries, like in Toronto, Canada where a couple who attended a wedding at Metropole Hotel in Guangzhou were found to have the virus and infected others which caused a SARS outbreak in the city. Like today, China was blamed for its initial reluctance to share the information on the outbreak of SARS as the reason why other countries failed to prevent the spread of the virus globally.

There was never any community quarantine imposed by the local authorities, so people especially diplomats like me continued their daily routine. In fact, there were only information, doubtful to say the least, on the number of cases and which hospitals had to be avoided because of the outbreak of the virus in those places.

Ingging was with me at that time and she was not so much alarmed by SARS as she is today with COVID 19. Over all, there were more than 8,000 infected with SARS worldwide with about 800 deaths affecting 32 countries while at this moment there are already about 3.5 million infected with COVID 19 with nearly 244,000 deaths worldwide affecting 212 countries.

I finished my tenure as Consul General in Guangzhou on March 31, 2003, just as the SARS epidemic in Guangzhou was winding down.

Today, we are fighting another virus, COVID 19. Ingging and I are using our experience in Guangzhou to wait out this deadly virus to wither away. Patience, perseverance and a lot of prayers are essential "tools". Complaining does not help. After all, Noah and company of the bible story were in the Ark for 150 days, sans Netflix, etc. **/ Cav Ike Begonia '69**



Dr. Rosalyn Beatriz Berroya, ER Medicine, daughter of Rey, actively performs as a COVID frontliner.



Benji and Meg on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary, a manifestation of enduring love and devotion.



Class 69 attendees to the 2020 PMAAAI General Assembly in the company of SND Delfin Lorenzana. By their looks they project youth, vigor, and vitality. Macho all the way.



The 69 golfers (from left to right, Jimmy De Los Santos (Super Seniors Division Major A), Nonoy Carranza, Rene Aguda and Ike Begonia). A pose after participating in the PMAAAI Battle of the Classes. Incidentally, it coincided on Feb 14, Valentines Day where they shared the evening with their ladies.



The Sounds of 69 is the only singing group that any PMA class has ever produced. At one time, they exhibited their musical skills in Mandarin and Shangrila hotels.

RUFO A DE VEYRA
President
MARCELO R GARCIA
Secretary

The DAWN of the NEW NORMAL

The Class Valentines Dinner 2020 held at the Baguio Country Club Ballroom drew memorable moments recollections from both local and expat classmates alike.

The Magitings with their Mas-Magitings pushed through with their Golden Jubilee Medallion Awards the following day, Feb 15, at the Manor Hotel, Camp John Hay despite being officially postponed due to Coronavirus. Witnesses were City Mayor Benjie Magalong and VAdm Allan Cusi, PMA Superintendent.

Sec Roy gave an inspiring talk as he enjoined everyone to forego with making decisions whenever one is, angry, happy and/or hungry since they would most likely lead to unintended, unfavorable or regrettable outcomes.

Mama's Table came alive with gourmet dinner hosted by the reserved Mel Madrid because he simply felt good that night.

Cocktails and dinner was hosted by Jorge Consunji at the 17th Tee of the BCC 21 Feb where Pitong "Maluyo" created a galloping scene with the Honoraries. Mistah Bert Lina apprised the group of his unqualified support for the VMMC Magiting Ward.

The PMA Alumni Homecoming many thought wouldn't happen at Fort Del Pilar breezed through as our Honoraries, Jorge Consunji, Bert Tagayuna, Uly Sevilla, Tony

Ilagan and Alo Murillo were inducted into PMAAAI. Our Romy Acop led the Awardees in Public Service in recognition of his legislative stint with the Lower House.

Also present were Jun Ebdane, Rufo de Veyra, Rudy Garcia, Egay Galvante, Pitong Heredia, Alvot Alvez, Mel Madrid, Teddy Delarmente, Romy Gojo, Clyde Fernandez, Maning Reyes, Jack Ligot, Willie Parayno, Ed Castellanes, Glenn Rabonza, Nesty Carolina, Bang Adriano, Dodong Resos, Aguedo Ingco, Egay Calvo, Ernie Del Rosario, Vic Signey, Ed Israel, Mar Ilagan, Sonny Atienza, Emilio Ermio, Primo Esguerra, Willy Lorenzo, Bob Nuqui and Julius Javier.

The GOHAS VAdm Ed Santos '66, President, Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific admonished all cavaliers to live up to the *"the ideals of our institution, Courage, Integrity and Loyalty." Adherence to those ideals especially integrity in the lives of our Cavaliers will inspire us to "lead our lives in the path of righteousness and never stray in the easier ones".*

The ultimate event for the day was the Wreathlaying Ceremony at the Memorial of the Alumni Departed where the 19 Class members who went ahead of us were called out as its contribution to the Academy's corridors of heroism.

That night members of the Class chilled out at the BCC amidst a Homecoming that will long be remembered as one which the Class lived through almost by the hour. We will lay claim as the only Class to have been honored in the history of PMA with two Golden Medallions Ceremonies in two venues in a span of one week. Also, probably the last Class with the luxury of a separate Annual General Membership Meeting (at PICC) and Homecoming (in Borromeo Field), against the new normal.

The final Jubilee event, the Magiting Testimonial Dinner, was held at the Manila Polo Club, 28 Feb 2020 and hosted by Bert Lina as only the underclass, upperclass and peers would dish out - straight and loose. That was some 50 years we nearly forgot.

The Class had a lot to thank for the collective solidarity displayed for the Golden Jubilee celebrations by everyone especially the pen and cellphone cradle from our overseas Magitings led by Rod Caster that came handy during the quarantine.







Here's to the next 10 years towards our Diamond Jubilee. See you at the Borromeo Field 2030.

We shall live for that day.









EDGAR B AGLIPAY
President
JOSE C LALISAN JR
Secretary

This 2020, the year of the Rat, made us feel like rats literally. With the lockdown order, we are encouraged to shy away socially and tend to store foods in our houses just like the rats.

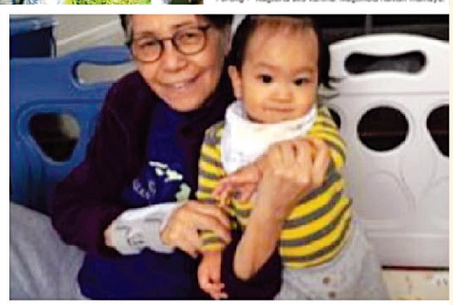
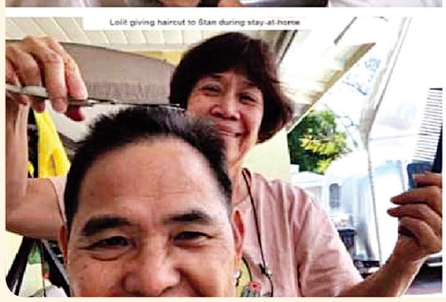
The opening of the year was a bad sign. There were the Taal Volcano eruptions which caused havoc not only in Taal but also in most of the towns around the Lake. Destroying millions worth of crops, it has also caused the displacements of thousands of families and businesses, to mention a few. What a devastation it has caused! And more, there were tremors felt not only in Luzon but also in Visayas and Mindanao. Is this the worse scenario for the first quarter of 2020? No. There came the virus known as Covid 19 discovered in early March and became pandemic as infected cases developed which can be considered as the worst devastating experience suffered not only by the Philippines but many countries as well. As of 8 May 2020, the corona virus cases are 3,917,532, deaths 270,720, recovered 1,344,120, and currently infected cases 2,253,734. It affected 212 countries and territories around the world.

HOW DID THE MATATAGS AND MAS-MATATAGS COPE UP DURING THE PANDEMIC SITUATION?

Many talents were discovered, really. For those of us who experienced class 1 offense confinements, this was nothing new. The situation was taken on a positive note. In fact many of the Matatags "discovered" anew their talents. The Mas-Matatags, on the other hand, easily adjusted with the situation since most of them are "homebodies". Some became apostolic (taga-alaga ng apos) like Narcing Abaya, Marmie and Bert Sillona, Tito and Dra Nona Legaspi, Miles and Ching Millena in Australia, Ernie and Ching Fernandez in California, and Jo Galvez. Ed Mati, Jerry Albano, Manny Foronda, Oca and Jing Martinez, Hazel Acosta, Rochee Domingo, Beth Ramos, and Aris delos Reyes are green thumb planters. Tiboe Fusilero became our vizier in Islamic history with commentaries from Marte Chioco while bunkmates Ed Mati, Vic Batac, and Mel Acosta became our sources of inspiration thru their daily religious viber messages. Some have addicted themselves to at-home work-outs and dry golf swings like Bob and Eden Sacramento, Joey and Celia Lalisan, Aleli Belonia, DA Domingo, Rey Acop, Amba Jun and Tess Paynor, Rey and Fim Velasco, Meg and Ed Finones, and Bing Alano. Full bloodied farmers Ed Mati, Bugsy Cabagnot, and Twiggy Zubia were more concentrated on their farms due to the ECQ. The lockdown caught them with their pants down while visiting their farms in the provinces. Rex Piad, Popop Ocampo, Andong Resplandor, Bay Seron, and Doy Francisco in Canada tried their skills in cooking and carpentry. Some, if not most, became Netflix and YouTube (mostly past USGA golf events) watchers like Rollie and Malou Garcia, Vic Batac, Tex Balmaceda, Joey Lalisan, Dong Tabamo, Rey Alcasid, Rey Rivera, Rey Acop, Dong Tabamo, Dan Perico, Rex Piad, Jerry Albano, Tito Legaspi, and Dan Belonia. These guys are Hampas-Lupa '71 players who are missing their games in the fairways. Lucky Rey Poca has a great space for his outdoor driving range in his farm in Tarlac thus was able to hone his swings every now and then. Rollie Malinis was busy collecting our




Forong - "Nagtorta ako kanina. Magtinola naman mamaya.


Lolit giving haircut to Stan during stay-at-home



pictures during the cadet days, while in the active service, and after retirement. He was challenged to do more photo-collections by Jimmie dela Cruz of pictures of Matatags and Mas Matatags during the lockdown period. Some of the photos in this issue were taken from that collection. Meanwhile, Sen Ping Lacson and DICT Sec Greg Honasan continue their respective works in the legislative and executive departments thru tele-conferencing and consultations. Red Kapunan, our ambassador to Myanmar, is preoccupied overlooking for the welfare of Filipinos there.

Significantly, we have complied with the required minimum health protocol of 20-second hand washing, use of face masks, and physical distancing. As of this writing, no Matatag or Mas-Matatag suffered any covid-19 related sickness. Thanks Lord! Others will miss Ang Probinsyano of ABS-CBN though. He he.

SUPPORT TO FRONT LINERS AND OTHERS

The class has continued supporting the front liners during the pandemic period. Led by Mawie and Egay Aglipay, the class was able to donate P133,500 to Fr Manoling Francisco's Tanging Yaman Foundation for the poor and displaced children. We have supported the call of PMAAAI and AGFO for support to our health frontliners in the military and police hospitals and even gave their two to three months old age pensions from PVAO for them. Individually, many members of the class and their ladies also supported other front liners and the needy. The Hampas Lupa'71 thru the efforts of its president Tex Balmaceda and treasurer Rey Alcasid donated some cash and sacks of rice to the caddies of Villamor, Navy, Aguinaldo, Kagitingan, and Veterans Golf Clubs. Rollie Garcia and some golfing buddies donated goods also to the caddies in Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio City. Some mistahs donated face masks and relief goods or foods to PNP, AFP, and tanods in appreciation for their checkpoint activities. Mawie, on the other hand, came out of her way to distribute relief packed lunches to street children along the highways of Quezon City. I remember the words of Simone de Beauvoir: *"That's what I consider generosity. You give your all and yet you always feel as if it cost you nothing."*















QUOTE FOR THIS ISSUE:
Gentleness, self-sacrifice, and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion. - Mahatma Gandhi/ ***JCL/ May 2020.***

AMADO T ESPINO JR
President
CELSO G CASTRO
Secretary

Summer has just arrived and everybody was excited on how they are going to spend summertime. Unfortunately, their plans were aborted due to the unexpected emergence of the deadly COVID19 virus worldwide. This pandemic wrought havoc and practically put the whole world agonizing on how to deal, control and totally prevent the spread of this deadly *"salamagan"*. This virus spares no one; the rich, poor, famous or not famous and the powerful, all of them suffer as one and will continue to agonize until the right vaccine is invented.

