



The

CAVALIER

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

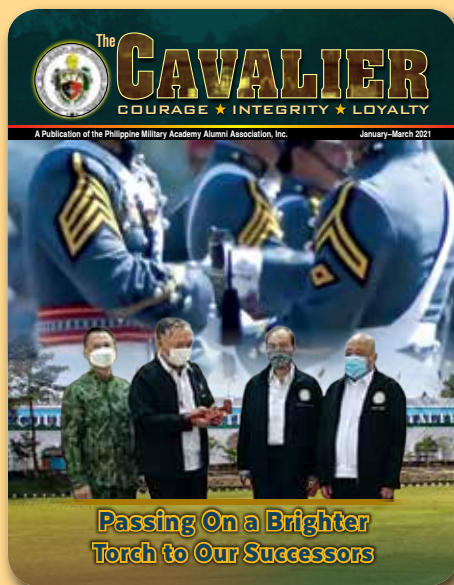
A Publication of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

January–March 2021



**Passing On a Brighter
Torch to Our Successors**

ABOUT THE COVER



As a dynamic Association, the PMAAAI nurtures leaders who serve as beacon lights to all its members. When their tenures come to an end, they are more than willing to pass on a brighter torch to their worthy successors.

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The CAVALIER

IN THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY

Our Duty of Passing On a Brighter Torch..... 6

• Editorial Staff

2020 PMAAAI ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT.....13

• Cav George Q Piano '78

Lessons in Leadership 18

• Cav Jaime S De Los Santos '69

PMAAAI-PN Chapter Highlights Year-End 19

Accomplishments Amidst Pandemic

PCG Cavaliers Actively Respond to Rescue 20

and Relief Operations Amid the Pandemic

PMA CLASS OF 1961: The Diamond Jubilarians of 2021.....22

• Cav Eduardo T Cabanlig '61

The Quest for Relevance 26

• Cav Eduardo T Cabanlig '61

Matatags ♥ PMA.....27

• Cav Ariston V Delos Reyes '71

MATATAG '71: Bright Star Shining for a Long Time! 29

• Cav Rolly C Malinis '71

The Back Nine..... 34

• Cav Cicero L Castellano '71

Getting Connected, Now 38

• Cav Gregorio B Honasan II '71

EMME Consultancy, Inc. 41

• Cav Wenceslao A Cruz Jr, Cav Fernando Z Francisco, and Cav Jose C Lalisan Jr

Travel Bug 43

• Cav Socrates Brazal '71

3,608 Steps to the Tomb of the Holy Man 46

• Cav Wency A Cruz Jr '71

A SILVER STORY: PMA Mabikas Class of 1996.....52

• Cav Francisco L Molina '96

PMA Class 1991: The "SAMBISIG" @ 30.....55

• Cav Rummuel J Perez '91

Notice of PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI)

Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Trustees..... 56

PMAAAI: Tirelessly Extending Guidance and Mentoring 57

• Cav Eduardo M Año '83

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 From the Chairman's Desk
- 3 President's Corner
- 4 Supe's Report
- 5 Baron's Dissemination

- 7 Adjutant's Bulletin
- 59 Class Call
- IBC Last Call

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

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

Readers may now view The Cavalier online at pmaai.afp.mil.ph

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Some articles have been edited to meet space requirements.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV EDGAR B. AGLIPAY '71

The Torches that Make Up the Bright Beacon of our Land

This is the last issue for my term as Chairman of the PMAAAI.

For the four issues during my term, what I have envisioned to attain in my column is to show to all PMAYers that whatever stage we are in our life – from being a new graduate, to being a senior grade officer, to being a general officer, or being finally a retired Cavalier – we are prepared to perform our tasks and endeavor to have PMAYers to look up to as models.

One such model is Cav Alvin G. Dimalanta '13 who in his budding career exhibited conspicuous courage and gallantry as Company CO in the siege of Marawi City. Defying an unconventional urban warfare, he demonstrated his innovative leadership in conducting assault and clearing operations building to building, top to bottom, room by room with ingenious and well-devised tactics under well-entrenched enemy's vicious resistance as well as restrictive terrain and limiting obstacles thus leaving him with only one viable avenue of approach. This proved to be instrumental in the decisive capture later on of the strategic main building enemy stronghold. After being wounded and hospitalized, he persevered to return to fierce combat duty towards the attainment of the hard-earned, inevitable liberation of Marawi City from the grip of terrorist groups earning him notably five (5) Gold Cross Medals and other coveted awards along the way. Furthering his career, he attended schoolings here and abroad while drawing inspiration from his family as the only son, a model PMAYER tried and true.

Another model is Cav Alan D. Macatingrao '98 whose young career in the field demonstrated his steadfast commitment and perseverance earning him numerous medals and awards such as Gold Cross Medal, Distinguished Aviation Cross, Gawad sa Kaunlaran, Bronze Cross Medal, Sagisag ng Ulirang Kawal, Military Civic-Action Medal, Military Merit Medals and Military Commendation Medals received at the height of AFP's major successful campaigns against MILF and Abu Sayaff terrorist groups in Mindanao. Among these feats of air combat operations he participated in are OPLAN "GRANDSLAM", Operations "EVERGLADES" and various airstrike operations with Task Force "THUNDER" in 2001. He was also instrumental in the conduct of Air-to-Ground Operations Training of the ground troops in Camp Abubakkar as the Head of Mobile Training Team, TOG 12 who

crossed Army Brigades by land mobility to provide the troops knowledge for effective interoperability. Garnering the PMAAAI Cavalier Award for Air Operations, he bespeaks of solid character as a model PMAYER of excellence.

Similarly, Cav Jesus Daniel Martinez '10 principally featured as Team Leader under the Naval Operations Group in the siege of Zamboanga City by a renegade terrorist faction where he led his men in clearing heavily-fortified enemy strongholds by spearheading the ferocious fight inch by inch, house to house, alley by alley under withering enemy and sniper fires thus inflicting inescapable casualties among his men and suffering gunshot wounds himself. Pressing on, he contributed much to the constriction, containment and collapse of the enemy leading to a liberated and peaceful Zamboanga City and obtaining in the process numerous well-deserved medals and awards. Nonetheless, he pursued local and foreign schoolings to bolster his career eventually landing a stint at the PMA Tactics Group, while building a family of his own with wife and child, truly a model PMAYER worthy of respect and recognition.

Further, Cav Inocencio C. Rosario, Jr. '96 comes into the picture with the PMAAAI Cavalier Award for Coast Guard Operations in 2015 having a string of extraordinary accomplishments and versatile initiatives in the performance of dedicated duty worthy of emulation. Underpinned by well-rounded education and schooling, and reinforced by solid trainings and workshops, both here and abroad, he has brought concrete distinction throughout his career in the Service as well as in his professional relationships with its various Stakeholders.

During his stint with the Naval Special Warfare Group, PN, Cav Rosario, Jr received awards such as: the Award of the Combat Commander's (KAGITINGAN) Badge, Award of the BRONZE CROSS Medal, Award of the Military Merit Medal with 2nd Bronze Anahaw Leaf, Award of the Military Commendation Medal with First Equilateral Triangle, Award of Military Civic Action Medal, Award of Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operation Ribbon and Award of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Campaign Medal and Ribbon. He also received numerous Plaques of Appreciation, Letters of Appreciation and Letters of Commendation. Superb all around from being a Junior Officer to his current assignment, he

has proven his mettle as a model PMAYER reflecting its lofty ideals of Courage, Integrity, Loyalty.

Thus, we only have ourselves to blame if we do not end up as such models. We are given an education that is free, we are given a job upon graduation that is noble, we have a career path to follow that will lead us to a Star Rank, we are given a salary that is enough to raise a family and to live modestly, we are given opportunities to reach the top of our service organization, and, after retirement we are given more opportunities to excel in our chosen second profession. These are all planned for us, and all we have to do is to follow the path prepared for us. Of course, we have to give our best to reach our maximum potentials. In all these stages of our life, we have PMAYERS who are exceptionally good archetypes to emulate replete with outstanding feats heads and shoulders above the rest springing from their predecessors-models now in government, non-government organizations, and in their second career after retirement.

In my first issue as PMAAAI Chairman, I wrote about PMAYERS in government. I took as models Cabinet Members who are National Leaders in their own right. They made us proud by defeating the ISIS in Marawi City and now about to keep our country safe from the wrath of the COVID-19 pandemic with respectable accomplishments compared to other countries suffering from the same problems and having similar population profile as ours. Cava Lorenzana, Año, Bautista and Galvez are our model government officials.

In the second issue, I wrote about PMAYERS in Non-Government Organizations. I depicted as models our Association leaders who were kind enough to give their precious time to lead our PMAAAI to greater heights by keeping members to be true to our Solemn Pledge and to provide better services to our members. Cava Abat, Mison, Agustin, Avenida, Rosales and Delos Santos are our model NGO officers.

In the third issue, I wrote about PMAYERS who made as proud after retirement by continuing to serve our country and people in their second field of profession where they excelled above their civilian counterparts. They have equaled or even went beyond their accomplishments when they were in the service and showed that even in the last quarter of their lives, they are an asset of God, country and people. Cava Yan, Sr., Honasan, Flores, Mison, Ticman and Farolan are our such models.

We are not short of model PMAYERS. In a way, we are all models in our own right, maybe not in our total persona like the

models mentioned above but in some facets of our life where we excel.

For this fourth and last issue for my term as PMAAAI Chairman. I will write about the young PMAYERS who have started it right and continued it through their careers.

Evidently, while in the Academy, news trickles reach us of the heroic exploits in the field by our immediate upperclassmen, not to mention also the sad fate of a few. It becomes clear even during our cadet days that indeed our profession of arms calls for us to lay our life on the line for our country and people! Our ultimate reward whether alive or dead after an operation is the denouement we are heroes and loved by our people, especially our families! Our motivation to stay alive is to be able to serve more our country and people with our heads high. On the personal side of it of course, we want to go home to our loving family and nurture our children to be like us or even better than us!

Surely, building a successful career right from the outset is a better course of action to take. Most new graduates of the PMA are lucky to have PMAYERS also as superior officers as they start their careers. More often than not, the latter will test the mettle of the former by giving the hardest assignment upon reporting for the first assignment in the Service. Most of the former take it as a challenge and a chance to prove that they, too, are worthy to be called a PMAYER. This is one

of the continuing traditions that has become beneficial to the Service and to the development of the PMA Junior Grade officers.

We are also fortunate to be led by PMAYERS who set good examples to us in accomplishing missions that make as proud being part of successful operations. More often than not, our PMAYER Commander leaves the unit and he recommends us to assume his position. Unluckily for other young PMA graduates, they land in the company of a few PMAYERS who lead them the wrong way.

As graduates of the PMA, we have our own mind and our own destiny in our hands to build and foster for our future by the grace and mercy and in the will of God Almighty. All new graduates of the PMA have a promising future; they only have to embark on it propitiously and nurture it providentially.

Note: The paragraphs pertaining to model junior officers were provided by major service chapter presidents.





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV EMMANUEL B PERALTA '91

Our Task Is Done

It is in this time of the year that every Cavalier goes home in Fort del Pilar to participate in the annual PMA Alumni Homecoming.

Although there had been slight changes brought about by the pandemic health crisis, still the spirit of camaraderie pervades even if events are being done now virtually.

As for us members of the PMAAAI board, this is also the time we will hand over the responsibility(ies) to the next elected successors. The Association Year 2020-2021 had been a challenging one. Our resiliency as Filipinos and as Cavaliers had been tested, not only by the COVID-19 virus that put us in the midst of a battle with an unseen enemy but also by calamities/typhoons/disasters that befell our country and some unfortunate events that jeopardized the security of our country.

I would like to extend my thanks to the people who accompanied me in this journey as president of the Board despite the travails. As outgoing members of the Board, we are crossing our fingers that hopefully we were able to meet expectations of every cavalier. Somewhere in this issue is an article that capsulated what we have done in the year that past. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in whatever capacity that we had.

I am hoping that the next set of Board officers and members will equal if not surpass what we have achieved as our legacies. Truly, to continue serving our Alma Mater, and its graduates, the PMAAAI and its members, is both an honor and a privilege. Maraming salamat po sa iyong pagtitiwala.

* * * * *

To tackle another issue, the column of Mr. Michael Tan, entitled Pinoy Kasi, published 13 January 2021, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer, tackled "COVID-19 Lessons from PMA." The columnist emphasized the importance of having proper ventilation in all PMA buildings and rooms and the installation of exhaust and input fans to bring out and bring in fresh air.

There were 53 infected cases of COVID-19 among cadets, to include food handlers who apparently were the source of infections. Although cadets are under strict lockdown inside PMA campus, the handlers are not because they live outside the campus.

The author cited that if infection occurred "in a crowd or in an enclosed space where someone already has an infection," then the infection started to spread. Since cadets also share prolonged hours in a room each night, the virus has the tendency to spread quickly.

Thus, the columnist also mentioned that aircon rooms need to be ventilated even more because AC units "only circulate air," in effect allowing the virus to stay suspended inside a room for a prolonged period.

Mr. Tan cited links for improvised room ventilation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?> and an online guide produced by Massachusetts Institute of Technology to calculate the optimum number of rooms and what the room will be used for and calculate the number of occupants that can safely stay together and for how long: <https://indoor-covid-safety.herokuapp.com/>

I hope we could learn a thing or two from this column for the health sake of our PMA cadets, other fellows and of ours, too.





SUPE'S REPORT

CAV FERDINAND M CARTUJANO '88

Molding Quality Leaders in the Time of COVID-19

As we bid farewell to the previous year and celebrate the coming of the new year, we recall the changes and difficulties we have experienced along with the "New Normal" set by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines did not remain isolated as mass testing undertaken by the Academy revealed that even the cadets are not invincible to the pandemic. Though, the Academy was very fortunate that the percentage of COVID cases in the CCAFP and the PMA Community is very minimal and still manageable. Said mass testing was conducted in accordance to the Prevent, Detect, Isolate and Treat, and Recover and Reintegrate (PDITRR) National Strategy. Accordingly, the next steps and protocols were undertaken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the CCAFP as well as the PMA Community.

A lockdown or confinement to the barracks of the CCAFP was implemented while symptomatic cases were assessed by the Fort Del Pilar Station Hospital and isolated in the "de-facto" makeshift quarantine facilities. Further, contacts with the cadets were limited only to the critical services such as laundry, medical, and mess services and the necessary supervision by their Tactical Officers. Likewise, all these were undertaken with necessary precautions such as strict implementation of the wearing of PPEs for our "manongs" and the Tac-Os as well as the laundry service personnel along with the critical requirement that said personnel also test negative for COVID-19. Coupled with a strict control and monitoring of the entry and exit of personnel in Fort del Pilar and other PMA-administered camps, these measures were initiated to prevent the spread of the virus in the CCAFP and the PMA Community with the ultimate goal of eliminating the presence of COVID-19 inside the Academy. With these thrusts, it is with honor, that I extend the Academy's deepest gratitude and appreciation to the National IATF on Emerging Infectious Diseases led by the Commander-In-Chief, PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, led by the CSAFP, GEN GILBERT I GAPAY AFP, the Philippine Coast Guard, led by the Commandant, PCG, ADMIRAL GEORGE URSABIA JR, and the Baguio City Government, headed by MAYOR BENJAMIN B

MAGALONG, for all their support in the Academy's battle against the pandemic.

Moving forward, certain activities such as the Recognition Rites of the PMA "BAGONG SINAG" Class of 2024, who had their Pre-Recognition Rites last December, had to be postponed or modified to ensure that the occurrence or resurgence of the virus will be mitigated if not totally prevented. Further, as the 1st Semester of the Academic Year 2021 begins, the Academy has done away with the physical conduct of face-to-face classroom instructions while adopting a fully online or virtual mode of classroom education. Likewise, Alternative Work from Home Arrangements are further improved with the

formal establishment of two (2) to three (3) duty shifts to ensure that the Academy is fully manned and able to undertake its critical mission of producing the future officers and leaders of the AFP and the nation while also providing its personnel protection from the pandemic, stress, and fatigue.

As we go forward into 2021, I face my duties and responsibilities as the Superintendent PMA, with renewed vigor while maintaining the standards of excellence and honor as I Lead, Inspire, and Transform the men and women of this noble institution towards becoming a more professional and competent manpower resource that is aimed at providing the Armed Forces of

the Philippines with quality and standard Military Officers who will become responsible leaders of the nation in their chosen fields of endeavors.

The Academy will continue to "Power up and Soar High" as we continuously improve and further enhance the competence of our beloved Academy with the intent that the education and training services rendered by the institution will always be responsive, sustainable, and fully mission capable to our ever changing environment. I enjoin the men and women of the Academy to be **Focused** in everything they do and to consistently **Motivate** others while leading with **3Cs (Character, Competence, and Commitment)** as we envision and transform the Academy towards becoming a credible, and dependable premier military training institution that is internationally recognized and as part of a World-Class AFP that is a source of national pride.





TRISTAN POCAIS PALTONGAN
Cdt F/Cpt 1CI CCAFP
Brigade Commander

Baron's Dissemination



Passing the Torch of Honor and Excellence

**“The final test of a leader
is that he leaves behind him
in other men, the conviction and will
to carry on” – Walter Lippmann**

As we honor and celebrate the cherished tradition of the Alumni Homecoming, I cannot help but find myself in profound awe as to how the Academy has withstood the test of time; way back from when, in its early years, it was trying to establish its own identity and relevance to a society that bore witness to centuries of brutal conflict until the present day, where it stands firmly within the pillars of the nation while constant evolution has led us to an age where conventional conflict is not as prominent as it was, and additional dimensions of human interaction have been introduced.

For having lasted more than a century, one can only wonder how this institution has maintained its significance. There have been many changes, as they would naturally occur; but there is something that binds us, something inordinately resilient, that constant exposure to duress has only made stronger – such is the torch of honor and excellence – and its fire is glowing as radiant as ever.

As humanity faces the pandemic and its end is yet to be foreseen, every nation, down to its very last individual, has learned to adapt. The Philippine Military Academy is no exemption; in fact, it has implemented schemes both in the physical and academic aspect of training that were never before practiced in the past.

However, the mission of producing leaders of character has not changed, and the responsibility of those who fall under the chain-of-command is unparalleled.

To lead the future leaders of this country at present is no easy task, but as we take each solution day-by-day, and as we take on the journey of leadership, there is one thing I consider that is of utmost importance in imparting to my fellow cadets - the will to serve God and country.

The Corps Before the Individual

Every leader dreams of leaving behind a lasting legacy. As nature would dictate, any individual would want to surpass the achievements of those who have walked before them. But in honor of those who have gone before us, the PMA Masaligan Class of 2021 vows to pass on a culture of honor and excellence instead of focusing on individual accomplishments.

Excellence before Comfort

As our turn to lead the Corps nears its end, we shall give our best effort in leaving behind a culture of thriving for excellence instead of seeking comfort. As challenging as the past year has been, we took the responsibility of leading our fellow cadets. Anchored on selfless service, and understanding that we will be together with the modern-day frontliners in the near future, we willed our way to continue training and we looked for solutions while following the protocols as dictated by the existing predicament. Instead of succumbing to inaction, we chose to march on, and the rest of the Corps followed suit.

Honor before Excellence

With the Honor Code as a lifetime commitment of the members of the Long Gray Line, the torch of honor and excellence shall be passed on from generation to generation. Whatever the challenges in the future may be, the Cadet Corps and the Philippine Military Academy shall remain committed to its mandate.

Para sa Diyos

Para sa Bayan

Masaligan 2021



Our Duty of Passing On a Brighter Torch

• EDITORIAL STAFF

Composed of individuals who were meticulously selected and trained by our country's premiere leadership school during their youth and tempered in the real-world by the rigors of military and public service during their prime years, it goes without saying that the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association is an organization that is expected to have Excellence as its hallmark and central value. Meeting such an expectation, even by an association of our country's best and brightest, seems daunting, not to mention complicated, considering the peculiarity of our chosen profession. Seeking excellence by means of competing with others may not be practical at all. So how do we achieve and gauge excellence then?

We compete with our previous selves.

It is within this notion that we will try to look into the actions of the current Board of the Philippine Military Academy Association as well as the general Alumni Community as a whole. Year 2020 has been a challenging year for all. But within this adverse situation, the brightness of the individual and collective torches carried by the PMA Alumni community can best be observed. In all honesty and fairness, the previous generations of alumni have handed over an already bright torch to begin with. The challenge for us, however, is not only to keep it shining, but to expand its brightness in every area that affects the general well-being of each alumni and the greater Philippine Society that we currently live within.

The outgoing PMAAAI Board started its tenure with several thrusts to improve the general administration of our association. Largest among these thrusts was the establishment of the "PMAAAI Center for Leadership Excellence". Once completed, this Center will provide our association with a permanent home in which to thrive and grow in terms of fulfilling its functions.

Arguably, one of the most important capitals of any organization is the trust and confidence of its members. The recent and unfortunate issue regarding several failed investments using the Association's resources somewhat challenged the trust and confidence that we were enjoying among ourselves in the past. Fully understanding the implication of this issue, the Board commissioned every means available to prosecute the perpetrators in order to gain back the eroded sense of security within the association. Mechanisms were also placed to ensure the continuity of the prosecution even beyond the tenure of the outgoing board.

Much like any other organizations, internal gaps between sub-sectors tend to develop. While diversity may seem beneficial for an organization's overall growth, it can lead to problems if left unchecked. Such is the situation with the PMA Alumni community. In this regard, the outgoing board placed focus in enhancing the communication between classes as well as service and non-service branches. One thrust is the improvements made with the Cavalier Magazine. For the entire year, the Cavalier Magazine diversified its contents in order to represent as much sub-sectors of the association as possible placing focus on stories about Female Cavaliers, the younger generations, the non-service sectors and even our younger brothers and sisters still inside the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines. Additionally, the Editorial Policy was expanded to address new publication issues and dilemmas.

Related to improving the communication among its members, the outgoing Board activated the PMAAAI Council of Class Presidents (PCOCP). The aim of activating said council is to decentralize some of the decision-making processes of the board in order to achieve a better representation of all its members. Meeting monthly, this also promoted transparency by updating all participating classes on the current activities of the Board and the Association.

Going beyond the confines of the associations, Cavaliers are also lighting new torches in the field of

public service, particularly in crisis management and leadership. The Covid 19 pandemic presented the world with a problem whose magnitude was last seen during the last world wars. But as dire as it may seem, the situation forced out new heroes and legends, who are currently blazing new paths to lead the nation out of this quagmire. And among these heroes are Cavaliers who are carrying with them torches. Torches that some of us may eventually have to receive and carry on.

Belonging to the PMA Alumni community presents more responsibilities than privileges. One of these responsibilities is to uphold excellence wherever we may be. The education and character formation that our esteemed Alma Mater bestowed upon us is a debt that we are life-long bound to repay. One way of repaying this is to ensure that torches passed along our way become ever brighter and ever sustained to our next successors.



ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

Cavalier Awardees and Other Outstanding Alumni, AY 2020-2021

• **CAV AMADO T ESPINO, JR '72**

Chairman, Awards Committee AY 2020-2021

The Board of Directors of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) has selected as Cavalier Awardees for AY 2020-2021, 20 alumni who, after a stringent nomination and selection process, have been found to have the most outstanding performance in their respective fields. The Board has also selected 13 other alumni to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award and Outstanding Achievement Award. They have brought honor not only to themselves but also to our Association. Besides exemplifying the Academy's motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, they have distinguished themselves among equally competent and devoted alumni-achievers. The awardees, who merit our snappy salute and highest praises, are the following:

A. CAVALIER AWARD

For Public Administration

1. CAV DELFIN N LORENZANA '73

As the 36th Secretary of National Defense, Cav Lorenzana brings with him 31 years of topnotch performance in the AFP and 16 years of experience as a diplomat.

His service with the Philippine Army honed his expertise in national defense and security, special operations, foreign military affairs, public diplomacy, and strategic leadership.

As a former defense attaché in the USA, he helped lobby for two legislations which duly recognized Filipino veterans and enhanced US-Philippine bilateral relations. Since 2016, he has accomplished a lot in terms of modernizing the AFP, advancing international defense cooperation, assisting the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao towards self-autonomy, and leading holistic approaches in counterinsurgency. He has also proactively empowered local communities to be disaster-resilient and instituted measures promoting patriotism, professionalism and good governance by being a worthy exemplar to the entire One Defense Team.



2. CAV LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL '76

His relentless dedication to public service, dating back when he was in the Philippine National Police to his stint as outstanding member of 15th, 16th and 17th Congress where among others, as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, he was able to help in the upliftment of the veterans' benefits



and the improvement of the medical facilities of VMMC, until now that he serves as a local chief executive of his hometown, is pervaded with formidable achievements. More importantly, his townsfolk could attest to his outstanding service. No surprise then that he is aptly known, especially among his constituents, as the *Lingkod ng Bayan*. Hence, Cav Bataoil deserves the 2021 PMAAAI Cavalier Award for public service.

3. CAV EDUARDO M AÑO '83

Following his honorable retirement from the military service, Cav Eduardo M Año stepped into position at the Department of the Interior and Local Government carrying credibility, efficiency, and professionalism into public administration.

Under his iron-willed and compassionate guidance, the agency and its attached agencies transformed to become stronger institutions with professional public servants.

Cav Año set the DILG to sail the impossible course of weeding out corruption, battling societal ills, developing the uniformed services and local government units, and most recently, pushing back against the challenges of COVID-19.

As such, the Department – through a whole-of-nation approach in governance - now commands the trust, respect and partnership of the Filipino citizenry in nation-building. Thus, with these achievements, Cav Año brought honor not only to himself, but also to his beloved Alma Mater, and to the Filipino people.



4. CAV ROLANDO JOSELITO D BAUTISTA '85

True to his motto of "*Walang Iwanan*" in the combat zone, Sec Bautista perfected and adopted this affectionate sympathy towards less fortunate members of the Philippine society. Having witnessed the plight of the poorest of the poor in the fringes, during his Army days, coupled with his mantra of leaving no one behind, Secretary Bautista delivered the most needed social services to those who are in dire need of them, and he did so with a heart. Upon assuming as the Secretary of DSWD, he aggressively pushed for the following agenda without hesitation: Integrity, Teamwork, Action and Creativity or ITAC.

The values he gained from the combat fields and the new arena of delivering social services may seem oxymoronic. Yet what Secretary Bautista has proven is that when public



service is one's main goal displaying courage, loyalty and integrity is not difficult at all.

5. CAV CARLITO G GALVEZ JR '85

As Chief Implementer of the National Action Plan (NAP) Against COVID-19, Secretary Carlito G Galvez Jr has played a key role in the effective implementation of the Plan, enabling the government to scale-up the nation's healthy capacity and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos.

Dealing with a systematically weakened healthcare system and initially fragmented government response, thus facing the possibility of forecast catastrophic deaths, the Secretary helped craft a National Action Plan Against COVID-19 which aims to curb the spread of the disease, while mitigating its impact on the social order, economy, peace, and security of the country utilizing a whole-of-nation approach. He decisively moved to implement the government's response saving an estimated 59,000 to 171,000 deaths.

As the Chief Implementer, he organized and actively led the National Incident Command-Emergency Operations Center harnessing collaboration between and among government agencies, the academe, the private sector and advocates and unifying efforts in fighting the deadly disease. By his leadership, quick actions resulted in the unprecedented massive scale-up of facilities, testing laboratories, temporary treatment facilities and mega infrastructure building to scale up the nation's capacity to withstand the onslaught of the virus.

Despite threats to his health and safety, Secretary Galvez inspected various hotspots in the country bringing the much-needed government support (PPEs, Testing Machines and Kits) and ensuring that the NAP is being implemented by the regional task forces and local government executives.

6. CAV EDISON L NEBRIFA '91

During his time as a naval officer, Cav Nebrija undertook numerous duties and responsibilities both aboard ship and as part of the naval aviation. He is a certified Command Instructor, a certified BO-105 Naval Helicopter Pilot, and a Command Pilot of the Philippine Navy, having commanded two naval squadrons, namely: the MH-40 Multi-Purpose Helicopter Squadron and Naval Aviation Training Squadron. He is credited for developing the curriculum for the Naval Aviation Officers Course (NAOC) of the PN making aviation training in-house and saved the Navy millions of pesos for fanning out its pilot training before to general aviation pilot training academies. To date, the NAOC is already on its 11th class producing more than 100 certified pilots for the Navy.

Today, Cav Nebrija is assigned at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority as an Executive Assistant IV in the Office of the General Manager. He is designated as the Traffic Head of EDSA Special Traffic and Transport Zone and the Operations Group Head of MMDA Metrobase. Prior to this, Cav Nebrija headed the Task Force Special Operations responsible for clearing roads and thoroughfares of obstructions to include illegal vendors and illegally parked vehicles.



For Alumni Affairs

CAV JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS '69 is the architect, lead planner and strategist who re-engineered and revitalized the PMAAAI organization. He provided decisive leadership and inspiration that triggered and activated the rationalization of its organizational structure that is more relevant, workable, and reflects the realities obtaining in a changing alumni environment and an expanding alumni population.



He democratized the representation of Cavaliers in the Board spearheading an in depth study in the creation of the Council of Class Presidents which was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission last 15 March 2019. He implemented the proxy voting through the Class Presidents in accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Code; thereby empowering Cavaliers to be more active and involved in Alumni affairs.

He rationalized the role of the affiliate foundations relative to the objectives and purposes of PMAAAI and prudent use of scarce resources which led to the approval by the General Assembly in January 2019 for the merger of PETFI, PFTJI and PDFI. He provided strategic vision that sets the direction towards effective alumni governance and management through positive change. The theme of his term was anchored on leadership excellence.

He spearheaded a fundraising that generated P13.6 million for the Association. He was the Chairman and Convenor of various Military and Uniformed Services Personnel Associations in organizing the "Pasasalamat sa Pangulo" which brought together all the heads, presidents and Chairmen of the Associations. They participated in a dialogue with President Duterte and showed support and gratitude to him for approving Joint Resolution No. 1, authorizing the increase in base pay of military and uniformed personnel in the government.

During his incumbency, Cavalier De Los Santos published the book "Leadership Insights & Hindsight" which has been recognized for its quality and value; hence, it is now used as reference material in training and educational institutions in PVAO, in AFP, and in major services. It includes, among other, articles that describe the development and improvement of the organizational structure of PMAAAI through the positive changes that he initiated including the empowerment of alumni.

Indeed, Cavalier De Los Santos is a source of pride among Cavaliers for his outstanding accomplishments.

For Private Enterprise

CAV NORMAN C LEGASPI '81 is this year's awardee for Cavalier Award under the category of Private Enterprise for his exemplary, distinguished and outstanding performance and leadership as Chairman and CEO of the Riviera Golf Club, Inc. (RGCI) since 26 November 2016 up to the present.



Armed with excellent academic education and training, from no less than one of the best business schools in Asia, the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and his exposure to numerous positions related to business management, Cav

Legaspi ably and competently led RGCI, from a struggling and losing company, into one of the best-managed golf courses in the country today, thereby earning the monicker as "The Comeback Golf Course of the Year" in 2017.

Through his able leadership and competent managerial skills, the Club has tremendously improved its financial performance as characterized by a marked increase in revenues and decrease in its operating expenses, resulting to a substantive increase in net operating income and cash position.

The numerous improvements to the playing conditions of the two courses, Langer and Couples Courses, brought through the acquisition of needed maintenance equipment and services; upgrade of the water sprinkler system and irrigation canals, white sand-filled bunkers and well-trimmed tee mounds and manicured fairways has led to the great satisfaction of the players and patrons increasing from about 77,529 at end 2016 to about 86,542 in 2019. The implementation of these improvements has also led to a dramatic increase in the fair market value of the club shares from P80,000. in 2016 to around P420,000. at its current price.

Overall, the Club was able to settle its financial obligations to previous creditors, improve the playing condition of the two courses, increased the fair market value of club shares and regained the confidence of its members.

For Special Field

1. CAV ROLANDO C MALINIS '71

His accomplishment as a writer is exemplary as no one among the graduates of PMA has authored a book which memorializes the individual stories and achievements of practically almost the whole PMA Class from cadetship to their pursuit of military, police, and coast guard career, as well as endeavors after retirement/separation.



Additionally, for the first time in the history of PMA, a book entitled, *"BROTHERS" The Untold Story of the PMA Matatag Class of 1971* has featured the fascinating and comprehensive coverage of what it means to spend four years in PMA which could influence the psyche of the youth to seek admission for the prestigious school such as the PMA. Cav Malinis' exceptional way of enshrining in book form the unadulterated story of PMA Class '71 and the cadet life deserves praises and recognition.

2. CAV ESMERALDO A ROMANO JR '72

In 1972 as a young and promising 2nd Lieutenant, Cav Romano was hit in the head by enemy ground fire while engaged in combat operation somewhere in the hinterland of Basilan. He was treated at AFPMC and was in comma for almost one year and six months. After his recovery, he was about to be given a Certificate of Disability for Discharge (CDD) but he appealed his case in his firm resolve to serve the AFP in any position sans his physical condition. His appeal for retention in the AFP was considered and he was given assignments in CRS and GHQ Computer Center. Unmindful of his handicap and driven by his quest for knowledge, he studied at Ateneo University where he earned his MBA and MPA degrees



thereat. He also attended the Infantry Advance Course and was promoted to LtCol prior to his optional retirement in 2003.

After his retirement, he was offered a job at DND as a civilian employee doing the job he liked most; that of helping and assisting the wounded and disabled soldiers engaged in combat operations. Cav Romano was one of the key founders of Kapisanan ng Bayaning Sundalo May Kapansanan sa Pilipinas, Inc (KBSKPI), a corporation registered at SEC. It caters the needs of disabled soldiers related to business, works, livelihood, employment and education. Unmindful of his physical condition, he singled-handedly solicited support from different private companies, institutions and individuals sympathetic to the cause to ensure sustainability of support to members of KBSKPI.

He served as a rallying point for wounded and maimed comrades in arms not to lost hope and despair amid their misfortunes. He emphasized strong faith in God and not to lose their purposes in life. Relatedly, he championed the cause of afflicted soldiers, and enhanced their state of morale and welfare as well as their dependents with the creation of KBSKPI.

3. CAV GABRIEL B. RIEGO DE DIOS, a member of PMA Class '81, reached the rank of Captain in the Philippine Army before finally settling in the USA to pursue his artistic career in 1990.



Inspired by his grandmother at the age of four, he took full advantage of his God-given gift and passion to become an accomplished artist, now living in Virginia, USA, known as "Gabriego" in the art world.

An active participant in numerous art festivals and exhibits, he has been featured in several magazines and on television. He has conducted free workshops for children, promoted Filipiniana paintings and conducted public sessions to raise awareness of the Filipino culture among Fil-Ams in the US.

As tribute to his Alma Mater, he has painted scenes from PMA. One of them, "Strong Hearts," is on display at the PMA Superintendent's office and at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC.

Active in alumni affairs, he served as President of the PMAAA East Coast USA Chapter, leading efforts to bring the PMAAA closer to the Fil-Am community. He orchestrated "The March to the Vietnam War Memorial" to honor Cpt. Eckwood Solomon '63, the first American graduate of PMA.

Currently, he is employed at the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, in Alexandria, VA and a front-liner in the fight against the Covid-19 virus.

For Command and Administration

CAV ERNESTO C TORRES, JR '89

Cav Torres' stint as Brigade Commander and the current CRSAFP Commander is an extraordinary showcase of the leadership—**Command and Administration**—that the Philippine Military Academy has taught to its alumni. CAV TORRES led the 1003rd Infantry Brigade for almost two years leading to the defeat and eventual dissolution of Pulang Bagani Commands 2 and 3 and Guerilla Front Committee 54 in 2017 to 2019. Excellent tactician as he was,



dismantling three company-sized NPA formations was the acme of leading an infantry brigade.

As commander of the CRSAFP, he conceptualized the “*Kapwa Ko, Sagot Ko*” campaign as an approach to help ease the social impacts of the Coronavirus Disease 2019. Through this campaign, and other initiatives, the AFP’s empathy and compassion towards our countrymen have been deeply felt all over the country. Other game-changing strategies that CAV TORRES pursued were the Counter-CTG’s International Solidary Works and active regional level Counter-White Area Operations.

As clearly reflected by his exceptionally commendable conduct in the performance of outstanding services, CAV TORRES has successfully distinguished himself as an exemplary leader and an effective change-maker throughout his continuous active military service.

Truly, his underlying passion for nation-building and meritorious contributions to the AFP’s success in mission accomplishment are worthy of honor and emulation.