We should be very thankful on how the government responded and still responding in dealing with the virus. PRRD and his cabinet put everything into motion and crafted a doable plan to prevent the outbreak. The government needs our full support and cooperation. Let us trust the government to make the right decision in combating COVID 19; no more no less. Let's forget politics for a while; it has no place in our society especially at this time of crisis. We continue praying and ask for divine intervention. With our resiliency, *"we will win and heal as one"* and overcome the deadly pandemic very soon.

We salute and bow our heads to our heroes; the front-liners who risk their life and safety as well as their own families in providing unconditional support to COVID patients: Doctors, nurses, support medical staff, soldiers, policemen, security



guards, local government officials, donors, policy makers and others. God bless you all and we are one in saying *"maraming salamat sa inyong lahat".* The out-pouring of support to our front-liners from kind-hearted Samaritans is totally amazing. We as a Class answered the call for donations by shelling-out personal fund for PPEs through AGFO and BIRC (list of donors was posted at Viber). Roger Quevedo and Prez Espines (in the name of the Class) likewise donated PPEs to Red Cross and VMMC, respectively. Bing Valencia facilitated the procurement of PPEs as requested by Espines. VP OG Buenaventura, with his lovely wife Melba, turned over the donations to Dr. Mejia at VMMC last April 24 in behalf of Prez Espines



who was unable to come due to lockdown situation.

CLASS OFFICERS' MEETING:

The new set of Class Officers had its first meeting last March 12 at Aguinaldo Golf Club. VP Orly Buenaventura presided the meeting in the absence of Prez Espines. It was unanimously agreed to cancel the traditional yearly Lenten recollection due to COVID 19 outbreak. Relatedly, the next Quarterly Social/ Fellowship was held in abeyance. The annual anti flu vaccination will be administered during the first or second week of June as recommended by Dr. Melba. Other highlights of the meeting were: (a) proposed fund raising activities to strengthen our financial chest, (b) activities/ plans for the 50th Golden Anniversary, (c) updates on the publication of Golden Sword and (d) creation of Steering Committee to plan the overall activities in connection with our Golden Anniversary. The composition of the Committee will be determined next meeting. Guests attendees present during the meeting were Gene Senga, Babes Flores, Ike Galang, Egay and Mila Paguio, Vangie Dizon, Faith Ebuen and Johnny Salvana.

OTHER NEWS UPDATES:

The Class mourns the untimely death of Mistah Med Pestano last April 9. He was found lifeless along the national highway in Tupi, South Cotabato while waiting for a ride. We will miss the company of Med, his jolly mode, athleticism, witty jokes and punch lines. In a way or the other, all of us had memorable moments with him. The last time we were together, was months ago in Aguinaldo Golf Club playing golf with Gen Narcing Abaya, Efren Abu and my wife Fe. He insisted for a "pustahan" and paired with Efren representing Bravo Coy against Sir Narcing and me as former Commandants. Of course na-salami sila. Mistah Med, wherever you are, we will treasure the memories we had with you with fervent prayers for the repose of your soul. ***"A great hunk of a man who has a tremendous reservoir of energy and who lives by maxim: Exist properly"***. That's Pesta, our dear Mistah, a friend and a brother.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS:

Birthday greetings to our May celebrators: Cely Nobleza, Amy Brillantes, Lucille Flores, Lino Caringal, Boy Santos (dec), Marivic Aurelio, Nene Pestano, Roger Favis, Ed Gador and Grace Sta Clara. For June: Eric Aurelio, Raffy Vilches, Med Pestano (dec), En Alino, Julius Yarcia, Cora De Vera, Jun Espino, Orly Buenaventura, Efren Abu, Neris Batestil, Malou Joaquin, Luis Bismonte (dec), Efren Guerero (dec) and Doming Reyes (dec). Happy birthday to all.

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





VIDAL E QUEROL
President

JOY, PRIDE AND SORROW IN TIME OF CORONA

MAAGAP summer vacation in Cebu, the Grand Old Dame of Visayas, was the most joyful highlight of the first few months of 2020. It was also the period of continuing luster of MAAGAP Alfa pride, DND Secretary Delfin N Lorenzana, Chairman of National Task Force Covid-19. Sadly, in this time of Covid-19 we grieved the passing away of MAAGAP Crispin Santiago.

After some anxious moments whether the Alumni Homecoming in Fort del Pilar would push through for the year due to the threat of the Covid-19, the Alumni Parade was finally held on 22 February. Expectedly, some of our Mistahs could not make the necessary adjustments and subsequent hotel bookings, but nonetheless a decent number of us made it to the new schedule of the Parade, and of course, the golf at Pinewoods. To our pleasant surprise, the Covid-19 Protocols in place were not really that stringent, and there were moments of interactions with the Cadets. (Thank God no Cadet nor Cavalier was infected with the virus.) Admittedly, the whole Alumni Homecoming was good enough event for the hearty laughter and never-ending jokes and chatter that only Cavaliers would enjoy despite being told and retold since the years in the Beast Barracks half a century ago.

Few days after the Alumni Homecoming, the MAAGAPS and Ladies went on summer vacation to Cebu and the City. (Once more, thank God, the Alumni Homecoming postponement spared our summer vacation on schedule.) However, the news of Covid-19 death and failed contact tracing in Cebu was a grave concern which nudged us to be extra careful and avoid interaction with foreigners while in Cebu. (Few months before the trip, Mistah Tony Anciano who now resides in Cebu, RAdm George T Uy and I did the surveillance to assess and firm up the Cebu itinerary, and the logistics needed to make it pleasant and meaningful addition to our MAAGAP memories.) So what was most exciting in our vacation? It was the Butanding whale shark trip in the coastal town of Oslob which provided chance for us specially the Ladies to come close to what is the biggest fish and non-mammalian vertebrate. And so with the visit to the historic Sto Niño Church, the Magellan Cross, the new Sirao Flower Garden, the Simala Monastery, the Temple of Leah and lunch at Mr A Bar restaurant overlooking the City. Summer vacation is a nice way to spend the added money to our pension; of course, after deducting the cost of maintenance medicines for Seniors. Next summer vacation will be in Cagayan de Oro.

Returning to Manila, we felt serious government concerns on the Covid-19 pandemic, and the virus has landed in the country. The DOH failed to trace the passengers and persons infected by/in contact with the foreigners, and the spread became evident. Thus, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases was created as whole-nation-approach to this new form of national security threat.

In time of Covid-19, one MAAGAP Sec Delfin N Lorenzana, SND and Chairman of National Task Force Covid-19 continues to shine through to this day. Not only has he been the vital ammunition in the government fight to defeat the Covid-19, he has at the same time been handling the issues of the West Philippine Sea and the South China Sea. Right on his lap is the muscle to our diplomatic engagements in pursuit of our government Independent Foreign Policy as exemplified by our response to the issues with USA and the Mutual Defense Treaty, EDCA and VFA on one hand and the issues with China and West Philippine Sea and South China Sea on the other, and our constitutional charge to renounce the policy of war given the complexity and danger of fast evolving US-China relations. For us in the security sector of government, it's difficult to encourage ourselves to paddle our own canoe from one sui generis narrative of more than 100 years that has shaped our foreign policy trajectory and intervened in the destiny of our nation. The MAAGAP hopes our country isn't scared to veer away to safety from the dread of great power competition.

Our Mistah Cavalier Crispin Santiago passed away on Easter Sunday due to lingering illness. He was confined in the NKTI, East Ave QC, recovered well and discharged only to meet his Creator when the Lord Jesus was risen. It was so much sorrow in the time of Covid-19, Enhanced Community Quarantine(ECQ), lockdown and Stay Home social mode. There was no eulogy nor taps, no moment of comforting hugs, nothing up close and personal but social media comforting words, sympathies and condolences. Just like the situation on other Cavaliers who recently passed away. Truly, death of Cavaliers in time of ECQ presented a new experience to the MAAGAP Class and most probably to all other Classes with fallen Mistahs. This physical void between the fallen and the living juiced up our Class to give financial help on-line more than the usual. It was a show of solidarity among Mistahs in time of Covid-19. (For all fallen Cavaliers during the ECQ, I suggested to the PMAAAI Board to arrange appropriate military burial in better times in coordination with bereft families.)

On a happier note, we adopted online Cheers to MAAGAP birthday celebrators. Cheers!





ALPHONSUS P CRUCERO
President
WILFREDO V GARCIA
Secretary

Hello everyone! Let us thank God for the days we have lived, for the blessings we have received and for the trials we have surpassed.

For this issue, I will just make a rundown of some occasions or activities we had in this quarter which we thought were really great.

The first was the PMAAAI Annual General Membership meeting on 24 January, 2020 at the Philippine International Convention Center. We sent a large contingent here which was attended by nearly a thousand Cavaliers including those serving under the current administration and ranking military and police officials.

Each year, PMAAAI recognizes a group of alumni who have excelled in their respective fields of endeavors. Awards are conferred to Cavaliers who have attained high positions in government and on Cavaliers who have rendered outstanding service to the nation. This year's awardees totaling 18 are comprised of Cavaliers in the national and local elections, newly appointed CSAFP, CPNP, Ambassador among others.

The event, regarded as the most successful in recent years, featured speeches from the President himself, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, from PMAAAI officials and PMA Superintendent.

In many universities and institutions around the world, the "impact agenda" is becoming an important issue, reflecting a strong desire to make a positive difference to society. Basing on the increasing number of Cavaliers being awarded each year, I honestly believe that PMA has been stunningly successful in further enhancing the impact it has on society.

The second was the birthday celebration of Sec. Jun Esperon on 9 Febuary, 2020 at the Philippine Army Officers Clubhouse. During the entire event, the venue was noticeably full to capacity of all sorts of well wishers from his former classmates in Philippine Science High School, to Mistahs from PMA Class 1974, and friends local and abroad, as well as his family and relatives. The venue was festively decorated. There was a Combo/Band to provide music and entertainment all night. And the meal was superb with a lot of delicious dishes. For "pulutan," we feasted on lechon baka in particular.

While having dinner, the band played oldies but goodies songs reminiscent of 1960-1980 classics. We were happily taken a bit back to our younger years by these songs. Visibly inspired, some guests took the stage one after another to sing their favorite piece. Soon, the hall was filled with couples dancing to the music with grace and gusto.







The whole of the occasion was full of happy moments and pleasantries. But the remarks/speech of the celebrant Jun Esperon could be the highlight of the occasion. He was at his natural likeable funny self when he delivered the remarks. While acknowledging the guests, he would crack up funny stories and jokes that put the house down with laughter.

All night long, Lorna was working on details to be sure everything would be fine. At the same time, she would move around to take photos and selfies with guests.

The hosts were obviously very grateful to everyone for coming. The reason was that it was successful, well attended and enjoyable.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS:

We wish all celebrants the best on their birthdays. May they continue to have great health amidst these very trying times of this COVID19 pandemic.

JANUARY: 1 – Abel Alonzo; 1 – Manny Carta; 1 – Mike Lopez; 4 – Tito Cagurangan; 10 – Serafin Padilla; 17 – Boie Seville; 17 – Fidel Sy; 20 – Willy Dormitorio; 23 – Boy Bernal; and 31 – Pete Fernando.