For Staff Functions

CAV ELMO FRANCIS O SARONA ‘86

This year’s awardee for Cavalier Award for Staff Functions 2020-2021 catapulted the Investigative Services of the PNP to greater heights and emphasized the importance of enhancing the investigative capability of every policeman, thereby increasing the PNP’s Crime Solution Efficiency and Crime Clearance Efficiency and maximum use of the Next Generation Investigation Systems (NGIS). He strengthened the Women and Children Protection Center through the creation of the Philippine Internet Child Protection Center (PICPC) against online child sexual exploitation of children.

He made a history in the PNP for the successful implementation of the National Police Clearance System (NPCS) and its institutionalization nationwide where success stories and increase in trust receipts generation were recorded.

He further strengthened the Police-Justice sector collaboration through the launching of the e-Warrant System and the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the PNP and the Supreme Court.

He institutionalized the Investigation Officers Basic Course (IOBC) in the PNP, which serves as the core training ground and ensuring the best quality of training for Police Commissioned Officers.

He strengthened the PNP’s international cooperation and linkages by actively engaging with foreign counterparts through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding, Records of Discussion, Terms of Reference and attending international conferences, bilateral meetings, exchange leadership program.

As the OPR in the KOICA Project in the PNP, success stories were recorded in capacitating the criminal investigation capability of the PNP through donation of forensic/investigative equipment, patrol cars and motorbikes, and training for police personnel in South Korea and in the Philippines.



For Police Operations

1. **CAV ROLANDO B ANDUYAN ‘90**, on May 23, 2017, a local terrorist group, known as the Maute Group, together with a number of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a number of foreign terrorist group and

other lawless elements attacked and sieged Marawi City. CAV ANDUYAN was called forth and was designated as the Commander of the Joint Task Group – PNP fighting alongside with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a five-month standoff.

Known for his dedication to duty, he worked remarkably in various capacities, earning him the reputation of competency and credibility in the police service. Assigned in different prestige operating units of the PNP as the PAOCTF, AID-SOTF, CIDG and the recent, JTG PNP for Marawi siege, he contributed so much in the fight against crimes, illegal drugs and terrorism up to his recent assignments as the District Directors of the Manila Police District and the Northern Police District.

But there is another endearing trait that is worth mentioning: his unassuming and “*down-to-earth*” character. At present, he was welcomed home by his co-Visayans in the land of Mindanao to serve as the Regional Director at the Police Regional Office 10 which areas of responsibilities are the Provinces and Cities of Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan. Thereat, he continued his legacy and is still determined to serve the general public with utmost determination towards the realization of a safe place to live, invest and do business in Northern Mindanao.



2. CAV ROMEO M CARAMAT, JR ‘92

Entered the Philippine Military Academy at the age of 19 and graduated under PMA “Tanglaw-Diwa” Class of 1992.

As Provincial Director of Bulacan, he led his men into bagging the award for **BEST POLICE PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE YEAR (National Level)**, earning the appreciation and recognition of **HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**. Bulacan PPO, was also adjudged as **Number 1 in the implementation of the PNP Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign Plan Nationwide** and back-to-back awardee for **Best Police Provincial Office (PRO3)** in 2016 and 2017.

As Commander of CITF (now PNP IMEG), he led his men to successful operations including **eight armed encounters** that led to the death of nine rogue PNP members. Under his leadership, CITF has conducted 52 operations, arrested 45 PNP personnel and 24 Civilians.

As the 4th Director of PNP Drug Enforcement Group, he led his men in vigorous and chilling campaign against illegal drugs and in just ten months has yielded the record-breaking confiscation of more than two tons of high-grade illegal substances, the biggest haul in the history of anti-illegal drugs operation.

CAV ROMEO M CARAMAT, JR has proven his honor and has faithfully lived up to the PMA motto of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, hence befitting the **Cavalier Award for Police Operations**.



For Army Operations

CAV YEGOR REY P BARROQUILLO JR is a good standing member of the PMAAAI since graduating from the Philippine Military Academy in 1992. He has been entrusted the helm of the Army Intelligence Regiment (AIR) in November 2017 and since achieved numerous significant breakthroughs and accomplishments in intelligence and counter intelligence operations in support of the mission of the Philippine Army and the Armed Forces

of the Philippines. He has inspired the men and women in his unit to work harder and has given them greater purpose and motivation in the performance of their duties, incorporating impressive initiatives and programs that have considerably enhanced every aspect of AIR's operation to support Army combat units, law enforcement agencies, and various national government agencies and stakeholders—all of which were aimed at achieving peace and security, resulting to a multitude of positive results that reverberated across the national security spectrum of the country.

As such, CAV BARROQUILLO JR has distinguished himself in the field of operations not just in the Philippine Army, but in the whole Armed Forces as well. He has faithfully lived up to the PMA motto of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty in all aspects of his career and personal life, truly deserving to be a recipient of the Cavalier of the Year Award for Army Operations.



For Coast Guard Operations

CAV ARTEMIO MANALO ABU '92 was born and raised in Malvar, Batangas and believes that teamwork is an outcome of good human relations, trust, and respect.

CAV ABU has served as the commander of the following Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) units: Coast Guard Ready Force, Coast Guard District Southern Visayas, Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog, Marine Environmental Protection Command, and Task Force TAAL. He is currently the commander of Coast Guard Education, Training, and Doctrine Command.

CAV ABU has successfully led the operations of his units, which resulted to the successful accomplishment of the functions of the PCG related to maritime law enforcement, environmental protection, security, safety, and search and rescue. CAV ABU has exceeded the organizational targets and improved the operational readiness of the units assigned to his care. Through his dynamic leadership, CAV ABU has consistently inspired his subordinates to work together as a team.

CAV ABU is a living testimony of a true Cavalier who has brought honor and pride to the Philippine Coast Guard, and most especially to his alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy.



For Naval Operations

CAV STEPHEN L CABANLET PN (M) (GSC) is a member of Philippine Military Academy Mabikas Class of 1996. As the Commanding Officer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team – 1, he was able to accomplish the battalion's mission in Sulu through the implementation of AFP-DSSP Kapayapaan by conducting his brainchild Football for Peace and All in One Mission.



His unorthodox method yielded bloodless surrender of 16 ASG members, apprehension of 49 lawless elements, recoveries of 264 assorted crew served weapons and high-powered firearms. Significantly, he brought hope to the victims of the infamous Pata Island Massacre that happened in 1981.

For Air Force Operations

CAV ALAN D MACATINGRAO '98

The resilient display of commitment and dedication to duty of **CAV ALAN D MACATINGRAO '98** has endeavored his successful pursuit of professionalism and proves the true mark of an exemplary Officer and Airman of the Philippine Air Force.

Cavalier ALAN D MACATINGRAO hails from San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan. He is a proud member of the 'MASINAG' Class of 1998. He received his aeronautical rating at the Philippine Air Force Flying School in the year 2000. He is known for his great enthusiasm to work, outstanding leadership traits and skills, unblemished service reputation and deep sense of professionalism. Cavalier MACATINGRAO is an experienced pilot of the MD-520 MG attack helicopter and UH-1H combat utility helicopter.

Cavalier MACATINGRAO's outstanding feats in air operations was brought to recognition during his stint as the Group Commander of Tactical Operations Group 1, Tactical Operations Wing Northern Luzon stationed at Loakan Airport, Baguio City. His tour of duty from December 2018 to June 2020 for more than one (1) and half year covered his exceptional accomplishments through his proactive approaches and collaborations with joint forces and other agencies in support to EO 70 or NTF-ELCAC that subsequently earned him and his unit various recognitions and awards.

Cavalier MACATINGRAO bespeaks the epitome of a true Peemayer, an Airman of courage, integrity and loyalty, a proud 'Masinag '98', a bold alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy, and a worthy Cavalier Awardee for Air Operations.



For Special Operations

CAV PAUL ANTHONY V AVIQUIVIL 2000, Group Commander of 301 Special Mission Group, 300 Air Intelligence and Security Wing, has led numerous successful intelligence and counter-intelligence operations which made national impact.

With his impressive performance in leading and directing his men, he has greatly provided numerous accomplishments in the PAF's intel operations. His clear understanding on the intricacies of intelligence, made him achieve unprecedented accomplishments in various aspects that greatly contributed to the Nation's fight against Terrorism, Illegal Drugs and Criminality in collaboration with various intelligence and law enforcement units. He orchestrated several COPlans that led to the surrender of 142 and arrest of seven CNT members; neutralized 12 LTG members including 2 ASG Sub-leaders; supported law enforcement units that neutralized 157 illegal drug personalities, confiscated drugs worth P11.4 Million, arrested 63 wanted criminals, rescued 47 trafficked-in-persons;



launched anti-smuggling operations that recovered smuggled goods worth P67.4 Million; neutralized 104 individuals related to COVID-19 pandemic, confiscated medical supplies worth P14.9 Million; and, counterintelligence operations that protected the AFP Organization.

B. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award (LAA) is given to regular members of the Association who have rendered at least 50 years of distinguished outstanding, exemplary and unblemished service to the country. This year's LAA is given to the following:



CAV ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55

CAV ERNESTO G CAROLINA '70



CAV ROY A CIMATU '70

CAV HERMOGENES E EBDANE JR '70



CAV EDGAR C GALVANTE '70

C. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This year's Outstanding Achievement Award is given to the following PMA alumni who have distinguished themselves by being appointed to high positions in government and in the uniformed services:

CAV ISIDRO S LAPENA '73
Director General, TESDA



CAV MACAIROG S ALBERTO '86
as Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary to Israel

CAV CAMILO PANCRACTIUS P CASCOLAN '86
as Chief, Philippine National Police from
2 September 2020 to 10 November 2020



CAV GILBERT I GAPAY '86
as Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the
Philippines

CAV DEBOLD M SINAS '87
as Chief, Philippine National Police



CAV GIOVANNI CARLO J BACORDO '87
as Flag Officer-In-Command, Philippine Navy

CAV CIRILITO E SOBEJANA '87
as Commanding General, Philippine Army



CAV GEORGE V URSABIA JR '87
as Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard



2020 PMAAAI ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

• CAV GEORGE Q PIANO '78



BACKGROUND:

At the start of 2019, the PMAAAI Board headed by Cav Rufo A De Veyra '70 focused on how it can systematically address the concerns of the Association. A consensus was agreed upon that there was a need to conduct a visioning exercise. For the second quarter of 2019, the exercise was conducted and had 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 2020-2021 headed by its Chairman, Cav Edgar B Aglipay '71 embarked 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.

Our 2020-2025 PMAAAI Strategic Plan was then presented before the 2020-2021 PMAAAI Board for the purpose of serving as PMAAAI roadmap for the next five years not only to guide board members achieve its vision and mission but more importantly to inspire every cavalier to celebrate our linkage to our beloved Alma Mater.

The Plan is structured around five focus areas which were embodied in an acronym **PLEAD**.

A. PRESERVATION 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. LIVE 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. Cavaliers Prayer, Cavaliers Pledge, the Honor Code, Alma Mater Song are lifetime references in promoting excellence in every cavalier's job. We should enhance the granting of PMAAAI Cavalier Awards and recognize more cavaliers in emerging new fields of endeavor.
2. Establish advisory links with leaders of AFP, PNP, Coast Guard thru their respective active chapters

PMAAAI must find ways to have a close coordination with leaders of major branches of service of the AFP, PNP and PCG through the PMAAAI active chapters.

C. ENGAGEMENT of Cavaliers

GOAL: Develop and enhance connections among Cavaliers

1. Improvement of networking systems and services to facilitate cavalier's interaction and cooperation
Attraction is the first phase of engagement and what better way to attract than establishing a good database system to link the Association to its members by way of convenient access to members and availability of updates on significant programs and activities of the Association.
2. Strengthen the PMAAAI Council of Class Presidents
The established link among class presidents should be harnessed as the Council provides class presidents a forum to discuss issues and initiatives of common interest to the classes and require suggestions for proposed action. Decade representatives should meet regularly with class presidents within their decade not

only to discuss and resolve issues but for fellowship purposes.

3. Expand networking to other international/national uniformed academy graduates

PMAAAI in coordination with PMA will create linkage with international and other national academies for uniformed services for the purpose of exploring/developing common areas of opportunity and cooperation.

D. ALLOT Donations

GOAL: Give Back.

1. Increase annual alumni and friend's donation to PMA and PMAAAI Annual Fund.

As a show of their appreciation to the education and training PMA has provided them, many cavaliers have continuously been extending assistance to PMA and PMAAAI in the form of donations in cash and in kind. Few of them solicits from generous friends. We hope to bring more funds to complement the budget provided by the government to PMA.

2. Plan and implement programs, projects and activities to uplift PMA as an Institution and PMAAAI as an Association.

E. DEEPEN 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.

With the wide access of cavaliers in every aspect of Filipino community life, PMAAAI can institutionalize its participation in wide-ranging community development programs. Some retired cavaliers have already volunteered their services to the Peace and Order Councils of their respective cities/municipalities.

2. Finding ways to make PMAAAI contribute in making our country a better world to live in.

Retired cavaliers can assist their communities while cavaliers in the active service can engage and participate in environmental management programs and other priority projects.

With the 2020-2025 PLEAD Strategic Plan serving as roadmap, PMAAAI Board for 2020-21 identified the following flagship projects launched in the first year implementation of the five-year plan.

2020 FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

1. Establish a permanent home for PMAAAI
2. Conduct regular meetings of PCOCP
3. Activate meetups/fellowships with alumni through walk groups
4. Organize a yearly assembly among service academies/schools alumni associations
5. Merge PETFI, PDFI, PTJFI with PMAAAI
6. Conduct out of town fellowships in Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Legaspi City
7. Resolve PMA Homecoming and other PMA significant issues
8. Formulate operational systems/manuals needed by PMAAAI
9. Implement Fundraising Projects
10. Identification/implementation of Nation-building advocacies/ projects

11. Support the formation of Bayanihan Cooperative
12. Resolve ACES Investment Losses
13. Adjust to developing Normal Situations arising from COVID-19

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After outlining the mother plan, which is the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, and the 2020 Flagship Projects for its first year implementation, the PMAAAI Board was on track to perform its assigned tasks for 2020. However, after experiencing what happened to the 2020 PMAAAI Homecoming last February, and compounded further by the declaration of WHO last March 12, 2020 that the COVID-19 outbreak is a pandemic, then these assigned tasks appeared to be daunting and more challenging to accomplish. The pandemic wreak havoc on every facet of Filipino society.

But even if 2020 turned to be a tumultuous year, the PMAAAI Board, ably assisted and supported actively by the PMAAAI Council of Class Presidents and PMAAAI Chapters are proud to present the modest accomplishments of PMAAAI for the period March 1, 2020 to January 10, 2021 broken down by flagship projects:

1. Permanent Home for PMAAAI

The search for a permanent home began thru the initiatives of two (2) past PMAAAI leaderships (2018-2019 and 2019-2020). In December of 2018, a MOU was signed between Megaworld Foundation Inc and PMAAAI stipulating the donation of a building for PMAAAI provided the latter will provide the lot where it will be erected. By 1 October of 2019, a usufruct agreement was entered between Philippine Army (PA) and PMAAAI making available a 1,600 sq mtr lot inside PA premises. Said lot shall serve as the site of the building to be donated by Megaworld and envisioned to house the PA-PMAAAI Center for Leadership Excellence. PMAAAI activated the adhoc committee on PMA Alumni Center headed by Cav Efren Fernandez '71.

Last 23 October 2020, a groundbreaking ceremony was held which was attended by Secretary of the Department of National Defense, Cav Delfin N Lorenzana '73 as GOHAS. We are hoping that construction works start by March 2021.

2. Conduct regular meetings for PCOCP

PMAAAI Council of Class Presidents started informally in March 2018 when 35 PMA Class Presidents met together with the PMAAAI Board at Club Filipino in Mandaluyong City to discuss the activation of the Council of Class Presidents. Two (2) more meetings followed among class presidents who agreed in principle



to approve the creation of the Council. By October 2018, three (3) resolutions were approved by the PMAAAI Board namely: 1) Approval of the Council Charter 2) Granting of seven (7) – seat Council representation to the PMAAAI Board and; 3) Granting of Authority to PMA Class Presidents to automatically represent absent members of their respective classes in PMAAAI Assemblies. After the ratification by the General Assembly of these PMAAAI resolutions in January of 2019, PCOCP is deemed activated. Thus, the Council was represented for the first time by Class Presidents coming from seven (7) decades in the ensuing PMAAAI Board for CY 2019 to 2020. From then on, the Council has been an active participant to all the programs and activities of the PMAAAI.

Cavalier Aglipay, in his capacity as Chairman of PMAAAI and Chairman of the Council, together with the PMAAAI Board and Chapters, convened the Council as an Assembly in March 2020 and briefed the class president of the programs, projects and activities of PMAAAI. A call for assistance was sounded to aid frontliners in the fight against the pandemic. It was in this venue that most of the adhoc committees which were activated to help/focus in the flagship projects, were introduced. Among them are the following: 1) Alumni Center; 2) ACES Losses/Case; 3) National Assembly; 4) PMAAAI Cooperative (Bayanihan), and 5) Merger.

After this March meeting, the PMAAAI Board and Council agreed to meet monthly every first Friday of the month which actually serve the purpose of a Council of the Whole meeting. Little did we know that these meetings helped immensely in the accomplishment of many tasks of the Association. The most significant of which was the rallying of support to assist frontliners. PMAAAI and PCOCP raised a total of P1,067,500 which was used to procure much needed PPEs and later on distributed to medical centers of AFP, PNP and PCG. Needless to say, the monthly meetings of the Council which were conducted virtually since May serve as venue to disseminate valuable information not only to cavaliers based in Manila but in all other parts of the country and overseas.

3. Activate walk groups

This project was not able to take off due to the onset of the pandemic. Coordination and significant preparations had already been undertaken in January 2020 to launch the project. Supposedly, a walkgroup shall be organized among cavaliers initially to start and meet in Camp Aguinaldo grandstand to perform at least five (5) rounds of walking around the oval while chatting and “bolahizing” on the latest issues. After which, this will be capped by a pan de sal and coffee session. With the main objective of enhancing the health of participants, this walk group plan had it taken place, may evolve into what better arrangement is best for all.

4. Organize an Assembly Among Service Academies and Schools Alumni Associations

To kick off the project, the Chairman of PMAAAI, together with members of the adhoc committee, formed for this purpose (Cavaliers Luga '81, Servando '81 and Punzalan '92), first met individually with board members of the Alumni Associations of PMMAAAI, PNPAAL, PAF Flying School Alumni Association Inc, MAAP Society of

Alumni, Officers Candidate School Alumni Association Inc. and CG Officers Candidates Alumni Association Inc. Said meeting, which was hosted at PNGC Clubhouse started with PMMAAI in October 2020 and was followed every Monday thereafter, with a lunch meeting with the other associations. The idea of an assembly of alumni associations of service academies and schools together with its proposed objectives and purpose were presented before their board members.

After ensuring the acceptance of the idea of an Assembly by the board members of the seven (7) service academy/school alumni associations, a meeting was organized on November 5, 2020 by the adhoc committee. Invited were the working group of each alumni association which assembled to craft and finalize the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Participants agreed on the following objectives of the Assembly: 1) Establish an assembly for professional and leadership development, networking and engagement and advocacy for better services to society and; 2) Develop, inspire and promote fellowship among its alumni members by making the assembly as an annual refresher for its members to form friendships.

On December 18, 2020, the board members of the seven alumni associations convened as a General Assembly to sign the MOA which activated the Assembly of Service Academies Schools Alumni Association of the Philippines (ASASAAP) and to enforce agreed provisions. The next meeting of the Assembly which has invited Cav Jaime S Delos Santos '69 as resource speaker will take place on January 15, 2021. It will be highlighted by the turn over of the present chairmanship of the Assembly from the outgoing Chairman, PMAAAI– Cav Edgar B Aglipay '71 to the incoming Chairman, PMAAAI –Cav Amado T Espino Jr '72. As agreed upon, the chairmanship of the Assembly whose term is one (1) year shall be rotated among the Alumni Associations.

5. Merge PETFI, PDFI and PTJFI with PMAAAI

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

The Chairman of PDFI, Cav Jaime S Delos Santos '69, started the ball rolling by initiating the merger of PDFI with PMAAAI. After passing a resolution approving the merger of PDFI with PMAAAI, PDFI Board went through all the steps necessary to complete the merger process. PDFI, as the dissolving entity, is in its final process of completing the merger and that is submitting to SEC the ratified Plan of Merger and Articles of Merger.

The PETFI Board, whose chairman is Cav Efen Q Fernandez '71, is in the process of completing the necessary requirements to implement the merger of PETFI with PMAAAI.

6. Conduct Out of Town Fellowships in Legaspi, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro

In its effort to bring the leaderships of PMAAAI and PMARAI (formerly BIRCI) closer to its members in Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, their Boards

are supposed to conduct one of their regular monthly meetings in each of these three (3) cities. However, due to the pandemic, this plan did not proceed. Nonetheless, due to the advent of virtual meetings by way of social video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Cisco, Webex etc, we were able to reach out to more cavaliers not only from these three (3) cities but even to USA and Europe where some of our cavaliers are based.

One of the adhoc committees which the PMAAAI Board relied heavily in engaging cavaliers is the adhoc committee on Participation and Technical Committee headed by Cav Danilo M Servando '81 and supported by the Chairman of the PMAAAI Membership Committee, Cav Alan R Luga '81. Said adhoc committee was able to link cavaliers assigned in various places by activating and linking with the video conferencing systems of major AFP, PNP and PCG Commands from their General Headquarters down to Area Commands, Regional Commands and selected Division and Brigade Headquarters. It was a sheer delight seeing 500 plus cavaliers conglomerating in the television screen at PMA Alumni Center via zoom teleconferencing.

Likewise, we already have the regular participation and representation of cavaliers from area chapters of Northern Luzon, Bicol Area, Visayas and Western Mindanao in Council and special meetings called by PMAAAI.

7. Resolve PMA Homecoming and Other Significant Issues (Honor System, Retirement System and Benefits due to MUP)

One of the major benefits derived from the participation of the Council via its representation to the PMAAAI Board and monthly participation of PMA Class Presidents in the Council meetings, is the swift resolution of how the annual PMA Homecoming and National Assembly shall be held. It was decided, as recommended by the Committee on PMA Homecoming, Cav Luisito P Magnaye '91, that the annual PMAAAI National Assembly shall be held simultaneously in Baguio City with the PMAAAI Homecoming. Other detailed plans have also been decided to ensure better management of these two (2) events. However, a large part of the approved regular plan to these events for this year have to be adjusted due to the imposition of pandemic protocols by IATF and Baguio City.

Sometime in April 2020, a hot issue involving the return to the Academy of a cadet convicted of an honor violation reverberated in the PMAAAI viber sites. Although appropriate action has been undertaken by PMA authorities, it is the prerogative of PMAAAI as a major stakeholder in all alumni and academy affairs to get involve and come up with its recommendation on the matter. PMAAAI created the adhoc committee on Honor chaired by Cav Jaime S Delos Santos with Cava Ricardo Q De Leon '71, Sunny M Pequiras '77 and George Q Piano '78 as members. Its task is to come up with a draft of the recommendation of the PMAAAI on the PMA Honor Code and System to be submitted to the Secretary of National

Defense. The recommendation of the adhoc Committee was presented before the PMAAAI Board and was published in the latest issue of the Cavalier Magazine.

Support to Increase in MUP Pay, Allowances and Retirement Benefits

– The Department of Budget and Management unjustifiably stopped funding the veterans' pension for the 18,651 Philippine Constabulary (PC) veterans in the Fourth Quarter of 2019 and refused to resume its payment notwithstanding series of official requests. Hence, based on Board Resolution No. 19-44, a letter was sent to President Rodrigo Duterte requesting for the resumption of said pension. During a meeting in Malacanang in February 2020, it was decided that withholding the payment of the PC veterans' pension had no legal basis and should be resumed. The meeting ended with the ceremonial handing of the SARO/NCA by the DBM representative to Chairman Aglipay and Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina '70, Administrator PVAO. The monthly pension for said veterans resumed by February 2020 with all arrears duly paid.

– On 16 June 2020, the Chairman wrote President Duterte requesting that he order the DBM to include the amount of P38.4 billion in the proposed budget for 2021 for payment of MUP pension indexing arrears for 2018. Earlier in 2018, the DBM declined to fund same alleging that the retirees are not entitled to pension indexing for the duration of the suspension even if it was lifted effective 1 January 2019. Finally, on 25 August 2020, in a letter to Defense Secretary Lorenzana, the DBM Secretary informed that the issue which the DND had also raised was referred to the Department of Justice for opinion which in turn favored the payment of said arrears. DBM further informed that it included an amount for the purpose in the proposed budget for 2021.

– Pursuant to Board Resolution 19-42, the Chairman wrote a letter to President Duterte (through SND) dated 13 October 2020 recommending the amendment of Executive Order No. 201 s 2016 so that the MUP in the active service will be entitled to adjustment of base pay



and the retirees to pension indexing to the adjusted base pay effective 1 January 2016. By so doing, the injustice brought forth to the MUP by subject EO will finally be rectified.

– Pursuant to Board Resolution 19-43, the Chairman endorsed to both houses of Congress a draft bill that will rationalize the MUP retirement and separation benefits. It seeks to increase the maximum pension in the military from 85 to 90 percent in order to be at par with that allowed for uniformed services personnel. It will allow the military and coast guard retirees to receive in advance and in lump sum their retirement pay for the first five years to be at par with that for retired DILG uniformed personnel.

– On 13 October 2020, the Chairman wrote President Duterte recommending the adjustment of the monthly MUP laundry allowance from P60 for officers and P30 for enlisted personnel and equivalent ranks to a uniform rate of P125, equal to the present entitlement of public health workers.

8. Formulate Operational Systems/ Manuals needed by PMAAAI

The PMAAAI database system which stores and manages all PMAAAI data of cavaliers has undergone modifications on its structure to accommodate vital and more important information on the programs, projects and activities of PMAAAI. Implementing guidelines on some Board Resolutions were issued to guide board members in the execution phase of resolutions.

An organizational restructuring of PMAAAI is needed to accommodate changes that shall take place in view of the merger of three (3) foundations to PMAAAI, change in venue and schedule of important PMAAAI events and involvement of Council and area chapters. There is a need to update the investment policy of PMAAAI and in coordination with PCOCP, there is also a need to formulate a Class President's Handbook to serve as guide for first time class presidents.

9. Implement Fund-raising activities

Due to the effects of the pandemic, PMAAAI was not able to push thru with the scheduled fundraising activities every quarter, especially fundraisers which are anchored on golf tournaments. Despite this limitation, a fundraising activity was successfully undertaken by PMAAAI when it sounded the Call for Assistance among cavaliers to raise funds for our frontliners in medical centers of VMMC, AFP, PNP and PCG. A total of P1.3M was raised.

Early this year, PMAAAI and PMARAI have jointly organized the 2021 Games of the Cavaliers Golf Tournament from January 16 to 30, 2021 and a raffle fund raising activity on February 12, 2021. Proceeds of these fundraising activities which are supervised by the PMAAAI Chairman of Ways and Means Committee – Cav Amado T Espino Jr '72 and PMARAI Chairman of Finance Committee – Cav Jose Antonio C Salvacion '76, shall be used to replenish the PMAAAI medical assistance fund intended for ailing cavaliers.

10. Identification/Implementation of Nation-Building Advocacies/Projects

Early in the onset of the pandemic, a group composed of Cava Jaime S Delos Santos '69, Edgar B Aglipay '71, Marciano A Paynor Jr '71, Ricardo F De Leon '71 and Vidal E Querol '73 banded together to discuss and consolidate their ideas and recommendations on how to address the evolving concerns brought about by the pandemic. Every Saturday for seven (7) weeks, vital questions on pandemic management were identified and discussed by the group. A summary of the group's Saturday discussion and recommendations was passed on to the SILG, SND and C, IATF for their reference. These brief summaries were gratefully acknowledged by the three (3) officials.

By the first quarter of 2021, we hope to enlist PMAAAI as a Civil Society Organization under DILG which endeavors to work for the improvement of society and human conditions.

11. Support formation of Bayanihan Cooperative

Originally, the organizers of the 2019 PMAAAI Raffle for a Cause which netted a total of P11,576,990.00 for PMAAAI, wanted to make use of the proceeds to serve as seed fund in a cooperative to be placed under the management of PMAAAI. However, considering the complexities of affiliating a cooperative under PMAAAI management, it was decided that the Cooperative to be named as Bayanihan Cooperative shall be set up as a privately-managed cooperative. Action plans for this cooperative are being undertaken by the adhoc committee on Cooperatives chaired by Cavalier Ludan '92.

12. Resolve ACES Investment Losses by filing Appropriate Charges

The adhoc committee on ACES, led by Cavalier Querol '73, has pursued legal actions against ACES management and with the help of PNP CIDG, strengthened case build up against others involved in ACES losses. We hope to file appropriate cases against identified respondents before March 1, 2021.

13. Adjust to Normal Situation arising from COVID 19

PMAAAI has established its own COVID19 Response Protocol not only to protect organic personnel of PMAAAI but cavaliers and other guests visiting the PMA Alumni Center. Said protocol has been implemented since May 2020.

We have just presented to you the modest accomplishments of the 2020-2021 PMAAAI Board, ably assisted by PCOCP and PMAAAI Chapters. Even with the onslaught of the pandemic in the midst of the present Board's management, we are grateful foremost to the Divine Almighty who has always kept us on our toes, and to the outpouring of support from PMA Class Presidents and all cavaliers who have always demonstrated their love and support to the Academy. Together, we have weathered the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 even as it has affected our daily lives, potentially forever.

Now, more than ever, on behalf of the 2020-2021 PMAAAI Board headed by Cav Edgar B Aglipay '71, we are ready to be PASSING ON A BRIGHTER TORCH TO OUR SUCCESSORS!



Lessons in Leadership

• CAV JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS '69

The Assembly of Service Academies and Schools Alumni Association of the Philippines held its culminating activity last January 15, 2021 at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. It was also the turnover ceremony of its leadership from Cav Edgar Aglipay, the first chairman to Cav Amado Espino, the new chairman. The association was organized to foster unity, camaraderie, and fellowship among members of the association, and share a commitment to national issues and interests that benefit the nation in general. This was realized through the vision and leadership of Cav Aglipay.

The following are excerpts from my speech, as Guest of Honor and Speaker, delivered during said activity.

You will please indulge me this time to share a few of the lessons I have learned for more than three decades as an officer in the service of our country and our people. Call it, if you will, lessons in leadership, efforts in excellence. These are standards and aspirations that define the success of an organization.

Lesson One: Leadership is learned and earned. You are only as effective as your people will allow you to be. Effort to excel: Lead with both head and heart, and you will not fall short. The philosophy of leadership by example is predicated to be a thinking and performing leader – a leader that translates plans to concrete actions.

Lesson Two: Leadership grows, excellence increases. There is a direct relationship between leadership effectivity and standards of excellence. The higher your standards, the higher you will go up the ladder of responsibility and leadership. Effort for excellence: Reach higher, stretch your limits, fear not failure. The pattern of identifying problems, laying out the options, and pursuing the most effective and efficient means to generate a collegial style of administration and management.

Lesson Three: Leadership is a cooperative venture, but responsibility makes leadership a lonely adventure. Suggested effort in excellence: Build your team and build your character altogether.

“You must be focus on your job. You must always think of professionalism. You must always take care of the welfare of your men then you must project yourself with confidence. And you must maintain your head above water, so your integrity is always intact.”

Lesson Four: A leader must be both commander and coach, in firm control of things yet able to harness talents of the team to the fullest. Effort to achieve excellence: Choose your team wisely, bring out their talents and let them do their best.

Lesson Five: Communicate. Leaders are conscious of the power of words. They know that their team values words and that the right words at the right time can make all the difference. But they also know that before they speak. They must listen. They listen intently to the praises and complaints of their team and act upon them decisively. Once their comments are addressed, the leader never fails to let them know of the actions taken. This lets the team know that the leader is genuinely concerned with their welfare. More than resolving problems, the leader knows that what they say can turn around even the worst of situations.

Lesson Six: Build Strong Alliances and Networks. Leaders understand that no matter how good their team is, much can still be gained from allying with like-minded groups and individuals. Far from viewing similar groups as threats, they see them as an opportunity to learn and grow. Moreover, leaders know that even just one strategic alliance can open up a new world of



opportunities and create a shortcut to success. They think long-term, knowing that strong relationships and agreements are not made overnight. Rather, they are built over time through displays of mutual trust and support. Leaders also make sure that their alliances with others are in clear and formalized manner. This ensures that both parties are aware of their responsibilities to each other and are clear on the potential risks.

Lesson Seven: Leadership must be passed on. After all, submissiveness is a badge of future leader. Effort for excellence: Teach, enable, empower your people. You will be better for the leaders you train to take on the responsibility after you. No matter how well leaders do their job, their time will eventually end. There will be time for another to step in their shoes and man the helm of the team. Good leaders acknowledge this and cast their ego aside for the betterment of the organization. They let go of their position at the right time, leaving behind a positive legacy and acknowledging the good they did. Furthermore, they want the momentum of their contributions to continue by ensuring their successor is ready and willing. The best way to do this is to grow your successor into your role gradually. Mentor them and let them take on more and more of the responsibility at the appropriate time. Only then can you see their true colors in leadership. Once the time is right for you to turn over the keys, let them know of the trust and confidence you have built with them as you trained them.

Lesson Eight: A leader must always protect his reputation, for it is good name and tract record that will keep him afloat when the brick brats and trials come his way. The man in uniform must be consistent in character, solid in integrity, transparent and at his best performance at every turn. By staying true to his values and living by the rules, one will never falter, one will always have the foundation to defend oneself and stay on the path to excellence. To all those who wear the uniform and pledge service to the nation, I say START RIGHT, STAY RIGHT and you will ALWAYS BE RIGHT. So much depends on your reputation, guard it with all your might.

“You must guard your reputation. Your reputation is like your shadow, sometimes it is ahead of you, sometimes it is beneath you, sometimes it is taller than you, and sometimes it is shorter than you. The moment you are entangled in a mess, then it is very difficult for you to get out of it.”



PMAAAI PN Chapter News

PMAAAI-PN Chapter Highlights Year-End Accomplishments Amidst Pandemic

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Incorporated – Philippine Navy (PMAAAI-PN) showcases several major accomplishments for the Calendar Year 2020 amidst the threat of COVID-19 pandemic.



The PMAAAI-PN conducted a turnover ceremony of the new board officers and chairmen of various committees for the Association Year 2020-2021 as they took oath of office before the Flag Officer-In-Command, Philippine Navy, VADM GIOVANNI CARLO J BACORDO PN at the Headquarters Philippine Navy View Deck, Roxas Boulevard, Manila last 27 February 2020.



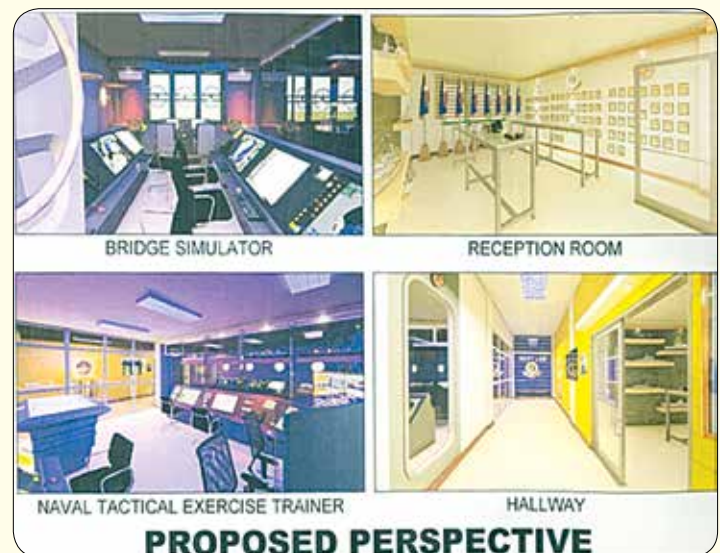
The following members of PMAAAI-PN Chapter were officially declared Board of Officers and Chairmen who shall manage the affairs of the association: Cav Carlos V Sabarre '91 as President; Cav Joe Anthony C Orbe '92 as 1st Vice President; Cav Peter Jempsun V De Guzman '93 as 2nd Vice President; Cav Eden Santiago-Esperanza '10 as Secretary; Cav Floriano C Laberinto '10 as Asst Secretary; Cav Carlo T Ligutan '07 as Treasurer; Cav Randy L Peria '10 as Asst Treasurer; Cav Anthony B Suguran '07 as Athletic Officer; Cav Kimo I Uayan '07 as PRO; Cav Arianne Mae Ayanggod '13 as Female Rep; Cav Danilo S Aguit '93 on Sports and Fellowship; Cav Estelito B Lagadia '94 on Membership and Welfare; Cav Norsal D Dimaporo '94 on Ethics and Professionalism; Cav Rowan L Rimas '01 on Awards; Cav Stephen L Cabanlet '96 on Convention and Homecoming; Cav Ireneo D Battung '93 on Ways and Means; and Cav Bladimer B Caluya '97 on Finance.