FEBRUARY: 1 – Oscar de Guzman; 7 – Ace Tolentino; 9 – Jun Esperon; 9 – Ed Doromal; 13 – Benny Cabrieto; 13 – Romy Mayo; 14 – Owen Luistro; 17 – Bert Sylim; 18 – Rene Rieza; 18 – Romy Carlos; 20 – Lito Tan; 26 – Oscar Valenzuela; and 26 – Pipes Valerio.

MARCH: 3 – Rene Elumbaring; 3 – Rufino Jun Lopez; 4 – Ricky dela Paz; 5 – Rey Varilla; 8 – Bong Franco; 19 – Peewee Peralta; 19 – Joey Flores; and 20 – Oscar Marinas.

RAUL S GONZALES
President
DANTE T FERRER
Secretary



Makabayans during Valentine's Day party at Elizabeth Hotel, 14 Feb 2020.

After missing spots in so many issues of The Cavalier, the Makabayans now emerge, and share the following Class activities with the rest of the cavaliers. For the past months, the Class had the following goings-on:

CHRISTMAS PARTY– The Class celebrated its Christmas Party at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City on December 10, 2019. More or less, 35 Makabayans, some with their respective spouses, attended the party. Generous classmates contributed money to defray expenses, and some gave in kind. Big thanks to the affable hosting of Willie and Inday Palugod. The food was sumptuous and overflowing, but nothing was wasted because the extra food was shared by everyone after the party. A brief meeting ensued after the program where the class president discussed the preparation for the Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City. The complimentary apparel for men and women was handed out to those who were present.

PMAAAI ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – A good turnout of Makabayans was present at the PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on 21 January 2020. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was the Guest of Honor. A good number of mistahs led by Willie Palugod, attended the meeting. A distinguished mistah, H.E. Ambassador Noe A. Wong, received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the PMAAAI for significant diplomatic achievements as ambassador to South Korea. The award was presented by President Rodrigo R. Duterte. Van Luspo showed up to espouse the appeal of former PC personnel retired as PNP for the reinstatement of their monthly pension as AFP veterans. The other Makabayans who attended were Mandy Cunanan, German Doria, Ding Luna, Pete Cadungog, Joseph, Jovenal Narcise, Reuben Crisologo, Nap Malana, Pete Magno, Raul Gonzales, Juanito Samuya, Denis Regis Jr., and Ray Roderos.

PMA MAKABAYAN CLASS '75 45TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING – Just when excitement filled the air for the Homecoming, news about the threat of the corona virus spread and doused everyone's anticipation. The organizing committee of the PMAAAI Alumni Homecoming, following the guidance of the national leadership, decided to postpone the homecoming for one week, resetting the date to 22 February 2020. The postponement caught most of the classes, in particular the host classes, by surprise. The Makabayan officers, however decided resolutely to pursue the class activity as originally scheduled on February 14-15, 2020. Noe Wong said that the reservations for hotel accommodation, food and beverages were paid up. Further, several of the Makabayans based abroad had confirmed to attend. Postponing the activity would irrefutably trigger cancellations and would entail additional costs in re-booking, aside from the resultant inconvenience, considering that it is vacation time.



The Makabayans pose with Pres. Rodrigo R. Duterte, PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting, PICC 21 Jan 2020

THE MAKABAYAN GOLF TEAM– The team went up ahead to Baguio City to participate in the golf tournament dubbed as "Battle of Classes" held at the Baguio Country Club golf course. Jeff Sodusta hosted a dinner for members of the golf team and other mistahs at the Mama's Table Restaurant in Baguio City. Team members are Raul Gonzales, Willie Palugod, Noe Wong, Prudencio Regis Jr., German Doria, Willy Dulay, Arsenio Arugay, Reynaldo Ansay, Pete Magno, Jeffrey Sodusta, Manuel Mariano, Bonifacio Ramos, Quintin Quitlong and Chito Blanco. The Makabayans emerged as champions in the senior division. Congratulations!

VALENTINE'S PARTY –Valentine's Day is more than just a day of romance. It is also an



Makabayan Ladies, Valentine's Day party, Elizabeth Hotel 14 Feb 2020.

ideal time to share memories. That is exactly what happened on the first day of the Makabayan homecoming as they celebrated their 45 years as members of PMA Class 1975. The party was held on February 14, 2020 at the Grand Ballroom, Elizabeth Hotel, Baguio City. A total of 43 classmates, the majority of whom came with their spouses, attended the party. Associates and honorary mistahs, like Benny Brizuela, Quintin Quitlong, Chito Blanco and Larry Leyes were present. Wives of our departed mistahs like Ma. Mater Alcubilla, Jessica Badilla, Tess Logronio, Marina Julianda, Girlie Baltazar, Bennie Pabalan and Oly Delos Santos graced the party. Willie Palugod delivered the welcome remarks and a tribute to the departed classmates was presented on the screen. A live band provided the music featuring songs and tunes cognizant of the heydays of the Makabayans as the buffet dinner was served.

ELECTION OF CLASS OFFICERS- Willy Dulay, chairman of the elections, presided over the polls. There was apparently an ambiance of haste among the classmates to elect the class officers because the voting was diminished to mere appointing and unanimously chose Raul Gonzales as the new class president. The other positions were left to the discretion of the new president. Nobody objected to this collective action which may be a new norm of the class. The new officers for 2020-2025 are: Class President – Raul Gonzales, Vice-President for PA –Ernie Boac; Vice-President for PAF – Pete Cadungog; Vice-President for PN – Pete Magno; Vice-President for PNP – German Doria; Secretary – Dante Ferrer; Treasurer – Noe Wong; and as Ex-Officio officer – Willie Palugod. Congratulations and more power!

HOMECOMING LUNCH – The homecoming lunch was served at the William Cameron Forbes Ballroom of the Baguio Country Club on February 15, 2020. The Makabayans donned their Class Barong with the unique "tabungao" salakot and the ladies in their chic barong-inspired striped blouse with coordinating black pants. There were 41 members present but the total number who dined was more or less 100 including family members. After the lunch, Benjie Tesoro, reiterated his invitation to the Class for a lunch in his farm on February 16, in San Manuel, Pangasinan. A number of mistahs, mostly on their way home to Manila, obliged to grace the lunch.

PMAAAI ALUMNI HOMECOMING PARADE – One week after saying goodbyes in Baguio City, some mistahs found themselves saying 'hellos" again. About 26 brave Makabayans and their spouses trekked back to Baguio City to participate in the annual Homecoming parade at the PMA parade grounds in Fort del Pilar. Kudos to Raul Gonzales, who urged the class to return to Baguio City to witness, among other matters, the oath-taking of Benny Brizuela as honorary member of the class. On the night before the parade, Benny hosted a dinner at the Mario's Restaurant. After the parade, Willie and Inday Palugod hosted a lunch at the BCC where a brief meeting was held before everyone finally departed for home. The main topic was the financial preparation for the golden anniversary homecoming in 2025 where Raul Gonzales proposed that each member contributes certain amount of money yearly until the year 2025. The group agreed and the decision was circulated in the chat group of the class. Congratulations for a very successful celebration of the 2020 Alumni Homecoming. Hats off to the officers and members who toiled during the entire period of preparation.

IN MEMORIAM – Not long after the frills and trappings of the Alumni Homecoming settled, the PMA Makabayan Class '75 was shocked and grieved at the loss of two of its comrades. It came as jolt of lightning when news spread that Denis and Pip, as they are fondly called, had passed away. Denis T. Regis Jr died on March 24, 2020 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center due severe respiratory illness. Tirso R. Danga died on April 21, 2020 at the St. Luke's Medical Center in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig due to lingering illness.

Now only fond memories of their person are left with us, but as long as we live, they too will surely live as long as we remember them.



PMA Cl 75 Makabayan - Alumni Homecoming Parade, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City Feb 22, 2020.



EMILIO C MARAYAG JR
President
ZOSIMO D CARLOS JR
Secretary

NEVER THINK HARD ABOUT THE PAST, IT BRINGS TEARS.

DON'T THINK MORE ABOUT THE FUTURE. ITS BRINGS FEARS.

LIVE THIS MOMENT WITH A SMILE. IT BRINGS CHEERS.



PMA ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2020

Because of the announced postponement of the Alumni Homecoming, the class decided to push through with the previous schedule on Feb 14-15. This was renamed Magilas Class Reunion. 31 Magilas gentlemen attended. Activities included the delicious picnic lunch in Laoac, again hosted by Boying and Sally Alarcio. A Valentine's evening dinner in Forest Lodge. And a Saturday picnic lunch in the open field of Camp John Hay, prepared by Retep Labiano. Six gentlemen were honored for reaching 65 years old. They were Bong Ibrado, Sendong Ferrer, Joe Solidum, Sammy Tayag, Gerry Tenazas, and the long overdue old man Caloy Martinez. It was the first time we were not able to visit Fort del Pilar and the Magilas Center, but the fun and bonding was still very much alive.

For the Official Alumni Parade held on Feb 22, only Mistahs Retep Labiano and James Sin represented the class. Thanks Mistahs.

ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

As of this writing, we are on our 7th week of home quarantine. Thanks to frequent communication among mistahs, using our viber and messenger chat forum, everyone seems to cope up with this Covid19 pandemic. Staying



home means more time with the family, better eating habits, more focus on exercise and physical fitness, more productive activities like gardening, reading books, watching good movies, learning new skills like cooking and carpentry, etc. Avoiding getting sick is the most important goal of everyone. Although, we miss class activities like golf, biking, eating together, out of town travels, and celebrations, we hope and pray that everybody gets through with it, and we can go back to our normal lives in the near future. SO, STAY SAFE AND STAY WELL MISTAHS.

2ND QUARTER BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

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

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

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



RIC A DAVID JR
Pangulo
VIXI ABAT
Kalihim



SPORTS

PMAAAI conducted the "Fellowship Golf for a Cause 2020" in Baguio Country Club Golf Course, last February. Masikap Golf Team snatched the Minor "A" award in the Seniors Division. Congratulations!

HOMECOMING

Alumni homecoming activities inside Fort Del Pilar were limited because of the corona virus alert in Baguio. Visitors were restricted and crowds were controlled.

SOCIALS

Art Quilop joined some mistahs during a Valentine's dinner in Baguio.

Weekly Tsikenklab frolics in Kampo Aguinaldo are suspended because of "Emergency Health Crisis" declared by Malacañang.

COVID19 has become pandemic. Rapid spread of contagion. Lockdown, quarantine, curfew, checkpoints. Transportation stops. Churches and schools close. Offices and malls close. Stay at home and work from home.

Salamat po, Panginoon, that our families are coping with the situation. We continue to abide with the health and social protocols.





Pictorials on how Masikaps are keeping up with the deadly Covid-19 Lockdown (ECQ)
(16 March 2020-15 May 2020, a 60-day period Enhanced Community Quarantine)



Ric "Paddy" Padilla in Bongabon, N. Ecija.



Sunny and Beng Pequiras in PPE outfit.



Joe Burgos neck deep in reading.

RODOLFO Y MAGTIBAY
President
FELIPE HB BUENA JR
Secretary

In the middle of this COVID-19 pandemic causing thousands of lives lost and suffering to millions of people, the PMA "Makatarungan" Class of 1978 stepped up like heroes to help the frontliners. A food outreach program labelled "Duterte Kitchen" was initiated by Honorary Class Members – Mr. Ernest Villareal and DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi initially delivering pandesal and juices to checkpoint personnel.

Some benefactors voluntarily helped to sustain the program. The PILMICO Foods, Inc., an Aboitiz company, offered to sponsor the breadmaking using their premium flour. The Aboitiz Foundation sponsored the milk, while Cusinex Foods handled bread making. Also the Rotary Club of Makati Central, having Ernest and Al as members, readily assisted.

To actively support the program, the Class Board of Trustees passed a resolution making this bread/milk giving a Class project. Part of the Class 78 funds were released together with gracious donations from Members here and abroad.

Class Chair Oscar Rabena immediately arranged a distribution schedule and coordinated with the heads of all government and military hospitals. Class President Rudy Magtibay included some smaller hospitals in the outskirts of Metro Manila which apparently were "off the radar" of regular relief operations.