Furthermore, the PMAAAI-PN also received the 52 members of PMA "Masidlawin" Class of 2020 at Naval Education, Training and Doctrines Command, San Antonio, Zambales, who became the newest associates of the organization on 10 July 2020.

CAPT ESTELITO B LAGADIA JR PN (GSC), Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Personnel, N1, presented the new members to the President PMAAAI-PN Chapter. The traditional reception saw the arrival of 43 male and nine female navy officers who took their oath as regular members of the group.

The PMA Class of 2020 performed the traditional road run followed by fellowship breakfast with the Commander Philippine Fleet, Cav Loumer Bernabe. For the Reception Rites, the FOIC-PN, Cav Giovanni Carlo Bacordo and selected navy officers were included to witness the oath taking of the new members.

The reception is a traditional and annual ceremony to formally welcome and accept the newly graduated officers. It is the way of orienting them in the alumni world. Hence, being a member is not a privilege but it is a responsibility. After the event, the members of PMA Class 2020 are formally recognized as 'Cavaliers'.



Moreover, the PMAAAI-PN Chapter with the help of our mother chapter and several stakeholders donated various Personal Protective Equipment and various medical supplies to medical frontliners of Philippine Navy in Manila Naval Hospital and Cavite Naval Hospital on 02 May 2020.

Also, the PMAAAI-PN Chapter deliberated its nominated members for Cavalier Awards who have greatly contributed to the service and to the nation in their respective fields.

The PMAAAI-PN Chapter donated an amount of Php 441,943.00 to the Department of Naval Warfare, PMA on 09 November 2020. Said contribution shall pave way to the proposed improvement of facilities such as Bridge Simulator, Reception Room, Naval Tactical Exercise Trainer, and Hallway.

Lastly, Cav Sabarre, together with Cav Vicente Mark Anthony Blanco PN(M) and Cav Gieram R Aragonos PN(M), participated as speakers in the “Voice of Experience Activity”, a word of wisdom talk where senior Naval Officers impart their knowledge and experience as they ventured their noble military profession to the First Class Midshipmen of PMA Class of 2021 held at Sandiwa Hall, PMA on 04 December 2021.

Despite the hazards of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the PMAAAI-PN Chapter still extends its way to uplift the morale and elevate the professional growth of its members. Thus, as Cavaliers, we strive to obtain more accomplishments and contributions way ahead of this association year.



PMAAAI PCG Chapter News

PCG Cavaliers Actively Respond to Rescue and Relief Operations Amid the Pandemic

“Live up to the standards of genuine PCG – PATRIOTIC to Motherland, COMPASSIONATE to the people, and GOD-FEARING” These are the exact words uttered by Coast Guard’s Commandant, Cav George V Ursabia ‘87, to encourage the men and women of Philippine Coast Guard.

Cav George V Ursabia ‘87, with the support of Cav Lyndon F Latorre ‘87, Cav Leopoldo V Laroya ‘88, and Cav Rolando Lizon N Punzalan Jr ‘92, spearheaded the active response of rescue and relief operations amid the pandemic and calamities. A true manifestation that PCG Cavaliers are living up to genuine PCG standards while upholding PMA’s core values-- Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

PCG cavaliers go extra nautical miles

PCG’s primary function is to enforce regulations, laws, and mandates within Philippine waters, but it also renders aid for the national government in its pursuit to end the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic continuously improves the Philippine Coast Guard’s capacity to perform its functions in accordance with its sole purpose in humanitarian service. While battling with COVID-19, several typhoons such as Super typhoon Rolly and Typhoon Ulysses, were also bravely faced by Filipinos; thus, PCG doubled its efforts and interoperability functions.

PCG in action amidst COVID-19

Philippine Coast Guard conducts its primary function to enforce laws, mandates, and regulations within Philippine waters. Likewise,

PCG was able to pioneer in supporting the national government in its battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. It is during these challenging times that the services of PCG are significantly sought. They help out on taking swab samples from repatriated overseas Filipino workers arriving at seaports and airports, providing transport for the locally stranded individuals, deploying medical officers in quarantine facilities all over the Philippines, and augmenting LGUs in implementing measures and health protocols against the pandemic. During and up to the end of this pandemic, PCG will remain passionate and humble in giving service to the Filipino people.

PCG braves typhoon

The Philippine Coast Guard demonstrates benevolence on the urgency of extending help nationwide on disastrous effects of calamities. The Filipino people, pitching a national cry for immediate rescue and evacuation, called for help through numerous calls, texts, and social media messages that flooded various communication devices and platforms during the onslaught Super Typhoon Rolly and Typhoon Ulysses in our country.

In a bid to support the national government’s humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations amid said typhoons, the PCG mustered its Deployable Response Groups (DRGs) and inspected available Search and Rescue (SAR) equipment and assets for their preparedness.

Notably, the Command deployed a total of 41 newly-procured rubber boats on 11 November 2020 – a few hours before its massive

operations in flooded communities in Metro Manila and nearby provinces such as Rizal and Cavite. Indeed, these SAR assets arrived at the perfect timing, which played a vital role in supporting our personnel in rescuing hundreds of affected families.

The PCG regularly updated the media and the general public using its official social media platforms on its ports and waterways condition, specifically on the number of stranded passengers, vessels, motor bancas, and rolling cargoes in affected regions such as Eastern Visayas, Bicol region, Southern Tagalog, and the National Capital Region. Aside from this, the communication policy's effectiveness during said operations paved the way for efficient documentation and report updates.

The PCG also coordinated with PCG Auxiliary – its volunteer arm, and other partner organizations, such as GMA Kapuso Foundation, Passion Philippines, Filipino Chinese Community Calamity Fund, IOM Philippines, and Philippine Red Cross, in gathering, preparing, and distributing relief supplies.

PCG cavaliers legacy

Cav George V Ursabia Jr '87 stressed that PCG will always contribute to timely and appropriate collective disaster response efforts that our distressed Kababayans so deserve with God's guidance and protection.

All these meritorious efforts from the PCG chapter, composed of cavaliers and associates who live in PMA's creed pattern-- the true, the noble, and the high, have greatly influenced the PCG in its continuous humanitarian and immediate response to the pandemic and calamities for the country and its people.



PCG Chief Petty Officer Romy Ballen carrying a rescued baby during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.



Members of Philippine Coast Guard conducting search and rescue prioritizing the vulnerable sectors like PWDs, senior citizens, women and children as floodwater enters houses amid the onslaught of typhoon.



The Commandant, PCG, ADM Geroge V Ursabia Jr is giving instructions and words of encouragement to the search and rescue team. He enjoins the troops to continue extending their all-out effort to assist the Filipino people.



Women of the Philippine Coast Guard, in coordination with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), helping in the distribution of evacuation center essentials during the typhoon.



DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade and PCG Commandant ADM George V Ursabia Jr looking over in the preparation of relief goods to be distributed to different municipalities affected by the typhoon.



The Philippine Eagle, with the wings spread and ready to swoop, symbolizes the readiness of the class to respond to any threat to the country. The snake, which is held by the eagle's claws, symbolizes evil or enemy of the state. The shield, where class 1961 is embossed, symbolizes the constitutional mandate of a soldier to defend his country. The symbolism is the commitment of the Class 61 to our country.

PMA CLASS OF 1961: The Diamond Jubilarians of 2021

• CAV EDUARDO T CABANLIG '61

The PMA Class 1961 Story

PROLOGUE:

The year 1957 is a significant milestone in the annals of the Philippine History. The country saw the ultimate loss of a popular and beloved President in a plane crash. For the Philippine Military Academy, traditional events had to be moved to unusual schedules to be able to render full accolade to a departed leader and patriot. The graduating class for that year did not hold their commencement exercises on March Week because of the scheduled internment in Manila. The incoming New Cadets did not have their "formal reception" on April Fools Day. This event which had deep significance to PM A Class 1961, happened on April 22, 1957, where many of us thought were a social affair and thus attired elegantly.

Perhaps because for two successive years, the national broadsheets, chronicled the occurrence of two sensational hazing cases, not very many of the more talented Filipino youth responded to call for the entry to the PMA. Pursuant to General Orders No. 425, GHQ, AFP, dated April 10, 1957, 70 young men out of thousands, passed the mental and physical examinations for entry to the PMA. Out of that number, two were former cadets who were required to undergo the same process as the rest of us did.

THE FOUR EXCITING YEARS AS CADETS

In addition to the 70 new appointees as CADETS of the PMA, ten belonging to the previous class were added to form the New Cadet Company that will undergo several weeks of rigorous indoctrination called "Beast Barracks". Transformation to manhood required that we are to be treated like beasts and zombies. The "beast detail" of PMA Class 1958 struggles to inculcate military discipline, which is obedience to orders without asking why. In addition to the torturous change from a carefree life, euphemistically termed Fourth Class System, sense of honor was engrained in our psyche through the honor code of cadets. This status allowed all our upper classes to have roles in our transformation as men. The never ending challenge was for them to remind us of the question, "Are you a man or a mouse?"

Incorporation into the Cadet Corps also meant that we must be able to join in the performance of military drills and ceremonies

with the rest of the cadets. This is to prepare us to participate for the first time in our lives, during the Independence Day Parade in Luneta where people swoon on seeing the "Long Gray Line." However, as we prepared to go down and declared "At Ease" our class had its unfortunate share of experiencing another sensational hazing case. Many among the members of the two classes before ours, had to leave the academy for their involvement. This case being the third in the three successive years caused the authorities to modify the Fourth Class System. To isolate us from direct contact with upperclassmen, a demerit was imposed. The experiment was abused in the sense that reporting of deficiencies were done out of spite. To such extent, we did not have free time to study and to fix our lockers, as more time was devoted in touring grounds. This experiment had to be abandoned in the ensuing months.

Then we return to those arduous routine in coping with Academic work tandem with the Fourth Class System. We went through such monotonous experience of "rotting", while Elvis Presley was rising to stardom. The irony is we did not have the occasion to see nor hear him. During the December break, the upperclassmen went home for vacation while we became "King of the Barracks." We experienced a brief sigh of freedom as we practiced leadership on the Corps. When our group was organized as Cadet Company, Eddie Cabanlig was Commander. He was assisted by Luto Santos and Manny Lukban as platoon leaders. We also had a taste of socials by dating our teenage "crushes" to the PMA Superintendent formal reception. But we were also aware that we were being observed by watchful eyes for sign of laxity. The unseen force dreadfully saying "there will be days of reckoning."

Our determination was tested three more months before the much awaited March Week when we will be recognized and welcomed to the ranks of the "immaculate". While we waited for the moment our mindset was focused on the famous adage "this too shall pass away". And as we hurdled plebehood and be called yearlings, 27 of our classmates were either dismissed from the Academy or moved back to the incoming class. In their place, we were joined by Vic Lucero, Bingbong Reyes, Rolly Dr Guzman, Matt Bawagan, Johnny Aquias, Jun Dumlaog, Jorge Lagera, Urso Bello, Pong Biazon and Dave Espiritu.

As yearlings, we offer lesser pressure in our interaction with the other classes except that for a brief moment we could adjust with our former yearlings. We were expected to be the role models or tormentors of the plebes. The academic works was more however more difficult from the previous year's offerings. Calculus, Chemistry and Physics were the terror subjects. Our textbook in Calculus was written by Wiley and directed to be taught by LTSG Fred Sinlao who was to be our main nemesis. At the end of the interaction with LTSG Sinlao, 19 members of the class were dismissed or moved back to the other classes. As we looked forward to face the challenge attendant to our status as "Cows" we were joined by Steve Lara, Liby Manuel, Mario Trespeces, Limon Agustin, Pete Hanes, Tony Ocampo, Co Escala, Gene Estrada, Abe Irena, and Ernie Tan. We were 54 strong and were resolute to remain in that "caravan" come graduation.

What was expected of us as "Cows" was to assume limited leadership in the Cadet Corps as squad leaders. But the more challenging aspect that confronted our status was the difficult Academic Work. The subjects were mostly engineering in the likes of structural design, fluid mechanics, thermodynamics and electrical engineering. There was world history that required 100 pages of reading daily and Capt. Cesar Ponte to contend with. We had to commit ourselves to one another so that our number would hold out for the next two years. We had to support Ernie Tan, who may have been unable to read the requirements in history to answer the question posted by Capt. Pobre, during the days daily recitation, improperly. He was reported for not studying sufficiently and was awarded a Class 1 offense. The question was "who are the great B's in music"? Ernie remembered Beethoven and Bach but forgot Brahms. Instead, he answered Batongmalaque instead of Brahms.

In the midst of tremendous academic work, we had also a share of mundane moments. There was the "Guard Stance Confrontation" between Abe Orena and Billy Marcelo which remains to be one of our unforgettable anecdotes as a Class. We held on without a decrease in our number during our cow year. This was to be our obsession as we moved on to take the centerpiece in the leadership of the Corps. When we assumed the leadership of the Corps as the "ruling class", Nick Rodriguez was chosen as the First Captain, Baron in the cadet lingo. The second Captain was Bingbong Enriquez who also served as the first Battalion Commander while Johnny Aquias was chosen as Second Battalion Commander. The glamorous triumvirate stood above all of us in poise, good looks and voice command. But the most coveted position was the regimental Adjutant or Bow-wow in cadet lingo. There were 15 candidates in the class who vied for the position and underwent a grueling selection process. Rogie Jaramillo was selected with Urso Bello and Steve Lara as the two battalion adjutants. The three of them performed the "adjutants walk" in the peacefulness and elegance of an African gazelle. The rest of the candidates settled to be the platoon "Bow-wows."

The academic routine as "firsties" was not as intense as the previous year. It was mostly Social Sciences that did not require much reading except in Law where our texts were the Revised Penal Code and the Manual for Court Martial. Cognitive learning involved knowing the theories and applying them in the real world. It was on our class that Public Speaking and Art Appreciation was introduced to further our ability our future milieu as officers. One incident that remained unforgettable was the "Lion incident" featuring Gerry Gironella when he delivered a speech to entertain. This

story lingered in our minds until our practical exercise in Court Martial Proceedings where Gerry as the accused and Bingbong Enriquez was his defense council. Bringing convinced Gerry to enter a plea of not guilty. For their defense strategy, Urso Bello was introduced as witness for the defense who related the "Lion Incident" to suggest insanity. The mock Court proceedings were stopped by Major Punzalan and castigated everyone for "fooling."

As we approached the final year of our academic endeavors and confident that the 54 classmates would make it to graduation day, we occupied our leisure time in social activities. One unforgettable story involved Vic Garcia and for the absence of an appropriate label for an incident the class called the "Sally Affair". The story had a prologue and epilogue according to Nick Rodriguez, who is the only one who can relate it with the best interplay of words and sound effects.

And then it was March Week. The "Ring Hop" was a special event during graduation week to allow us to formally wear our "bull rings" and to be slipped to our fingers by the girl of our hearts. But the event turned out to be a Mother's Day as all of us played tribute to the sacrificed and love of our mothers. Only one in the class did not join the affair because he still had touring hours to serve, otherwise his graduation will be held on abeyance. Johnny Aquias could have disappointed his mother because he would definitely have chosen Cecil Yandok to slip his ring. Thanks to laxity! On graduation day, the first five names called to receive their diplomas were Alex Aguirre, Nick Rodriguez, Vic Lucero, Sid Codera and Bert Rodriguez. Classmates who were "dunked" in the pond surrounding the Academy Sundial were Alex Aguirre, Nick Rodriguez, Tony Suratos, Vic Lucero, Steve Lara, Gerry Gironella, Rolly de Guzman, Cesar Nazareno, Soli Mendoza and Eddie Cabanlig. But the one who cheered loudly met with a standing ovation was Dave Espiritu who stole the show on that momentous day. Our stay together for four years built a formidable unity as "Class Spirit" among us.

OUR PURSUIT OF A PROGRESSIVE MILITARY CAREER

Our commissioning as officers of the AFP was approved by President Carlos P. Garcia on March 20, 1961. The orders appointing us as Second Lieutenants in the AFP was contained in General Orders No.340 dated March 21, 1961 and duly authenticated by Major General Pelagio A. Cruz, acting Chief of Staff then. Special orders issued on the same day contained detailed instruction of our appointment. Those who were assigned to the Army and Constabulary were designated branch of Service as follows: 17 in the infantry, five in the Field Artillery, four in the Combat Engineers and one in the Cavalry. The same orders also prescribed our assignment to the different Major Commands of the AFP. There were 16 of us who were assigned to the Army. There



were 11 Classmates who were assigned to the Philippine Constabulary and had infantry as their branch of Service. There were 16 who were assigned to the Philippine Navy and 11 to the Philippine Air Force. There were no specific branch of Service granted to them because after qualifying, they will automatically be naval officers and pilots. The orders also granted to the new Second Lieutenants vacation leave for 30 days with May 10, 1961 as their official reporting.

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY BATCH

When the 16 classmates reported to the Philippine Army Headquarters on May 10, 1961 they were sent to the Army School Center at Fort Bonifacio to undergo the Special Company Officer's Course. After finishing, they were all assigned to the First Infantry Division which was the only combat ready division in the Army then. They were assigned to units of the division correspondingly with their assigned branches of Service. At the time, there were a scheduled bilateral exercise with the United States Forces called Exercise Tamaraw. The Philippines' participation to the large Amphibious Exercise was the Famous Tenth Battalion Team commanded by Col. Romeo C. Espino. All our Army classmates participated as junior officers, leading platoons. Thelmo Cunanan, who graduated from the United States Military Academy at Westpoint, joined the class as they bonded together in socials, sports, and such either extra curricular activities innate to super active bachelors.

As they engaged in daring adventures as junior officers, Jun Dumlao and Fred Villanueva had their future set with the Philippine Constabulary. They volunteered assignment with the Presidential Guard Battalion as their "stepping stone" for the transfer. At the time also, Matt Bawagan did not see a good future in the Airforce thus transferring to the Army without much difficulty.

Unable to cope with the hazard akin to an infantry assignment, Dave Espiritu and Arnie Placido died of illness while serving as junior officers in the field. Their exposure to the jungles of Sierra Madre mountains took a great toll on their fragile bodies thus succumbed to the inevitable. Lito Santos, having been a studious engineer, yielded to the lures of the Corporate World. He resigned to join a lucrative Engineering Firm doing business in the Middle East. Lito eventually established his own engineering venture and gee to become a Holding Company overseeing a hodgepodge of business undertakings.

Our classmates in the Army went on to the larger command units and be staff officers required of a field grade rank. Bingbong Enriquez also joined the Corporate World only to die playing tennis on his opulent status. Rolly De Guzman also died when he was a Colonel. Thelma Cunanan attained the rank of Lieutenant General as the Commander of Southern Command. Cesar Fortuno and Ernie Calupig attained the ranks of Major General as Division Commanders. They also served as Commanders of the Southern Luzon Command and Northern Luzon Command, respectively. Ray Marque, Abe Orena and Liby Manuel retired as Brigadier Generals.

THE NAVY BATCH

On the day, the Navy group reported to Headquarters Philippine Navy, they thought of themselves as the best crop of officers the Navy would ever have. This they were greatly challenged by that belief so that their ensuing deeds would tell how well they fared.

Sixteen members of the class joined the Navy. Most were adventurous and inquisitive young men. They demonstrated great zeal and eagerness to learn about our country's strengths and vulnerabilities as it reflects on the security of our maritime territory. They would also want to discover the beauty of our island and islets that form the Philippine Archipelago.

They were made to undergo a six-month Naval Officers Qualification Course (NOQC) at Fort San Felipe in Cavite City. Some took the course very seriously and obviously were at the top of the

class. But due to the excitement of being released from the rigors of the Academy, some just coasted along but passed nevertheless.

The most interesting part of the course was the Sea Phase Training. They were assigned aboard RPS Leyte. A Patrol Craft Escort commanded by the Navy's hotshot, Commander Gil Fernandez. They were able to find out for themselves what they wanted to learn about the country and the Navy. Aboard ship, they met Ensign Vic Mamon who they learned to be a 1961 graduate of the US Naval Academy. The 17 Classmates were able to strengthen their bonds foremost as Comrade-in-Arms and as classmates.

They finished the course in December 1961 in a simple graduation ceremony. Having qualified as naval officers, their rank designation was amended to Ensign, Philippine Navy. In the next few days, Pong Biazon, Naring Liston and Did Codera succumbed to the call of Matrimony, lest they will be tempted by equally attractive ladies in every port that their assignments would bring them. The rest were excited to see more of the lures awaiting assigned at sea.

The class was distributed to two principal assignments afloat. Eight were assigned to the patrol force which sailors body as the real Navy because the ship's are the Real Men of War. The other right were assigned to the Service Force. The unit consisted of the transport ship, tankers and auxiliaryship's where deployments were predictable and very boring.

One year of service afloat, Eddie Cabanlig, Romy Sanga, and Pong Biazon joined the Philippine Marines. Romy chose to leave the service upon attaining the ranks of LTSG. Pong and Eddie stuck with the Marines and were instrumental in its growth from a battalion to a division-sized unit. Their zeal to build an institution were handily used by those who were to command the unit. Of course, both of them looked forward to command the unit and they achieved the dream.

Those who continued their careers as "White Corps" acquired the most coveted command at Sea Badge. Cesar Carandang was the first to command a ship. The cruelty of nature caused his ship to be grounded. Though the ship was salvaged and the crew unhurt, Cesar opted to avail for optional retirement, a gesture that gives meaning to the Naval tradition "Captains must Sink with their ship." But Cesar succeeded in the ventures in the Maritime Industry, owning and running his own group of companies engaged in business at the Sea. He was awarded the Cavalier Award for such achievement.

Billy Marcelo, Ed Domingo, Vic Escala, Benny Magic, Ding Simon, Tony Suratos and Vic Namin earned the destination of having commanded ships that were ready for sea. Upon the completion of Vic Mamon's command at Sea, he opted retirement in 1977. He pursued a successful career in the Maritime industry until he occupied the position of Senior Deputy Administration at SBMA.

Naring Liston, Percy Padua and Did Coders perused careers in naval logistics and finance. Sid, being the more versatile officer, also specialized in personnel and research development. Percy Padua resigned his commissionship in 1970 and migrated to the US. Gerry Estrada took Civil Relations as his primary field of specialization. Gerry Gironella especial interest in electronics even as a young Ensign, also retired optionally to set up his business in Communication Electronics.

The Navy group takes pride in two classmates who have distinguished above everyone. Pong Biazon assumed the rank of General as the Chief of Staff of the AFP. Billy Marcelo rose to become the Flag Officer in Command of the Philippine Navy with the rank of Vice Admiral. Those who attained the ranks of Commodore/ Brigadier General were Sid Codera, Eddie Cabanlig, Benny Matic, Tony Suratos, Ding Limon, and Ed Domingo. Benny Magic was the last to retire from the Naval Service.

THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY BATCH

The 11 classmates who joined the Philippine Constabulary were the first graduated appointed directly from the PMA. Upon reporting to Headquarters Philippine Constabulary, they took up the PC Basic



Course at Camp Panopio. In conformance with a standing policy at that time, they were distributed to PC units in Mindanao and Visayas. Alex Aguirre, Bert Rodriguez, Marino Filart, Steve Lara, Tony Ocampo, and Pete Yanes found themselves in the 111 PC Zone while Ed Batalla, Ernie Batongmalaque, Johnny Aquias, Cesar Nazareno, and Sol Mendoza landed in IV PC Zone. Johnny, Ed, and Sol were deployed in Sulu, considered the most hazardous assignments at the time.

With only a year in the service, Ernie Batongmalaque met his untimely death in the battle with outlaws in the Tandubas, Tawi-tawi. After four years, Steve Lara was killed in action during an encounter in Bohol against outlaws. They were the first heroes of the class as their deaths happened in actual battle, a most sought for experience by real combat officers.

In their junior officer years, the PC batch was joined by Jun Dumlao and Fred Villanueva from the Philippines Army. Vic Garcia found out for himself that the Airforce was not really meant for him but to pursue a career in the Constabulary. True enough during their junior officer years he was way ahead of the rest of his deployment was in the heart of the Insurgency in Pampanga. He reaped honors and awards at the pace of a man in a hurry.

The remaining classmates pursued a progressive career in the PC moving up the ladder from the junior officer, Company Commander, Provincial Commander and Regional Commander. In between assignments they went through the required military schooling.

After the so called "Peoples' Revolution of 1986", a new constitution was ratified which authorized the creation of a force that is "national in scope and civilian in character". On December 3, 1990, the President signed into law RA 6975 entitled "An Act Establishing the National Police under the recognized Department of interior and Local Government. The first Director of the Philippine National Police was Cesar Nazareno with Four Stars on his shoulder board. Alex Aguirre opted not to join, but remained in the AFP as the Deputy Chief of Staff with the rank of Major General. The third Director General of the PNP was Bert Rodriguez who also wore Four Stars on his shoulders.

Jun Dumlao rose to be a Police Director with Two Stars. Marino Filart was also promoted Director in his capacity as the National Capital Regional Commander and chief of Staff PNP.

Jonny Aquias, Ed Batalla, Vic Garcia, Tony Ocampo and Fred Villanueva also rose to be chief Superintendents wearing One Star on their shoulder Boards. Ed Batalla was murdered by a renegade policeman in that infamous "Cawa-cawa Incident" in Zamboanga City. In his memory we established the Batalla Foundation as an institution to help send talented children to school.

THE AIRFORCE BATCH

After reporting to the Philippine Airforce Headquarters at Nichols Airbase, the 11 classmates were sent to the PAF Flying School at Lipa Airbase in Batangas, to undergo Flight training for 18 months. In the middle of their training period, Matt Bawagan and Vic Garcia transferred to the Army and Constabulary, respectively. Euly Jaro remained with the Airforce without qualifying as a pilot.

The remaining eight graduated from flight training and received the much coveted pilot's wings in January 1963. The initial duty of Rogie Jaramillo, Urso Bello, Jorge Lagera, Gerry Payaoan was to serve as flight instructors in Lipa Air Base.

Manny Lukban, Nick Rodriguez and Emil Tique moved to Nichols Airbase where they were to be checked out in flying C-47 type aircraft. Emil met a tragic accident when on a mission flight to Mindanao. He encountered bad weather and the aircraft plunged in the mountain ranges of Antique, killing all persons on board.

The living members of the class continued on with their respective careers in the Airforce. Halfway through their service, Urso, Rogie, Manny and Zaldy resigned and joined the Philippine Airlines. Urso joined other companies until he migrated with this family to the US. Rogie retired from PAL and later left for the US with his family. Manny joined other Airlines as an executive but flew company aircrafts around the world. Zaldy remained in the PAL until his retirement as an Airline pilot.

Euly Jaro remained in the Airforce and took intelligence as his other specialization. He availed of his optional retirement as a Colonel then moved to the US with his family. He died in 1999 in Washington DC area where they found a permanent residence.

Jorge Lagera, Gerry Payaoan and Nick Rodriguez carried on the torch for the class and completed their illustrious career. Jorge started as an instructor pilot and progressed in assignments in the field staff and command positions. When he assigned as Wing Commander of Edwin Airbase he was made Brigadier General. He served as PAF Training Commander and retired in that position. Gerry also followed the same career pattern until he assumed as Wing Commander of the Aircraft Control and Warning Wing where he was promoted Brigadier General.

Nick went through various posting in the Airforce having served as transport and helicopter pilot, aide-de-camp field assignment as Composite Air Support Commander and Commandant of Cadets in the PMA. He commanded three Air Force Wings, the 560th Composite Tactical Wing, 250th Presidential Airlift Wing where he obtained his First Star, and 205th Helicopter Wing before he was chosen as the Vice Commander, Philippine Air Force. He became the Commanding General of the PAF with the rank of Lieutenant General. His retirement on December 26, 1995 marked the end of the active service of PMA Class 61 as he was the last member to retire from active military service.



The Quest for Relevance

• CAV EDUARDO T CABANLIG '61

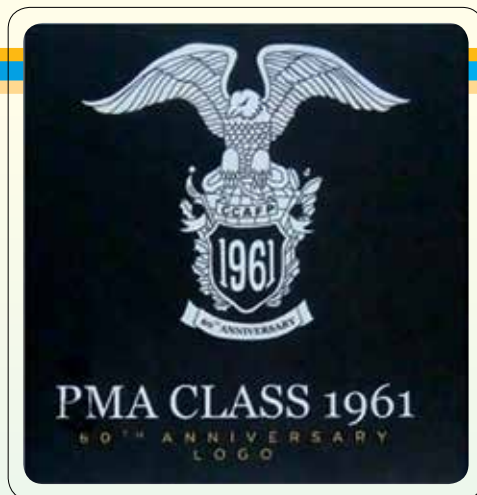
A story that does not positively affect the lives of people and their community will remain as an ordinary story, so goes an adage. Does this hold true to the story of PMA Class 1961? Did this matter much to the country and the millions of Filipino?

It may be relevant at this point to recall how Marino Filart designed and made the symbolism of our class crest which is embossed on our class ring and pin. In his own "words," *the Philippine Eagle with the wings spread and ready to swoop, symbolizes the readiness of the class to respond to any threat to our beloved country. The snake which is held by the eagles claws stands for evil or enemy of the state. The shield where the numbers 1961 are embossed symbolizes the constitutional mandate of a soldier to defend his country. The symbolism is the commitment of PMA Class 1961 to the country.*

Our class, just like any similar group that finished the rigors imposed by the PMA curriculum, holds dearly the virtues of courage, integrity, and loyalty. The class not only believes in these virtues but actually manifested them in the deeds of some among their rank. In recognition for their deeds, they were conferred by an appreciative nation the second highest military award for gallantry. The Distinguished Conduct Star is awarded to an individual who demonstrated conspicuous courage and intrepidity in the face of an armed enemy of the state.

Eddie Cabanlig was the first recipient of the award when in March 1975 as commander of the Marine Landing Team they encountered a superior MNLF force at Dugaa, Tuburan in Basilan Province. Although suffering from a gunshot wound on his legs, he refused to be evacuated and relentlessly led the assault on the enemy position until the opposing force withdrew, leaving behind their countless dead comrades. That singular encounter broke the revolutionary fervor of muslim rebels in Basilan that paved the way for the return of their leaders to the folds of the law.

Our other classmates who were recipients of the same award demonstrated their indomitable courage as General Officers. It was quite unusual that they did not only command but personally led men in battle in order to prevent them from being assimilated to the opposing forces. Their acts of heroism were so notable and involving risk of life so extraordinary as to set apart from their peers. They demonstrated such acts to stop the efforts to destabilize the government of President Corazon C. Aquino in 1989. Pong Biazon who was then the commander of the National Capital Regional Command which defended successfully the assault by a superior force of rebel soldiers on Camp Aguinaldo in December 1, 1989. Mindful of the threat of his life from enemy artillery armor and air attack, he rallied his forces at the risk of death, to emerge victorious that led to the surrender of the leaders of the coup de etat. Billy Marcelo as Commanding General of Camp Emilio Aguinaldo led his unit in blocking the assault of the rebel soldiers at Gate 1 of the camp. With great courage and personal sacrifice, he caused the disabling of armored vehicles that tried to penetrate the gate. Thelmo Cunanan as the commander of a brigade of the Philippine Army successfully blocked the threats coming from the rebel force at Gates 2, 4 and 5 of Camp Aguinaldo. Alex Aguirre was the Commanding General of Capcom, when he cleared the Makati business district from rebel soldiers. A series of pitch battles in the streets caused a wound to be inflicted on his legs. Unmindful of his condition, he defied danger and finished the battle. The combined efforts of these generals saved a nation striving to restore democracy. It was their sense of loyalty as enshrined in the class crest and in keeping faith in the institution that we serve. Our loyalty and faith in the institutions enshrined in the constitution was a very potent force which prevented any member of class 1961 to participate in any acts to destabilize the existing dispensation and this we are proud of.



Our relevance did not stop with our military deeds that we unselfishly offered to a struggling nation. Some of us were called to serve in government after retirement. Pong Biazon was elected by the Filipino people as Senator in 1992 - 1997. He again ran for a second term but lost due to alleged fraud. For indeed at the initial recount it indicated that, he won. In 1998, he again submitted himself to the electorate and ran which allowed for a six-year term. He further ran in 2004 – where he landed in the 12th position that allowed him to serve his country as Senator for 15 years. In 2010, he ran for Congress to represent the City of Muntinlupa and won a three-year term. He again ran in 2013 and won another 3-year term. His service as the nation's lawmaker, which totaled 21 productive years and if his 33 years in the military is added, will sum up to more than 50 years of service to his country. The PMA recognized this very rare feat and awarded him the Distinguished Lifetime Award.

Alex Aguirre offered to serve his country by serving two Presidents. During the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, he served as Executive Secretary throughout the six years of the former's presidency. When President Joseph Estrada ascended to the highest position in the country, Alex served as the National Security Adviser and head of the National Security Council. In all his service to both heads of state, he held foremost the virtue of integrity. A classmate who served three Presidents after retirement was Nick Rodriguez. From 1996 to 1999 he was the head of the presidential task force on the rehabilitation of typhoon damage areas and Vice President of Clark International Airport Corporation. From 1999 – 2003 he served President Estrada as Post Master General and CEO of the Philippine Postal Corporation and during the Presidency of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo he was member of PNOC, Energy Development Corporation and Consultant of Poro Point Development Corporation. In all positions, Nick exhibited the virtues of loyalty and integrity.

Those who tried hard to uphold the virtue exhibited by the above classmates were: Billy Marcelo who also served as Undersecretary of Environment and Natural Resources during the Ramos Administration; Ed Cabanlig who was appointed as President of National Defense College, also under the same administration; Cesar Fortuno as Head of the National Intelligence Service; under the Estrada administration and Bert Rodriguez as Philippine Veterans Administrator during the Ramos Presidency.

In the year 2021, the PMA class 1961 will be commemorating its 60 years after graduation, from the institution that developed and nurtured them in the virtues of courage loyalty and integrity. Indeed, we look forward to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee in the fashion and glimmer of such precious stone.

What is left of a class consisting of 56 members is 25 still ready and able to answer the call of service. The class president will report to the academy "all present or accounted for" not expecting the usual reply "carry on", as the deepening shadows of life do not seem to give them strength to continue. What they expect to hear would be a heavenly commendation which goes thus "well done my children" and as our "last taps is sung" let succeeding generations see the relevance of their humble deeds in that quest for freedom! To GOD BE THE GLORY!





In commemoration of the PMA Class of 1971 Golden Jubilee celebration, the Matatags launched a fundraising project mainly to support PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI), PMAAAI's Payback Scheme and secondly, support the PETFI's scholarship program for qualified dependents of deceased and disabled cavaliers. We consider it as our pay back to our Alma Mater and support to the morale and welfare of fellow cavaliers.

The project is in consonance with the fourth (Allot Donations) of the five focus areas of the PMAAAI Strategic Plan CY 2020-2025 in the acronym- **PLEAD**;

P - Preservation of PMA's Heritage, Customs, Values and Traditions

L - Live the PMA Ideals of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty

E - Engagement of Cavaliers

A - Allot Donations. Goal: Give Back by increasing annual alumni and friend's donation to PMA and PMAAAI Annual Fund; and, by planning and implementing programs, projects and activities to uplift PMA as an institution and PMAAAI as an association.

D - Deepen Social Responsibility

The project generated a total of P4,040,000 from donations of 29 Matatags and a cavalier son. If the donations of the Matatags to the different funds in previous years will be included, the present value of all our donations would add up to P6,089,071, including the donation of Mistah Manny Foronda in 2017 to Payback Scheme at P5,071. (See how a Matatag could be unique and singular - even in donation?) The Matatags hope that more classes/cavaliers will follow suit and donate to support PMA projects and activities that are not funded by the government and thereby help enhance the education and training of our cadets.

In addition to fundraising, the Matatags also agreed to donate 300 copies of the second edition of **-BROTHERS The Untold Story of the Philippine Military Academy" Matatag" Class of 1971** - to the PMA primarily for reference of the cadets. It was

written by COL Rolando Malinis and is the first and only book published about a PMA class.

A. The details of fund generation to include advance payments to PMAFI and PETFI are enumerated below.

1. Professorial Chairs at P1,250,000

LTCOL Arthur Balmaceda - P250,000

LCDR Socrates Brazal - P250,000

(Professorial Chair for Women's Studies)

P/LTGEN Ricardo De Leon - P250,000

LTGEN Romeo Dominguez - P250,000

P/MGEN Jose Lalisán - P250,000

2. Endowment Fund - P1,100,000

PN CAPT Urbano Fabros - (Bronze: P100,000)

VADM Ariston and Nina delos Reyes - (Diamond: P1,000,000)

3. PMA Payback Scheme - P690,000

COL Melchior Acosta - P5,000

P/GEN Edgar Aglipay - P500,000 (Cadet Sports Development)

CDR Bienvenido Alano - P5,000

CDR Archilles Almario - P5,000

LCDR Socrates Brazal - P5,000

LCDR Amable Costales (Deceased/ c/o Mrs Marilyn Costales) - P5,000

COL Wenceslao Cruz - P5,000

VADM Ariston Delos Reyes - P5,000

P/BGEN Dominador Domingo - P50,000

COL Manuel Domingo - P5,000

VADM Ruben Domingo - P5,000

BGEN Edgar Elona - P10,000

LTCOL Delfin Edmon Elona(CI 2003/son of Edgar) - P5,000

PN CAPT Urbano Fabros - P5,000

COL Fernando Francisco - P5,000

MAJ Ruben Gange - P5,000

SECRETARY Gregorio Honasan - P25,000

COL Cesar Ibo - P5,000

PN CAPT Roberto Laciste - P5,000

COL Oscar Legaspi - P10,000

CDR Dante Peralta - P5,000

RADM Joaquin Tan - P5,000

BGEN Rodolfo Vasquez -P10,000

4. Donation for Scholarship Fund - P1,000,000

P/MGEN Reynaldo Acop - P250,000

P/MGEN Jose Lalisán - P250,000

PC LTCOL Marciano Paynor - P250,000

P/LTGEN Reynaldo Velasco - P250,000

It may be noted that prior to the launching of the Project, some Matatags already have previous donations as listed below.

PROFESSORIAL CHAIRS

1. PMA Class 1971 Chair

2. Senator Gregorio B Honasan Chair

3. Vadm Ariston V delos Reyes AFP Chair in Mathematics

4. P/GEN Edgar Aglipay Chair

PETFI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

1. P/GEN Edgar B. Aglipay

2. P/LTGEN Reynaldo Velasco

3. GEN Narciso Abaya

4. PMA Class 1971

PMAAAI PAYBACK SCHEME

1. P/Gen Edgar Aglipay - P10,000

2. VADM Ariston Delos Reyes - P14,000

3. P/LGEN Rex Piad - P10,000

4. P/LTGEN Reynaldo Velasco - P10,000

5. COL Manuel Foronda - P5,071

B. Donation of 300 copies of BROTHERS to PMA

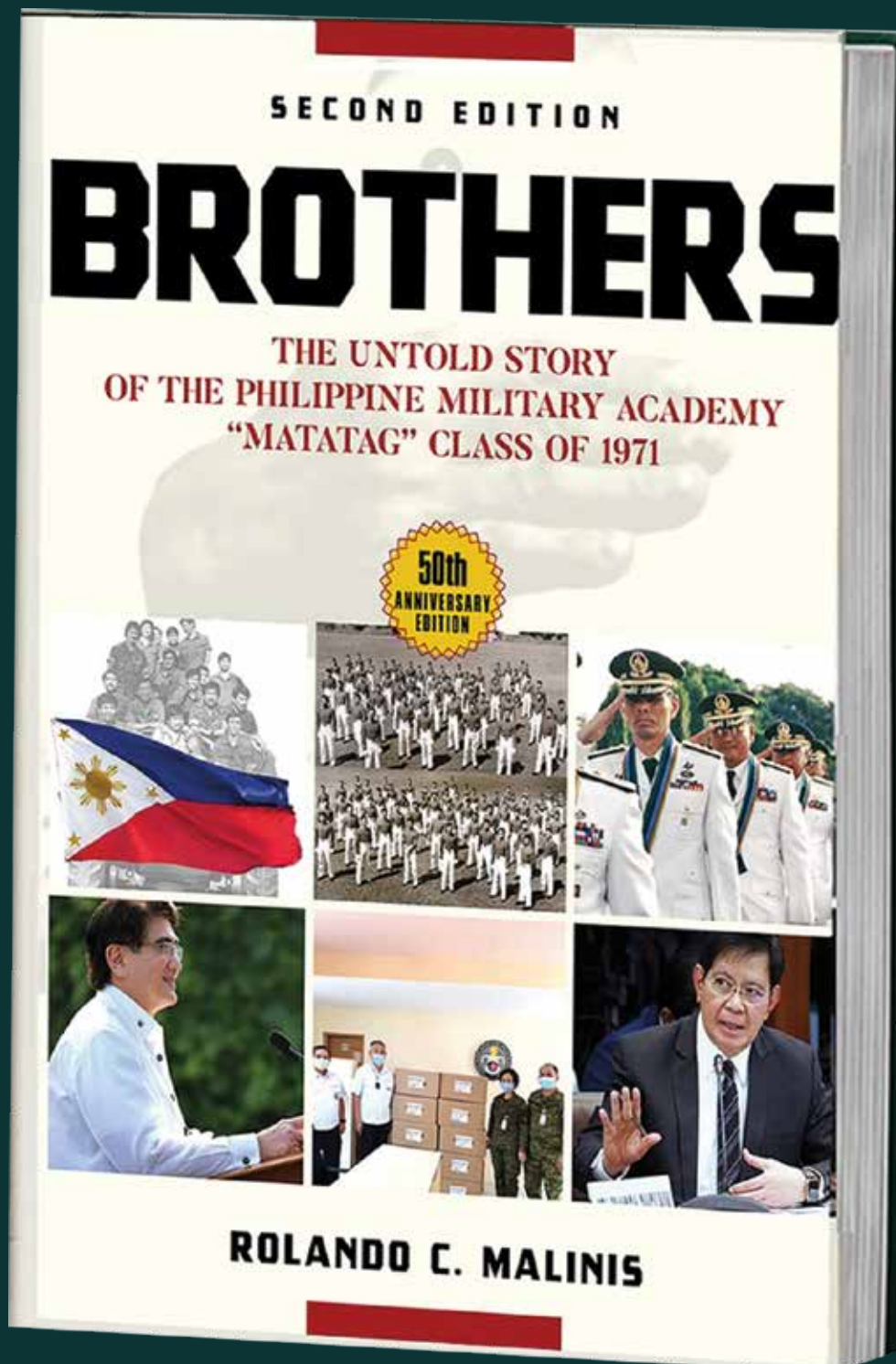
The book tells varied stories of the journey of various members of the class towards the fulfilment of their military careers. It provides insights and perspectives through the lives and careers of its members; of what really happen to cadets within the walls of the Academy; how military career evolves and ends and also the varied ways of life thereafter.

The books are intended for the PMA library for general reference and for the Tactics Group so that they may be issued annually to first class cadets for their optional reading under Military Leadership. It is envisioned that the book may serve as eye opener in the pursuit of their military career based on the experience of the Matatags.

C. Reason for the Donations?

No doubt about it... MATATAGS LOVE PMA!





The *Matatags* hope that the book could serve as an eye opener for the cadets in the pursuit of their progressive military career. It is the updated Class' history in time for its Golden Anniversary celebration, highlighted by its author in the following article.

“MATATAG ‘71 Bright Star Shining for a Long Time”

MATATAG '71

Bright Star Shining for a Long Time!

• CAV ROLLY C MALINIS '71

"If you want the beautiful moments to shine, you have to contrast that with dark and gruesome moments. That's the way life is." – Tony Di Terlizzi

The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) *Matatag* Class of 1971 is arguably the most controversial class to emerge from the Academy since its founding. As it will celebrate in 2021 its 50th anniversary since they graduated from PMA in 1971, the class is taking some moments to reflect back.

For one, the path to success of PMA Class '71 was difficult. The road was laden with stories of their triumphs, defeats, struggles, rejections, joys, sacrifices and disappointments. But those were the things that made them shine. As Confucius says, *"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."*

Towards the end, the subsequent *Matatags'* overwhelming number of achievements and triumphs would bring honor to PMA Class '71, in particular, and to the Philippine Military Academy as an institution, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the country, in general. This overshadowed the missteps committed by a few and the negative impression by the class' non-believers/detractors. It was a tough climb and still is. The good news is that the class is winning.

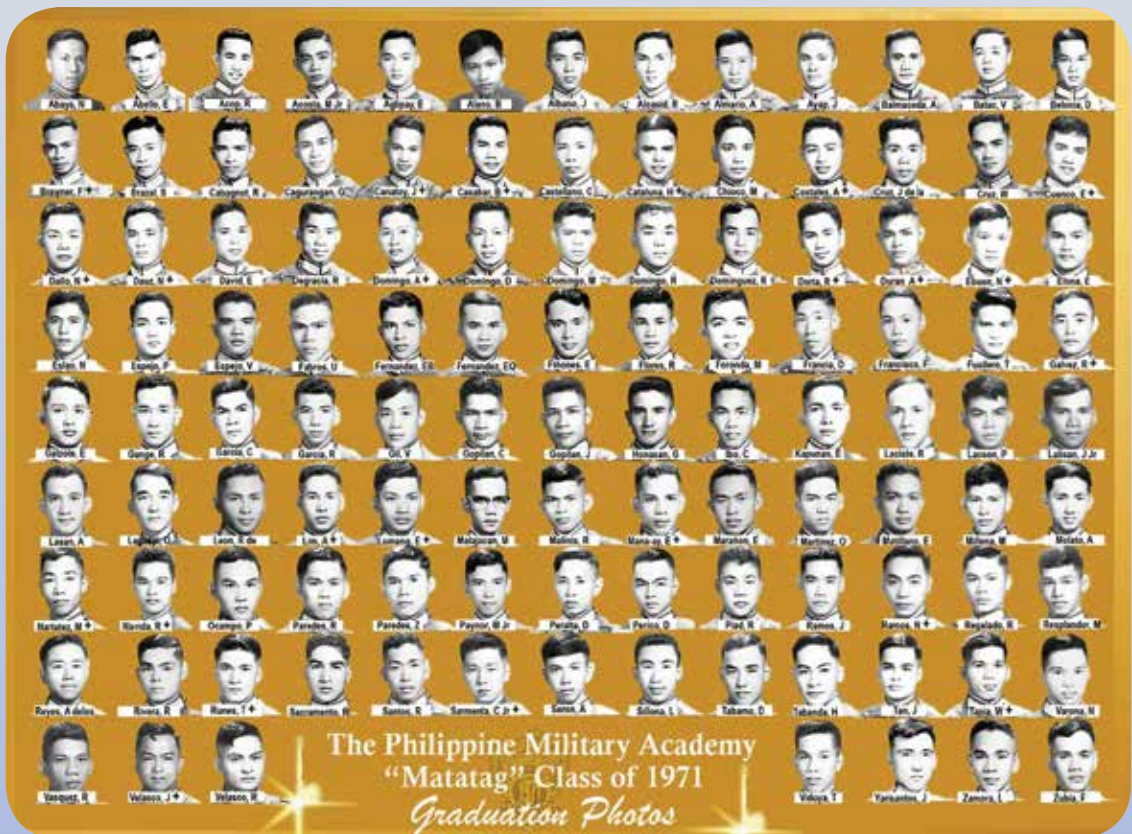
In his review of **Brothers**, a book about class '71, Cavalier Jake Duller '69 took to the fore the many stories of PMA Class '71 portraying strength of characters, leadership, morals and values which are inspirational to coming generations, especially future graduates of the PMA. Duller said, "The success of *Matatags* extends from combat to non-combatant roles. Even after the infamous debacle of 1987 and 1989 coups when Class '71 figured prominently, they showed resilience and perseverance in pursuit of excellence in the service and duty to the country. Those

who chose to remain in the military service served well and received coveted award of excellence and outstanding performance in their staff and command positions, erasing the stigma of a 'rebel class'. Those who elected to serve outside of the military also contributed immensely to the fame and glory of the class. They have shown distinctly that training and experience in the military can well adapt to government, political and private sectors where Paynor, Lacson, Honasan, Aglipay, Molato, De Leon and De Los Reyes were among the luminaries and the pride of Class '71."

It would behoove you, therefore, to take the time to join the class in retracing the path it took in the past for better understanding and appreciation of Cavalier Duller's assessments. The second part of this paper will lead you to the present preoccupation of class '71. It will end with a very short look into the future.

Academy Days

In mid-1966, some 5,457 young men applied to take the PMA entrance examinations. Only 3,537 finished the examinations given on December 22 and 23, 1966 in various parts of the country. Three-hundred-seventy (307) passed the test and after a rigid two-week



medical and physical examinations, 148 were finally taken and reported to PMA on April 1, 1967 to comprise the PMA Class of 1971.

Class '71 was an interesting mix of men. Intelligent. Innocent. Uncertain. Ambitious. Naïve. Distracted. Bratty. The PMA training system turned these young boys to responsible men. Increased their threshold level for physical and psychological pains. Taught the value of the honor system. Educated them toward a Bachelor of Science degree. Trained them about soldiery, discipline and leadership. And motivated them to live with the basic tenets "Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty." The Academy taught them to be goal driven and to possess that strong determination and passion to pursue military and police careers, civil service, elective positions and other endeavors.

Four years later, only 84 of the original 148 were left. The rest who did not make it to class '71 opted to resign, others were dismissed, went on AWOL. Many were deferred (turned-back). One went to West Point [Lazo]; and another to the US Air Force Academy at Colorado [Aquino N]. The 84 were joined in by 25 turned-back cadets from the upper classes and the 109 strong members graduated on March 28, 1971. Almost three months later, two (2) graduates from foreign-service academies [Abaya, USMA '71 and Alano, USNA '71] joined them. The final service assignments: Philippine Army - 30; Philippine Air Force - 38; Philippine Constabulary - 31; and Philippine Navy - 11.

Junior Years

The Philippine military, at the time class '71 graduated from the Academy, was battling threats from the fast-emerging CPP/NPA Maoist insurgency and MNLF rebellion. Most of the 1971 graduates, designated as brand-new second lieutenants, were immediately put in harm's way in the conflict-ridden areas in Pampanga, Isabela, Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Lanao Del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Jolo, Basilan, and Tawi-Tawi.

A young-Philippine-Constabulary-intelligence officer [Aglipay] belonging to PMA '71 volunteered to track and stall the arm shipment in 1972 by the NPA at Digoyo Point, Isabela. The timely battle encounter between his team and the NPAs/MV Karagatan's crew and subsequent joint-AFP operations [including exploits of De Leon R '71 in recovering arms from the fleeing rebels] led to seizure of the caches. In effect, the botched arms-landing significantly deprived the communists the capability to fight the government. Had it succeeded, the NPA leader, who also led the raid of the PMA armory in 1970, boasted it could be "game changing" that could have altered the course of Philippine history.

Two young lieutenants of the class, barely two years after graduation from PMA, died while performing combat and combat support missions. Duran from the PC was ambushed, beheaded, and burned in the rebel-infested road between Pagadian and Ipil in



Zamboanga Del Sur. Nartatez, an air force pilot, was lost in Sulu sea after performing flare-drop mission over Tonquil Island where a beleaguered PC unit was under a night attack by Muslim elements/rebels. His body was never found.

During the days in 1973 when Mindanao was almost lost to Muslim secessionists, the *Matatags* were everywhere. In the ground. In the air, and in the sea. One of them from the Army [Dominguez] almost lost his leg during an ambush in the town of Pigkawayan, Cotabato. In 1973, they nearly lost a distinguished member of the class [Honasan] in a ground battle at Lebak, South Cotabato. Oozing with blood due to sniper shot, he refused to leave his men. Fate would intervene. He survived to play pivotal role in Philippine history. Five others suffered gunshot wounds in battle encounters, including Chioco, who together with his team, was ambushed along the highway from Iligan to Kauswagan while moving newly assigned company recruits to their battalion headquarters.

Middle Years and the Revolution

At past half-way of the class' military career progression, at least 21 provincial/metro district commands were headed by class members belonging to the Philippine Constabulary/INP/PNP. Eleven (11) Army infantry battalions were under the command of the Army group. The PAF group commanded at least eight (8) squadrons, the equivalent of battalions in the ground force. Almost all of the remaining Navy captains (out of the original 11) had commanded major naval seacraft, patrol vessels, destroyers and LSTs.

The path to progressive military careers was on track and assured as they [RAM] were hailed heroes during the historic People Power Revolution of 1986. Four, all class '71, received the "Distinguished Conduct Star" medals, second only to the medal of valor [Honasan, Matillano, Viduya, and Zubia]. Mr. & Ms. Magazine featured 16. Four others appeared in a full-page photograph in a Sunday magazine.

It was short-lived. The coalition between the Cory government and the RAM was doomed from the start. It was a case of broken promises. Two major coup attempts followed. One on August 28, 1987 and another on December 1, 1989 lasting for seven days. Both failed. There was a reversal of fortune. The group was now brought to court for rebellion.

The setback was temporary. Soon they [those involved in coups] were granted amnesty after Fidel V Ramos became President in 1992. Soon, they were back on the road to start living new glory days.

Senior Years

The last *Matatag* standing [still active in military service] retired on February 15, 2006 [Delos Reyes], upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56, and having served 38 years, 10 months and 15 days of faithful and honorable service to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Together with him, 51 other *Matatags* had rendered full military service with nine (9) attaining the rank of full colonel (or its equivalent in the Navy and Police services); 14 brigadier generals; 19 major generals; seven (7) lieutenant generals; and three (3) four-star generals.

During their senior years, the *Matatags* had held numerous high ranking positions in the Armed Forces/PNP such as: two (2) as Chief, PNP [Lacson, Aglipay]; one (1) Chief-of-Staff, AFP (CSAFP) [Abaya]; one (1) Vice-CSAFP [Delos Reyes]; one (1) Vice Commanding General, PAF and for a short time Acting CG, PAF [Seron]; one (1) SOUTHCOM commander [Abaya]; one (1) WESCOM commander [Domingo RG]; and one (1) NOLCOM commander [Dominguez]. At least 22 were assigned as commanders of Brigade-size units/Regional Directors/Wing Commanders; three (3) as Infantry Division commanders [Abaya, Alcasid, and Dominguez]; 11 as Major Special Units' commanders; and 16 as higher headquarters/general staff.

Life Beyond a Military Career

Looking back, some 59 *Matatags* left the military service early for various reasons like optional retirement [more than 20 years of service], separation, resignation or death. Of which, one (1) graduated, but was not commissioned and remained classified as cadet; five (5) had ranks of captains and below; 11 majors; 41 lieutenant colonels; and one (1) full colonel. Those belonging to this group and who pursued private careers have excelled in different professions – as lawyers, engineers, nurse, computer programmers, IT professionals, web developers, educators, among others. Others prospered in government service; or flying for commercial airlines in different parts of the world including war-torn areas; or as flight simulation instructors in private flying schools in Central Luzon; or settled down as CEOs and COO of small-and-medium-size- and big private companies.

A number of *Matatags* who continued to faithfully serve the government, outside the military service, achieved success and fame. The list includes two (2) senators, one (1) assemblyman of the old Batasang Pambansa, one (1) cabinet secretary, three (3) ambassadors, one (1) major university system president (MSU), and one (1) town mayor. The rest, occupying equally important positions, served as chairmen of government corporations, bureau chiefs, lawyers, chief of protocols, immigration commissioner, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, directors, and consultants in different government departments. [The success stories of those in the government service will be featured in another article.]

Aglipay from being the Chief, PNP and Chairman of the Philippine Retirement Authority becomes the successful CEO of the EMME Group of Companies with five Business Groups. One of the Emme Corporations is one of the top 5,000 highest tax paying companies of the Philippines. At present, Aglipay serves as Chairman Emeritus of three industries in the Philippines - the Trucking industry, the Private Security Industry, and the Port Users Authority.

A retired C-130 Air Force pilot [Ramos JB] risked his life and job as he rescued from death United Nations' personnel trapped in civil-striped Rwanda in East Africa. From being Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Telecom, Molato decided to go on his own as owner and administrator of STI College in Rosario, Cavite.

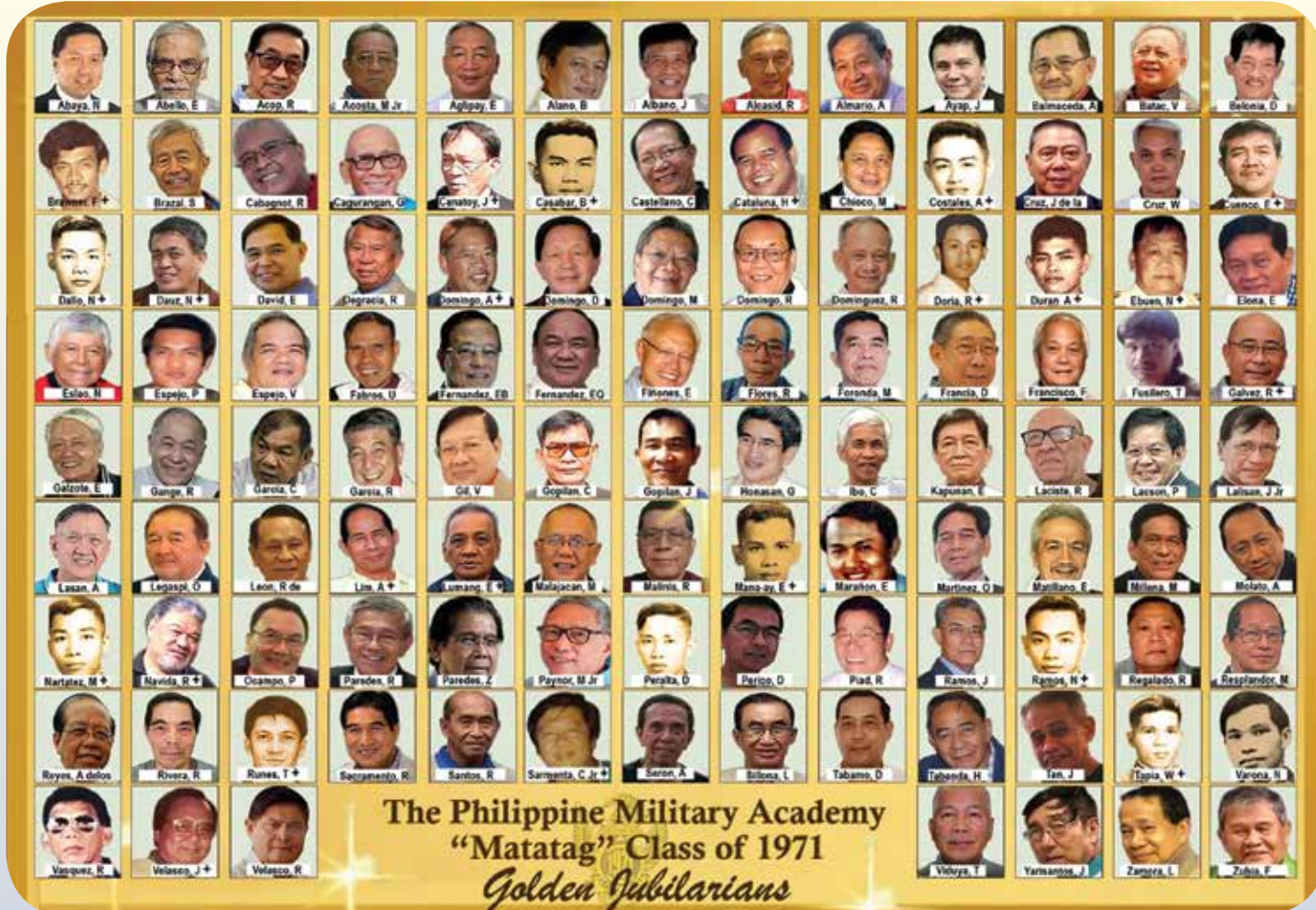
Career and professional development-wise, from the initial bachelor of science degree conferred by PMA in 1971, the education profile of the class improved immensely as many pursued undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate career-enhancement education. These include the bachelor of arts in law degree (3 *Matatags* passed the bar exam) [Martinez, Paredes Z, and Sacramento], two (2) PhDs [Alano, De Leon], and at least 33 master's degrees. The knowledge acquired and the wisdom gained through the years especially the virtues ingrained by PMA are instrumental in their rise to positions of higher responsibilities and excellence, be it in the military or private careers.

Reaping the Rewards

The *Matatags'* services in the military and government sector were rewarded with various awards for excellence and exceptional performance.

A survey participated by 25 *Matatags* showed that the respondents received a total of 451 military medals while in the active service. However, it is estimated that the class could have gathered more than a thousand more medals based on the assessment of people who knew of the records of those *Matatags* who were not participants in the survey.

The Cavalier Award, since its inception in 1962, is the highest recognition given to a PMA alumnus or alumna with outstanding achievements in their respective fields. This was awarded 17 times



to outstanding members of the class, making class '71 a candidate for the PMA class with the most number of Cavalier Awards.

For highly meritorious and valuable services, at least four (4) *Matatags* in the government service received high civilian honors awarded by no less than the President of the Philippines or by the Secretary of National Defense on behalf of the President. The number of awardees and awards by order of precedence are: one (1) - **Order of Lakandula rank of bayani** (*Grand Cross*); one (1) - **Order of Sikatuna rank of datu** (*Grand Cross*); six (6) - **Philippine Legion of Honor degree of commander**; two (2) - **Philippine Legion of Honor degree of officer**; one (1) - **Gawad Mabini rank of dakilang kamanong** (*Grand Cross*); one (1) - **Gawad Mabini rank of dakilang kasugo** (*Commander*); and one (1) - **Presidential Medal of Merit**.

Class '71 is also proud of several rare achievements and distinctions. Again, as one of our *mistahs* said, "The honors and accolades individually received have a ripple effect on the whole class." First, a second class cadet [Almario] belonging to class '71 was the first to receive a military medal award while still a cadet (A Bronze Cross Medal for saving children from a burning building); second, class '71 held that distinction of having two *Matatag*-Senators [Honasan and Lacson] serving at the Philippine Senate at the same time; third, the only PMAyer, among the more than 9,000 PMA graduates, to head a major university system (Mindanao State University System) belongs to class '71 [De Leon]; fourth, a *Matatag* [Honasan] was the second from the military to receive in 1985 the once civilian dominated Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Philippines Awards since the Jaycees' project started in 1959; and fifth, a former commanding general of

the Narcotics Command belonging to class '71 [Piad] was the only recipient from the AFP/PNP to date of the "Congressional Recognition of Merit" for exceptional performance awarded by the Philippine Congress.

Today – A Chance for More Legacies

Retired Police Director General Aglipay has assumed the chairmanship of the PMAAAI (with more than 9,000 graduates of PMA as members) in March 2020. It's one of the two PMA institution's organizations, the other the PMA Council of Class Presidents (PCOCP), where Egay represents class '71.

His term as Chairman, PMAAAI is fraught with many challenges. It came at a time that the pandemic protocol dictated many restrictions for group activities. Thus, the annual general assembly in January 2021 was held with limited participation to be communicated live via streaming. The guest of honor delivered a pre-recorded message. Unlike in the past, the usual big gathering with attendant fanfare for the alumni homecoming was simplified to conform with the national government's COVID-19 imposed protocol.

But despite all odds, Aglipay's term is emerging as a "game changer" thus creating more legacies for class '71. Initially, to steer a clear direction for the association, Aglipay led the crafting of a 5-year strategic plan 2020-2025 which includes, among others, the focus in the area of deepening social responsibility by getting involved in nation-building programs and participation in making the Philippines a better world.

Most importantly, Aglipay acted swiftly on the most urgent problem of the association, that of looking for an alternative center or office as it [association] has been asked to leave its present office at Camp Aguinaldo. The groundbreaking ceremony at BGC Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City for the proposed PMAAAI Alumni Center building located along Lawton Avenue, BGC, Taguig City happened on October 23, 2020 with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana as guest of honor and speaker; and with donors Lieutenant General Cirilito E Sobejana, Commanding General of the Philippine Army and MEGAWORLD President Mr. Francis Canuto in attendance.

Currently, Aglipay as chairman of PMAAAI is spearheading the ambitious plan to unify several big groups in order to promote the national interest. He met individually with the board of directors of the Philippine National Police Academy Alumni Association, Inc., the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association, Inc., Maritime Academy of Asia and Pacific Alumni Association, Inc., and the Philippine Air Force Flying School Alumni Association Inc. The goal is to create the Assembly of Service Alumni Associations of the Philippines (ASAAP) with the aim of gathering inputs on how the assembly will work at the following areas of cooperation: fellowship, leadership/professional development, and service to assembly members.

PMAAAI has four affiliate foundations to serve the particular needs of its members and the Academy and raising funds therefore: first is the PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. to help in the education of children of deceased and disabled members; second is the PMAAA Development Foundation, Inc. to help members in their entrepreneurial ventures; third, the PMAAA Foundation for Truth and Justice, Inc. to help members who are charged in court of offenses committed in the performance of official duties; and fourth is the PMA Foundation, Inc. to help the Academy improve the quality of its instruction. It is hoped that during Egay's term, the PMAAAI will be able to integrate the three (3) foundations, with the PMAAAI providing primarily services for the members, and leave one (1) Foundation, the PMAFI, to extend the PMAAAI support to the PMA.

To show support to the military and uniformed personnel (MUP), Chairman Aglipay wrote President Rodrigo Duterte in several instances regarding the organization's recommendations to enhance the MUP's morale and welfare. These recommendations include: the adjustment of the monthly MUP laundry allowance to uniform rate of P125; the ordering of DBM to include the amount of P38.4 billion for 2018 pension indexing arrears in the proposed budget for 2021; and the amendment of EO 201 so that the MUP in the active service will be entitled to adjustment of base pay and the retirees to pension indexing to the adjusted base pay effective January 1, 2016.

In a letter to Congressman Michael Aglipay, on October 13, 2020, Chairman Aglipay endorsed a draft bill that will rationalize/equalize the separation and retirement benefits among the MUP. It seeks to increase the maximum pension in the military from 85 to 90 percent in order to be at par with that allowed for PNP uniformed services personnel. It will allow the military to be at par with that of DILG uniformed personnel.

On May 2, 2020, the PMAAAI donated P1,057,412 worth of personnel protective equipment (PPE) to the AFP Medical Center, Army General Hospital, Air Force Hospital, Manila Naval Hospital, and PNP General Hospital for their frontliners in their battle against the corona virus (Covid-19).

Another important project of the PMAAAI is the creation of a core discussion group to provide inputs to the PMAYers who are members of the IATF (Inter-Agency Task Force), a task force organized by the Philippine government to respond to issues concerning emerging infectious diseases in the Philippines like Covid-19.

Aglipay is also the chairman of PCOCP being the chairman of the PMAAAI. It was him who took the initiative of organizing the Council.

He hosted the initial meetings of all PMA class presidents in his residence and painstakingly explained to the group the importance of the Council as an advisory and consultative body of PMAAAI. In the past, some positions taken by the board (PMAAAI) were not reflective of the general sentiments of the PMA cavaliers because of inadequate representation by many alumni during the deliberation. It is expected that the creation of the Council will help solve this deficiency.

Thus, the PMA Council of Class Presidents (PCOCP), under Aglipay's leadership, has taken an active role in assisting the PMAAAI in formulating its stand on matters affecting the institutions and the organizations where its graduates are members such as the issue about the Anti-Terror Bill (ATB). Another issue is the alleged violation of quarantine rules by the PNP National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Chief during his 55th birthday celebration in May, 2020. As a result, the Regional Police Chief was given a letter of reprimand. After being discussed by PCOCP, the association also sought for the speedy and impartial investigation of an incident in Jolo, Sulu, where two young PMA Cavaliers and two soldiers from the Army Intelligence unit while on mission were shot dead by policemen on June 29, 2020. PCOCP also participated in resolving the issues: "Is the Honor Code System Absolute or Not".

A Look into the Future

Most of the *Matatags* now are at the 71 and 72 range years of age. The path ahead is getting narrower and shorter as members of the class are diminishing. There are now just eighty-seven (87) living members out of the original 111 count. Twenty-four (24) passed on to the Great Beyond and twelve (12) *Mas Matatags* [wives of *Matatags*] joined our Creator. Of those living [*Matatags*], 66 reside in the Philippines, 17 in the US, two (2) in Canada, and two (2) in Australia.

Fifty-five (55) of the surviving members are now fully retired, not necessarily sitting in a rocking chair. They are engaging in sports like golf, tennis, badminton, and the physically challenging and punishing sports like running, mountain climbing, and walking or trekking. But the most fulfilling endeavors at this stage, aside from babysitting our grandchildren are traveling, visiting malls, or simply staying home sitting in front of the television to keep abreast of the news and current developments. Two (2) of our retirees have continuing health issues that limit their enjoyment for retirement.

Twenty-five (25) are semi-retired, of which, 14 are managing their own businesses and 11 still in gainful employment in the private sector.

Eight (8) others have remained in the government service.

The road ahead for the few *Matatags* who are still occupying government positions is extended to allow them to display the usual inherent passion in serving with the best interest of the country in mind. The remaining pillars of the class in the government service promise to continue to accomplish more in the future to bring honor to the class and PMA. This is to ensure that PMA Class '71 shall leave behind a unique-great-life-story's legacy.

The bright star shines! Then. Now. And forever.



THE AUTHOR

* Malinis is PMA Class '71's Class Historian.
 ** - The article above is mostly an excerpt from the book - BROTHERS: The Untold Story of the Philippine Military Academy "Matatag" Class of 1971 (Second Edition): 2021].



The Back Nine

• CAV CICERO L CASTELLANO '71

"Back Nine" refers to the second nine holes in a golf game. To most golfers, it is a chance to fix bad drives, make better approaches and finally improve their scores. But as one goes on with life, he will note that his drives are getting shorter, his approaches are losing their accuracy, his putting becoming worse. Then the golfer will come to realize that he is on the back nine of his life.

On their Golden Anniversary, Class '71 members, the Matatags, are on their back nine, so to speak. There is no guarantee that they will see all the seasons of their lives, so while they still matter, they should remember that "life is a gift" to them and the way they live their lives is their gift to those who come after.

This article is especially dedicated to members of Class '71 who have served the government after retirement. Some are still active up to now.

Let it be clear at this point that there are more members of the class who performed as well if not better outside government. Their stories will be retold later.

Whether in or out of government, everybody has a "back nine". What matters most is how he plays it.

GENERAL NARCISO ABAYA

Upon retirement as AFP Chief of Staff, Narsing Abaya was appointed to the Base Conversion and Development Authority as President and CEO, and Vice Chairman of the Board. BCDA is a government-owned and controlled corporation which mandate is to convert and develop the former military bases into alternative productive uses.

Among the notable accomplishments of BCDA and its subsidiaries during his term were: rapid development of the central business district in Bonifacio Global City, the development of McKinley West (formerly JUSMAG), the development of Resort World (formerly Villamor Air Base), the construction and operation of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, the longest toll road in the Philippines, the development of Poro Point and the construction of Poro Point Airport, among others.

Despite these accomplishments and stature in his career, both in the military service and after retirement, General Abaya remained humble and unassuming. He will be remembered as a great friend.

MEL ACOSTA

Melchior Acosta retired from the AFP on November 2, 2000.

He served as the Chief of Staff of Senator Greg Honasan from May 1995 to June 2004. He later moved to the National Security Council, acting as Consultant to NSA Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane. He then moved to become Deputy Administrator for Customer Service Regulation, MWSS Regulatory Office.

He was consultant, Office of Zambales Governor Ebdane from May-June 2017. He has been Deputy Administrator, Customer Service Regulation from June 2017 to the present.

Mel Acosta is currently a Trustee, MWSS Board of Trustees.

P/DIR GEN EDGAR B AGLIPAY

P/Director General Edgar B Aglipay compulsorily retired on September 13, 2005. Thereupon, he was appointed as Chairman of the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) on December 2005. Upon appointment, he spearheaded efforts to transform the Philippines as the preferred retirement destination in the region.

To achieve this, he caused the adoption and declaration by then President Arroyo of the Retirement Industry as a Key Flagship Project of her administration. By then, General Aglipay became known as the Retirement Czar of the Government.

On June 6, 2005 he organized the Private Sector Component of the retirement industry as the Philippine Retirement Inc., exemplifying good governance in Public-Private Partnership. This was followed by the Philippine Retirement Industry and Investment Summit on July 2006. To further enhance the services of the Authority, he successfully implemented the streamlining of the PRA organization and crafting of the Global Marketing Plan.

General Aglipay resigned on March 2010 as Chairman of the PRA.