Beneficiary hospitals include the AFP Medical Center, PNP General Hospital, Army General Hospital, Air Force General Hospital, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Philippine General Hospital, RITM, Ospital Ng Muntinglupa, Ospital ng Paranaque, Lung Center of the Philippines, and Philippine Children's Medical Center.

Other beneficiaries are several barangays in Quezon City, Navotas, and Manila. The DSWD National Resource Operation Center and the San Isidro Labrador Parish in were likewise included.







NICANOR A BARTOLOME
President
JEOFREY R TUPAS
Secretary

Ahooooooo! We shall soon "go out", leave our homes for the usual and normal activities, but please always be protected, healthy and safe as COVID19 pandemic has forced busy cities to a near-halt with millions of people across the globe staying indoors. We can only hope and pray to God that this scourge will soon be over and come to pass.

CLASS ACTIVITIES IN BRIEF

Let's start off by welcoming Monching Muyargas. It always feels good to see and talk to a mistah whom we haven't seen for quite a time.

The Class celebrated its 40th RUBY ANNIVERSARY cum Valentines Day Dinner Party at the Manila Peninsula on 15 February 2020 with lots of fun and revelry, dancing and singing, and live performances of Mapitagans that brought the house down.

Mistah Del Lee brought balladeer Jed Madela who serenaded the class with love songs to the delight of the ladies. The event was capped by an inspiring speech by our Class Pres Nick entitled 'Classmates are forever...Classmates are a blessing'

On 22 Feb 2020, ten (10) Mapitagans represented the class during the PMA Alumni Homecoming. Pres Nick hosted dinner at Baguio Country Club's Hamada Japanese Cuisine attended by Sammy, Mike, Oby, Monlors, Noel, Gerry, Ric, Juni, Mie and some ladies.

Forty-eight (48) classmates and ladies attended the wake of Nick's beloved mother on 7-10 March 2020 in Tarlac. May God give Nanay Caring eternal rest and your family the strength to bear the great pain.

It is also with deepest sorrow that we saw the passing of our dear mistah Jibs Ubalde on 17 April 2020. Our prayers to all his family, relatives and friends. Jibs, rest in peace.

Feb. 12, 2020 saw the book launching at The AFP Theater of Jess Lomeda's (aka J. Irving) "A Time To Heal", Bloodbath in Pata Island, Sulu - a gripping true to life recounting and portrayal of the Philippine Army combat soldiers' fierce struggle to survive the relentless attacks of the enemy on 12 Feb 1981, exactly 39 years ago. More than 100 Army officers and men were killed by Moro natives in what was called by retired Major General Delfin Castro as "the biggest number of casualties incurred by the AFP since the start of the conflict in Mindanao



and had the dubious distinction of achieving the biggest losses in AFP firearms and equipment in a single incident." The book is available at the BNS Naval Adjutant Office.

Our class participated in the 'VMMC AGFO BFF Project' thru the initiative of AGFO Director Gerry Layug. A total of P90,000.00 was contributed by Mapitagan classmates to support the different needs of the Veterans Hospital in lieu of COVID19.

On 30 March 2020, Alec Cabantac, the fashion designer daughter of Bong in partnership with Dennis Tan spearheaded 'Donate a Hazmat Project' to fabricate and distribute medical suits/personal protective equipment to our medical frontliners who are in desperate need of the same because of COVID19. Some classmates contributed P125,000 to the project with 416 suits distributed to the following hospitals: UST, Capitol Medical, Saint Luke's, Heart Center, Cardinal Santos, Lung Center, Ospital ng Makati, Amang Rodriguez, Baguio General, Army General, Benavidez Cancer Institute, Jose Abad Santos, among others.

On 23 Dec 2019, the class through Nes Eloja, donated P62,000 to earthquake victims in Mindanao, particularly in Balutakay Managa, Davao Del Sur that benefited 48 Manobo farmers. The class also allocated a portion for another ministry in Maguindanao - an educational assistance program to marginalized Muslim youth in the town of Gen. SK Pendatun. Among the items given were sacks of rice, media-noche stuff, thermos, flashlights and rubber mats.

Congratulations to PAF instructor pilot Lee Van Marayag on his promotion to Major and to the proud parents Epoy and Lita, as well.

BIRTHDAY FELLOWSHIP

The January-born classmates hosted lunch at VMMC Golf Clubhouse on 16 January 2020 while the other hostings will come as soon as COVID19 leaves us.

January: Jess Atoc, Mel Fajardo, Albert Bushen Rivera (+), Ely Tiangco (+), Herold Ubalde (+),Segundo Boy Bolo, Mervin Tiu, Alan Sta. Ana, Lito Cruz (+)

February: Bong De Asis, Ben Noble (+), Marmen Mendoza, Noel Cobar Coballes, Elmo Timmy Garrido Jose Briones (+), Bin Abu Yaakob, Honorato



Nene Delos Reyes, Mike Agudo, Bogs Abogado, Eldon Nemenzo, Willy Campos, Santi Pascua (+), Dipon Carado, Jayvee Javier, Tony Baraquiel

March: Joey Madriaga (+), George Regis, Ted Torralba, Herbert Yambing, Raymond Yap, Nick Bartolome, Nars Onell Lleno, Obikenobe Antonio, Cecil Sandalo

April: Jake Estrada, Nabil Tan, Pong Arroyo (+), Efren Yebra, Raoul Reyes, Dante Costes, Dick Sugon(+), Leo Kison, Jojie Segovia, Larry Dela Cruz, Joey Zubiri

May: Danny Siongco, Ricky Sandoval, Marvin Garbo, Bobby Calleja, Cesar Yano, Nelson Nario, Manding Guzman, Benjardi Mantele, Tino Pereyra, Raffy Torres, Pol Palacio, Emil Sarmiento





ELMER R SORIA
President
PHILIP S FORTUN
Secretary

From a single Covid-19 case that started last 30 Jan 2020, to a double digit number of cases from 08 Mar 2020 until it breached the 10,000-mark last 06 May 2020, and still with no flattening of the curve in sight, we may be in this "new normal" for the long haul. Let's better be safe than sorry, mga mistah! In a nutshell, this social media post summarizes the lessons we can learn from this first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic: 1) Life is short; 2) Death issure; 3) Jobs are temporary; 4) Health is wealth; 5) Tomorrow is not promised; 6) Eternity is at hand; and 7) Only God can save. If lessons were not learned or refused to be learned, then, and may God forbid, maybe a stronger second wave would hammer in these life lessons.

Due to the rapid spread of Covid-19 infections, the Class, through its officers, decided to forego with the usual Class events and participations in this year's PMA Alumni Homecoming. This was also in support to the call of Baguio City Mayor Benjie Magalong '82 and the PMA Superintendent for the cancellation of said activities. In lieu of the usual Class dinner and other activities earlier arranged, the Class prepared for activities that would honor our departed classmates at the LNMB in Ft Bonifacio as highlight to the Class anniversary, which supposedly included the turnover of Sandigan'82 leadership to our new set of Class officers last 28 Mar 2020.

However, this activity was again cancelled as COVID19 cases continued to increase, forcing Government to implement the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Luzon starting 16 Mar 2020. As the number of cases exponentially increased, we noted with concern the heavy toll the virus was exacting on our health care workers that included some of our sons, daughters, and classmates directly involved in the fight to contain this Covid-19 pandemic.

As a matter of support to our frontliners, the PMA Sandigan 82 Association Inc. through its officers and concerned members lead by Cav Jess M., Jeff D., Elmer S., Ivan S., Nick V., Elson T. and Bert Y. procured the much-needed PPEs from the donations of generous and benevolent PSAI members. We were able to buy surgical masks and hand gloves that were distributed starting 30 Mar 2020 to the health care workers and front liners of the Philippine Army General Hospital, PAF General Hospital, Manila and Cavite Naval Hospitals, AFP Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Medical Center, San Juan







City Hospital, Pangasinan Provincial Hospital, and the Regional Hospital in Dagupan City. We thank all the donors for their kind hearts as we were able to send the message to our frontliners that we also care for them.

Amidst all the gloom and paranoia beclouding our spirits this Covid-19 time, we still find reason to rejoice with our proud and happy mistahs Nar C., Jorge C., Edwin E. and Sig F. for the hurdling by their beloved children of the 2019 Bar exams. Congratulations, mga anak! Never forget your Lawyer's Oath, particularly its last four words: "So help me, God." ***-JimMonta82-***



SALVADOR MB MISON JR
President
FRANCIS B ALAURIN
Secretary

Difficult times

The past two quarters of 2020 saw the Maharlikan lives threatened by a deadly pandemic disease - the SARS-CoV-2.

Everything came crashing with it - a tattered global economy, a completely disjointed supply chain, hundreds of millions of jobs lost, an inconceivable number of human bodies falling like flies, etc. - all in massive, unimaginable, flashing speed.

The pandemic nightmare was real. Anxiety, panic, insecurity, uncertainty, unguarded-ness, societal dislocation, and defenselessness gripped our days.

However, extraordinary times breed extraordinary men.

Many of Maharlikan's highly decorated stars demonstrated how exceptional leaders they could still be in the face of extremely difficult times.

Sixty-three Class members made uncommon, blistering courage at the frontline to fight the virus. They compose the medical corps; customs, local government, defense, security, intelligence, transport security, and agrarian reform; international aviation; and, business, mining, and banking and finance sectors - all in concert to advance effective governance, civil defense, and basic and essential support systems down to the countryside to mitigate the impact of the pandemic at the barest minimum level. Fifty-one highly-devout, young, courageous Maharlikan dependents, likewise, made a bold stand against the virus.

Noel Buan, Vincent Reyes, Jun Palisoc, Greg Panelo, AJ Lim and William Uy were a select standout. They made their way out of their quarantined homes to advance philantrophic advocacies. Their sense of community is, truly, a Maharlikan pride. Likewise, nearly a dozen Class members in foreign lands held on to their sworn duties to defeat the virus, and keep troubled regions of the globe peaceful, safe and stable.

Class members and some Maharlikan friends donated a total of P229,000.00-worth of pandemic-related equipment to the VMMC and V Luna in order to increase the fighting chances of our frontliners, ageing, vulnerable WWII veterans and retirees, and soldiers in the active service.

Under clear threat of the virus, the Class continued to pursue two milestone projects. First, completion of renovation of two rooms at the VMMC last 30 January; two more rooms are nearly completed, and will be turned over soon to its Administration under the same concept of Adopt-A-Room program. And, second, the operationalization of TF Taal on 15 February 2020, and the donation of P103,000.00-worth of relief goods to help alleviate the deteriorating condition of volcano eruption victims in Balayan, Batangas.

In all stages, the BOC Maharlikans closely supported the Class programs, and stood unwaveringly with the country's staunchest SARS-CoV-2 frontline agencies.

After all the fears, anxieties and uncertainties we endured, what have we become as Class and individuals?

First, the Maharlikan charitable programs, undoubtedly, made us more relevant and unyielding in chosen goals. Under all circumstances, generosity and compassion make the whole difference. They have united the Class, and revealed the true, uncommon Maharlikan character - a cut above the rest. The Class proves that we can be a mixture of many great things to help resuscitate a hurting nation.

Second, the pandemic was a reminder of our 'nakedness' and 'nothingness'. All

awards, wealth and recognition that we took so much pride on, will pale and are meaningless in the face of such uncertainties. Last 11 March and 24 April, we, respectively, bade goodbye to Jijon Romales and Pete Hernandez who have returned to our Creator. Life is, indeed, short, and may be further shortened by a pandemic disease.

Third, turbulent times made every Maharlikan more connected... in prayers. Inner reflections brought us closer to an immovable faith, *"For who can challenge the work of God's hand? Who can dispute His unfailing love?"*

The Holy Scriptures commanded: *"Clothe yourselves with humility. Be sober and vigilant. God is in control." (Feast of St Mark the Evangelist, 1 Peter 5:5b-14).*

For those who stayed home, heeded the Government's call of forced lockdown, maintained strong immune system, and have not added to the catastrophic tally of SARS-CoV-2 victims, we were no less than performing patriotic duties. Obedience made nothing short of extraordinary leaders.





JOSE MA VICTOR F RAMOS
President
SAMUEL Z FELIX
Secretary

SINAGTALA greetings from six feet away! In this time of global pandemic, we are praying for you, our frontliners and your families. Thank you for your service to our nation! Though the Alumni Homecoming did not go exactly the way we planned it, we are still thankful that we had the chance to gather and have fellowship as a class. Here are some news bits since then.

- **22 February 2020** – As a recap, 61 from our class attended the Alumni Homecoming with 27 coming from the Philippine Army, 16 from the Philippine National Police, six from





the Philippine Air Force, five from the Philippine Navy, and seven associates.

- For the Cavalier Awardees and Other Outstanding Alumni, AY 2019-2020, five Sinagtalans made it on the list. PMGen Lyndon G Cubos PNP (Ret) has been awarded the Cavalier Award for Staff Functions, while the following received the Outstanding Achievement Award: Senator Ronald M. Dela Rosa as Senator of the Philippines, Gen Felimon T Santos Jr AFP as Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, PGen Archie Francisco F Gamboa as Chief, Philippine National Police, and LtGen Gilbert I Gapay AFP, as Commanding General, Philippine Army. Congratulations to all!

- Also, the PMA Sinagtala Class 86 Golf Team brought home the bacon as they championed the Battle of the Classes 2020 Golf Tournament.

- *2 March 2020* – Vadm Robert A Empedrad AFP (Ret) was appointed by President Duterte as the new head of the Department of Transportation's Maritime Industry Authority (Marina). As the new head of Marina, Bob has the task of ensuring that our country maintains a competitive maritime industry. Congrats, Bob!

- Let us continue praying for the speedy recovery of our mistahs, Mariel and our class president, Jovic. Mariel is undergoing physical and occupational therapy while Jovic's condition is stable but he is still comatose.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: Happy birthday Sinagtalans!! Enjoy your stay-at-home birthday celebrations! Sending you all our love and wishes from a social distance!

Name / Birthdate	
Cav Carlomar O Concepcion	04 Apr
Cav Alfredo A Soriano	10 Apr
Cav John A Jurado	11 Apr
Cav Edward E Carranza	11 Apr
Cav Glorivine R Dida	13 Apr
Cav Danilo R Rodelas	16 Apr
Cav Claudio L Yucot	16 Apr
Cav Jesus Rhoderic R Rañosa	19 Apr
Cav Zirleen E Tatel	21 Apr
Cav John Rex C Palma	06 May
Cav Glenn R Flores	11 May
Cav Herbert O Olitoquit	13 May
Cav Belflor B Causing	14 May
Cav Archimedes H Viaje	14 May
Cav Dioniso C Baudin Jr	19 May
Cav Dante M Hidalgo	19 May
Cav Magno G Adalin Jr	20 May
Cav Rafael T Santiago Jr	20 May
Cav Valentine T Hizon	21 May
Cav Ronnie S Evangelista	23 May
Cav Alexander Philip C Anicete	26 May
Cav Jose Ely P Alberto	27 May
Cav Rene V Medina	30 May
Cav Jose Harry M Barber	04 Jun
Cav Alexander G Rafael	05 Jun
Cav Alden C Masagca	07 Jun
Cav Emmanuel Anthony V Ramos	13 Jun
Cav Jose Rizaldy S Matito	19 Jun
Cav Rizaldo B Limoso	20 Jun
Cav Eleuterio N Gutierrez Jr	21 Jun
Cav Vicente Mauro G Batac	28 Jun
Cav Pedrito P Alban	29 Jun



BigkisLahi 90 member updates:

The **Army Group** still has 41 members in the active service, four recently joined the other 13 early retirees, and 10 mistahs in heaven.

Key commanders of the group:**Glenn Cruz** – ASCOM; **Bong Artuz** – ISAFP; **Benjie Batara** – 1BCT; and **Romy Manuel** – AAR. Current Army brigade commanders: **Kid Baluyan** – 302Bde; **Bert Capulong** – 602Bde; **Andrew Costelo** – 703Bde; **Poker Cuerpo** – 103Bde; **Noli Mempin** – 1003Bde; **Mines Mina** – 502Bde; **Toto Nafarrete** – 1101Bde; **Dong Palafox** – 2MechBde; **Audrey Pasia** – 702Bde; **Rommel Tello** – 902Bde; and **Bong Viray** – 901Bde. Occupying as Deputy Brigade Commanders: **Buddy Abawag** – 9ID; **George Domingo** – 2ID; **Joven Gonzales** – 6ID; and **Alex Bravo** – 10ID, who is also the Commander, TF Samal.

Chiefs of Staff of PA major units: **Bong Villareal** – 2ID; **Willie Villahermosa** – 3ID; **Tiloy Bergante** – 10ID; and **Leo Guinid** – SOCOM. Designated ADCs for RRA: **Randy Sinocruz** – 1ID; **Jinx Enginco** – 5ID; **Steve Crespillo** – 6ID and **Benjie Hao** – 7ID. Handling different key positions: **Kit Teofilo** – ADC, 2ID; **Gen-Gen Hidalgo** – Deputy, Army Chief Ethical Standards and Public Accountability; **Russel Pompa** – GSMO, 2ID; and **Dondon Gobway** – IG, 8ID.

Army 90 assigned at GUAs: **Roger Ulanday** – The AFP Quartermaster General; **Roy Galido** – The AFP Systems Engineer; **Lando Nerona** – SMA to SND; **Marlo Guloy** – DAFA, USA; **Benedict Arevalo** – AJ8; **Dennis Gammad** – Commander, FIF, ISAFP; **Joel Nacnac** – CGSC Commandant and Chief of Staff, AFPETDC; **Raul Villanueva**– DAFA, Israel; **Greg Docil** – Deputy Commander, AFPRESCOM; and **Cris Calulot** – Deputy Chief, PGMC.

Updates on the Army 90 retirees: Still in the government service are **Papa Perks** at NIA and **Thad Salazar** at the Bureau of Immigration. **Jun Bas** works near GHQ while **Ernie Cruz** plans to work at UNDP-P. On the other hand, **Noel Lontoc** is a cooperative manager in Marinduque. **Teddy Toribio** is a national security professional, corporate leader and business/NATSEC strategist. Aligned with him as security experts/consultants are **Danny Aquino**, **Santee Cababasay**, **Banie Cabanayan**, **Omots Crisostomo**, **Big Laguardia** and **Nadz Valmonte**. **Toods Detoyato** is a full-time father, part-time driver of a frontliner, cook, labandero and also an all-around household help. Based outside the country are **Alex Nagrampa** in New Zealand, **Noel Biyo** in the US, while **Yuri Garin** is in Canada. **John Lavetoria** is still at large.

The **Air Force Group** has seven remaining mistahs who refuse to give up their uniforms, while the rest are enjoying civilian life:

Still pursuing promising careers in the active service: **Lakay Amano**– Incoming CAS; **Rocky Binag**–Deputy Commander, AFP Peace Process Office; **Abdul Buca** – AJ4 and incoming AFIG; **Art Cordura** – Commander, AFRESCOM; **Ralph Mamauag** – Commander, 355th Air Engineer Wing; **Arf Musico** – Commander, 15th Strike Wing; **Teejay Talja** – Deputy Commander, Tactical Operations Command.

Those who took to the skies in commercial aviation: **Alex Espinosa**, **Conel Santos**, **Simong Rosimo**, **Jojo Llemos** and **Chito Mayuga** at Cebu Pacific; **Norie "Ponga" Formantes**– PAL; **Boni Sales** – Viet Jet in Vietnam; and **Roy Agarrado** – Jet Star in Singapore.

A few are enjoying the cooler climates in the west with their respective families: **Jel Valbuena** (Medical Frontliner) and **Noel Vinoya** in the US; and **Rainman Delas Llagas** (Medical Frontliner) in Canada. While some chose to continue public service at a different level: **Otik "Latino" Ortiz** and **Bonavs Bonavente** at UN; and **Bruce Concepcion** is PRRD's Special Envoy on Transnational Crimes. **Bong "Baby" Oliva** is still in government service with CAAP.

Thirty years after, 16 members of **Navy Group** (Fleet-Marine-Coastguard) are still performing leadership and management roles in the active service.

Active duty Sailors and Marines are as always ever passionate and determined to leave their marks: **Ehdd "Deliberate Punch" Arevalo**– Commander, AFPETDC/ AFP Spokesperson; **Noel "B-wok" Beleran** – Deputy Commander, MarOps, FMRF and Commander, NTF 82; **Epoy Cuison** – Deputy TIG, AFP; **Dabong "Alright" David** – Commander, NavForWest; **Potpot Dela Pena** – Deputy TIA, AFP; **Faji2 Fajardo** – Defense and Armed Forces Liaison Officer to the UN; **Kaka Fuentes** – TNIA, PN; **Senator Lumawag** – Commander, 1MBde; **Onyots "Height Waiver" Palces** – Commander, NavForEasMin; **Ric "Baygon" Petrola** – Commander, CMOG, PN; **Chito "Paahhreehh" Rojas** – Commander, 2MBde; **Toinks "Kwan" Valencia** – Commander, NavForNoL; and **Velay "I did not say that" Velasco** – Commander, JSOF2, AFPSOCOM.

Active duty Coast guards men, sustaining the gains in saving lives and ensuring safety at sea: **Oca "Pandesal" Endona** – Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command; **Norman "Kuluntoy" Reyes**– District Commander, Coast Guard Eastern Visayas; and **Allen "The Other" Toribio**– Deputy Commander, Maritime Security Command.

Those who moved on to a life outside naval service: **Albines Albino** – off the grid since the early 90s; **Hinyort Alvarez** – Chief Pilot, PAL; **Jaweh "Batman" Calderon** – Airbus Captain, Hkg Express Airways Inc.; **Froggy Frogoso** – in his own world; **Betong Guarina** – somewhere around Hollywood; **Jason Malilay** – successful businessman; **Adonis na Palma** – Chief Security, New Coast Hotel; **Rogie Reario** – UNOCHA; **Bob "Lucky Punch" Ruaro** – Medical Frontliner, VA USA; and **Ozlec Celzo** – Industrial Park Manager, PNOC.

The former **Constabulary Group** (now PNP) has 19 members still actively maintaining law and order in Philippine society: **Pacs Munoz** – Director, PNP Logistics Support Service; **Ely Cruz** – Director, HPG; **Rolly Miranda** – DD, MPD; **Rolly "Pugi" Anduyan** – RD, PRO 10; **Ronnie Ylagan** – DD, NPD; **Flynn Dongbo** – DD, DIDM; **Ronnie Olay** – DD, DC; **Apong Villasis** – Ex-O, DIDM; **Rocker Enmodias** – Ex-O, DIPO-NL; **ET Ugale** – DRDA, PRO-BAR; **Pipoy Natividad** – SPA, SILG; **Alex Sintin** – Commander, TF RSSF; **Nick Muksan** – AEx-O, DIPO Visayas; **Renz Ortilla** – CDS, NCRPO; **Ato Bisnar** – Actg Director, PRBS; **Ritchie Posadas** – Appling for PCTC Visayas; **OT Buenaobra** – S2, ZDS PPO; **Jong Ramos** – Police Attache, USA; **Mitch Filart**– Hatchet man of Special Envoy on Transnational Crime.

Those who shed off the PNP uniform: **Leo Mayaen** – Security Officer, Poro Point LU; **Simon Fernan** – InterPol; **Arnold Silva** – UNOCC, New York; **Lonlon Madrid** – Houseband; **Bobby Mesa** – Houseband2; **Alex Flores** – residing in US; **Subac Cabus** – residing in UK; and **Ronald Olarte** – unaccounted, absent from formation.