BING ALANO

Bing Alano has been exposed to various management and staff positions in the Bureau of Customs. From 1977-1986 he was Special assistant to the Commissioner in which capacity he helped develop computer-assisted systems and procedures in the processing of import transactions.

As Chief, Assessment Branch, Port of Manila he supervised divisions involved in the processing of import transactions at the Port, from filing of import documents to assessment and collection of import duties on import shipment.

He was then promoted to District Collector, Collection District of Manila where he managed the operations of major ports of entry in Greater Manila Area and adjoining provinces. The District accounted for 80% of total customs revenue.

From Bureau of Customs, Bing Alano moved to the Commission on Immigration and Deportation where he was Associate Commissioner then as Commissioner from July-December 1989.

VIC BATAK

Vic Batak served with Ping Lacson in Task Force Yolanda. With Ping Lacson at the helm of the Task Force, Vic helped to map out a rehab program for areas affected by Yolanda. His stint was short-lived, however due to change in the organizational structure and direction in the rehab program.

Vic is considered one of the “brains” of Class ‘71. He works fast, has no air, and probably offers a human explanation to the saying, “Silent water runs deep!”

DANNY BELONIA

Danny Belonia or “Beloy” to his golf buddies is the “jolly good fellow” in the Air Force group. There is no dull moment with him, whether at work or at play.

After retiring from Cebu Pacific Air, he joined the first Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. He first served as consultant assigned with the Flight Safety Office. He was further designated Pilot Examiner, both for Rotary aircraft and Airbus 320 fixed wing commercial aircraft. He assumed additional duties which included Inspection of Training Organizations being used by pilot trainees here and abroad. He had the opportunity to travel to the USA, India, France, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Hong Kong to perform such duties. He enjoyed this particular job because of the travel opportunities, being an outdoor kind of guy.

After serving three Director Generals, he bade goodbye to Government Service and became Synthetic Flight Instructor at Alpha Aviation Group up to the present.

MGEN CICERO L CASTELLANO

Immediately after retirement from the AFP as Chief of Logistics, J4 in 2004, Boy Castellano was invited by General Abaya, the then Chief of Staff, AFP to join him in the management of RSBS. His stint was short-lived, however, because after a few months, he was designated as EVP/General Manager of the AFP General Insurance Corporation on a full-time status.

Boy Castellano was always “hands-on” in his management style. His post-graduate Masters schooling in the University of New South Wales in Australia and his Masters in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management prepared him well for any task in the AFP and beyond. He was known to be particular with details, more evidently when he was the Wing Commander of the Presidential Airlift Wing where he flew four presidents without gap. It was a record of some sort. He was one of the few alumni who received the prestigious Cavalier Award.

MARTE CHIOCO

Marte Chioco retired in 2002 as Deputy Chief, Intel Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Prior to this, he was deputy J2, AFP.

After retirement from the Armed Forces, he moved to the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency to be the Assistant Director General for Operations from 2003 to 2011. Thereupon, he was promoted to be the Chief of Directorial Staff of NICA from 2009 to 2010. He then moved to become Chief of Directorate for Operations, NICA from 2010 to 2011.

He retired in 2011 but continued to serve as Consultant to NICA and Anti-Terrorism Council up to the present.

POLICE DIRECTOR EFREN FERNANDEZ

Police Director Efren Q Fernandez retired from the police service in 2002 but went on to serve in various government positions with the rank of Undersecretary.

In 2004, he served as President and CEO of the newly organized Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund Incorporated. During his term, he was able to construct a 5-storey building for the Fund and managed it for six years.

After serving as Assistant Secretary for Human Resource and later as Assistant Secretary for Acquisitions, Installations and Logistics of the Department of National Defense, he finally decided to leave the government service. Thereupon, he joined DG Edgar Aglipay as President of EMME Security Consultancy Incorporated.

MANNY FORONDA

Manny Foronda was one of the three members of CI ‘71 who served with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). He was Chief, Licensing and Certification Department (LCD) from 02 Jan 2013 to 30 June 2016. He later took over as OIC, Approved Training Organization and Certification Inspection Division (ATOCID) from 17 June 2012 to 01 Jan 2013. He was also Aviation Safety Inspector LCD from March 2011 to 16 June 2012.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY DANILO FRANCIA

Danny Francia was appointed Assistant Secretary for Plans and Programs at DND after retirement. In this capacity, he accomplished the first complete cycle of the Defense System of Management in 2011-2012. Among others, he accomplished the Rationalization Plan for the whole Department of National Defense. For his effort in holding the first-ever Asian Defense and Security Exposition in the Philippines, he received the Presidential Legion of Honor Medal.

He moved to Cebu to become the CEO/GM of Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority from August 2006 to October 2010. He received the Presidential Medal of Merit for the successful management of Airport Operations for and during the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu.

Prior to this posting, Danny Francia also served as EVP/GM of the AFP General Insurance Corporation from February to December 2004.

ASEC ROLANDO CLARAVALL GARCIA

Rolly Garcia continued to serve the government after retirement in 2005. He was appointed as Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime and concurrently Head, Philippine National Central Bureau, INTERPOL, with the rank of Undersecretary, Office of the President. He served in this capacity until 2010.

It was no accident that ASEC Garcia posted in sensitive and responsible assignments even after retirement. He prepared well for these postings. He holds a Masters degree from the Asian Institute of Management and a PhD on Peace and Security Administration from Bicol University. Earlier, he completed a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the US Army Command and General Staff College.

SENATOR GREG HONASAN

“Wherever we are now, whatever public service we are engaged in, our defining moments were in the noble profession of arms servicing God, country and the Filipino people.”

This was the curt reply of Senator Gregorio Honasan when asked how he defined public service.

Senator Honasan was first elected in the Senate in 1995, the first truly independent in political history to win in national

elections. He has been elected senator four times as an independent candidate. He rose to prominence as one of the leaders of a group of young idealist officers known as the Reform the Armed Forces Movement.

Of late, Gringo was appointed in a very sensitive and important position in the government, that of Chief of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

“Gringo” has been called a rebel, reformist and destabilizer among other less flattering labels. But he is, in his own words “just an ordinary professional soldier thrust into extraordinary circumstances”.

COL CESAR IBO

Col Ibo finished his Masters in Management (MM) from the Asian Institute of Management in May 1981. Prior to this, he obtained his Masters in Business Administration degree from De La Salle University in June 1980. He further honed his management skills by finishing the Trust Management and Investment Operations Course at the Philippine Trust Institute in 1989.

His assignment with RSBS and related financial institutions covered a span of 17 years, initially in concurrent capacity until his optional retirement from the AFP in 1989. He was once Head, Finance Committee of the PMA Alumni Foundation and the PMAAA Development Foundation.

AMBASSADOR EDUARDO “RED” KAPUNAN

Newly designated Ambassador to Myanmar, Red Kapunan was selected as best choice from among a number of candidates. To know who Red Kapunan really is, it is useful to look back to the period from optional retirement up to his latest stint in the government. He effectively applied his experience in organizational development to attain the high standards in the face of adversities. A case in point is when he turned around a virtually dead banking institution into a profitable, proactive and socially responsible financial institution. One may conclude that his experience in the military prepared him well for whatever endeavour he will be involved in, be it in the government or outside.

Between 2007 and 2008, he briefly served as DOTC Assistant Secretary for Iloilo and Bacolod Silay Airport. On July 2008, he was promoted to Deputy General, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.

Of late, he was appointed as Ambassador to Myanmar. Asked how he regards his new designation, he will probably answer, it is active, it is RED.

SENATOR PANFILO LACSON

Ping dreamt to become a lawyer but in a twist of fate, he was admitted to the Philippine Military Academy and became a Cavalier instead of a lawyer. A member of PMA Matatag Class of 1971, Ping learned the virtue of courage, integrity and loyalty in the path of becoming a first-class leader of men.

Rising from the ranks to become Chief of the Philippine National Police from 1999-2001, Ping was known for his uncompromising and sterling leadership.

Consistent with his personal credo which goes: “What is right must be kept right, what is wrong must be set right,” Ping continues to safeguard public interest through his anti-corruption effort.

Refusing to yield to political pressure from interest groups, Senator Lacson continues to advance his agenda to

initiate programs on budget reform, transparency and public accountability, anti-graft and corruption, and public order and security.

That is Ping Lacson.

POLICE GENERAL RICARDO DE LEON

When asked how one should accept the challenge of greatness, then Police Deputy General Ricardo de Leon quoted William Shakespeare, thus, “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.” This was how Dick de Leon described his transition from the uniformed service to the academe.

His appointment as President of the Mindanao State University is unprecedented, being the first Cavalier to be appointed as President of a State University. Dick was President of MSU from September 2005 to January 2008

On April 2, 2014, Dick was appointed as President of the Philippine Public Safety College. He immediately got started by mapping out the PPSC Vision 2020 which encapsulated the Ten-Point Strategic Goals of the college. A visionary, he believes that our homeland security strategy must be founded on the country’s internal capacity and resiliency. Quoting Albert Einstein, he said; “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

COL OSCAR MARTINEZ

Col Oscar Martinez earned his Bachelor of Law from Baguio Colleges Foundation in 1980. He became a member of the Philippine Bar in 1980 after placing number 24 in the Bar Examination in the same year.

He proudly belongs to PMA class of 1971. A recipient of the much coveted Academic Board Star Award for graduating Magna Cum Laude, he was also a Presidential Sabre Awardee for graduating on top of his class. He pursued further studies at the Center for Research and Communications for his Master of Science in Economic Research. It may be recalled that he also pursued a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering at the University of the Philippines in his younger years.

Despite his sterling academic background and outstanding job performance, Oca Martinez remained humble and unassuming, a trait seldom found among top managers nowadays.

BOBBY NAVIDA

Bobby Navida retired from the Armed Forces of the Philippines on June 1995. Prior to this, he was Admin and Security Officer of the Philippine contingent to the Asian Games in Beijing, China. He was also operations and security officer during the Southeast Asian Games in Manila in September 1991.

On September 1996, Bobby took over as Project Development Officer of State Investment Trust, Inc. He was also Chief Operating Officer at BGA Finance Corporation and JSD Corporation PTE Ltd.

Bobby’s last stint with the government prior to retirement was as President/CEO and Vice Chairman of the Board of Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation.

Bobby will be remembered as a jolly good fellow, great lover of music, and a loyal friend.

JESS PAREDES, ATTORNEY AT LAW

Jess Paredes was Assemblyman from 1984 to 1986 representing the Lone district of Ifugao during the interim Batasang Pambansa. He was the first and only assemblyman of

the class. He was also the legal officer of DFA. Jess Paredes was assigned at the Mutual Defense Office of DFA. He was with the Office of the President for the Peace Process, then to the VFA. Subsequently, he was appointed Deputy Administrator, Cultural Minorities Administration. While performing these tasks, he was also acting as Spokesman of the Department of National Defense.

AMBASSADOR JUN PAYNOR

Jun Paynor was born and raised in Baguio City. Before entering PMA in 1967, he was a scholar of the Philippine government at the Mindanao State University.

As a Philippine Constabulary officer, his first assignment was with the Presidential Guard Battalion. After four years, he became the Project Manager of the Information Systems Division, Office of the President.

He took the Foreign Service Exam in 1981 and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in March 1983 as Third Secretary and Vice Consul, Washington DC, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. He became Ambassador to Israel in 2000, at the outbreak of hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians in November 2000. While serving as Ambassador to Israel he was further designated as Presidential Assistant for State and Foreign visits. He held this designation until June 20, 2010.

He was Chief of Presidential Protocol under President Ramos and President Arroyo. In 2014, he was awarded a Presidential Medal of Merit for the Philippines' successful hosting of APEC 2015.

AMBASSADOR REX PIAD

On July 8, 2010, Rex Piad was appointed by President Aquino as Special Envoy on Transnational Crimes, Office of the President, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary. In this capacity he represented the Philippines and participated in all international Dora Conventions, experts meetings, and conferences where transnational crimes issues worldwide were presented.

As a special envoy he negotiated with other countries for training, seminars, and conferences. He participated in the crafting and subsequent follow up of the enactment of several domestic laws in order to comply with our international commitments.

The foregoing was just one of the many functional areas of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crimes, Office of the President. At the helm of all these, Rex Piad performed outstandingly.

JB RAMOS

JB Ramos served as Head, Approved Training Organization and Certification Inspection Division (ATOCID) from 02 January 2013 to 11 July 2016. He was also Aviation Safety Inspector from September 2011 to 01 January 2013.

Before this posting, he flew thousands of hours in the C-130 aircraft, both here and abroad.

USEC ARISTON DE LOS REYES

Ariston del los Reyes is considered the author of the Salary Adjustment Law for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, more particularly concerning their pension benefits.

A day after his retirement as VCSAFP on 16 February 2006, VAdm de los Reyes was appointed as Presidential Assistant 1, the rank of Undersecretary and was given the opportunity to continue his career in public service through the DND. From January 2007 until 15 March

2010, he held the post of Undersecretary for Internal Affairs and served as key adviser of the SND on matters pertaining to personnel administration and information management.

Ariston delos Reyes is a recipient of the prestigious Cavalier Award.

BOB SACRAMENTO

If there is somebody who can recite the Tariff and Customs Code verbatim, it is Bob Sacramento.

His stint with Customs started when he took over as District Collector of Customs in Zamboanga from 1996 to 1999. He then took over the San Fernando, La Union office in 2000, then Iloilo in 2001. Clark, Cebu, and Batangas Customs came next where he served up to 2003.

He later took over the Customs Police Division as its Chief.

Bob has had extensive studies and training in different Asian countries on customs matters. It was no accident that he would be recipient of numerous awards for Academic Excellence for in-house training and foreign courses under the Bureau of Customs.

BGEN LAMBERTO SILLONA

BGen Sillona retired from the military service in 2003. Right after, he joined the Air Transportation Office (ATO) and volunteered to be in the Inspection division. In August of the same year, he represented the Director of ATO in Shanghai, China to inspect TAECO Air Worthiness, the service-provider of PAL.

In April 2004, he joined the Department of National Defense, initially as consultant for logistics then later on as Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Installations and Logistics in June 2008.

He served as chairman of various subcommittees of the Pacific Asia Senior Officers in Logistics Seminar (PASOLS) where he represented the Defense Department in Thailand, Hawaii, Japan, New Zealand, and China.

BGen Sillona later moved to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Personnel where he retired on 24 August 2011.

POLICE DIRECTOR REY VELASCO

Rey Velasco is presently the Administrator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the Vice Chairman of MWSS Board of Trustees. Prior to his appointment, he was Municipal Mayor of Sta Barbara, Pangasinan from 30 June 2007 to 30 June 2010.

It was no accident that he would receive accolades even after retirement from the police service. He was twice recipient of the prestigious Cavalier Award, first in 2002, and second in 2016.

Being an active member of PMA Alumni Association, he was Vice Chairman from 2011 to 2012. He is also active in the affairs of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers having served as trustee from 2003 to 2005.

A truly dependable officer, Ray Velasco will surely make a mark, wherever he may be.

BOBBY YARISANTOS

Bobby Yarisantos has retired from commercial flying and moved to join ATOCID as Aviation Safety Inspector. He remained at CAAP on consultancy basis and has been with ATO since August 2014 to the present.

When interviewed on his retirement from active flying, he maintained that he fondly missed flying military aircraft and the camaraderie with his fellow Air Force pilots.





Getting Connected, Now

• **CAV GREGORIO B HONASAN II '71**
Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology

Digital connectivity became critical during the health crisis of 2020. Now, Information and Communications Technology Secretary Gregorio B. Honasan II is looking at it as the Filipinos' best way forward towards a better normal.

“PROVIDE connectivity. Connect the government to other governments, domestic and global; government to businesses; government to citizens; and everybody to each other—and do it in a faster, cheaper, if not free, and more secure manner.”

Those were our marching orders from President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and this has been our battle cry since we assumed office as lead implementer of the national information and communications technology (ICT) agenda on July 1, 2019. Back then, we assured the public of one thing: bolstered connectivity in the Philippines.

To fulfill President Duterte's directive, a day after we took our oath, we began the mass roll-out of free Internet access points in hospitals in the National Capital Region (NCR) through the revamped Free Wi-Fi for All Program.

In the first two weeks, the DICT provided free Wi-Fi to Quirino Memorial Medical Center (QMMC), V. Luna Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, and the Philippine Children's Medical Center. This deployment was expanded to include other hospitals around the country, particularly in rural areas.

And then, in our first month in office, we ran into an early and unexpected challenge when a string of earthquakes hit Itbayat, Batanes on July 27, 2019.

This was followed three months later by more earthquakes in Mindanao in October 2019. In December, Typhoon Tisoy pounded Southern Luzon and other parts of the country. A month later, Taal Volcano erupted, displacing hundreds of families within the danger zone.

Mandated by Republic Act No. 10844, or the “Department of Information and Communications Technology Act of 2015,” to “assist in the dissemination of vital information essential to disaster

risk reduction through the use of ICT,” the DICT installed free Wi-Fi access points in command centers, emergency facilities, and evacuation centers in disaster-stricken areas to provide information and communication relief to first-responders and internally displaced persons.

‘May contact ba?’

We believed then, as we do now, that communication and access to information are crucial to disaster relief. When there's a calamity, the first thing we ask is, “*May kuryente na?*” We have to learn to ask, “*May contact ba, may communication ba?*” This is how we find out which places and which people most need our help.

Complementing this initiative, the DICT further established free Internet hotspots in different regions in the Philippines by partnering with local government units (LGUs). In September last year, we collaborated with the City of San Juan in rolling out Internet hotspots with 400 mbps bandwidth in barangays and multi-purpose halls, basketball courts, health centers, and public schools. San Juan City was the pilot city for the initiative.

This partnership demonstrated how working together could result in faster implementation of projects. In the ensuing months, the province of Zambales and the cities of Dagupan in Pangasinan and Angeles in Pampanga signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DICT for the implementation of the Free Wi-Fi for All Program.

We led the DICT in simultaneously reaching 17 regions with the program, launching 23 sites last October as part of our first 100 days in office. This was followed by the activation of 31 more free Wi-Fi sites in the provinces of Albay, Isabela, Lanao Del Sur, and Palawan, and in the city of Davao last March 2020.

We brought free Internet access to 184 citizens of the remote island of Pag-asa in the Kalayaan Group of Islands. Some residents reportedly used the connection to look for alternative opportunities for livelihood, as well as for enhancing education for young people. This only underscored what we have learned during this pandemic: that data is the new oil, the new gold. Access to data has become



a right, along with access to food, clothing, shelter, education, and health services. It will change the game, and it will change the lives of our people.

ICT was further thrust into the limelight in the Philippines in 2020, as the country began and continues its fight against COVID-19. ICT has become an indispensable resource, ensuring unhampered and secure connectivity for the Filipino people.

The Department has developed and implemented programs aimed at strengthening ICT development in the country, especially digital connectivity, cybersecurity, e-governance, digital literacy and competency, COVID-19 mitigation response, and emergency communications during and after disasters, among others.

The pandemic has forced the country, the public and the private sector included, to migrate services and resources online. Thus, in coordination with other government agencies, the DICT has worked diligently to meet the demands of our new reality, and fast-tracked the country's transition to a digital environment.

Government blueprint

Among the priorities of the DICT this year is the completion of the National Broadband Program (NBP), the continuous deployment of free Wi-Fi sites, and the issuance and implementation of the Common Tower Policy to facilitate the roll-out of connectivity infrastructure, as the demand for faster and more reliable Internet continues to rise.

The NBP is the government's blueprint for deploying broadband connectivity to reach geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas of the country, where the services of private telecommunications companies are limited.

This year, the DICT successfully tested 158 dark fiber segments and lit up 124 nodes of the National Grid Corporation of the

Philippines (NGCP). Internet connectivity has also been provided to 792 agencies on 13 GovNet sites.

To date, the Free Wi-Fi for All Program under Republic Act 10929, or the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act, has put up a total of 7,556 active live sites, 4,305 of which were activated between January 1 and December 28, 2020. More than 2,000 of these sites were allocated to government hospitals and rural health units (including quarantine facilities), and more than 2,200 sites went to public schools, state universities and colleges, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (or TESDA) institutions.

As a long-term measure to improve Internet connectivity in the country, last May, the DICT released Department Circular No. 008, series of 2020, or "Policy Guidelines on the Co-Location and Sharing of Passive Telecommunications Tower Infrastructure for Macro Cell Sites," most commonly referred to as the Common Tower Policy.

Complementing this initiative was the issuance last July of Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, series of 2020, or "Streamlined Guidelines for the Issuance of Permits, Licenses, and Certificates for the Construction of Shared Passive Telecommunications Tower Infrastructure (PTTI)," to minimize requirements and reduce procedural delays in securing the necessary permits, licenses, clearances, certificates, and other documents for constructing shared PTTIs or common towers. This circular helped reduce processing time from 241 days to 16 days; for the issuance of permits, from 13 to eight days; and for release of documentary requirements, from 86 to 35 days.

The DICT recently digitalized the application procedure for the registration of independent tower companies with the launch of its Common Tower Registration Portal at <https://commontower.gov.ph/>.

Last June 30, the DICT launched the Digital Cities 2025 Program, where 25 digital cities were identified as potential sites outside Metro Manila for information technology-business process management (IT-BPM) investment.

These 25 new Digital Cities shall be transformed into ICT hubs to serve as business and innovation centers, and will receive support from the government and the private sector to ensure that each location achieves its potential.

The Department is also expediting the roll-out of cybersecurity management platforms in all the 12 critical information infrastructures, as identified in the DICT's National Cybersecurity Plan 2022. The DICT will put up security operations command centers in key government agencies, particularly the 12 CIIs, and invest in capacity building and training for various sectors and the general public.

E-governance

In response to President Duterte's consistent directive to fast-track the transition of government services online, the DICT, in coordination with other government agencies, continued the development of the Central Business Portal (CBP).

The CBP is a central system to streamline business processes in government. The planned national launch in early 2021 will feature a centralized system where business applicants can apply for a certificate of registration for their corporation from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and subsequently be issued employer numbers from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or the Pag-IBIG Fund, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the Social Security System (SSS). These are among the many features of the portal that will continually be added into the system.

Further, participants from concerned agencies will be trained to ensure that they can support business applicants in their respective regional offices.

The DICT has also had a hand in enhancing business registrations at the local level by strengthening the implementation of the Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System (eBPLS), which is now transitioning into a more functional system known as the Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS).

The iBPLS is concerned with the development, maintenance, and implementation of application systems to help LGUs expedite the processing and issuance of business and building permits, certificates of occupancy, and barangay clearances. With iBPLS, filing, processing, payment, and issuance of permits and licenses can be done online.

To date, 159 LGUs have been provided with eBPLS clouds or data centers, while 16 LGUs have been provided iBPLS clouds for the pilot implementation of the system.

The CBP is set to centralize local government business applications by integrating systems such as the eBPLS or iBPLS into the portal. The Department has recently completed Application Programming Interface (API) coding for the linkage between CBP and eBPLS. Quality assurance tests for this are ongoing.

Meanwhile, the DICT's Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI) has garnered more than 3,000 subscribers nationwide. More than 50 percent of this has been allocated to national government agencies and their attached offices. PNPKI's benefits include confidentiality, integrity, authenticity, security, and non-repudiation of electronic documents and transactions.

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) and Commission on Audit (CoA) recently granted clearance to government agencies and LGUs to use the digital signatures issued through the PNPKI.

Digital competency

We also believe that Filipinos' digital literacy and ICT competency should also be given priority. Complementary to providing connectivity is ensuring cybersecurity, as well as providing our countrymen with the skills and tools needed to navigate this digital environment.

As part of this campaign, the DICT, through its ICT Literacy and Capacity Development Bureau (ILCDB), Cybersecurity Bureau, and Regional Clusters, have conducted various training sessions and webinars for 2020, which were participated in by teachers, students, government and private employees, and the general public.

Among the topics discussed were ICT tools and solutions in transitioning to digital or virtual education, maximizing ICT at work, cybersecurity, digital literacy, and "technopreneurship."

In support of the education sector's move to implement blended learning for the current school year, the DICT has strengthened its Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Project to provide Internet connectivity and ICT tools needed for online learning to Filipino students and teachers, especially those in communities with minimal or no access to information and government services. We now have a total of 4,544 Tech4ED centers covering 81 provinces nationwide.

As part of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) and the unified government approach to fighting the COVID-19 health crisis, the DICT has developed ICT systems aimed at mitigating the effects of the pandemic all over the country.

Among these are the Rapid Pass System aimed at fast tracking the movement and access of Filipinos through designated checkpoints during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in the country. With Rapid Pass, accredited front-liners and authorized personnel can simply flash their unique QR codes,

reducing unnecessary physical contact. As of October 2020, more than 700,000 registrations had been received by the Department.

The Philippine Humanitarian Assistance Registry (PHAR) Website aims to provide government transparency through the monitoring and tracking of local and foreign humanitarian assistance to the Philippine government. The PHAR is a joint initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), and the DICT. The website will also be used to monitor any assistance received during calamities and crises in the future.

The Supply Chain Management (SCM) system tracks the inventory of procured and donated medicines, medical equipment, and supplies from local and foreign sources, and effectively allocates donations to receiving entities. The system aims to manage the distribution of procured and donated medicines, medical equipment, and supplies to address COVID-19, assuring transparency and accountability through the real-time generation of reports.

Emergency communications

Earthquakes and typhoons also struck the country in the latter part of 2020. Recognizing the importance of communications during these times, the DICT mobilized its emergency communications teams to aid communities adversely affected by these calamities.

The DICT continued to install Free Wi-Fi and provided emergency communications equipment to disaster-hit areas this year. The DICT is looking to further intensify its emergency response with the Government Emergency Communications System (GECS), which is expected to provide an enhanced level of public safety by providing early advisories and warnings before the onset of a disaster.

GECS provides information and services to affected communities to help them come up with better mechanisms for emergency response and coordination with local emergency service providers. They may also use this information in rehabilitation efforts for affected areas.

The DICT partnered with the United Nations World Food Program (UN-WFP) in the procurement of the GECS Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (MOVE), and in conducting emergency awareness campaigns. In addition, the DICT has launched an information caravan covering four initial deployment sites for the GECS-MOVE: Baguio City, Cebu City, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao.

In the four years since its establishment as a Department in 2016, DICT's role has never been as important as it is now.

We are optimistic that the Department's programs and initiatives will lay the groundwork for digital transformation during and even beyond the health crisis. We hope to maximize ICT in aiding the nation's transition to new living and working conditions, laying the necessary groundwork for a better normal.

There is no way of knowing when this pandemic will end, but on the part of DICT, we will continue to exhaust every means to fulfill our mandate as the lead Department in implementing the national ICT agenda, and to assist the government in this battle. We will be needing the public's support in the coming months and years.

This year has been very challenging for the Department. With the sudden urgency to transition to digital, we needed to double our efforts to meet what is expected of us, what is required by the President, and what is needed by the Filipino people. We are looking to improve further on what we have accomplished in year 2020, and to an even better 2021.

The transition of society to the digital world has been accelerated due to the pandemic, and it is not going to slow down—so neither should we.



EMME Consultancy, Inc.

• CAV WENCESLAO A CRUZ JR., CAV FERNANDO Z FRANCISCO, AND CAV JOSE C LALISAN JR

In the early 2005 while PGD Edgar B. Aglipay, Ret. was Chairman of the Philippine Retirement Authority, the top management of SM Holdings offered him the top security position of the conglomerate. Having already an established security business, he considered it a conflict of interest. Instead, he responded by offering the owners a consultancy group to serve as “devil’s advocate” as far as security matters are concerned. In this way, Egay’s security agencies are not conflicted. He sought the help of his classmate, Doy Francisco (who was then serving as Acting GM, PRA) to organize and develop the consultancy due to his IT consultancy exposure in North America. Their first move was to recruit an On-site Executive Consultant to SM, someone with an impeccable integrity in the AFP. Retired Admiral Ruben Domingo was selected as such. Later on, Egay met with Sonny Yan, Doy Francisco, Ben Domingo, and Wency Cruz to formalize the group into a corporation. Initial incorporators were Egay as Chairman, Sonny as Executive VP, Doy Francisco as President, Mawie (Egay’s better half) as Corporate Treasurer.

As the business expanded, Wency Cruz was invited to provide expertise in Real Estate Industry, which was booming that time. Other members of PMA Class 1971 who have served with distinction while in the military service and with experiences and skills in other major industries in the country were invited to join as well. They were Joey Lalisán, DA Domingo, Teddy Runes, Rey Rivera, and Romy Dominguez. DA, Romy, and Rey respectfully declined due to prior commitments that required their full focus. The criteria initially for employment in the consultancy was a proven competence and integrity in the respective fields of security and safety. Wency’s appointment proved invaluable for his expertise on mall and commercial centers/real Estate Industry/Retail Fashion Industry, Sonny for his tactical and strategic intelligence exposure. Later on when Art Lim came on board, he was appointed as Office Manager and Intelligence Officer and Joey Lalisán for PNP Liaison and On-Site Executive Consultant for Honda and Atlantic Gulf & Pacific.

When Doy returned to Canada, EQ Fernandez was invited as President, providing his top-level police and mutual benefit expertise to the consultancy. Later on, other executive consultants were appointed to oversee the ever expanding business. To name a few: Manny Briones, a graduate of West Point, providing expertise in Overseas Security Operations; Jun Plantado, a former Commander of UN Forces to Haiti, sharing his expertise in University Facilities Security; John Salvana, in Cyber Technology; Jack Tan, Port Operations and Shippings; Bob Sacramento, Customs Operations and Foreign Business ventures; Bert Tagamolila, Real Estate and Executive Protection Operations; and currently, other younger generation Executive Consultant entrants with their varied fields of expertise in security and safety.



The Emci Annual Strategic Planning in Tagaytay.

As time went on, with the expanding opportunities in business started opening up, the consultancy growth became unprecedented. It took over the Cagayan Group of businesses (Cyber or EGame and Casino), Medical Supplies Businesses, Wellness Products and Detergent Business, Airport Security, Po Steel Industry(Asia), Alternative Power Industry, Golf and other Real Estate Businesses. Many institutional firms also signed up with Egay, like the Defense and Government Industries from China, South Korea, Israel, USA, and Japan.



The Emci Executive Consultants.



A typical Emci Mancom Meeting.

To date, ECI has its hand full in other business offerings. The latest and newest ventures of RG Domingo in addition to his 76 SM Malls are Malls and Commercial Centers of the Araneta (Greenhill Complex and Tiendisitas Complex in Pasig) and the Office High Rise Building of Coppel Singapore. Recently, thru the efforts of the Consultancy connections, the security of the US Properties to include the Embassy and Consulate residences were handed over to the Emme Security Group. It is not a wonder, therefore, that the Emme Group landed as one of the top 500 Enterprises in the country in the past year. The establishment of Emme Consultancy Inc.(ECI) as a business venture run by retired security officers later was tapped by the national leadership as a national defense/ security support system for its strategic and “Out of the Box” think tank partner.

In the Philippine Security Consultancy Industry, ECI is second to none. The Consultancy has achieved a name for itself, not only in the country but internationally. The proof of the matter are the formal intents or requests from professional industries of other countries (US, Israel, China, South Korea, Japan) for MOA or Business venture tie-ups.

Much of the business earnings are given back to the people, internal as well as external, as its corporate social responsibility. During many disasters and calamities that severely impacted our countrymen, Egay quickly sends money, sacks of relief goods and truckloads of material needs for those being affected in the entire country. In one specific instance, after the Habagat Storm “Yolanda” damaged an Iloilo Parish Church and destroyed the livelihood of many of its parishioners, the priest approached Egay for assistance. Without hesitation, Egay personally invited him in their home in Villa Verde, Pasig and sent him back to his parish church with truckloads of relief goods, P1.5M cash, plus donating

the very truck that was also loaded with construction materials. Yet he barely knew the priest.

The Chairman of Emci, is a very compassionate and generous person, he never refuses plea for assistance, especially from Mistah and subordinates. Not many knows that Egay financed and supported our long bed ridden late mistah Ed Mana-ay, who suffered a stroke, early in his career in the PNP and many more Mistahs and their families in need.

He is also supporting many former subordinates lingering in prisons for alleged offenses while performing their duties.

This is Emme Consultancy Inc., the alter ego of P/Dir Egay Aglipay, the King Midas with a heart!



Executive Consultant Joey Lalisan in action at EEI.





Noon mass in Santiago, Spain for the pilgrims arriving from their Camino pilgrimage.

TRAVEL BUG

• CAV SOCRATES BRAZAL '71

*“Travel, in the younger sort, is part of education.
In the elder, a part of experience” – Francis Bacon*

My love for travel started in high school. Part of the curriculum of UP Preparatory High School was educational tours, where we learned regional cultures through immersion and interaction with students in the area. Then the first international travel of PMA cadets to Taiwan opened a new horizon.

“Travel is never a matter of money, but of courage.” – Paulo Coelho

We were both involved in planning our trips. Weet was the S2 and I was the S3/4. Being well read, Weet wanted to see and experience what she had read in the books and magazines. She told me which cities or countries she would like to see and I planned and put things in operations. Being an Ilocano, I planned the cheapest way of executing the trip - seat sale airfares, public transports and B&B accommodations. Street food not only gave us an opportunity to taste local delicacies but also saved us money.

When we became empty nesters, Weet and I started travelling in earnest. We started with the usual travel destinations in Western Europe. We visited the cities and sites where millions of tourists usually go. We still do. But having been a plebe, the out of the ordinary experiences are the ones that stick in the mind. These are the stories told and repeated.

“Jobs fill your pocket. Adventures fill your soul.” – Jaime Lyn Beatty

Prior to retirement, I have been building my network of contacts. I was determined to do consulting work, where I figured I can control

my time and also get more money than being employed. I gave myself six to nine months after retirement to relax before embarking on the new career. Within that time period, my desire to travel grew and my plan to do consulting faded.

**“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”
- Henry Miller**

When we got caught up with the fitness craze, we travelled where we could do races. I ran marathons or half marathons and Weet walked 5K or 10 K races. Most of them were in the US or Canada but we later went farther to Athens, Greece and Sydney, Australia. When running started to take a toll on my knees, we switched to hiking, trekking and walking. I trekked to the Everest Base Camp and around Annapurna in Nepal, alone. Weet was not able to join me because of a problem. We walked the Samarian Gorge in Crete and hiked the Inca Trail to Machu Pichu. We climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro with my classmates Cav Bing Alano and Cav Jun Fabros.

Is global warming real or a hoax? Back in 2009 while trekking through the Argentinian Andes, our guide mentioned that most of Argentina’s glaciers were retreating, except for Perito Moreno which was still advancing about a meter a year. Later on, we saw glaciers, in New Zealand’s Southern Alps, Iceland, Greenland, and the fjords of Chile and the Canadian Arctic, which retreated several kilometers. Shrinking glaciers were also evident in Antarctica. The Inuits of Nunavut and Greenland told us how their lives were



View of Dome of the Rock and Old Jerusalem from the Church of Domus Flevit in Mt. Olive.

affected by global warming. Even some of the polar bears that we saw in late summer looked emaciated due to lack of food.

On the way to Antarctica, we stopped in the wind swept islands of Falkland or Malvinas where the sheep, penguins and birds outnumbered people. It is hard to comprehend why two countries claiming these islands went to war in the '80s. Christmas Eve in Grytviken, South Georgia was touching. We had a multi-denominational Christmas service in a tiny church, built in the early 1900 and previously used by explorers and whalers. It is now maintained by a nearby scientific research station.

In Antarctica, we had to vacuum our outerwear, backpacks and other things we had to bring, before landing and exploring the islands, to ensure that we were not bringing any foreign species into the territory. I remember a similar protocol we experienced when travelling from one Galapagos island to another. Bags were checked and we had to step through foot baths before embarking and after disembarking the boat.

"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." – Neale Donald Walsch

If we had to take multi-day excursions from a base city, we usually joined tours designed for millennials. Being with people who were younger than our daughters was a different kind of experience and it was cheaper. We ventured every nook and cranny of the Great Ocean Road in Australia with a dozen college students. We shared, with a younger crowd, the novelty and excitement of riding camels and sleeping overnight in a Berber camp in the desert of Morocco. In another instance, we had fun going around the wilds of Tasmania and jumping from the top of sand dunes. Weet and I also explored Bolivia's Altiplano with two young European women.