Lastly, our regular prayers for fallen mistahs: **Donato "Ninoy" Aquino**, **Winston Baguilat**, **Rene Batalla**, **Angel Benitez**, **Batuts Castillo**, **Kurt Decapia**, **Benjie Depay**, **Ghe Geronga**, **Mike Martin**, **Noel Pontanos**, **Suki Salcedo**, **Rene Sendin**, **Tex Sudario** and **Ferdie Viray**.

LUISITO P MAGNAYE
President
NOEL A VESTUIR
Class Historian

Warm Sambisig Greetings!

It's just another year to go before our class will mark three decades after graduating from PMA. We have come a long way indeed: from enduring the drought-stricken grounds of Camp Aquino, Tarlac in the summer of 1987; to surviving the turbulent period of coup attempts until 1989; to rising from the shaking effects of the July 1990 earthquake, our cadet days have been full of challenges until graduation day on 17 February 1991. At the start of this year 2020, our country is challenged by natural disasters such as the eruption of Taal Volcano last January 12, 2020 and currently this global COVID-19 pandemic.

Approaching three decades after all those years in between, the class now has at its forefront a leading pack of 35 Star Rank Officers in various Uniformed Services. An equal and growing number are now occupying O-7 positions so that in due time, stars will fall on their shoulders too, even as more active service members are occupying "jumping board" positions awaiting for their upward movement in their remaining years before compulsory retirement.



Meanwhile, life went on for those who left the active service earlier as they built their own careers either in public or private sectors. Most of the class members are in contact with each other by proximity of assignment, places of their residence, formal and informal meetings including some rounds of golf which temporarily halted due to the implementation of community quarantine. With the risk of being infected, Sambisig members are still intact and in touch with each other by simply making use of whatever social media platform.

Not to be forgotten are 20 Sambisig fellows who have gone ahead of us whose legacy and heroism are annually marked by organized wreath-laying activities at Libingan Ng Mga Bayani which for last year was held on 10 November.

Last year a sizable number of regular, adopted, associate and honorary members with their dependents attended the traditional Christmas Party last 21 December 2019 at Acero Hall, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio. It was truly a fun filled evening with frolics, songs, dances and exchange-gifts.

Today, as our country and fellow Filipinos continue to face the challenge of this unseen enemy, the COVID-19 virus, each and every member of the PMA Sambisig Class of 1991 will always be a reliable ally in the overall effort of healing our country as one in whatever capacity they can.

As March ahead towards the coming year 2021, where we will become the Senior Host Class, we all look forward to a more unified, intensified and expanded membership of the class, ready to shine in a period of the New Normal.

MABUHAY SAMBISIG!#

LEO M FRANCISCO
President
BERNARD M BANAC
Secretary

"The world is divided into people who do things and people who get the credit. Try, if you can, to belong to the first class. There's far less competition." Dwight Whitney Morrow (1873–1931), U.S. politician. Letter to his son.[1]

Thirty-two Years, one month and 22 days ago (as of this writing, 22 May 2020) 300 strong and able bodied individuals dared the plains of Luzon and the mountains Baguio… 16 February 1992, 201 marched the sacred grounds of Borromeo Field to receive their commissionship. They were also joined by four foreign service academy graduates. Some 205 young bloods then composed the members of the Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992.

Over land, air and deep blue sea the Tanglaw-Diwans, instilled with honor, served and became bright beacons in their respective fields. As men of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, they lead the way.



…Strengthen our hearts with fortitude that we may discipline our lives to trail the difficult paths rather than stray on the easier ways. Teach us to aspire above the level of common lives. Help us to see all things in their true light that we may guard against frivolity in the sacred things of life even as we may enjoy in clean laughter its many delights.

Bells rung and taps were sung for some TD92s but their bravery lived and will forever be remembered. Yearly, Mistahs celebrate a day of remembrance for the departed. The class honor them with offering of wreaths and prayers.

…let singing comrades bury me to the echo of these strains. For hearts will live and die for thee. Forever live in thee. Young blood shall come to carry on when the old strong hearts are gone.

How many days? Oh Noble Cataline…

Its six years, 10 months and 11 days before the last TD92 standing will leave the service. ATM, the class already have two Rear Admirals, and four Commodores in the Coast Guard; seven Police Brigadier Generals and five on deck; two Airforce Brigadier Generals and four on deck; one Army and one Navy on deck….

…Oh, may the BOG speed them more quickly…LOL

Are you resigning?

The TD92 members in active service may have started to go down in numbers as there are those who joined the Creator and there are those who opted to serve the nation outside of the military service in another vocation or calling… but everyone, as they serve the Filipino Nation, continue to be guided by the Virtues that the Academy has unstilled in their hearts and minds…

[1] *Encarta® Book of Quotations* © & (P) 1999 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Developed for Microsoft by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc.





...over the dead and rotting body of our enemy, sir.:)

While the active numbers are going down, the total force is going up. The class have summoned the strength of former 92 cadets and those individuals who zealously bear and advocate the tenets of TD92. The Class now have strengths in various sectors of society. Additionally, the TD92 family now have produced from its brood two Lieutenants in PMA Class 2018; three cadets in PMA Class 2020 and four in PMA Class 2022. There are also three cadets in the US Coast Guard Academy.

...new Beacons.

Paul said to the Thessalonians..."Give thanks in all circumstances..."

With a grateful heart, the members of the Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992 extend our sincerest gratitude to all who have been instrumental in moulding us to what we have become. Our thanks go to (not necessarily in order of importance):

The Corps of Professors
Class Instructors
The Tactical Officers and NCOs
PMA Classes 89, 90, 91... for some of us, extends up to PMA Classes 85, 86, 87, 88
PMA Classes 93, 94, 95
The Manongs, Manangs, Barberos, Tailors, Labanderas
The Telephone Operators
The unknown barter/tindero in Camp Aquino
Our Commanders and subordinates
Promotion Boards
Members of BOSOs, BOGs
Retired Cavaliers
Foster Families
Friends
Relatives
Our Parents and Families
Our Lovely Wives and beautiful Children

Finally, To God be the Glory

Tanglaw-Diwa Class of 1992...we do things. /yek92



JOEY A ESCANILLAS
President
RANDY O REMONTE
Secretary



On 22 February 2020, platoon-size MAALABs with their families went back to the Academy for a multitude of reasons: the likes of Chi Coronel and Wally Icaro simply to recharge from the their MNSA classes where mere presence is not anymore enough; Tony Dulnuan because he made a calculated U-turn while in Manila on his way back to Camp Evangelista; Nick Quemado to check the hidden impulses of his yearling; Arsing Sadural to remind his firstborn to persevere some more and internalize the essence of 'How many days?' while anxiously anticipating that handshake of recognition; and Lyndsey Rex Sagge simply because he is a dyed-in-the-wool Hawk hunter who yearns to spread his wings once again beneath the pine trees of Fort del Pilar. But collectively they braved the winds of COVID-19 to once again renew their ties with the sacred place in Loakan where MAALABs and all that they represent, began.

Adding spice to the reunion was the inclusion to the list of this year's Cavalier Awardees, for Coast Guard Operations, of Charlie Rances, the man widely regarded to restore maritime sanity in the West Philippine Sea, years after Soc Daza inadvertently complicated geopolitical matters with his no-nonsense navigational skills that remain to be talked in whispers and are the stuff of legend. True enough, the Cavalier Award foreboded Charlie's ascension to star-rank, a recognition well deserved. Fair winds Commodore Charlie!!!

The First Quarter of 2020 saw four MAALABs occupy sensitive positions in their respective Branch of Service. Jempsun De Guzman assumed as N3 (Operations), Philippine Navy sometime in February. Then, Rey Ga was installed as the new Chief, International Military Affairs, PA in March, replacing Rommel Cordova who became fulltime G5, PA. Then finally, Pompey Almagro is the new CS, 1ID.

These events serve as added testament to the MAALAB's solid service reputation, reliability and efficiency. In a relatively short time MAALABs became valued members of the HPA staff, with Rey Ga and Rommel Cordova joining Pat Amata (G7) and Alex Musngi (G3). Jempsun De Guzman also joined MAALABs at HPN staff like Jepoy Marayag (N5), Jun Reyes (N8), Gerry Pasia (N9) and Raul Regis (N10). Air Force MAALABs likewise preponderate at HPAF, with Euly Marquez (A1), Toots Pasamonte (A2), Thad Candelario (A5) and Gatchi Gatchalian (A8).

Meanwhile, other MAALABs assumed jumping positions in the field as well, Chris Tampus as Deputy 1102d Bde in Jolo, Espoy Espuelas as IG, 4ID, Jon Goyena as GSMO, 6ID, Ricky Bunayog - GC, 7RCDG, Soc Daza as Deputy NFEM, Mars Gayat - Deputy CMOR, Pit Burgonio- Deputy AIR, Vlady Cagara is Deputy 1st Bde Cbt Team, and Greg Nieveras is Deputy 101st Bde. Congratulations

mistahs and looking forward to your share of O7 positions, soon.

And in what is considered as simply beyond forgetting, Romnick Romanillos and Randy Remonte secure their promotion to 0-6. Looking back, it proved to be the proverbial calm before the COVID-19 storm. More power and continue to shine mistahs.

On 15 March 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte declared an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) throughout the country due to a National Health Emergency caused by the CoViD-19 pandemic. The Airforce MAALABs made it to the limelight again with Iking Enriquez with his C-130 went back and forth to China to get the PPEs for health workers. Rommel Cordova made a very well-researched assessment about COVID-19 that provided the PA leadership a good perspective and better understanding about the pandemic. Other mistahs from PA, PN and PAF are on the frontlines assisting other government agencies in fighting this dreadful disease. Likewise, the quarantine was a major breakthrough to MNSA Regular Course (RC) 55, now having the distinction of having the longest no class period, but which produced glorified cyberspace warriors as they had to grapple with online turn-ins.

Finally, during a class meeting at OG3 Annex Building, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on Valentine's Day, it was resolved that the annual membership fee of each MAALAB member will be PhP 1,000.00 yearly and that Cavalier Ronald Ruiz would be the BIRC representative. The SOP on MAALAB Financial Assistance was also approved during the meeting. This would serve as a basis and standard on giving financial assistance to the member of the class.

There you go MAALAB.....way to go!





EMERSON F OXALES
President
PAUL AV AVIQUIVIL
Secretary

First and foremost, I would like to commend the outgoing class officers for the successful conduct of our 20th Alumni Homecoming Celebration. Every Sanghayan would agree that aside from the traditional parade and visit to our alma mater, the renewal of vows and the ring hop with our beloved better-half were the highlights of this year's activity. We now have lots of "Pogi/Ganda Points" and an opportunity to have a fresh "re-start" with our relationships.

Again, my congratulations to our outgoing class officers from 2017-2020 for a job well done. Felicitations are hereby extended to Cav Guillermo (President), Cav Matinong (Secretary), Cav Bautista (Treasurer), Cav Manaligod (Auditor) and Vice-Presidents Morales (PA), Oxales (PN) and Echeveria (PAF). On the other hand, let us extend our helping hand to the newly elected class officers from 2020-2023 headed by Cav Oxales (President), Cav Aviquivil (Secretary), Cav Majarocon (Treasurer); Cav Tacio (Auditor) and respective class marchers who will be serving as concurrent class Vice-Presidents, Cavs Bautista (PA), Negranza (PN) and Naing (PAF).

At this point, allow me to update the class of the whereabouts of our members. Out of the 244 who graduated, there are now 161 Sanghayans in the active service (95 in the Army, 46 in the Navy and 20 in the Air Force). I was elated to know that majority of our mistahs are now occupying key positions in their respective branches of service and our class has already started to take GSC courses here and abroad. To date, our class has already fielded 60 Sanghayans in five (5) GSC classes (63-67) while 10 mistahs were given the privilege to take their GSC abroad (1 USA, 1 Australia, 2 Korea, 1 Spain, 1 Malaysia, 1 Thailand, 1 Singapore and 2 China).