"The unexpected adventure makes a better story" - Lynn O'Rourke

There were adrenaline rush incidents then, which can now be shrugged or laughed off. During an unscheduled pee break, another passenger and I were left by the bus in the middle of nowhere in Bolivia. Weet, with the help of other passengers in the bus, were frantically telling the driver to stop. We had to run after the bus for more than 200 meters in the dark of the night. On an overnight trip to Benguet, Philippines, we noticed that all the passengers in the bus were wearing thick jackets and covered with thick blankets. We were

just wearing light jackets since it was summer. We were unprepared for the uncontrolled blast of cold air from the bus' air conditioning system. We ended up wrapping ourselves with the dusty curtains for the duration of the ride. Navigating the medina in Fez, Morocco, under normal circumstances, was already daunting. After dinner, on the way back to our riad somewhere in the medina, a group of young boys played a prank on us by blocking our way and telling us that we could not pass because the road was closed. Avoiding confrontation, we turned back and tried to find another way. Luckily, I had a map of the medina.

"I see a sense of unity in the universe. Spirituality is not limited to only one religion. One can experience it across different religions."
- Amish Tripathi

Weet and I are open to know more about other faiths. We walked the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain to reflect on our Catholic faith. We experienced the rich Japanese culture and traditions by doing the 33 temple pilgrimage in Chichibu. While strolling the suburbs of Istanbul, Turkey we walked into an old mosque where an imam graciously guided us inside the mosque, explained the different Muslim practices and traditions, and showed us the mosque's art collections. We walked, clockwise, and turned prayer wheels around Buddhist temples and stupas in Myanmar and Bhutan.

"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page"
- Saint Augustine

When we arrive in a city, we usually take the free city walking tours - just tip the guide. Most of the time, the guides were history students or teachers trying to earn extra income. Visiting Eastern Europe gave us insight on the changes that happened when the Soviet Union collapsed. The young have high hopes that their economic options would be better with the opening of their countries to the EU. But they also understand why their parents' generation are nostalgic for the old order (guaranteed accommodation and basic supplies). The Baltic countries together with Poland and Hungary are angry at the Soviets, for snatching the freedom they were fighting for from the Nazis, by pretending to be their "liberators". In Belgrade, our guide gave me a 500 Million banknote after telling us how the Serbians lived during the hyperinflation days in Yugoslavia.

As we aged, Weet wanted a bit more comfort in accommodations and discriminated on food. My younger daughter accompanied me to Mongolia, Tibet and Nepal. After enduring a two-day train ride from Beijing to Lhasa, we learned first hand how China annexed Tibet, tried to destroy all the Buddhist religious manuscripts and incentivized Chinese to relocate to Tibet to outnumber the Tibetans. The scenic drive from Lhasa to Kathmandu, Nepal was through the



Colony of King penguins at the tongue of a glacier in Antarctica.



Camel ride to the Berber Camp in Morocco.

recently completed Friendship Highway. In Mongolia, we stayed with a nomadic family who slaughtered a sheep and shared with us Mongolian stew. Although we were a bit early for the Naadam Festival, the men showed us how they train for the horse racing events.

“The more I traveled the more I realized that fear makes strangers of people who should be friends.” – Shirley MacLaine

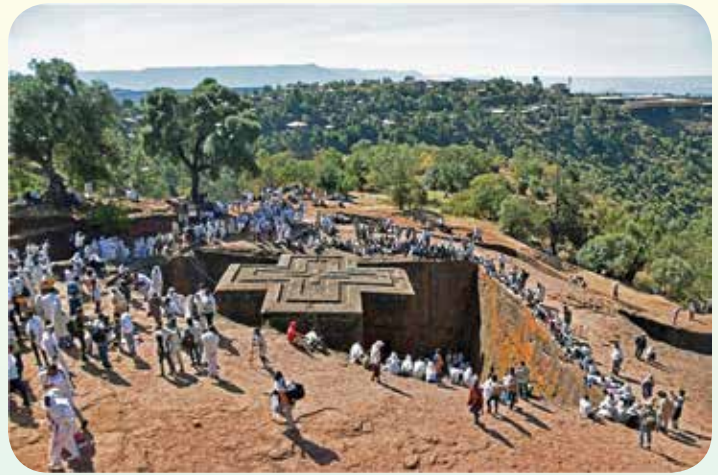
The longest we stayed in one place was three months. Weet and I volunteered at a pilgrims’ house, managed by nuns, in the Muslim Quarter of Old Jerusalem. We worked in housekeeping, kitchen, dining room, reception and laundry with Palestinians, Christians, Orthodox and Muslims. There was camaraderie among us. Everyone was willing to take up extra work shifts when someone got caught in the arbitrary checkpoints set up by the Israeli security. We talked freely during meals and after our work shifts - about politics, cultures, the aspirations and dreams of the younger staff and anything under the sun. What surprised us was how the Palestinian staff cheered US President Obama when he “drew a line in the sand” as Syrian President Assad threatened an offensive against his own people. They were disappointed when the US did nothing as Assad carried out the threat.

We were there long enough to experience the tension in the country. The Israeli security were on high alert during Ramadan and the Jewish holy days as the Jews and the Muslims wanted to worship in the same place (Jews call it the Temple Mount while Muslims call it the Haram esh-Sharif). Once, we got trapped in a narrow street of Old Jerusalem as hundreds of Jewish youth marched to the Temple Mount.

“Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.” – Anita Desai

We get a feeling of connection to places we visited. The devastating explosion in Beirut made us feel sorry for the Lebanese. Lebanon is a very beautiful country in spite of the government and its leaders having failed the country and its people. Two years ago, we were walking the city of Beirut - along the promenade, the campus of the American University of Beirut and the city centre, where some buildings still showed the scars of war and government buildings were surrounded by Concertina wires and checkpoints. Well maintained historical/archaeological sites dot the lovely countryside.

We were sad for those we befriended in Ethiopia when we read about the fighting between factions in the country. Just as the pandemic was starting, we were in the northern region of Ethiopia



Church of Saint George, the most recognizable and most photographed church in Lalibela, Ethiopia during Gena.

celebrating Gena (Coptic Christmas) and Timkat (Epiphany). The food was good, the history, culture and the ceremonies were interesting but what stuck in my mind, for whatever reason, was the difference between the Ethiopian and Western calendar and time.

“I haven’t been everywhere, but it’s on my list.” - Susan Sontag

While we were exploring Antarctica, we met a nice young Chinese American couple and we were talking about travel experiences. We learned about the TCC or Travelers’ Century Club - a club of travelers who have visited 100 countries or more. Whether one is a member of the club or not, having visited 100 countries is a feat. They had already visited 80 countries. The husband even joked that if one wants to fast track visiting 100 countries, take a cruise in the Caribbean. After that conversation, out of curiosity, I made a list of the countries we had been to. I had around 70 and Weet, 7 less. Four years and more than 20 countries later, we have to take a pause travelling because of the pandemic.

“In Life, It’s Not Where You Go, It’s Who You Travel With.” - Charles Schulz



The Potala Palace, now a museum in Lhasa, Tibet, was the winter palace of the Dalai Lamas from 1649 to 1959.



Beyond four decades of waiting for me and one year for my wife to journey back to Bongao, Tawi Tawi! Mine was personal. I made the promise to climb, Bud Bongao, in memory of our fallen Marines, in the early 1973, in the battle of Karongdong, Tawi Tawi.



Tawi Tawi

3,608 STEPS to the Tomb of the Holy Man

• CAV WENCY A CRUZ JR '71



Bud Bongao, Municipality of Bongao

Bud Bongao, the mystical rainbow (Bangaw) mountain of Tawi Tawi. Cloaking its secrets in mist, Bud Bongao rearing steeply 340 meters above the sea level, is Tawi Tawi's most famous mountain. This mountain cliff is considered sacred by the locals, who believe that it has a power to heal people of sickness and cleanse them of their sins. Many locals hike up to ask for blessings for good health, to pray in the Muslim shrines along the way, or as a form of thanksgiving. Bud Bongao is a monkey sanctuary known as "Uwangs". Beware, the guardians of the rainbow mountain, are present everywhere! "The guardian stared with steely orbs the color of flame – gauging our character and purity. Baring his yellow teeth, he held out an upturned palm, barring us from going

further. We should give offerings, cautioned a sweating guide of my climbing team. Having climbed this mountain many times before, the guide cautiously untied a knotted plastic bag, took a crusty piece of bread, and tossed it to the waiting warden. Delighted, the long-tailed macaque snatched the treat and hooted off into the forest. Relieved, we trekked on. Bud Bongao's guardians had allowed us passage" This was how I was cautioned by a former climber.

So, last August 2019, my wife and I travelled to Bongao Tawi Tawi, to attend the 50th Anniversary of Mindanao State University-Sulu College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-SCTO). My tagging along with my better half, as I earlier mentioned was personal, than just attending the anniversary activities. The first day, our host, Professor Felimon Romero and his beautiful and most kind wife, Prof. Mel Romero, obliged me. We proceeded, by land, to Batu Batu, Naval Station. Both knew how nostalgic and important that place was to me. Batu Batu was where I was first posted as Platoon commander of the Marine 1st Scout Raider unit in 1972, to reinforce the then beleaguered Naval Station Batu Batu. This was also the very place where I met my wife, in the forward edge of the battle area, the Hill 49. I was also lucky to see the very Church, where my Marine Company, the 14th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team3 (MBLT3), was stationed during the height of the conflict in 1973.

The night before our scheduled climb/trek to Bud Bongao Peak, I was happy to stumble over the Marine Battle Monument in the City. It gave me a creep to read the names of the first fallen Marines in the province from my Scout Raider Platoon: the late SSgt Charito Cacho and PFC Ronquillo.



Marine Battle Monument

D-Day, 6 August 2019, in spite my asthma attack the night before, the four(4) members of our team; Prof. Mel Romero, her son, Ogie (our guide), my MasMatatag Puring, and me registered at the Visitor's Center, Bud Bongao Forest Park.

My excitement was indescribable, only to hesitate. Can I make this trek to the peak, not only because of my asthma, more so at the senior age of 73, can my knees handle the 3608 steps to the Tomb of the Holy Man?

Probably, it would be easier for my knees if the route would be the usual dirt trails, mud, and vines; but cobblestone's staircase?



Cobblestone Stair to Eternity

Another hesitation to proceed and make my first step to Bud Bongao was I forgot my offering to the Guardians! Side stepping towards the forest, I attempted to look for banana plants hoping to stumble for ripped fruits.

Just my luck, Ogie called my attention pointing at the plastic bag in his hand. BANANAS!!

I have to make fast to catch up with the two ladies who went ahead. In the Forest Park to the peak, there are 14 Resting Sheds and I was able to catch up with them at the first shed. Fortunately enough, I have not met any of the Guardians yet.



As we continued our climb, these were some of the Bud Bongao's features that met us, before the Guardian's appearance:

After about at the middle of the trek and climbed, about 1500 steps, the Ladies requested for another rest, as they were sweating like the dickens, and their knees were already wobbling. Just then, these were the views that met us as we settled at the Resting Shed.

Whaaaa, that dog made it easy this far?

I asked permission from the Ladies to go ahead as I wanted to see whatever mystical things atop the mountain; frankly I was just challenged by the sight of that dog ahead of us.

Ogie and I went ahead of the Ladies, and just after reaching that crest of the above cobblestone stairs, the Guardians appeared before our eyes.



Offering and feeding time!!!

After the Guardians were satisfied of their curiosities and the offerings, we were left to go our way.

Before we separated from the Ladies, some few steps ahead where they rested, we tried some vertical vines that were usually used by climbers during the old days when the cobblestones stairs were not yet constructed.

After about 30 more minutes of climbing the steps of cobblestones, Ogie and I reached the cross-trail to Simunul and Tambisan peak which is called "Tampat Rocks". It is worthy to mention here that Bud Bongao actually is a mountain composed of six (6) towering limestone Peaks: BONGAO (the pointed peak at 230 MASL), SIBUTU (342 MASL), SIMUNUL (328 MASL), TAMBISAN (317 MASL), TINONDAKAN (309 MASL), and PAJAR (260 MASL).



Before the cross-trail mentioned above, we passed thru Simunul Peak where the Globe Station Tower was located. A little bit farther we passed by the Tomb of the Holy Man.



The picture of the Shrine

Further the trail towards the Tambisan Peak, where we were heading, we passed by another Tomb of a Holy man.



Between these Holy Tombs we noted a notice that says:



I heard nobody contested this statement, though..

On further the trail, I remember my wife mentioning to me that at the peak, there is a water hole that is also guarded by the white monkeys (they became extinct when Bongao hosted military units at the height of the conflict in Tawi Tawi. I personally witnessed the abuse done to Bongao Island during my short stint there; can you imagine soldiers going to Pasiagan Shoreline fishing with their M16 rifle to catch smallest of fish...?)



Then, the last stretch of our trek was going down the trail to Tambisan Peak, where the View Deck was constructed for climbers to enjoy the breathtaking view of the world!

On that clear, sunny day, the outline of Sabah, Malaysia can be seen from the summit. Other islands of Tawi Tawi, including Simunul, Sibutu, Sitangkai, and some other small islets can be viewed. Standing on the peak just looking at the magnificent view was just an awesome experience and I could not help but feel proud of myself!!!



Then, the moment of truth, Bud Bongao Peak!

A little rest and viewing the whole Island and the rest of small Islets around, then it was time to leave and go down to meet up with the Ladies.

Last look of the battle ground of Karongdong from Bud Bongao and also "Susong Dalaga" (a Prominent Hill, in Batu Batu) from afar.

The total time we stayed at Bud Bongao and its environ was around two (2) hours with an hour to climb up and about another hour to view, rest, and trek down to Visitor's Center.



And, my asthma was gone....ALLAHU AKBAR!!!



Greetings and best wishes to all Jubilarians, 2021

from

VADM Ariston V Delos Reyes and Family



Think
outside the box
Itama ang mali-
kung gusto
may paraan;
kung ayaw
maraming
dahilan.





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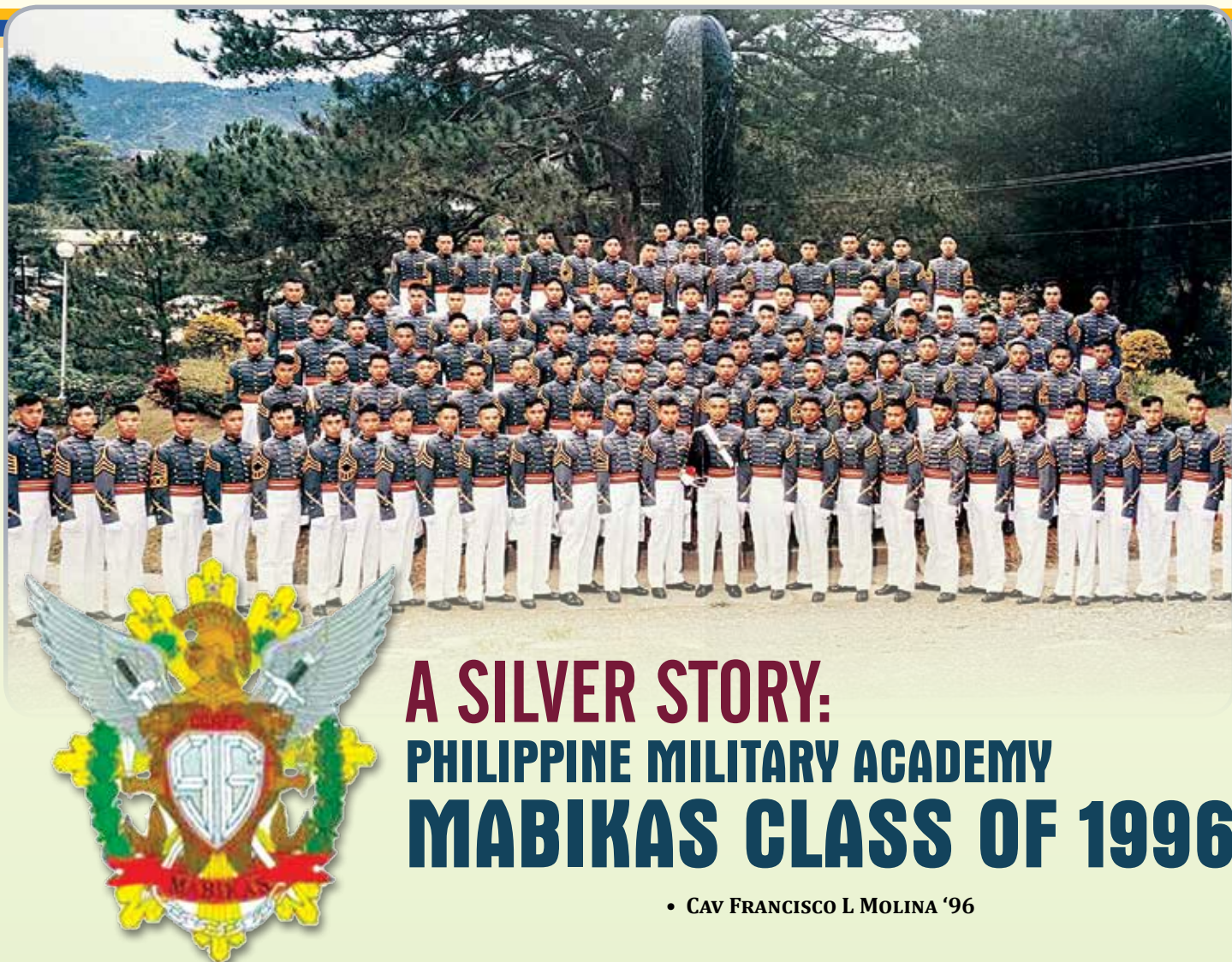


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A SILVER STORY: PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY MABIKAS CLASS OF 1996

• CAV FRANCISCO L MOLINA '96

History of the **MABIKAS**
Men
Announcing
Bold
Integrity
Keeping
Abreast
Sagacity

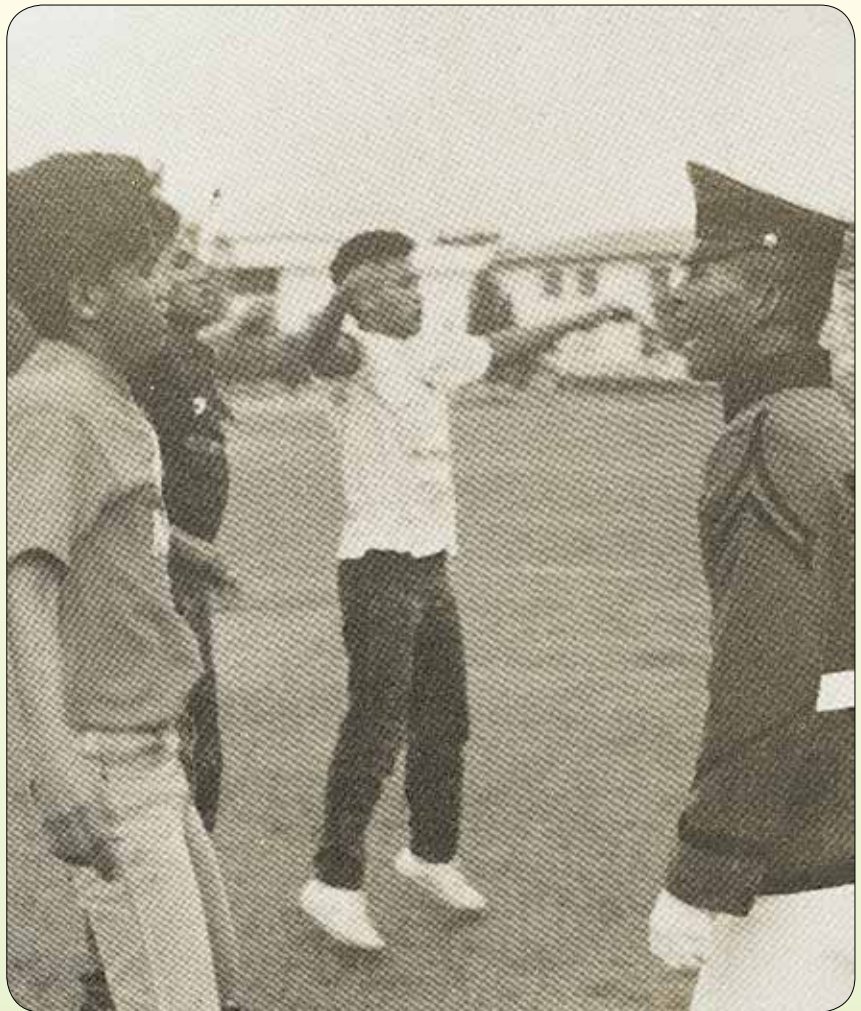
FOURTHCLASS YEAR (the CHALLENGE)

The shocking acceptance... the RECEPTION CEREMONY... formally introduce us, the members of the class of 1996, to the rigors of four-years stay in this gray-clad lifestyle. The following days are widely opening our senses into the demanding nature of cadetship. The two-month duration of "BEAST BARRACKS" becomes our shock absorber to get along with the challenges of the combined forces of physical training, mental concords, moral stipulations and psychological restrain (who can forget the constant cravings for foods, drinks, and sleeps?). The dramatic entry to the ranks of the upperclassmen terminates our adjustment period in a simple but rewarding "INCORPORATION CEREMONY". The additional loads of academic requirements as the first semester starts and the higher standard expected from us augment our thrilling but enchanting way of life. The agony of arduous waiting finally put an end when the upperclassmen rewards us the "BLESSED HANDSHAKE" of recognition to our achieved feat. The robot-like treatment changes to more humanistic dealings as we shoulder more responsibilities. The demand of the time-honored tradition of unparalleled excellence in pursuing every undertaking becomes our major responsibility.

No more double timing, severe chinning in, trotting, reciting menus and guard details, side stepping, and countless squat thrusts. The commencement of the 100 days' countdown before the Immaculates' graduation makes us experience the lighter side of cadetship with the staging of the 100th Nite Show. The parades, Saturday inspections, class formations, and Intramurals reinforce our rapid growth to finally join the cadet corps' major performances such as the 1992 AFP anniversary parade at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, our first breath of the free atmosphere after months of severe isolation. The Christmas season brings different tunes as we still hear the bugle calls signaling reveille, mess formations, ICTQ. Tattoo and taps inspections. The encounter with the Academy's head during the Superintendent reception makes us aware of who he is in close proximity. The hop (cadet's dance party) makes us apply the basics of social graces and etiquette and introduces us to a unique way of entertaining lady visitors, our chance to verify the beauties of Baguio City. A day tour to the beautiful spots around the city brings our attention to the amazing wonders of nature. The reward boodles to our blended voices as we go on caroling in the houses of our officers complement our cravings for boodlefright to at least lessen the thought of our respective homes. The comeback of our dear upperclassmen treats as once more to a feast of their "pasalubong". The FOUNDATION DAY and ALUMNI HOMECOMING activities bring us closer to our goal. Finally, the graduation of Class 1993 signals our elevation in the next stage of cadetship.

THIRDCCLASS YEAR (the GRIND)

The graduation of the class of 1993 finally elevates us to the first strippers level. The designation as assistant squad leaders, platoon guides and sergeants serve as our entryway to the upperclass corps and gives us the needed chance to develop our own leadership styles especially that females now invaded the used to be all boys institution. The presence of military science classes denies us of our vacant hours. The heavy yoke of guard duties and military science subjects enhance our security consciousness inculcation of the honor code and honor system and our confidence level. Triggering additional excitement is the frequent performance of our Silent Drill Company, the chances to display our proficiency in marching, manual of arms, rifle tricks, and even dancing. We prove and forever will be worthy of the standard of discipline amidst the pressures of duties afforded us. Our orientation tour makes us choose intelligently on what uniforms are we going to wear after hurdling cadetship, the crawling army green, the sailing navy white or the highflying air force blue. Our visits welcome by dump of boodles, awakening briefings, countless advises and numerous "pangungulit" and "pangangaya". The demand of utmost snappiness comes back to our system when we go back to the grounds of the Academy for being the 'models and the exemplars of the corps'. The continuation of academic grind together with the rampant maltreatment cases, excessive demerits and honor violations tremendously makes our class lessen in number. Yet, the straining system must meet its usual uncompromised standard. The fittest



members must survive. Amidst those unending challenges many still cling to advance into the next stage of cadetship.

SECONDCCLASS YEAR (the TURNING POINT)

The Summer Camp '94 puts more duties and responsibilities in our shoulder as we assume squad leaders and unit commanders of the class of 1998 while class of 1997 act as our assistants. The basics of military life and the stronghold of valuable existence in the realm of soldiery become our principles of training them.

The orientation with our respective branches of service introduces us to reality of its peculiarities, the advantages and disadvantages of being its member, its career pattern, the concept of building service reputation and other equally important things worthy of thorough analysis for our next phase in the world of chosen armed profession. Our leadership capabilities are in severe tests as the immaculate undergo in-service training leaving the cadet corps under our stewardships. Our maturity growth reinforces by the additional load of leading various corps organizations and athletic corps squads. The continuation of our academic struggles sails smoothly as we find more vacant hours with our relaxing status when the corps once again unites with the comeback of our immaculate. The privileges and weekend leaves become frequent as we find new homes in Baguio City with our foster parents. The usual routines of daily existence in the cadet



corps fully prepare our class in assuming the over-all leadership of the gray-clad corps as the class of 1995 finally waves goodbye from cadetship.

FIRSTCLASS YEAR (the FINALE)

The entry of firstclass year commences the first trimester academic grind. The final chapter, the finishing touches of our cadetship are now in its accomplishment run. Taking the over-all responsibility of running the cadet corps is not anymore a big deal after occupying the helm during the In-Service training of the class of 1995. Due to our small in number, some of us have to occupy two positions. There are also some adjustments with regard to delegation of duties and responsibilities in some positions. The parades, Saturday inspections and drills lessen our manual duties as we are already building the swords of authority. Frequent privileges and weekend leaves occupy our vacant hours to slowly prepare ourselves to the real world encounters. Sometimes official businesses are there to attend to our extra-curricular activities. Our swimming classes contract finally expires with the one mile survival swim at Puro Point. As the second trimester ends, we have to go on a separate ways to go onward with the training but this time with our chosen branch of service. Basic Air Force Officer Course for the Air Force group. Basic Airborne Course for the Army group and Junior Officer of the Deck/Watch Training Course for the Navy group. We again unite as a class

with the presentation of the 100th Nite Show, this time under the leadership of the second classmen for the first time in the Academy's history. The new year brings us unique feelings as we are now fast approaching to our most awaited moment. The simultaneous conclusion of our respective In-Service training repeats our reunion as the aroma of pines is beginning to capture our vivid attentions whenever we are reminded of these sweet and sad memories of a complete exciting lifestyle. The birth of a weeklong Air-to-Ground Operations Seminar concludes our learning process as cadets. Mixed emotions are burning in our hearts as we close the chapters of our cadetship. The privilege of shaking the hands of the Commander-in -Chief and President of the Republic of the Philippines highlights these engulfing hours, the culmination of a Filipino youth's dream. A privilege, a complete education and an amazing lifetime career all embedded in a package of cadetship. Definitely as new cavaliers we will be proud of the long cherished tradition, dedicated to uphold the standards of excellence, worthy for the monicker PEEMAYERS in its truest sense as we mark in our hearts, engrave in our souls the three great virtues of COURAGE, INTEGRITY and LOYALTY in Service to GOD, COUNTRY and PEOPLE.

Long live the Cadet Corps!

CARRY ON AND TAKE CHARGE . . .



PMA Class 1991: The “SAMBISIG” @ 30

• CAV RUMMUELL J PEREZ '91



The Class of 1991 could be considered the class with a lot of first time.

It was on the 31st of March 1987, when 514 young men reported to the AFP Medical Center to start their military career by becoming Cadets of the Philippine Military Academy. The Class would be the pioneer of the Summer Camp Training to be held at Camp Servillano Aquino, San Miguel Tarlac. Previous classes hold their BEAST BARRACKS at the covered court of PMA Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City for generations. Anyway, just like the previous classes, they were in for the shock of their lives under the guise of the traditional Reception of Plebes.

Upon completing their Summer Training by June the Class of 1991 went up to Baguio City to be Incorporated to the Cadet Corps. By then there were already some who had opted to quit. At last we could feel the breeze of the summer capital of the country while we start our academics. The Plebehood experience would continue until the day we were recognized by the Corps. It was a memorable day for each member wherein we are no longer plebes but upperclass not yet.

It was during our Cadethood that a lot of changes in the academy would begin and we were secondclass when the back subjects system was implemented in a hope to minimize or eliminate the Turn-Back System in the Academy. The Class was also the first to undergo a Summer Cruise Training during our Cow Year utilizing two naval vessel and learn seamanship. Unfortunately, the other vessels suffered an engine problem in the middle of the cruise so cadets have to transfer ship at sea.

Due to the changes in the curriculum, the Class of 1991 was not able to experience being the Plebe Detail. Because it was during our First Class Year that during summer training we have to undergo the Platoon Leaders Course. It was later in the course that we had to endure the Ranger's Tarzan Course.

The 1990 earthquake that devastated Baguio City tested the leadership qualities of the Class. The class was some of the first responders of the disaster equipped with only with their strength and wit. For this endeavor, it was the first time that the entire Cadet Corps was awarded various military awards ranging from



Gold Cross, Bronze Cross and Military Merit Medals. Furthermore, PMA was awarded the Presidential Citation Badge and Streamer.

Graduation Day came for the 220 members with the addition of foreign service academy graduates. Due to the passage of the PNP law members of the class volunteered to join the Philippine National Police in place of the Philippine Constabulary. The bulk joined the Philippine Army while 55 joined the Navy and 33 joined the Air Force, respectively.

The year 2020 was a blessing to the Class despite the COVID pandemic. A lot of class members were promoted to the star rank while some were designated to the star position. Members of the class currently hold positions of major responsibilities, both in the AFP and PNP. This could be seen in the lengthy positions stated in our Class Call. Other members who opted to retire or join the private sector are also holding key positions in their Companies.

The proud members of the PMA SAMBISIG Class of 1991 would be celebrating its 30 years of active service to the country and Filipino people this year. We would not be here today if we would not remember the members of the class who are not with



us today and had given the ultimate sacrifice, they are truly missed by us and their family. Today, the Class stands strong and proud to have dedicated almost half of their lives as true public servant in defense of the people as we strive to modernize the armed forces and police in to a force that the Filipino people could be

proud of. The SAMBISIG family continues to grow with additional members of the family for some are now grandfathers while majority are still coping with their adolescent children. Adoption of honorary members are still being undertaken to expand the PROUD SAMBISIGS.



Notice of PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI) Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Trustees

To: All Regular Members, PMA Foundation, Inc.

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

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting of the PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI) will be held on Friday, 5 March 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board Room, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City for the following purposes:

1. To approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting;
2. To consider and act upon the annual report of the President;
3. To confirm and ratify all acts and resolutions of the Board of Trustees and the Management;
4. To elect seven (7) members of the Board of Trustees; and,
5. To take up such other matters as may be properly brought before the meeting.

On the election of Trustees, the Nomination and Election Committee or the Secretariat will accept written nominations from 4 to 18 January 2021 at the PMAFI Office, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Nominators and

nominees, who must all be PMAFI regular members as of 31 December 2020, shall sign the nomination and acceptance form or letter that may be used. It is understood that by signing, nominees accept their nominations and signify their commitment that, if elected, they will attend meetings of the Board of Trustees and other activities of the Foundation. Election ballots with the names of not more than 14 candidates will be distributed from 1 to 28 February 2021. Accomplished ballots may be submitted at the PMAFI office personally, by courier or mail NLT 5:00 p.m. on 4 March 2021. This notwithstanding, the voters who have not yet cast their votes may attend the PMAFI Annual Membership and Election and cast their ballots thereat not later than 10:00 a.m. Members who claim to have not received or to have lost or misplaced their ballots may request for a replacement ballot at the Board Room, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. not later than 9:00 a.m. on 5 March 2021.

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

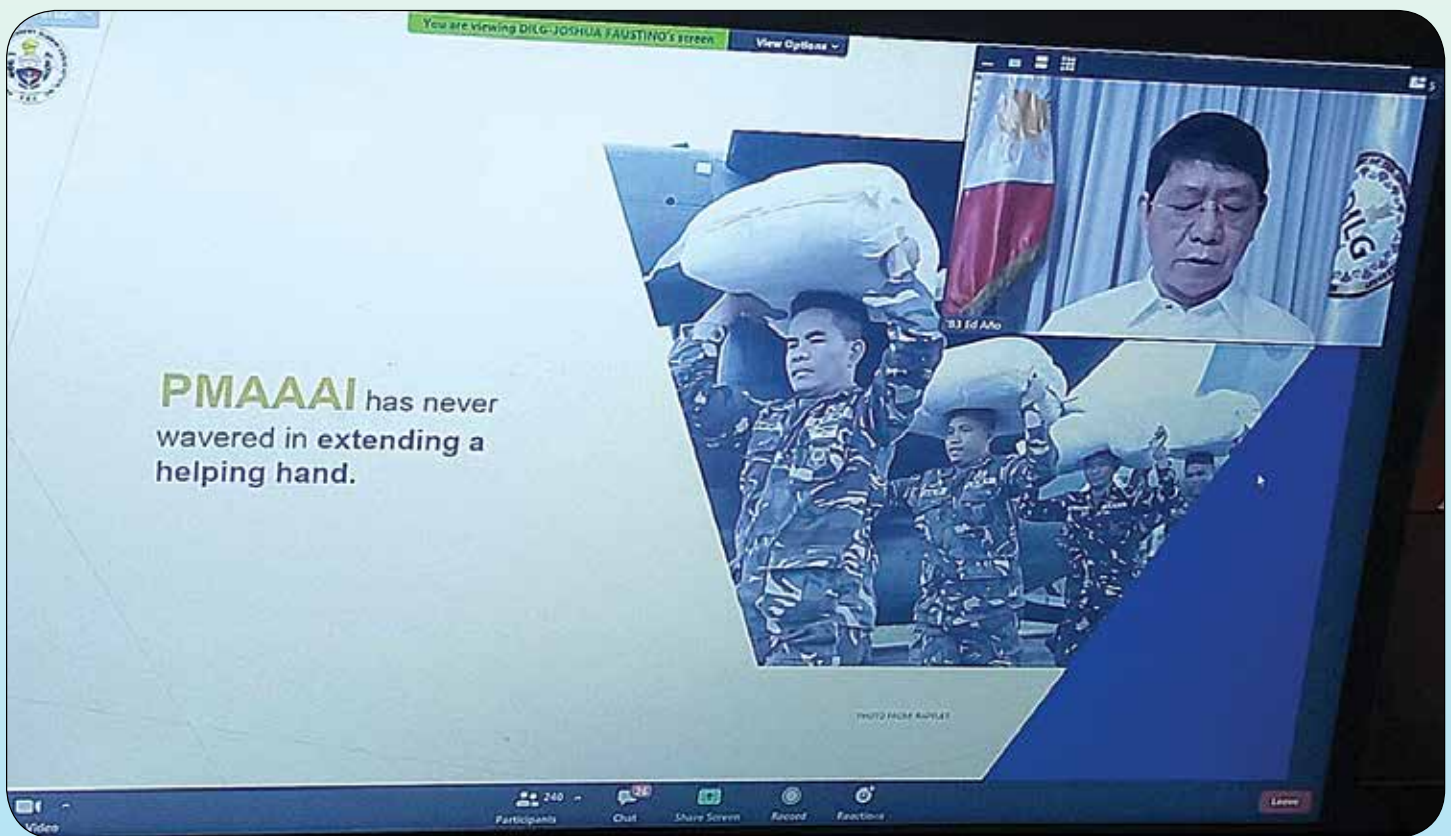


COMMO RENE LEANDRO PEBRO PN (Ret)
Corporate Secretary

PMAAAI: Tirelessly Extending Guidance and Mentoring

• CAV EDUARDO M AÑO '83

(Message delivered by Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government during the PMAAAI Special General Membership Meeting and Annual Christmas Gift Giving on 18 December 2020.)



Good morning fellow *Cavaliers*.

Let me first express my gratitude and appreciation to the current leadership of the **Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.**, under the able guidance of **Cavalier Edgar Aglipay** of PMA *Matatag* Class of '71, *Sir*, for always shepherding us, *Cavaliers*, to the righteous way. Indeed, through the years, the **PMAAAI** has been an illustrious and honorable organization which remains a bastion of excellence and safe haven for all sons and daughters of our beloved *Alma Mater*. For this, we are always grateful, *Sir*.

Back when we were cadets, especially during our Sunday religious services, there is a special prayer that has definitely made

a mark on each one of us, literally and figuratively. "*Literally*" kasi kapag hindi mo siya namemorize, siguradong lagot ka na pagbalik sa barracks. And figuratively, because I am certain that the **Cadet's Prayer** played a significant part in molding our characters as *Bugobugos*.

Ladies and gentlemen who were once part of the Cadet Corps, allow me therefore to quote some passages from this profound prayer and how we were able to use it in our daily thoughts and principles, as servants and protectors of our country and people.

"Endow our hearts with kindness that we may sympathize with those who sorrow and suffer." The year 2020 will always be remembered as the year which has redefined our concept

of normal—beginning with the Taal Volcano phreatic explosion, the series of devastating typhoons, and of course, the COVID-19 pandemic.

In all of these, there is always a PMAer, leading the charge in the midst of chaos and uncertainties. Of course, PMAAAI has never wavered nor stumbled in extending the needed hand and light to those who have been plunged in the darkness and desperation. This Yuletide season, PMAAAI has found another means of displaying kindness and sympathy through a simple, yet noble, gesture of handing-over of PPEs and donations to our recipient hospitals. *Ngayong panahon ng pagpapahirap ng COVID, ay tumitindi rin ang pangangailangan upang makapagpaabot ng tulong para sa ating mga medical frontliners, kasama na ang mga nabibilang sa ating unipormadong hanay.* Therefore, may these tokens of gratitude hopefully boost the morale of our COVID heroes, and create a ripple effect of selflessness and nationhood among us Filipinos. *At sa pagkakamit nito ay inaasahan din nating isang Bugo-bugo ang mangunguna sa pagpapalaganap ng tulong at pag-asa.*

“Strengthen our hearts with fortitude that we may discipline our lives to trail the difficult paths rather than to stray on the easier ways.” No less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte publicly expressed his trust and confidence to former members of the uniformed services, especially us, products of PMA. He knows that our training has honed in us the grit needed to persevere and never back down from any challenge. And I am certain that even though we have reached and explored various heights and horizons, none of us would stray from our sworn duties as PMA alumni and public servants. We carry on in towing the Long Gray Line and strive harder to advance the values imbued by the Academy. We take pride that in shaping the history of our nation, a *Bugo-bugo* was part of the process, be it in leading from the front, or in modest roles.

And in every step of the way, we are grateful to have an alumni body tirelessly extending guidance and mentoring. Indeed, the PMAAAI maintains its significance in our lives as *PMAers*, especially in affairs that affect the state. In matters versus conventional issues related to territorial defense, criminality, insurgency and public safety; in emerging unconventional tactics against illegal drugs, terrorism and cyber crimes; and even in special concerns regarding politics, economy, and the pandemic, PMAAAI has always readily extended support through various initiatives and recommendations. Even in crafting relevant strategies for our different National Task Forces (like NTF-ELCAC, NTF-EID, NTF-DPAGs, and various others), our alumni organization never runs out of advises, *“wise or otherwise.”*

The organization is like a think-tank full of men and women who come from vast experiences and different areas of expertise. Thus, there are never-ending debates and endless absolutions on every topic, for we are always looking for, and curiously enough, seem to have solutions to everything.

But I really do appreciate the body for extending support like the Avengers Report to help solve the problems of the country. While these are unsolicited insights and advice, I value these

perspectives and discussions, because they help shed light into the heart of societal concerns.

And being gentlemen and ladies of the Corps, we always respect each other’s perspectives. Regardless of the criticisms, attacks, and obstacles surrounding PMAers within the academy and the alumni body, I thank those who did not look to the right or to the left, but rather, remained true to our oath of protecting the country and the people. After all, we always pray for the Supreme Being to ***“Give us that honest purpose of life which seeks fair deal with everyone.”***

We are therefore grateful to PMAAAI for always being a beacon ensuring that our moral compass always points to the true north.

In such respect, I pray that PMAAAI will continue to guide the Cadet Corps, the various uniformed services Officer Corps, PMAers in government service, and members of the Long Gray Line---whether in business, academe, or foreign endeavors---to continue waving the banner of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, anchored in unquestionable Honor, in whatever field and capacity they may wish to pursue.

May we lead our future officers’ way by serving as good examples so that our nation’s arising leaders will set and direct their sights solely to the right and noble path. We all have come far, but I hope that we never fail to look back and impart the lessons, experiences, and feats we have achieved. Rather, let us use these for the common good by illuminating the light for others, too.

Indeed, the nation counts on our advanced skills and character to contribute to nation-building. Needless to say, much is expected of us. But no matter how lofty these expectations are, I am optimistic of our strength as men and women of honor and as a reputable institution. We have been bred, trained and strengthened well by the PMA, so let us not waste every opportunity entrusted on our shoulders. Let us always bear in mind that we have a duty to fulfill as *PMAers* and as citizens of this beloved archipelago. So may we strengthen our hearts with fortitude and forever place the nation above thy self. Pray that God will ***“Help us to live each day...that our lives may be spent in accordance with the patterns of our creeds---the true, the noble, and the high.”*** This is the honest purpose of our existence and may we continue to live it for the sake of the country and people we serve.

Once again, I extend my gratitude to all of you for uniting in camaraderie in this PMAAAI Special General Membership Meeting and Annual Christmas Gift Giving. Thank you for sharing in the merriment of the occasion and may others partake of our joy in this season of blessing and gratitude.

Maraming salamat!

Mabuhay ang Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Incorporated! Maligayang Pasko sa ating lahat!



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

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

CLASS CALL



SALVADOR M MISON
President
VANGIE P RIVERA
Secretary

On members of the class

In the last issue of the Cavalier, we reported the sad news on the untimely demise of our classmate Abraham "Abe" C Baladad last July 2020. We are sad to report also that very recently another classmate, Brillante C Ochoco, has also passed away on 18 January 2021, after being confined in VMMC for several years. We extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his family.

Among the second generation members, we are sad to report that Abraham "Babot" Baladad Jr, the son and namesake of our late classmate, Abraham C Baladad, passed away only recently, on 24 Dec 2020. We extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his family. The class grants a P100,000

abuloy to members of the class who have passed away. The second gen members who pass away are entitled to P50,000 abuloy.

The class officers have continued to hold on to their respective positions, and perform their duties as such. Some second generation members assist the first generation class officers in performing their respective duties, as their assistants.

On PMA Class 55 Foundation matters

As reported earlier, the annual membership meeting and election of the PMA Class 55 Foundation, Inc., supposed to have been held on the 3rd Sunday of March, as provided for in the Bylaws, was not held, due to the pandemic.

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

Last June 2020, the Foundation donated to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00), through the PMAAAI, for the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for use of its personnel, in protecting themselves against this pandemic. This is in accordance with the Foundation's purpose of providing financial assistance for the medical needs of its members through VMMC and other medical facilities.

Lately, the PMA Class 55 Foundation, Inc., finally received from BIR its approved tax exemption certificate, through the kind effort of Ms Maribel Galano, an employee of the PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI), who is also serving as the Foundation's accountant, without any additional pay. The PMA Class 55 Foundation funds amounting to about P9 million continued to be invested in AFPSLAI and in AFPFCMPC. It is intended to support the abuloy to members of the class, their wives and widows and the second generation dependents who have passed away. /Ros Alquiza



FORTUNATO C CORACHEA
President
LEVY M MALTO
Secretary

On the second work day (5 Jan) of the New Year, the class got word that our mistah, Paul Canalita, 89 years old on 3 April, was in the hospital in Antipolo City in serious condition and passed away at 11 a.m. due to kidney failure. The cause of his death was new, fast and fatal. Before the covid lockdown, Paul had been missing from several class socials due to a heart malady. The class grieves the loss of one of its stalwarts, bids him a warm goodbye and extends its heartfelt condolence to his wife Daly, daughter Carla (a VP of BDO) and their five grandchildren.

Year 2021 marks the 65th anniversary of our graduation year with 19 survivors from the 51 that threw their dress caps

in the air during graduation rites at the academy gym on April 4, 1956. It was also the end of the April Week fiesta in Loakan mostly crowded by our kins who billeted at the second floor of Melchor Hall and partook of meals provided by the cadet mess hall. There were few cars then and the academy was not beset by traffic problems that confronts it now on similar occasions.

Of the 65 years, a total of 30 was spent for military service. When the class retired on 1 April 1986, we were only 52-56 years old. (The class was given an additional four years of active service from the old retirement law that would have retired us from 47 to 51 years old vis-a-vis the present retirement at 56 years). During Martial Law from 1972 to 1986, the AFP was plagued by the practice of extending the active service of retirees. The practice was tolerated because no less than the two Chiefs of Staff and some Major Services Commanders themselves were extendees. With this set up, it was natural for lower rank officers to follow the examples of their leaders. With the AFP trying hard to defend itself from this

malady, the practice continued unabated until Martial Law was toppled by People Power on February 26, 1986, barely a month more before the class retired. As a special case and the last of the ugly business of extending the active service of AFP retirees, the new government extended the active services of seven members of the class for six months only. With this last batch of extended retirees, the AFP was able to get rid of this pernicious practice that has no benefit at all except to impede its healthy growth and demoralize its officer corps. This practice is one of the principal reasons why the first six post WW II Classes (51-56) had only four of its members to occupy major positions in the AFP (F. Abat '51 as CG, PA; B. Ochoco '55 as FOIC, PN; R. Canieso '56 and R. Farolan '56 as CG, PAF).

With Martial Law lifted and the Retirement Law faithfully implemented, Class 57 took the AFP leadership with the other classes following behind, in a clean and orderly manner.

After our AFP retirement, the next 35 years was covered by four annual social

affairs hosted by the class members from the four AFP major services. As we grew older with casualties along the way, the PN group with only Mike Aparri and Olac Lazo left standing, were integrated with other groups. When Rod Ordoyo and Mac

Macabasco bid goodbye, the PA group was decimated with Ching Corachea left standing alone (his two remaining PA comrades have not been attending class socials ever since). With only the PAF and the PC groups still standing and COVID 19 prohibiting socials,

the class didn't have any for 2020. When Levy Malto resigned as treasurer and turned over the class fund with nobody willing to keep it, the class divided it equally to the survivors at PHP 77,645.95 each.



ORLANDO B SALIENTES President

The good news is that there is no bad news for PMA Class 60. Nobody died of Covid or other causes since our last class call. My contacts of the other classmates are through Facebook and cell phone calls. The two pictures displayed here are that of Nestor Lim who displayed his family picture in Facebook and that of the PDI article. In the last class call I told the love story of Catalina Balbas and Jun Balbas. This time I will post the laudable work of Joey Asanza and his wife Dra Boots Asanza. Had they agreed I could have made a write-up for them to be awarded the PMA CAVALIER AWARD for their charitable work among the Dumagats of the Sierra Madre Highlands. They chose to be anonymous. The best I could do was to make PDI aware of their work in their HEROES 'R US PROGRAM. PDI published their work. The title about their work was SIERRA MADRE HERO-MAKERS GAVE HAVEN TO ABUSE VICTIMS.

Joey Asanza was wounded in an encounter in Lubang Island when he was the commander of the radar site there. When Onoda finally surrendered he said it was his deceased companion who shot him. He and



Onoda had a face to face encounter arranged by the then CG PAF MG Jose Rancudo.

STAY SAFE MISTAHS. /Loven C Abadia
'60



EDUARDO T CABANLIG President

For several issues of the Cavalier Magazine during the year 2020, PMA Class 1961 was caught "Sleeping on Post." Indeed, the pandemic affected us a lot as it prevented us from meeting together or celebrate an event. In short, there was no activity to report.

However, Just before December, the so called "Executive Committee" of the class met several times to discuss and plan for our celebration of our Diamond Jubilee on the Alumni Homecoming in Baguio on

February 13, 2021. The class recognized this as an important milestone in our history and must somehow celebrate before our spirit of belongingness will just fade away. Remember that our Alma Mater will render its "last Hurrah" on our 60 years anniversary and will remember us only if we continue with our sense of camaraderie with him.

On suggestion of Pong Biazon, in case a sojourn to Baguio will be difficult for all of us, we make the trip optional to those who can make it. However, on March 25, which is our graduation day, we will celebrate our Jubilee together with our loved ones and the widows and the children of our fallen classmates. Depending on the venue which may be the Airforce Officers Club or the Navy Officers Club, the action officers will be Nick Rodriguez and Ed Domingo, respectively. Pong Biazon

will also coordinate with PMAAA, Inc. to allow the award of the Diamond Jubilee medallion to all 56 classmates. This will encourage the widows and keep them in touch with the class and its activities.

Ray Jarque also volunteered to have in print a class Diamond Magazine that will come out on our day of celebration. He will arrange for written articles about class 1961 for printing in said magazine. Ed Cabanlig and Ernie Calupig committed themselves to contribute to said publication. We hope that despite that Ray will succeed on this because such remembrance on our important milestone will strengthen our "Esprit de Corps."

We hope that despite the restrictions imposed to protect the Nation from this Pandemic, we would be able to succeed with our plans.





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

We begin the year 2021 full of hope. Full of hope for humanity, our people, and our class. We look forward to putting the pandemic that is COVID-19 behind us. For the first few months, however, we will have to continue wearing face masks, face shields; observe social distances; and for us super seniors confine ourselves at home. Hope is the vaccine that is now available in some countries. Hope is prayers to the Almighty to lift us from this pandemic. Hope is our classmates who continue to bring sunshine to their classmates through telephone, messages, and the social media.

Just a few days ago, class prez Nano Mariano announced that in view of the pandemic, the election for class officers for 2021 is postponed and the present set of class officers will continue to hold their posts. This was proposed by Budge Madamba after the announcement of a class election.

All of these class activities and comments are done through the Class 62 Viber Group. The participants to the group is growing but there are more still who have not joined. Nano continues to encourage classmates and ladies to join the group, exchange ideas and what-nots.

The sad news. The class lost Benjie Valenton last 14 December when he succumbed to his illness at the Asian Hospital. We had hoped that he would get over his sickness from reports coming from his daughter SanJ that he was getting better. I guess the good Lord had other plans for him. Memorial services were held for him by his family on 21 December via Zoom. Nick Custodio delivered a eulogy as a classmate recounting his feats as a young officer. Among classmates who attended the Zoom memorial services were Nano, Tito, Annette de Castro, and Maura and Leika Soriano. Benjie distinguished himself in counterinsurgency operations where he was promoted on-the-spot twice to temporary captain and to temporary major. He is also a recipient of the TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) Award in 1967 when he was still a first lieutenant. He is an Alfa Indian. And he is also an accomplished tennis player and golfer. Benjie was married to Anita Vinson and they have two children - Benjamin Oliver (Oliver) and Aleksandr Joan (SanJ).

Still more sad news. Last 26 November, Quintin and Luz Alcludia suffered the loss of their eldest, Paul, or Nonoy as he was fondly called. Nonoy was a successful lawyer and left behind his wife Carmella and daughter Pamela. Last 16 December, Abner Anthony Lopez, the oldest son of the late Manny and Hedy Lopez also passed away. The entire class grieves with the families of Benjie, and with Quintin and Luz, and Hedy.

Unable to resume our normal class socials and birthday parties, we heartily greet the first quarter birthday celebrants here on earth and in heaven. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY MISTAKES! CHEERS AND GOD BLESS.** For January: Kelly Cusi, Oswald Villanueva, Romy Meana, Paul Galvez, Tony Bringas, Ernie Daus, Orly Soriano, Freddie Filler, Ramon Rodriguez, Toots Ventura, Lilia Avellanosa, Marianne Divinagracia, Mildred Templo, Petit Tolentino, and Cynthia Lintag. For February: Rene Motus, George Regala, Roger Deinla, James Ramon, Linda Cusi, Lolit Mariano, Lulu Logan, Lucy Palisoc, and Perla Alimorong. For March: Nano Mariano, Casey Mendoza, Maury Evangelista, Percy Adiong, Rupert Palisoc, Noel Alejo, Wilson Gamboa, Greg Macatangay, Romy delos Reyes, Charlie Tanega, Glo Adiong, Luz Alcludia, and Eva Hinlo. (JRRIMANDO)



GUILLERMO R. RUIZ
President
RENE LEANDRO P. EBRO
Secretary

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

May the totality of possibilities dwell in all areas of our lives.

Another beginning for all of us to create new memories. Manage your well-being as much as you can. Do what works for you best. There is always sophistication in simplicity.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FOR FIRST QUARTER:

Happy Birthday to all our celebrators! Every wrinkle or fold or feeling out of sorts may come with growing old but aging is a privilege. Welcome and work with the changes. Celebrate and embrace your new number! We all earned it! Most of us are septuagenarians or octogenarians at this time.

January: 2 - Amy Calibuso; 11 - Luz Espejo; 16 - Pert Andaya; 18 - Roly Espejo; 19 - Lina Medina; 20 - Idelfonso Dulinayan; 27 - Ester Ong; and 28 - Offie Javier.

February: 3 - Lulu Orevilla; 3 - Ting Tigas; 7 - Lou Pizarro; 7 - Tony Sibayan; 10 - Gil

Domondon; 10 - Bill Ruiz; 13 - Billy Enerio; 17 - Bumi Bumanglag; and 26 - George Aquino.

March: 9 - Ardy Abaya; 16 - Norma Sibayan; 19 - Joe Pineda; 19 - Rene Valencia; and 30 - Norma Ruiz.

MATINDI CLASS OF 1963

We are called Matindi for a reason:

M-ga
A-nak ng
T-apang
I-ntegridad
N-asyonalismo
D-ignidad ng mga anak ng
I-nang bayan

Enough said.

DECEMBER 2020 CLASS LOG BOOK ENTRY:

18 December was the PMAAAI Special General Membership Meeting and Christmas Gift Giving via Zoom. Bill Ruiz, Dan Pizarro, Ebor Ebro were in attendance. Encouraging more to participate in future alumni virtual conferences.

CHEERS TO ALUMNI HOST CLASSES:

The Matindi Class of 1963 is extending its best wishes and snappiest salute to all senior and junior host classes. It is a first of its kind in the beginning of a new decade to celebrate alumni activities. Cheering you all

in spirit! Looking forward to march along the long gray line in time.

HELPFUL REMINDERS REGARDING ALUMNI AFFAIRS FROM YOUR CLASS SECRETARY:

For ALL alumni concerns and assistance inquiries, **DIRECTLY CONTACT THE PMA Alumni Center at 8912-5074 or drop by the office inside Camp Aguinaldo across Soldiers Mall. The wonderful staff are in the utmost position to accommodate and address your needs regarding alumni affairs.**

PVAO UPDATING IS DONE ONCE A YEAR.

As a precautionary measure, personal appearance is highly discouraged thus observing a no-contact policy for all validation including lifting and resumption of pension due to non-validation.

Online platforms available:

Online Interview- pensioner sends an email to skype.vrmd@pvao.gov.ph

Attach the following information:

Name of Pensioner
Present Address
Date of Birth
Name of Veteran
Date of Birth of Veteran
Date of Death
Date of Marriage

Valid Skype User Name/ID/Messenger or Viber

Contactless Updating- send required information to records.service@pvao.gov.ph

This includes the following:

a. an attached screenshot/snapshot/picture of pensioner holding front page of the latest issue of a newspaper (where its date is readable) or holding a calendar wherein the current date is encircled.)

b. clear screenshot/snapshot of 2 government-issued IDs, (preferably PVAO, AFP, PNP, Senior Citizen Passport etc.)

c. in your email message include

Name of Pensioner

Present Address

Date of Birth of Pensioner

Name of Veteran

Date of Birth of Veteran

Date of Marriage

Landline: 89124864, 83764106, 89116001 local 5406.

Postal Address:

Veterans Records Management Division
Philippine Veterans Affairs Office
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo,
Quezon City

Email Address: vrmd.customercare@pvao.gov.ph

Website: <https://pvao.gov.ph/>

PGMC UPDATING SCHEDULE:

Proof of life is important in order to facilitate the release of your pension with no hassle. It is done twice a year for septuagenarians, octogenarians and beyond. Should you wish to drop by their office, do present your ID at the desk to initiate the

process. You will receive a text message after confirming your update.

Website:

<https://www.afppensionpgmc.mil.ph/home>
Processing transactions online should be accelerated and convenient.

However, to update my proof of life, I have more peace of mind by bravely taking the risk to make a personal appearance. I sent an email for my second update but that went in vain. Apparently, I share the same story with many others.

It is imperative for all offices providing services and products to have the best practices in facilitating, addressing queries and processing transactions within a reasonable timetable. The internet of things is changing rapidly and driving into new directions towards the post-digital era. Imagine the possibilities beyond our lifetime coming into the new age of reckoning. There is a need to navigate innovations and opportunities with accountability, a sense of purpose, value, clarity and relevance to client experiences. What will remain constant for successful and meaningful transactions to happen are listening intently and understanding concerns completely in order to make personalized responses accordingly. More often than not, we receive incomprehensible default replies and apologies. Resources are wasted over simple concerns. Actions taken can be improved.

Equipping everyone with effective oral and written communication skills, creativity, empathy, flexibility, conflict resolution as well as a growing adaptable skill set are important. Indeed, there are times it can be infuriating

but understanding the process and extending thanks or kind words go a long way to people who process our services and products. There is a fine line between being kind and/or right. Patience is a virtue. It has its limits likewise.

IN THE END: Information is at our fingertips if we are willing to utilize it to our advantage./ (18121605)

PGMC CONTACT NUMBERS:

CONTACT NUMBERS	
PAU ANNEX	09663717667
PAU	09055202437
	89135627
	9116001 LOC 6531
TF DIFFERENTIAL	09994695135
	09159519671
DUTY OG	09271241462
BGCU	9116001 LOC 6140
	0956811833
PPBU	9116001 LOC 6135
CHIEF	9116001 LOC 6268
ADMIN TELEFAX	8281-8078
	9116001 LOC 6278
LSO	09750715834
OG3/UPDATING/LIFTING	09615809309
	09776527323

PGMC UPDATING SCHEDULE

70 YRS OLD & ABOVE				
UPDATE SCHEDULE				
BIRTH MONTH	FIRST UPDATE		SECOND UPDATE	
JAN	NOV	to JAN	and	MAY to JULY
FEB	DEC	to FEB	and	JUNE to AUG
MAR	JAN	to MAR	and	JULY to SEP
APR	FEB	to APR	and	AUG to OCT
MAY	MAR	to MAY	and	SEP to NOV
JUNE	APR	to JUNE	and	OCT to DEC
JULY	MAY	to JULY	and	NOV to JAN
AUG	JUNE	to AUG	and	DEC to FEB
SEP	JULY	to SEP	and	JAN to MAR
OCT	AUG	to OCT	and	FEB to APR
NOV	SEP	to NOV	and	MAR to MAY
DEC	OCT	to DEC	and	APR to JUNE



CLEMENTE P MARIANO
President
WINSTON G ARPON
Secretary

AS WE REPORTED IN OUR LAST CLASS CALL (CC64-2004), Terry de la Cruz was back home, recuperating from an extended stay in the hospital, getting doses of TLC, Tender Love and Care, from his OAO Ellen. He passed on the morning of November 27. Five 64ers - Clem Mariano, Ding Odoño, Rey Reyes, Billy Villareal and Arfs Arpon- joined Ellen, family and friends during the mass, military honors provided by the Philippine Navy and Terry's interment at Heritage Park on December 17. "He was very prominent among our associate classmates," Class President Clem Mariano fondly recalls, "....



our dependable and trusted class treasurer from 1992 to 2000 - 28 years! Always a smiling face, a cooperative class member, and a perennially positive thinker." (See Last

Call on Cavalier Gualterio de la Cruz '64 in this issue of The Cavalier).

Thanks to Viber and to Rey Reyes for setting it up the first ever PMA Class 64



Video meeting was held on New Year's Day. In attendance: Jorge and Miriam Agcaoili in Illinois and Abe and Emmet de Guzman in Texas; and locally, virtual hosts Rey and Sandy Reyes; Buddy and Nena Peran, Billy and Beth Villareal, Lina Pilapil and Arfs Arpon. The day before a similar Video meeting was set up by Rey for Jorge Agcaoili and Rolly Pabellano in the US and Rey, Billy Villareal and Arfs Arpon in the Philippines, with the latter unable to join on account of a family New Year Eve Zoom meeting.

Jimmy Valeros has completed another installment to his autobiography, "Home,"

this one on a "Short Lived Military Career", and, with watchdog Ding Odoño taking the lead, Class 64 is by no means disengaged from national issues. Along his patented advocacy, Para Sa Bayan, he has graced the PDI Opinion page with a number of published Letters to the Editor: PMA elder tells Sinas: Resign; Face mask rule is anti-poor; Enough



is Enough: End the culture of impunity in the PNP; Drastic reforms needed to provide every Filipino a share of the national wealth.

We made good on our resolution to resume the monthly Class Fellowship Golf that started in October albeit with only three active players - Rene Garcia, Rey Reyes and Arfs Arpon. Meanwhile, Rey Reyes anticipating the Battle of Classes Golf in connection with the Alumni Homecoming in February posted, on behalf of the Class as Seniors Champions in 2004 and 2006, this Notice: **WILLINGNESS TO BE ADOPTED BY ANY CLASS GOLF GROUP.** The responses have been most encouraging. Thank you, Cavaliers Dan Servando '81, Ed Aglipay '71, Jun Espino '72 and Sinagtala Early Mess Club (SEMG) of '86. /@waga/cc64-2101



PAMBUNGAD

Tulad ng inaasahan, naririto pa rin sa mundo si Ginoong COVID-19. Kaya dahil sa

health protocols, wala pa ring social activities ang klase sapagkat tayong lahat ay mga senior citizens na. Hindi maaaring lumabas ng bahay, maliban sa mga mahahalagang pangangailangan. Ganoon pa man, may mga pagkakataong lumalabas ng bahay ang ilan, para pumunta sa malls o sa mga kainan.

Ang sakop ng siping ito ng Cavalier Magazine ay mga buwan ng Enero, Pebrero at Marso, kasama ang mga nangyari noong Disyembre na di naiulat. (Pasensiya na sa paggamit ko ng Filipino sa INTRODUCTION lalo na sa mga Cebuano, Ilonggo, Ilocano,

Waray, Boholano, Bicolano. Kailangan maging bihasa tayo sa Wikang Filipino).

GERRY AND CEL CUNANAN'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Fortunately, we have one milestone to report for this first issue of 2021. This is the unique celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Gerry and Cel Cunanan held on 12 December 2020 at Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Church, Magallanes Street, followed by the Reception via live streaming at Discovery Primea, for the main participants,

and virtually for most of the guests, through YouTube.

Most of us, watched the proceedings through the internet. So we are not helpless after all. We can be together, communicate with each other and exchange messages through cyberspace. In fact, board meetings and membership meetings are now held via zoom, regularly.

A feature of the Cunanan golden moments was a pre-taped singing of the song Kaydet Girl by some sixty-sixers, namely: Noli Espejo, Fred Bautista, Viusy Dauz, Pons Millena, Bert Sabularse and Bing Rivera, with Gerry Cunanan participating and staged managed by daughter Cheya Cunanan. Listening to the singing, one would not detect an "out of tune" voice (unless somebody with an ear for music says otherwise).

During the actual date of the meeting, Gerry and Cel waltzed through the tune of Kaydet Girl. Now Cel has her wish, to be a Kaydet Girl, because according to Noli Espejo, Gerry had another Kaydet Girl (s) as a cadet.

PLANS

A small group of sixty-sixers, organized by Louie Fernandez, meet via zoom every Sunday morning, courtesy of April Fernandez who allows us to use her zoom account. The following are the usual participants: Louie Fernandez, Viusy Dauz, Bing Rivera, Fred Bautista, Bert Varona, Leo Alvez, and Ding Wenceslao.

The group is thinking of going to PMA when there is no more pandemic, to commemorate our Ruby Graduation Anniversary (55 years). It is however, voluntary. Another plan is to publish a Class Ruby Anniversary Coffee Table book – mostly pictorials consisting of events covering family and significant class matters, as of the last five years from 2021.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

From January to March, the following celebrated, or would celebrate their natal days:

January – Malou Catral(28).

February – Leo Alvez (14), Vic Belo (01), Bert Jabile (24), Pons Millena (22), Vir Totanes (10), Jolly Nicolas (18), Beth Payumo (25).

March – Temi Arugay (10), Romy Bruce (20), Joe Escarcha (19), Bay Neis (03), Bert Varona (16).

Last issue, we inadvertently omitted the

names of the associate members and lady birthday celebrators for October, November and December. Although late we greet the following:

October – Tess Arugay (03), Tess Reyes (05), Greg Llorca (13), Lita Garcia (15), Margie Galon (17) and Cel Cunanan (21).

November – Rose Buck Carrion (11), Auring Paginag (21), Delia Jabile (26)

December – Cel Millena, Lucy Sarmiento (05) and Paz Bautista(25).

Happy birthday, fellow seniors!



ANSELMO S AVENIDO JR
President
RUFINO G IBAY JR
Secretary

CLASS ACTIVITIES

A. Had we been allowed by COVID, we would have held last December 2020 our traditional Remembrance Day, Christmas Party, and Election of Class Officers. The Remembrance Day would have been in honor of the departed 33 Dimasupils (out of 85 graduates), 11 Adopted Members, and 18 Spouses. The year 2020 was undoubtedly a bad year for us, considering the big number of Dimasupils and Spouses who left ahead of us, as follows: Fr. Suarez, 4 Feb; Noemi Casilan, 5 Feb; Sonny

Alvarez, 20 Apr; Yoly Encarnacion, 3 May; Orly Tucay, 22 Aug; Cherry Garcia, 1 Sep; Mely Corpus, 15 Oct; Maryrose Dalipe, 14 Nov; and Vic Garcia, 17 Nov.

B. If allowed by COVID, our schedules for January - March 2021, onwards, would be as follow:

January – DMF to be hosted by Jun and Agnes Avenida, Bobby and Penny Lastimoso, Edsel and Toto Salvana, and Joseph and Reina Young.

12 February – PMAAAI Annual Convention to be held in PMA, Baguio City.

13 February – Annual PMA Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City.

March – Celebration of our 55th Graduation Anniversary to be hosted by Manny Dalipe, Jun and Ronnie Ibay, and Nic and Glo Parena.

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

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

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

UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS

On 17 November 2020, Vic Garcia passed away in VMMC, Quezon City, due to cancer. The wake was held at Chapel 1, Libingan Ng Mga Bayani. During the Necrological Service on 23 November, Jun Ibay delivered a eulogy on behalf of our Class. The burial was also done in LNMB with military honors provided by the Army. We convey our heartfelt condolences to May and their children, and

also to Marina Odulio, his sister, and the other members of his family. We join them in praying for his eternal repose with our Lord.

We received the following message from Manny Dalipe: *"I was found positive for COVID last 28 December. I got confined on 29 December. Fighting and recovering."* We pray for his fast and full recovery.

Last December, we would have held our Election of Class Officers in person. Since it could not be done, the members of our Class were just asked to select any of the following options: **OPTION 1** - Just send to our Comelec via electronic means the names of our own 13 choice Directors for the Comelec to canvas the votes; **OPTION 2** - Hold the Election during the first In-person Class Meeting/ Forum in 2021 and consider the incumbent Officers in hold-over capacity; **OPTION 3** - Hold the next Election in December 2021 and consider the incumbent Officers as re-elected for the year 2021. The following is the breakdown of the 39 responses received: Option 1 - 1; Option 2 - 3; Option 3 - 33; and Abstention - 2. Therefore, the following are considered re-elected as our Class Officers for 2021: Pres – Avenida; VPres – Santiago; Sec – Ibay; Treas – Gaerlan; Auditor – Sales; PRO/IT Offr – Patino; Service Coordinators (also Survivor and Sunshine Committee): Air Force – Dionisio and Sibal; Army – Ballecer and Corpus; Navy – Cordero and Din; Police

– Ibay and Tomas; Adopted/Honorary – Sales and Reyes; Ways and Means Committee – Lastimoso, Austria and Patino; Social Amelioration Committee (Medical and Death Financial Assistance) – Odi, Sibal, Ibay, Gaerlan, Alino, Ballecer, Cordero, Dionisio, Patino, Sales and Tomas. Other Dimasupils and Ladies may join any of the Committees.

UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Manny and Maryrose Dalipe on the death of Maryrose on 14 November 2020 in Zamboanga City due to leukemia. The wake and burial were also done in Zamboanga City. We pray for her eternal rest in the bosom of the Almighty.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

Best wishes to the following Dimasupils and spouses who are celebrating their birthdays in January, February and March: Myrna Espinosa (1 January), Hedy Duenas (2), Bobby Lastimoso (4), Lita De Guzman (5), Queenie Enriquez (6), Pert Molato (8), Cora Tomas (9), Edsel Salvana (14), Warlie Sadiarin (16), Joseph Young (16), Myrna Cordero (20), Roy Aguana (21), Ernest Escaler (23), Jun Avenida (24), Ernie Dionisio (3 February), Myrna Andaya (5), Lou Ibanez (11), Bay Obillos (18), Linz Gabuna (26), Senyang Austria (4

March), Lea Vallejera (5), Ching Aguana (8), Josie Dela Cruz (12), Nic Parena (20), Jun Ibay (21), Benny Ventura (21), Rody Duterte (28), Mely Gatmaitan (30), and Manny Dalipe (31).

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be reminded that we have to pay our annual contribution to the Social Amelioration Fund in the first quarter of the year in order to benefit from the discount for early payors. We also appeal to our more fortunate Dimasupils to give their additional donation soon so that our Fund can grow faster, enough to give bigger assistance to those concerned. Please contact our Class Treasurer Rudy Gaerlan for further details.

CLASS TRIVIA

We received the following text from Abe Din: *"Pina-swab test ako ni Cora, all clear. Sana pinang-golf ko na lang ang binayad. Di ko kailangan vaccine dahil di ako takot sa COVID, pero takot ako sa CORA-VID."* When asked ano ang mas masakit, swab test o tama ng CORA-VID, he replied, *"Parehas matindi."*

Happy New Year to all Dimasupils and other Cavaliers and their families!



Taken after Necro Services for the late MGen Victor U Garcia.



Delivering Eulogy representing our PMA CI '67.



Ross SIBAL and Spine E joining the internment of VU.



Internment of VU GARCIA with May GARCIA and other Cavaliers.



ARTURO B CARRILLO
President
HECTOR M TARRAZONA
Secretary

The pandemic of 2020 saw the cancellation of class activities for the year 2020. First to be cancelled was the celebration of the 52nd Class Graduation Anniversary in March. Next was the yearly Lenten Visita Iglesia planned by Willy and Isay Nuqui which was supposed to have been done in Pampanga last March. We also stopped our Wednesday mass and novena prayers at the SM Aura Chapel where we pray for good health and other intentions. We also missed the KKB lunch and fellowship / bonding at our proclaimed boardroom space at the Food Court of the mall. Then there is also the yearly invitation of Bobby and Purita Santiago for his birthday celebration in Tanay Highlands where all March born classmates are recognized with his grandiose preparations. Weekly golf games and tennis matches were stopped especially when the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) imposed on the population the Enhanced Community Quarantine or ECQ. We all felt uncertainty because the virus was spreading fast and claiming lives of even some doctors and nurses and other frontliners. Fear for our safety and survival became the main concern. Every sneeze, colds, cough and body ache could lead to a tragedy. Foregone are the days when we would just go out of our house to do usual chores and errands. We stopped visiting family members, friends and relations. We had second thoughts of even going out to buy some basic foodstuff or do some exercise because of the strict implementation of the quarantine especially for children and senior citizens. For 2020, we held two class meetings

via ZOOM, the new norm for gatherings and reaching out to each other. Technology was the answer to update us on the status of each and every one. We remain healthy because we strictly follow the rules to prevent, fight or survive Covid-19. We are compliant with "STAY HOME, WASH HANDS, USE FACE MASK AND OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING". Thank God we continue to survive the health and economic crises. And as the light at the end of the tunnel starts to glow brighter because of the projected availability of the vaccine, we now find new hope and inspiration for the year 2021.

The pandemic had a twin. This was the wrath of mother nature on us for not taking care of our environment. One storm after another came in with strong winds and unimaginable amounts of rain. These caused widespread devastation of communities countrywide. Already depleted with resources, government and the private sector contributed to help rebuild communities. In Tanay Highlands, the communities of Barangays Sto. Nino, Sta. Ines, Daraitan, Laiban and Mamuyao were greatly devastated. These communities were mostly inhabited by Dumagats and Remontados. Seeing the devastation and distress of these communities, the leadership mettle of our classmate Bobby Santiago despite his handicap in walking with a cane, was again rekindled. He coordinated closely with the incumbent president of the Kapatiran ng Tanay Highlands, former Ambassador Nemesio Santos, retired BGen Sid Fajardo of the Sierra Madre Resort Hotel and Sr. Eppie Brasil of Regina Rica who jointly and immediately launched relief operations. We are indeed grateful that Bobby and Purita also involved PMA Class 68 into this noble cause. The class was able to generate in a short time the amount of P126,312.80 in cash and a sizeable amount of face shields, blankets, canned goods and clothes. Thanks to the generosity of the family of Bobby and Purita, Abe and Roxanne Abiol, Volts and Rhodie Gazmin, Mon and Baby Montinola,



Blet Castillo, Ben and Aida Ciron, Art Carrillo, Oskie and Gigi Cabaron, Hector and Pee wee Tarrazona, Tess Pangantihon, Tef and Lou Lasmarias, Rudy and Arlene Rabago, Alex and Shirley Costales, Tony and Mae Siapno, Vic Ramos, Celia Canson, Art Juan, Mel and Millette Rosales and Vicky C. Adcoc, President of the Philippine American Association of Alabama. But, of course other individual members of the class contributed also to their areas of concern during the calamity. But for the Kapatiran ng Tanay Highlands efforts, we are indeed very happy and glad that we were able to close ranks. Some prominent residents of Tanay Highlands were all praises for the fantastic relief operations where Bobby and Purita carried the banner of PMA Class of 1968.