Likewise, we would like to congratulate our mistahs who are now occupying key positions in their respective branches of service as Commanding Officers, Group Commanders and O-6 Staff positions:

IN THE ARMY:

Sarmiento - CO, 60IB; Vilchez - CO, 6CMOBn; Baliaga - MA3, PMA; Mojica - CO, 15AIBn; Arbues - CO, 11CMOBn; Aquino - GC, MIG3, ISAFP; Diamante - CO, 54IB; Tria - CO, HSG, PMA; Gracilla - CO, 14AIBn; Hagada - MA2, PMA; Belleza - GC, MIG7, ISAFP; Paclibar - GC, MIG10, ISAFP; Catubigan - GC, MIG92, ISAFP; Cabeza - CO, K9Bn; Landagan - GC, MIG12, ISAFP; Morales - Cmdt, TIS; Guillermo - Deputy, CWG, AFP; Salvador - Deputy, JSOG, AFP; Gano - CO, 3RCDG; Soriano - CO, 16ISU; Villanueva - GC, MIG21, ISAFP; Domingo - CO, 552EBn; Delos Santos - CO, 514ECBn; De Duque - CO, NETBn; Taborlupa - HEA, OPPAP; Liwag - CO, 2SigBn; Tangonan - GC, 4CEISG; Panaligan - CO, SIMBn; Talipan - CO, 11SigBn; Sumbeling - CO, 5FSFO.

IN THE NAVY:

Tolentino - CO, MBLT8; Mendoza - CO, PC380; Matinong - GC, 5CEISG; Pangan - CO, PC394; Gacusan - CO, PS35; Pascua - CO, PS19; Sonon - CO, PC392; Demetillo - CO, LC298; Cantal - CO, LS507; Dumanig - CO, PC371; Manaligod - GC, DISG, DND; Cando - Cmdt, MAAP; Belgira - GC, MIG5, ISAFP; Lachica - CO, LS550; Yamamoto - CO, AC71; Nastor - CO, MBLT1; Morata - CO, LS501; Nullar - CO, PS38; Tigno - CO,







PC111; Espinosa - CO, MBLT12.

IN THE AIR FORCE:

Mangaya - SAS, HPAF; Pablo - GC, 421SMG, 420SW; Calubiran - CO, 1ARCEN; De Ocampo - GC, CMOG; Caringal - GC, 530ABG; Mendoza - DO, 580ACWW; Alpa - DO, 420SW; Aviquivil - GC, 301SMG, 300AISW.

IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE BUSINESS:

With PDEA are Directors Azurin, Rosales, Ricardo and Gabales; with MARINA is Director Bangsa; with Bureau of Customs is Director Tacio; with Sea Oil is Cav Calano; with SM are Cavs Tan and Quisai; with the Airline Industries/ Gen Aviation are Captains Dela Vega, Regalado, Alde, Manalastas, Sambrano, Palecpec; with transportation business is Cav Dacara; with Congress as Staffs are Cavs Sangalang and Orongan; with the private security/business sectors are Cavs Valdez, Marcos, Adlawan and Silva; with banking sector are Cavs Camba, Raniel, Yasay and Manlongat.

Despite our 20 years in the active service, we are proud to say that physical prowess is still the attribute of our members. This 2020, our Sanghaya Dream Team has bagged the Uncle Bobo Championship Trophy. ***No amount!*** Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce that we have several Sanghaya Brats who followed the footprints of their fathers: They are Cadet 2CL Camba (2022); Cadet 3CL Senoron (2023); and three (3) more Brats who will be joining Class 2024-Upper Sanghaya Brats....***Take Charge!***

As COVID 19 continues to plague the world, I would like to call on all Sanghayan and their loved ones to be safe, stay alive and pray. Together, we will overcome this pandemic. ***May God Bless us all!***

SADIRI R TABUTOL
President
EVANGELINE M ESPAÑOLA
Secretary

Greetings fellow Kaakibats! Few years from deep slumber and silent mode, "D-DOOM" class is finally alive and kicking ahead of our much anticipated Alumni Homecoming 2021 as Junior Host in commemoration of our 20th anniversary year after graduation from our dear Alma Mater. In keeping with our sworn duty to serve God, Country and People, let us take this rare opportunity to be abreast of our class members' respective careers and personal life as of this date.

AIR FORCE GROUP:

Foremost, we congratulate all CGSC 66 graduates, especially to Sevilla who emerged as the class topnotcher! For the active Air Kaakibats, most are now holding key designations as follows: Tabutol – GC, AFSSG; Parugrug - GC, 521st SSG; Olave – GC, 6th ARCEN; De Leon – HEA, CGPAF; Gador – DGC, 900AFWG; Buan – DGC, HSSG; Eugenio – DGC, 460AMG; Balico – Ex-O,OA1; Dauz-Cadungan – Ex-O, PAFPMC; Chan - DGC, CMOG; Tolentino – Ex-O, OA6; Piquero – G4, PSG; Baquiran – SMD, OSSM;



Cabalquinto – DILM, OA4; Somera – CFEDC, AFPETDC; Aguhob – GSMO, EMC; Medroso – C, RPAD, OJ9; Quiming – GM, GHQ Pro-Fund; Benitez – CGSC 66; CGSC 67 - Gavilan, Lacbain, Hallara; Ty and Castro – CGSC Singapore and Korea; Isla – SC, 208THS; Alvarino and Plaza – RD, PDEA; Grande – DD, TESDA; PAL - Vergara, Marinas, Magluyan; Ret/Resigned (PAF reserves in civilian/ business sectors): De Guzman, Penaflorida, Caronongan, Hussein, Vasquez, Carandang, Macarubbo, Fabic, Asis, Anonat-Daniels, Matias, Ariola, Bajesta. – Stay safe God bless us always!

NAVY GROUP:

We give premium to CO Badge Holders by starting with these snappy Skippers. Donga - NAVSOG; Cerezo – HEA, VCSAFP; Umbac - DYO, LCF, PhilFleet; Marcelo – MFO, CEISSAFP; Basco - OJ1 together with Murito (deployed soon for another UN stint); Valdez - OJ4; PSG Boys - Timbang (for optional retirement), Panes - MA to the Executive Secretary; Parpan - Acting CO, BRP Lake Caliraya (AO 81); De Vera - EX-O, BRP Apolinario Mabini (PS36); Mangahas - N7; Cayabyab - LC4, NLC; Simeon – CO, MARPATCON32; Mabbagu – CS, NICT Center; Ilarde - DYO, LCF; Coloma – CO, Anti Sub Heli Dron 42 with Resuello his EX-O; Pre - HSU PhilFlt; Marquez - CO, AMS, NAW; Tañag - DC, NMOC, PhilFleet; Mosuela - CO, BRP Fort San Antonio Abad (AGS 701); Imee

Mariñas - NIC; Plaza - BRP Emilio Jacinto (PS 35); Hechanova - Operations Officer, FF150; Pantaleon – CO, BRP Heracleo Alano (PG376) deployed in JTF Malampaya; Torres – CO, 1st PBD, NF Northern Luzon; Ruiz – CO, BRP Fort San Felipe (AGS 700); Lopez - 4th PBD, NF Central; Colita – CO, PC 18 and CNTG 71.1, JTF Agila; Sandalo - CO, BRP Agta (LC 290); Pilar, CO, BRP Subanon, (LC 291); BOSCH-DU2, WESCOM.

PMC Group: Uwaaah! Rimas – CO, MBLT-10 (Cagayan); Tabo – CO, MBLT-4 (Palawan); Pola – CO, MBLT-2 (Cotabato); Maslan - CO, MBLT-5 (Lanao Del Sur); Olaso – Dep, MC3 (Incoming Commander Amphibious Ready Group).

Civilian Sector: Fajix-Pretila – settled in the Land Down Under; Rosos - soon to be a green card holder; Tamba - Senior Manager, CRS Prime Holdings; Elumba - Marriot Hotel; Dira – everywhere; Laborte - for optional retirement (prospective UN slot); Babang –PDEA; Daquilanea - always around during celebrations; Pontejos - in demand as the dangerous hacker.



ARMY GROUP:

Mapalad - CO, PGBn, PSG; Solamo - CO, PE Bn, PSG; Garcia - C, OFM, PSG; Alcanar - G6, PSG; Delmendo and Desingaño - GSC China; Tabas - C, IAB, OG5; Torcelino - SIF, ISAFP; - CGSC 66 - Cadiente, Caido, Noche, Gernale, Ramos B, Mico, Depayso, Dayata, Taqueban, Antonio; Hamlag - C, MFO, 4ID; Mugot - DG1, 4ID, Marvida - Career Adviser, APMC; Villanueva - RDPD, OJ8; Guillermo - FIB, OJ3; Hidalgo - 3DTS, 3ID; CGSC 67 – Cahayon, Cabigon; Degay Jr; Domingo, Pulmano, Baldomar, Panganiban; Solosa - CO17AIB, AIR; Villar - C, RPDD, OFM, AFP; Ex-A for FIs, OCSAFP; GM, PA Pro-Fund; Panaligan - CS, AFPCES; Caranguian - AGM, Army Pro-Fund; Ilanga - 22k @ Silliman Univ; Calilan - CO, 95IB, 5ID; Cariño - CO, 15IB, 3ID; Estrada - CO, 12IB, 3ID; Espiritu - Loss Prevention Manager, Marriott Hotel Manila; Ignacio – A/U HHSG @ 22k; Sasing - DPM 2ID; Arojo - GC, MIG8, ISAFP; Marcelino - MA4, PMA; Askalani - MA5, PMA; Diasen - MA7, PMA; Coloma - TG1, PMA; Perlas - CO, 10SBn, ASR; Apresto - AsCom, The Armor School; Rayman - C, GSMO, ISAFP; Gawiden-G2, FSRR; Vicente - Ex-O, 703 Bde; Sabado - AG5, TRADOC; Cordero - DGC, DISG; Calero-U6, WMC; Quigao - Chief, MSO, AFPPKOC; Guda - 22K Scholarship; Encarnacion - DU3/ Chief, COC, WMC; Batingga - DS, AFPPKOC; Frivaldo - G2, Armor Div; San Agustin - AGM, AFPEBSO; Reaño - Back to PA; Bautista - Chief, Opns Branch, OG2; Ramos OC Dep G3, 9ID; Valenzuela - ODPM, 11ID; Dalangin-OG4 PA.

Year 2020 has not been quite the year we all expected to be, instead we were tested by this nasty pandemic, totally erasing beliefs such that the Metro Manila traffic is hopeless, that money is nothing if we don't have food that shall nourish us, that with social distance we succeed, and united or hand-in-hand we fall. We are glad to announce that the "Kaakibats" (D-Doom Class) will not be discouraged by this virus. So just stay safe and remain at home or in your workstations and do something positive. This crisis is the Lords' way of reminding us that family is everything. While great Filipino minds still have to come out with the vaccine, let us remain on the positive side of the statistics by being negative of the COVID 19 virus. Godspeed everyone!







REYNALD JV BALANAY
President
NOEL SM MARZAN
Secretary

NEWLY INSTALLED CLASS OFFICERS

It is always a milestone having newly installed class officers and as always, we are excited about their potentials being showcased in growth and development of our class.

We give great gratitude and recognition to the outgoing officers who have done their part in handling our class matters and spending working hours on our behalf. It is true that the incoming officers will have some big shoes to fill.

To the newly installed officers, it is with utmost appreciation that we convey for demonstrating your commitment and dedication by accepting the position knowing the associate responsibilities.

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Rest assured that the entire class will support you along the way and that we trust your guidance, direction and leadership. We will encourage each other and have each other's back at all times.

PROMOTABLE TO HIGHER RANK

Higher share of duties and higher pay-scale aren't the great things about

promotion. In fact, it is your spouse that benefit from it the most. But on deeper thoughts, promotion is all about our country benefiting from our contributions as we increase our productivity and improve the entire Armed Forces through our decisiveness and promptness.

Being promoted is one way our nation tells us that they value our efforts and they entrust everything to our shoulders. This is our energy booster. This is our motivation to keep going. We achieved some and we are to conquer more. All the efforts, performance, length of service, merit, educational qualifications, and potential paid off as we go after our ambitions in life.

To our fellow Mandarangan who are promotable and are all deserving, congratulations mistahs! The destiny of hardwork is always success, and because of your hardwork, you all succeed!

• Cdr • Ltcol • Ltcol • Cdr

FIGHTING COVID-19

The entire Armed Forces of the Philippines has learned and won many wars as what we are trained and tasked to do. But nowadays, it is different. The AFP serves as frontliners in battling an unseen enemy, the Covid19 virus. We risk ourselves by being exposed to the coronavirus for as long as we make sure that the society is safe and sound inside their homes. We, the Mandarangan, take part to this.

The Army, while fighting against the insurgencies on top of mountains, also combats the pandemic by reaching the remote areas of the country and spreading information on how to limit the spread of the virus. Some of our kababayans may still don't know the occurrence and gravity of this. The Hukbong Katihan takes action specially in preparing for possible imposition of Martial Law.

The Navy transports PPEs, medical supplies and equipment even from outside the country and make sure that they extend to those in areas in great need. They make sure tight maritime surveillance and territorial defense operations amidst the crisis.

The Airforce is the main group to deliver Covid-19 specimen of suspected cases from region to region as civilian flights are suspended. They are everyone's partner in air support especially in transporting those who stranded foreign and local civilians in the provinces.

Our military personnel, our aircrafts, and our vessels are expected to be used more frequently in our effort to be back to normalcy. Our tireless effort and sacrifices are vital in sustaining our campaign to end this war. The PMA Mandarangan Class of 2003 is one with the government, and will always be for the Filipino people in terms of making peace and harmony of the country.



OWEN M AVENIDO
President
RONALDO U URBANO
Secretary

COVID-FREE MALIYAB

There will always be reasons to smile amidst chaos and pandemic, and every Yaber knows just how to keep our spirits burning☺

Due to the quarantine, I'll only be telling inside jokes.

***

Son: Dad why is my sister's name Paris?
Dad: Because we conceived her in Paris.
Son: Thanks dad!
Dad: No problem, Quarantine.

***

Finland just closed its borders.
No one will be crossing the Finish line.

***

Covidiot. A person who stubbornly ignores "social distancing" protocol, thus helping to further spread Covid-19. A stupid person who hoards groceries, needlessly spreading Covid-19 fears and depriving others of vital supplies.

***









All flights from John Lennon Airport are cancelled. Imagine all the people.

***

During our times, you would cough to cover up a fart. Now, with Covid-19, you fart to cover up a cough.

***

Did you hear the joke about the virus? Never mind, I don't want to spread it around. *(These were taken from different sites in the internet* ☺

P.S. Uncle Bobo's schoolmates, this is not the time to BE POSITIVE.)

The Maliyab has also another valid reason to smile. We are all proud with the recent promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and Lieutenant Commander of our mistahs from the Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy, respectively. This great milestone in their military career came in time of worries and anxieties. The two suns they now wear on their shoulders radiate joy and positivity. SNAPPIEST salute to the Eltikols!!!

The class would also like to congratulate some of our mistahs who are the youngest retirees of the AFP today. After 20 years of selfless service, they finally retreat their military uniforms and now ready to take on



new adventures. The first batch of Maliyab retirees are Misters Jojo Veloso of Kawayan, Cebu, Ace Ronald Ampong of Pagadian City, Ace Monteagudo of Novaliches, Quezon City, Ariel Cortez of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur and Joel Guillermo of Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

The class also takes pride of our mistahs who are primary members of the National Task Force Covid-19. Ronald Borras who is currently assigned at OJ3 is one of the prime movers of the National Incident Command Emergency Operations Center (NIC-EOC). While Chai Monato-Avenido, our Class President, is with the Resource Management and Logistics Task Group.



LENELL A LACSON
President
MICHAEL ANGELO E CASTRO
Secretary

Let me begin with a disclosure that this entry was originally meant for the Army group. Nonetheless, in behalf of our mistahs who left the service at various points of our 14 years since graduating from the Academy, we appreciate this kind gesture of giving us this piece of editorial real estate to give updates on what we have been up to.

It is difficult to talk about the experiences of others, but generally we all found ourselves in different industries that speak more to our personal interests and passions: the intangibles that were otherwise unrevealed while in the military service—sometimes even to us—but led us to find professional fulfillment in the course of finding ourselves in a foreign land albeit familiar. The geographic scope of this update, therefore, is North America that covers the U.S. and Canada.

I will first take you to the city of Calgary where the world-famous Banff National Park of Canada is located. Earlier this year, I received Mike Benolerao's invitation to his wedding that is to be held in Banff. It was supposed to take place in June, but just like everything else during this pandemic, it was put on hold and rescheduled to a later date in October. Just to be clear, Mike is in the Air Force, not in Calgary. But Ging Gulinao lives there and works at an accounting firm with Maureen, Mike's fiancée. Ging, though, used to live in Vancouver where I had the chance to visit her in the beginning weeks of the spring of 2017 during a 1,500-mile road trip from Glendale, California. Hossanah and I stayed overnight at their place and toured the city with Ging and John, took the lift on a six-kilometer ride going up to Grouse mountain on a suspension wire, ate at a local diner, and took a lot of pictures. Always good times with a mistah.

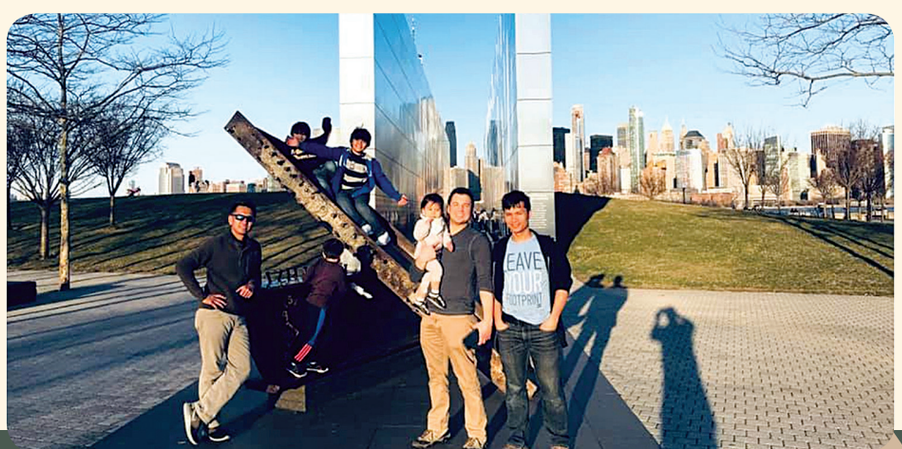
Here in the Golden Coast of California, Josh Biag has been a long-time resident of Sacramento County. He worked his way up over the years to become security supervisor at a medical health network. He was pretty successful in that line of work with good retirement benefits, but he decided to shift his bearings to become a nurse. But it works out for them as Maricar is able to take turns with him in taking care of the kids while sufficiently providing for their family. Due to our busy schedules, we rarely see each other but when we do, the conversations are endless just like last year at his sister's home in San Jose where we celebrated his daughter's birthday.

Over in the U.S. East Coast in Connecticut, we'll find Jake Morrell hunkered down on his computer, busy churning out one analysis after another that keeps his client apprised of potential security risks and, ultimately, safe. He works for an international consulting firm as a security analyst while cross-trained and qualified in executive protection. I'd say he's the only Mandalan Cavalier who does work that resembles his Navy SEAL background to some degree: the warrior scholar.

I have so much respect for Rio Pacit who is very hands-on with his two boys and still does well as IT network engineer. He lives in New Jersey across the Hudson River from New York. In the spring of 2019, following an official tour of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with the Carnegie Council, I was fortunate to have Rio volunteer to pick me up at a train station. I rested overnight at his Jersey City home and then we linked up with Jake the following day for a fellowship with the kids at Liberty State Park (but not after Rio cooked breakfast for me!).True to form, Rio grabbed lunch for us from Jollibee without splitting the bill among the three of us. It was funny how we captioned that day:"Former warriors on dads' day-out with kids, strollers, and diapers." We also had a good time feeding and supervising the kids while table napkins were flying all around due to the strong breeze.

While the remaining space is now limited, I would be remiss in staying true to this task without mentioning Ian Manaay and John Gasataya, both of whom I've personally struggled to keep in touch with. But I heard John is a nurse manager while Ian is also a nurse in Michigan. Meanwhile, Diana Alarde is a school teacher in Nevada while seeking opportunities to become a data scientist. She holds two graduate degrees: an MBA and Master of Applied Statistics.

Well, thank you for reading this far. It's always nice to put pen to paper while inspired by great memories, a good late-nightpreoccupation. Over and out. – ***Mark Payumo***

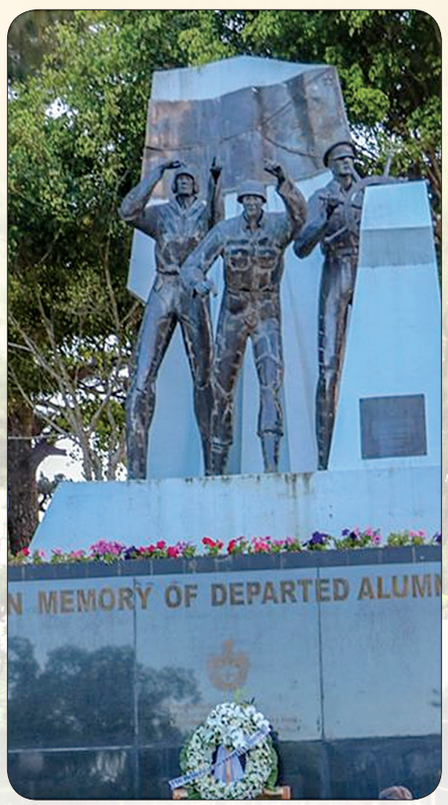


"Be strong and courageous, for the Lord will be with you wherever you go."

LAST CALL



DE VEYRA



(Speech delivered by MGen Rufo A de Veyra AFP (Ret), PMA Class '70, Chairman, PMAAAI, AY 2019-2020 during the Wreath-laying Ceremony, Memorial of Departed Alumni, PMA, Fort Del Pilar, Loakan, Baguio City)

We learn and teach, never to forget.

VAdm Allan Cusi, PMAAAI Officers and staff, members of the PMA Staff, fellow Golden Jubilarians, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

As often as we memorialize our dear departed we are led to the following lines:

> *"That they shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning."*

We are here today to remember, to honor, to learn and teach, never to forget.

In remembering, we are led to the: Commitment to Remember

> *"They were young, as we are young,*
> *They served, giving freely of themselves.*
> *To them, we pledge, amid the winds of time,*
> *To carry their torch and never forget.*
> *We will remember them."*

Response:

> *"We will remember them."*
>
> **— Pierre Claeyssens (1909-2003)**

We are also here today to honor those who have gone ahead of us, those who so unselfishly gave their lives that we may live fuller and longer lives; always in the thought that life is finite, with a beginning and an end, and that there is simply no forever.

Finally, we are here to learn and teach that those who will go after us will learn the value of life and death; and that it is in remembering that leads to eternal life.

We remember, we honor, we learn and teach, never to forget.

That is why I relish witnessing wreath-laying ceremonies and memorials because they serve as a preview of how we will be remembered by those who will go after us.

I end with a qoute:

> *"To be killed in war is not the worst that can happen. To be lost is not the worst that can happen… to be forgotten is the worst."*

Let us remember, honor, teach and learn; by so doing, we learn not to forget the meaning of eternal life.

Thank you all.