And so, with 2021, we hope to renew our bonds with our families, friends and with PMA Class of 1968 with more vigor. As soon as we are able, we should all come out and meet again personally. CHEERS TO A CELEBRATION OF A NEW HOPE! Until then, MABUHAY!





JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JUSTO P MANLONGAT
Secretary

The class celebrated Christmas, virtually. Technology has brought together classmates as far as Continental USA, which was practically impossible during normal times. It was likewise attended by widows. The following are excerpt from the Christmas message delivered by Jake Duller. It encapsulates the lofty values that inspired the SUAVITERS through the year.

The other day, I consulted Google and other internet sites for greetings that I could use to send to my family members, relatives, friends and, of course, to the Suaviter this Christmas Season. There are the usual messages of light and joy. Yet the holidays are not "happy" or "merry" for families who had to cope with death during the year and those who have been robbed of their usual holiday traditions and gatherings due to effects of typhoons, accidents, illnesses and now with COVID-19 pandemic.

- This holiday season is unlike any other, to cap off a year unlike any other. Throughout this season, and as we move into a new (and hopefully better) year, we wish you moments of peace amid the difficulties, connections with family and friends even if they can't be in person, the warmth of memories from holidays past, and wonderful glimpses of the joy that still lives under the surface.*
- This is sure to be a holiday season of intensely mixed emotions as you miss or lost the person or persons close to your heart with tears due to Covid-19 or some illness or disease, remember them with smiles, and grieve collectively even though*

your family can't all be together. Every emotion is part of grief, so it's normal if you sometimes feel like you're on a roller coaster ride of ups and downs and everything in between. In the midst of it all, we wish you moments of peace, healing and lightheartedness to sustain you.

- The holidays can seem especially draining this year with all that is going on. It is doubly difficult because we all miss our usual means of support, the comfort of gathering with friends and family, and worship services, hearing masses, doing Simbang Gabi that are part of our cherished traditions. We are here for you through it all. We wish you endurance, strength, health, and as much happiness as these times can allow!*
- This season is not all merry and bright as health hangs in the balance. So instead of wishing you happy holidays, I wish you strength to get through this. I wish you restful sleep, at least on occasion. I wish you skilled and communicative doctors and attentive nurses. I wish you wisdom to*

know what to do. We are right here in your corner, and we will do whatever we can to help.

Two classmates celebrated their birthdays during the month of December. They are Willie Wong and Joey Syjuko. The short narrative describes who they are:

CAV JOSE A SYJUCO, JR

Business Executive and Entrepreneur, Diplomat, Civil Servant and Soldier: Chairman and CEO, Petron Corporation; Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines; Negotiator for 1984 Review of RP-US Military Bases Agreement and 1976 Tripoli Agreement; Deputy Minister of Public Works and Highways; TOYM Awardee in the Field of Government Service for 1981.





CAV GUILLERMO G WONG

Flag Officer in Command, PN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Operations Specialist, Verizon Wireless, USA Class 69 Fields a team to compete in the Games of Cavaliers.



Last December 4, 2020, selected members of the PMAAAI motored to PMA to coordinate with PMA authorities in connection with the conduct of the PMA Alumni Homecoming in Feb 2021. Jimmy delos Santos took the opportunity to present a copy of the Golden Sword to the newly-installed PMA Superintendent, LTGEN FERDINAND M CARTUJANO '88.

Taking up the challenge from younger classes, PMA '69 is fielding a team to compete in the Games of Cavaliers scheduled on January 15 to 30, 2021. The team is composed of super seniors competing toe to toe in a scratch play with younger players some of whose age are two to three times younger. Indeed, loopsided in favor of the younger classes, yet PMA'69 team is joining in the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie! But one wonders, whatever happened to the NGAP handicapping system which meant to level the playing field in golf? Just asking!

Be that as it may, the Team PMA '69 is made up of veteran golfers whose games may have seen better days, yet they can still decently hack the ball out there in the fairways, though maybe a little shorter in distance now.

Ike Begonia is the team captain, with



Jimmy delos Santos, Benjie Defensor, Nonoy Carranza, Rene Aguda, Jess Regala, Rey Berroya, and Jake Duller as members. Mel Rosales and Patrick Madayag of Class '68 have been adopted by the team to play for PMA '69 during the Games.

This is a group of old foggies who can still wallop a decent drive, hit a not so bad approach, and hole in some three footers with regularity. With the "can-do" spirit of Class 69 who knows what miracle they can do to accomplish something in the competitions!

Let's Go Team '69!

The class extends its profound condolence and sympathies to the family of the late, DOTC Secretary Rivera. He is a PMA honorary member, father to Marilou and father-in-law of Cris Abanes. PMAAAI Chairman Egay Aglipay together with the other Board members joined the family in the wake held at Heritage Park in Taguig.



A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year To All Cavaliers! It is but appropriate that we review the year 2020 for the Homecoming Issue of the Cavalier Magazine this 2021:

January 2020- amidst the eruption of Taal Volcano in Batangas and rumors of a deadly strain of an influenza virus in Wuhan, China; final preparations were being made by the PMAAAI headed by Boots de Veyra and concurrent Class President of the Golden Jubilarians for Alumni Homecoming 1970. For January, 2020 main activity is the Annual Convention.

February- The national leadership is preparing for the eventual spread of Wuhan influenza virus identified as Coronavirus 2019 or Covid-19 to the Philippines. Community quarantines or lockdowns of areas affected by the virus were being contemplated.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong of Baguio City announced a "soft" lockdown of the Summer Capital. Rear Admiral Allan Ferdinand V Cusi, then Superintendent of PMA, followed suit by closing the gates of Fort del Pilar to visitors. The 2020 Alumni Homecoming underwent some adjustments.

On February 8, members of the class attended the ground breaking ceremony of the Magiting Wing of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMHC). In this occasion the class decided to push through with the February 14-16 schedule sans the traditional Trooping the Line and Parade and Review for the Alumni. A week after, when the 14 day "soft" lockdown of Mayor Magalong ended, the Class went back to the hallowed grounds of Borromeo Field for their "once in a lifetime" parade and review as Golden Jubilarians.

March-July- PRRD placed Luzon and the National Capital Region on Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) meaning no close contact social activities for the Magitings and other Senior Citizens.

The imposition of community quarantine would swing from ECQ to Modified ECQ to General ECQ during this five-month period.

Providentially, the "incarceration" we suffered was made bearable by social media, particularly by the Viber groups organized at the start of the year by Ed Castellanes for coordination among classmates based overseas. This Viber group was split into two through the mischievous instigation of Pitong Heredia.

September-December- Still on GCQ. Former Congressman Romeo M Acop of the lone district of Antipolo City was (s)electd to become President of the class.

His first official act was to join a Webinar of the Council of Class Presidents organized by Edgar Aglipay PMA '71 current Chairman of the PMAAAI Board of Directors.

During this four-month period, Boots de Veyra went up to Baguio City to turnover a PMA landmark aptly called "The Beacon." Queried by mistahs as to the details of Project Beacon, he humbly said that it was a WIP(work in progress) and took him five years to finally erect it in Borromeo Field. So that was how 2020 went for us. We wish everyone the best for 2021 specially to PMA Class 1971 for their "once in a lifetime" Golden Jubilee.





EDGAR B AGLIPAY
President
JOSE C LALISAN JR
Secretary

It is 2021. Happy New Year!

Welcome to the **Year of the Metal Ox**. The Chinese horoscope predicts the year 2021 as *"a lucky and also perfect to focus on relationships, whether we are talking about friendships or love."* Whether you believe it or not, let us look at the future with positive vibes and expect a better year ahead of us. Let us foresee a brighter year where vaccines will be made available.

Vaccines are coming so they say. But its efficacy is still a guessing game due to the short period of testing. But it is better than nothing. However, with vaccines or not, it is still safe to observe the minimum health protocol of social distancing, wearing of facemask and shields, washing of hands, and strengthening our immunity by taking vitamin c, zinc, and D3 plus enough sleep and sunshine as advised by experts. So, stay safe please everyone!

Our 50th Anniversary

Woe to us jubilarians, our celebration in PMA will be different from the past years. This COVID-19 pandemic is the culprit. Imagine, for five years or so, the class has prepared for this momentous occasion and for naught. Five years before, we had our fund raising activities starting from our individual commitments and golf and movie fund raising events. We also had endless meetings of committees on preparations, uniform, programs during and after the D-Day, billeting, transportation, and other activities of adhoc sub committees. All of these required serious planning and thorough discussions, which at times were so heated that follow-up meetings were done to settle some issues. Haay na lang...no amount because of this sannamagann virus.

So, in coordination with the PMA authorities and the Baguio City Mayor, the celebration will be a very limited one. That is, limited only for the jubilarians celebrators. Only 300 alumni will be allowed to enter the PMA which were allotted to the five classes that will celebrate their respective anniversaries where only 40 participants from each can join. Before proceeding to Baguio City, there are requirements like the need for a swab test and travel clearance. For the Matatags, there was a survey made and at the last count, there were only 25 who volunteered to go up for the 12 to 13 February 2021 events. However, in fairness

to the rest of the class, especially for those mistahs residing abroad, the class officers have scheduled a "reenactment" of the golden anniversary by the second week of December 2021, for the reason that the vaccine will be made available already and to give also the opportunity for all to be feted on this special day by the cadet corps together with their respective mas-Matatags and families. This will be a grand day.

Rest in Peace Mistah Tito Legaspi

Last 6 January was a sad day for us Matatags and mas-Matatags. We lost our mistah Oscar "Tito" Legaspi due to MDS complicated by dengue. He was the 24th who went ahead to the Great Beyond. Thus we offer our heartfelt condolences to Dra Nona Legaspi and to the bereaved Legaspi family.

Tito was a member of our Hampaslupa'71 golf club. A regular guy, there was never a dull moment with him whether in play or during fellowships. He liked to crack jokes and tell funny stories especially between drinks. We always loved to listen to him talk. Years back, he would rather walk than ride a golf cart. He explained that *"masyado na akong mestizo. Kailangan kong ma-sun burn"*. But in the last two months, we noticed that his game was not his usual game and energy. There were

times he could only play the 9-holes. He did not complain but we noticed it. His last game was on 2 December 2020 at the Luisita Golf Course where he finished only the front 9. Weeks after that, we were informed about his blood transfusions and later, that he was rushed to the VMMC for medical follow-up. Prayers were offered to him by the Matatags and their ladies, relatives, and friends for his recovery and complete healing, but it was God's will that prevailed.

During the necro night, some mistahs who were close to Tito talked about him.



Rolly Garcia talked about their cadet days as they were both Deltans and shared a common room during plebehood, Rey Acop talked about the love story of Tito and Nona, the latter being a classmate of Rey's deceased wife Juliet, Dan Francia talked about their air force days, Ed Matillano talked about their escapades as RAM fugitives and later their metamorphosis as farmers, Teody Viduya talked about his untimely demise. Vic Batac talked about how he became closer with Tito as they shared a common "hideout" and how he was brought to a hospital by Tito when he suffered a kidney spasm, Greg Honasan spoke well of Tito whom he consulted on what actions to take during and after the EDSA revolution in 1986, and Class Prexy Egay Aglipay talked in behalf of the class about Tito's humility, caring for others, and being a mild manner fellow. He even revealed that when he had a grave vehicular accident in Nueva Vizcaya in 1987 and needed an air evac, it was Tito and another mistah, the late Bong Ebuena who evacuated him to V Luna via chopper for immediate medical attention.

When it was the turn of the family to speak, Tito's three sons mentioned that he was a father of few words to them. Mostly, a single word or a grunt from him. It was a revelation for us who were there. This was an exact opposite when Tito was with us during our fellowships after the golf games. I can only surmise that it was his way of showing his love to them and to us his classmates. Dra Nona thanked all who were present and those who gave testimonies on the life of Tito.

Present during the necro were Egay Aglipay, Tex Balmaceda, Dan Francia, Rey and Mina Alcasid, Jerry and Verna Albano, Nelson and Chit Eslao, Rollie and Malu Garcia, Lita Gil, Jennie Domingo, Edwin Galzote, Rey Acop, Teody Viduya, Joey Lalisán, Rey Velasco, Amba Jun Paynor, Joseph and Beth Ramos,



Bing Alano, Jimmie dela Cruz, Rex Piad, Marte and Tetet Chioco, Bobby Yarisantos, Jake and Pearl Malajacan, Oca and Jinggoy Martinez, Romy Dominguez, Dong and Lulu Tabamo, Arpee and Rose Santos, and Ed and Elsie Matillano. Those who were present in Zoom were Rollie Malinis, Stan David, Doy Francisco, Wency and Puring Cruz, Dan and Chato Perico, Reggie Regalado, and Rochee Domingo. Rollie Malinis, our class historian,



created a tribute for Tito in YouTube entitled "Sending Off Colonel (Ret) Tito Legaspi PMA '71 To Life in Heaven".

Tito mistah, farewell and may your soul rest in peace.

Quote for this Issue

"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." Mother Teresa /JCL/10 Jan 2021



Hello to all.

The months of November and December were uneventful for the Class due to the emergence of the dreadful virus. We are obviously affected socially, emotionally, physically and psychology in dealing with our daily lives. Our class activities were cancelled and we depend solely on social media in reaching out to each other. Honestly, we don't know when

it will end. Right now, there's no guaranty of availing the vaccines, as we can see a ray of hope at the end of the tunnel in combating the virus. As we master the art of wearing face masks and shields, washing hands and social distancing (to include social dancing), we enjoined all to adhere strictly to the health protocols. Avoid going out unnecessarily and shy away from frequent exposure to get rid of contaminations. Sanay naman tayo na ma-confine, Hehe. For now, let's pray fervently and ask for divine intervention for the healing of afflicted and eradication of the virus.

Let me share the highlights of minutes of the Class Officers/BOT meetings last 14

Dec and 08 Jan for your information and perusal.

December 14 Meeting:

Publication of Golden Sword: Manny Teodosio updated the Class Officers on the preparation/plan in connection with Sword's publication. It will be a 300 page book, the contents and format were extensively presented during the update. He assured of his assistance in preparing the documents of deceased members in coordination with their families.

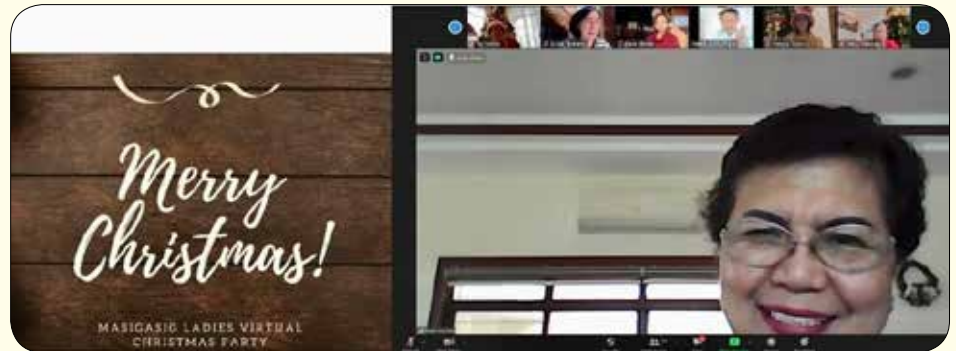
-- The estimate cost per book is Ph2,680 (subject for negotiation yet) to be printed by Dolmars Printing. A copy of the book and extra copies will be shouldered



by individual members. Widowers will be given a copy for free.

-- As regards to the Associate/Honorary members, a dedicated page will be allocated to acknowledge the contributions of active members to the class. Group pictures will be included in the acknowledgement portion.

-- A short tribute to honor deceased members will be included in the book. Mistah Boots Carag volunteered to do





the write-up in coordination with their families.

-- The distribution of Golden Sword was moved to April 2022 instead on December 2021 as planned. The rationale is to include/feature the important events during our Golden Anniversary in February 2022. This is the idea of Pepe Vidad and was approved by the Board during the meeting through a resolution to this effect.

-- The Viber/ Chat group, Cavaliers 72 Bulletin will be the official Viber account for Sword 72 info, disseminations and queries.

-- The submission of documents for Golden Sword is extended to Jan 15, 2021. Prez Espines enjoins all to provide support to The Editorial Staff for the successful publication of the Sword. Let us embrace the Masigasig spirit in this laudable endeavor.

-- The Class Sec will canvass those who intend to order extra copies of the Sword.

-- The Class is allocated 100 raffle tickets for 1K per ticket to support the Raffle draw of PMAAAI. Prez Espines is the Chairman of Steering Committee. We are encouraged to buy a ticket in support of the fund raising. The grand prize is a Vios car donated by Mistah Espines.

January 8 Meeting:

- Covid-19 Vaccinations:

-- The Class will shoulder the expenses for anti Covid-19 vaccinations for the couples/widowers in case the national government will not pay for it. Vaccinations for dependents will be shouldered by the

couples. Senior citizens are given priority to the vaccines.

--Everybody is encouraged to avail free vaccinations offered by respective LGUs where we reside. Availing free vaccines offered by the government will free the Class from assuming the payments.

-- Since we can't procure the vaccines in whatever reasons, we can coordinate with some Cavaliers connected with the procurement for assistance.

-- As suggested by Prez Espines, a committee will be created to determine and recommend the best types of vaccines to be procured by the Class. Safety, efficacy, price and availability will be considered. Boots Carag, Beth Navarro and Melba Buenaventura, all physicians, are requested to form the Committee.

- Games of Cavaliers:

-- Masigasig golfers are requesting the Class to shoulder the tournament tickets to the Games of Cavaliers on Jan 16-31 to represent the Class. Out of the 13 listed golfers, two are not officially accepted as honorary members; hence they can not represent the Class in any tournaments until such time their membership are duly processed.

-- Prez Espines explained buying tickets for the said tournament is a way of contributing individually to the fund raising of PMAAAI, he being the Chairman of Steering Committee for Special Projects.

-- In the end, as suggested by Prez Espines, golfers will buy their own tickets for re-imbursement by the Class or him.

-- For other matters, the Board approved through a resolution the request of Manny Teodosio for the down payment to Dolmars printing in the amount of Ph 125,000.

As suggested by Celo Navarro, thru Manding Naval, the possibility of recommending Elmer Romano for Special Cavalier Award. Prez Espines assures he will explore the idea of the suggestion as Chairman of Awards Committee.

Other Activities:

--The ladies headed by our First Lady, Mayora/Mistah Mely Espino held a virtual Christmas party last 27 Dec. Thirty one(31) ladies attended to include three overseas Mistahs (Annie Vilches, Cora Oliveros and Helen Evangelista). Raffle prizes in cash were given away to the lucky ones and winners of games. Congratulations to Ludy Vidad, Yoly Valencia, Lucille Flores and Beth Navarro, the brains of this successful event. Thanks to Mistah Mely for the cash donation. You made their day.

-- The golfers, 14 of them represented the Class in the last Senior Cavaliers Tourney last 16 Dec. They did their best but their best is not enough to this age-based sport.

In the end, they went home with boxes of delicious Dagupan bangus, courtesy of our Prez.

Till next Class call and happy reading to all....cgc





YEARS OF DESPAIR AND FRESH HOPE

- Ambassador Vidal Erfe Querol '73

For the MAAGAP '73, the year 2020 was inarguably year of so much despair, not only because the country has suffered economic downturns which to some were inexorable transitions from bright future to uncertain ones, from comforts to hardships, from vibrant businesses to forced sell-off of enterprises gobbled by pandemic sinkholes. Year 2020 took three of our Mistahs to our Almighty Creator - Crispin Santiago, Raffy Romero and Omar Querubin, none due to Covid-19. Fear of Covid-19 infection and the required physical distance and other protocols forced me to use Zoom technology to bring the eulogy and military burial to homes of Mistahs here and abroad who would have attended the activities if not for the pandemic. Indeed Zoom technology was of great help to connect with Mistahs and families. In fact we had more meetings via Zoom than ever before. Still on the Covid-19, Mistah Sid Lapeña, Secretary General of TESDA, was tested positive after the mandatory swab test for his scheduled flight to Mindanao. It was real scare not only for Mistah Sid but to all of Mistahs and friends who engaged Sid on the night of the eulogy and in the military burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani for the late Mistah Omar Querubin. Everybody, including me, took twice as much of the regular daily dosage of Vit C. After another test, Mistah Sid was declared negative of Covid-19, much to our relief.

Like other Classes and even in the civilian sectors, there was no actual in-person Maagap Christmas Party 2020; nonetheless, we had virtual Christmas Party on 28 December 2020 and New Year Party on 01 January 2021 via Zoom. We ventured on the games called Spin-a-wheel and the KAHOTS involving Q & A. It was fun in many ways because the questions revolved much on Maagap highlights as Firstclass men. Aside from walking down the memory lane, it was a veiled measure of Alzheimer effect. With Sword Book on





hand, the entire online game was super entertaining, full of surprises and also very informative. On the New Year's Party, however, much of the questions were about nation capitals, current events and global knowledge. Jokingly, we refer to these events as Battle of the Brainless. For both events the biggest winner was Mistah Francisco Gudani with total winnings of P8,100 followed by Romy Alamillo P6,000 and Bobby Aviso P5,500. For the first time, we experienced Christmas and New Year with face masks. To some, the Holy Mass was celebrated at home to avoid mass gathering at the Church.

Another surprise came towards the end of 2020; there were very few firecrackers and much of the explosions came from the seller themselves because the public heeded PRRD's public dislike to firecrackers and pyrotechnics. I hope firecrackers and other pollution-generating pyro products be banned altogether because I find no good reason to burn and waste money for something that also pollute the environment.

We hope that year 2021 would be year of recovery and hope because, as SND Del Lorenzana quipped, "2020 was year of the Rot(Rat)" so we were all rotting and 2021 is Year of the Oks(Ox) so we expect everything would be okay this year if not better than last year. However, there is uncertainty whether the PMA Alumni Homecoming year 2021 would ever be held at Fort del Pilar. Yes, the virus has landed in the Cadet Corps sadly; they say the food handlers in the mess hall may be the

culprit. True or not, the infection, although asymptomatic, jeopardizes the holding of the annual Alumni Homecoming and the General Assembly. We pray that the virus will soon be excised from the Cadet Corps otherwise all Alumni Homecoming activities in Fort del Pilar will be scrapped to protect the Corps. Worst scenario, we will miss the Academy and the Awarding Ceremony in Borromeo Field wherein our Mistahs will be Cavalier Awardees.

For the month of January, precisely on 25 January 2015, we ought to remember the martyred lives of SAF 44 in Mamasapano, Maguindanao. There lives were abandoned by the national leadership in Mindanao battlefield and also their flag-draped coffins in Manila arrival tarmac. Up to now, I could not recall any operation where troops which direly needed reinforcements, artillery fire and aerial support although readily available were denied and left to themselves to be massacred by the enemy. The ghosts of the martyrs will haunt those responsible until they will apologize to the widows and orphans, mortify themselves and come out clean.

On the USA, Trump continues to cast spell beyond America and into some Maagap heads. Very interesting that even after the US Election and the certainty of President-elect Biden as the new President, Trump has generated the same fervor in the collision of opinions, ideas, facts and somewhat facts, fake or somewhat fake news of the far-right and the far-left and everything in between, as if Trump and

Biden are still gunning for the Presidency. There is nothing wrong in the Maagap but something is terribly crying for repair or reform in the USA. The Trump presidency has elaborated it globally. The death of four persons in the Washington DC Capitol Hill mob assault and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) occupy Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone Seattle Washington have indeed accentuated it.

On the other hand, this pandemic is a human experience once in a lifetime, as it was in the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic which infected about 500M or one-third of global population. This 21st century pandemic has infected more than 91M people and claimed the lives of more than 9M people in 218 countries. The Philippines has little share of more than 9,000 deaths directly or related to the Covid-19. While there has been palpable despair, the same despair, sense of isolation and human powerlessness plunge *"myself to rediscover myself and my relationship with everything around and with the Almighty Creator"*. In the human rat race before the pandemic, the race is halted by the pandemic and the rat is the man hiding and sneaking. At the same time while in hiding, time in-person with the family is aplenty. Despite the despair and hardships, man continues to show his kindness and charity to his fellow being. The rich discovers his life's ineluctable connectivity with the destitute. The pandemic is one human experience when man doesn't determine his own governance; the virus imposes until man and his god-science jointly put in

check the tyranny of the virus, and when successful, human governance will be shared enterprise between man and the virus - in Europe the virus has taken back governance from human with the new strain of virus - with the Almighty Creator, I believe, watching how little kids play out

their earthly game and challenge. Trust, the Eternal God before the beginning of time and beyond the end of time will rule absolutely through the ages with love and mercy on all His people. The vaccine, the weapon created by man and his god-

science against the virus, is just around the corner and the pandemic war is soon to end. Let's all be vigilant to avoid being late casualty. Let's all survive the pandemic. The Maagap'73 wishes everybody a Prosperous Year 2021!





AVELINO I RAZON, JR
President
WILFREDO V GARCIA
Secretary

Message to the Class

As we approach the end of the year, we can't help but look back at the challenges the year 2020 has brought upon us. It cannot be denied that the pandemic had a significant impact on everyone's physical, mental and collective emotional state. It took a lot of strength, faith and resilience for most of us to get through the year. Above all, it reminded us of what is truly essential in life – family and loved ones. As we turn a new leaf, we, your newly elected Officers of Marangal Class 74, would like to wish everyone a better 2021. May your 2021 be filled with good health, strong friendships and an even more meaningful relationship with your families. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

A. Election of new set of Officers

The class recently conducted an election of new set of officers upon completion of the term of office of the incumbent Class President Pons Crucero after five years of fruitful service. Elected President was Sonny Razon along with Willy Garcia as Secretary, Eugene Cedo as Treasurer, Amy Tolentino as Auditor and Ruben Garcia as Class Historian. Other elected Officers were: Danny Abinoja as

PMARAI Class Representative, Rene Rieza as Assistant Secretary, Ace Tolentino as Air Force representative, Gene Cedo as Army Representative, Ruben Garcia as Navy/Coast Guard Representative, Amy Tolentino as PNP Representative and Ricardo Dela Paz as Sports/Golf Coordinator.

This is Sonny Razon's second term as Class President after having served previously from 1980 to 1985. Likewise, this is Willy Garcia's second stint as Secretary. He first served under the incumbency of Pons Crucero. Ruben Garcia is our permanent Class Historian since graduation. He was the Editor in Chief for the Class 74 Graduation SWORD.

Hereunder is the succession of Class Presidents:

1. Joe Ongchangco	April 1970-1971
2. Eddie Alava (+)	1971-1974
3. Bong Franco	1974 -1980
4. Sonny Razon	1980 -1985
5. Pards Espejo	1985-1987
6. Rogje Calunsag	1987-1989
7. Ike Inserto (+)	1989-1995
8. Pete Ramboanga	1995-1996
9. Jun Esperon	1996-1999
10. Vic Franco	1999-2008
11. Ernie Belen	2008-Dec 2015
12. Pons Crucero	Dec 2015-Nov 2020
13. Sonny Razon	Nov 2020- to date

The New Set of Officers shall endeavor:

- 1) To promote the welfare and protect the interest of the class;
- 2) To conduct activities that will enhance and sustain the camaraderie and

fellowship among members;

- 3) To improve the financial capability of the class; and
- 4) To remain true and steadfast to our ideals and values as members of PMAAAI.

But their most daunting task at the moment is steering the class through these crazy and critical times and preparing for an orderly and successful Golden Jubilee Celebration and Homecoming come 2024.

B. Preparations for the Golden Jubilee 2024

To put in motion our plans for the Golden Jubilee/Annual Homecoming in 2024, Sonny Razon has appointed the following to spearhead the preparations:

1. Eugene Cedo- Budget/Class Funds, Transportation, Lunch after the parade, Class Dinner (Formal), and Uniforms.
2. Danny Abinoja - Hotel reservations and signing of contract with the Hotel Management
3. Willy Garcia - Class Directory
4. Ruben Garcia - SWORD 74 (Golden Edition)
5. Ricky Dela Paz - Battle of Classes
6. Major Service Reps - Accounting of members
 - a. Ace Tolentino for Airforce
 - b. Gene Cedo for Army
 - c. Ruben Garcia for Navy/Coast guard
 - d. Amy Tolentino for PNP

Gene Cedo and Ricky Dela Paz were further given specific task to coordinate with the PMA authorities regarding plans for lunch after the parade, transportation



and planned donation to PMA. They will also coordinate and find a venue within John Hay for the formal Class dinner. On SWORD 74 Golden Edition, Ruben Garcia has announced the creation of Editorial Staff composed of the following:

- a. Editorial Board – Avelino Razon Jr, Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Danilo Abinoja, Damian Carlos, and Ruben Garcia as the Editor in Chief.
- b. Associate Editors – Amable Tolentino, Mar Laurico, Rene Elumbaring, Horacio Tolentino, Claro Doria, Wilfredo Garcia, Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, Cesar Lagrimas, Edgar Peralta, Vladimir Punto and Rene Rieza

The following is the timeline for the SWORD 74 (Golden Edition):

- 31 March 2021 – Presentation of the template for the two-page write-up
- 31 December 2021 – Submission of two page lay out by all Mistahs to Editorial Staff
- 30 June 2022 – Submission of all articles/write-ups to Editorial Staff
- 31 October 2023 - Distribution of the Golden Yearbook

On Class Directory – We will make a new Class Directory which contains list of facts such as member's names, addresses (home and email), telephone numbers (mobile and landline) The purpose is for us to have contact with one another all the time. Deadline of submission of addresses and telephone numbers is 31 December 2021.

On Hotel Reservations – A large majority has already paid for the Hotel reservations. Those who had made reservations but have not paid, will have until end of January 2021 to pay. After which signing of the contract will be executed between PMA Class 74 represented by Danny Abinoja and Hotel Manor Management.

C. Fellowships

- a. Zoom Christmas Party and fellowship was held on 19 Dec 2020 from 0900 to 1200 with following program:

Emcee – Amy Tolentino

1. Prayer -Harry Limtong (Las Vegas)
2. Christmas Carol – Winnie Tolentino (Aparri)
3. Roll Call of Attendees – Sonny Razon

4. Welcome Remarks/Report of the President-Sonny Razon
5. Airforce, Army, Navy/CoastGuard, PNP group video presentations
6. Raffle – Ricky Dela Paz and Danny Abinoja
7. Remarks by Sittiporn Patarasen (Thailand) representing all mistahs abroad.
8. Remarks – Albert Mabaquiao representing Visayas and Mindanao.
9. Announcement of winners of Raffles and presentations – Sonny Razon

Despite lack of material time to prepare, we were able to pull off one memorable, happy and successful affair. **An Affair in December to Remember.**

b. Retired Cavaliers Golf fellowship at PNGC on Dec 10, 2020

Players: Jun Esperon, Jun Noble, Pons Crucero, Willy Garcia, Lito Gutierrez, Gene Cedo, Sonny Razon, Ed Doromal, Rene Rieza, and Bobby Bayona.

Results: Marangal Team was the Champion in Group I Category.

We play *"for the love of the game itself where we triumph as considerate victors or lose with grace and a determined will to win."*

We hope to sustain the same enthusiasm we have now and even more in years to come. For it is not merely about the game of golf but about the bonds we forge and the fellowship we nurture through the years. As an added bonus, it keeps us healthy and safe amid this pandemic.





RAUL S GONZALES
President
DANTE T FERRER
Secretary

The pandemic restrictions did not prevent the Makabayans from holding a class meeting... only it was a virtual meeting. Nonetheless, the meeting was held last November 30, 2020 via Zoom presided by Raul S. Gonzales, president of the class attended by 25 members, including some who are based abroad. There were only two topics for discussion, namely; PMAAAI matters and Makabayan Class 1975 matters.

The salient points in the PMAAAI matters that needed to be disseminated are the following: the PMAAAI amnesty program for lifetime membership; the on-going investigation by CIDG regarding the missing PMAAAI funds invested with ACES; building construction that will house the PMAAAI Center for Leadership Excellence under a usufruct contract with the Megaworld; issues in the CCAFP Honor System that PMAAAI considers a moral obligation for it to commission a study and submit recommendations; and finally, the president enjoined the class to support the PMAAAI fund-raising program by participating in a golf tournament dubbed as the "Battle of Classes" to be held on January 16 – 30, 2021 at the PN Golf Course and VAB Golf Course. In tandem with the golf tournament is a raffle draw and Raul Gonzales advised the members to participate in the selling.

With regard to the 2021 PMA alumni homecoming, Raul Gonzales said that the homecoming will be held on February 11, 12, and 13, 2021. Traditionally, a golf tournament will be held on February 11, 2021 at the Baguio Golf and Country Club and at the John Hay Golf and Country Club. The General Assembly will be held on February 12, 2021 but only 300 members will be allowed to physically attend. The rest may attend the meeting virtually via webinar.

Makabayan Class 75 Matters -

During the Makabayan class officers' virtual meeting, citing the need for systematized and structured class activities suggested that there should be committees to plan and underwrite the class activities. The meeting arrived at the following: Raul Gonzales takes Plans and Programs committee tasked to formulate and work out activities for the class. German Doria holds the Ways and Means committee in charge of devising schemes in order to underwrite and subsidize future activities of the class.



For the Communications committee, Dante Ferrer was chosen as the chairman with the responsibility to prepare Class Calls, communications to the class, and other related activities that promote information. And finally, for Sports Committee, Jeffrey Sodusta was picked to plan sports activities for the class either for fellowship or fund-raising. Raul gave the discretion to the chairmen to select their own vice and members.

Nobody batted an eyelash when the meeting decided that the Makabayan Class 75 Christmas party will not be held for this year due to the pandemic conditions. The decision, to many, brought subtle display of emotional response either due to joy or dismay. It has been the decision carried during the class officers in a meeting last August 20, 2020. But everyone agreed that the usual exchange of gifts be done individually, delivered by the ubiquitous Grab rider.

In October 21, 2020, the Class presented to Benny Brizuela the class ring as an honorary member of PMA Class 75 by Raul Gonzales and Noe Wong. It can be recalled that a lunch-meeting was scheduled for the presentation however, consistent with the pandemic protocols, the occasion was cancelled and only the class president and Noe Wong presented the ring.

In the last edition of The Cavalier in 2020, our spot in the Class Call was devoted to the memories of our four fallen classmates during the period of lockdowns. They were interred or inurned sans the appropriate honors. It was decided that as

soon as the conditions permit, appropriate military honors or special memorial services will be accorded to them. This activity will be planned and arranged by the appropriate committee.

An indefatigable Makabayan 75 brought pride and fame to the Class when just before Christmas, the Association of Local Social Welfare and Development Officers of the Philippines, Inc. bestowed the *Gawad Parangal for Outstanding Local Chief Executive* to Mayor Fernando L. Mesa of Alabat, Quezon. It was yet another recognition among the many already obtained by the good mayor for the poverty-alleviation he has drawn off in his town. Andy, as we fondly call him, pushed for agribusiness initiatives and deliberate efforts to widen sources of livelihood for the farmers. Andy aggressively persuaded partnerships for economic diversification in some traditional livelihoods like, rice farming, coconut production for copra, virgin coconut



oil milling, fishing, cacao growing for *tablea* production, *calamansi* and *sili* (hot pepper) plantations, and coconut sugar production. A unique stingless honeybee culture, enabled by a technical support from UP Los Banos, became an additional livelihood of the residents.

No less than Cielito F. Habito, columnist and former director-general of the National Economic and Development Authority and Socio-Economic Planning Secretary during the Ramos administration took cognizance of these achievements when he wrote an article in his column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer entitled, *When A Mayor Inspires*. The article tells that Mayor Mesa's success was "..... a great inspiration on how, with excellent leadership and good governance, we can overcome whatever old and new challenges 2021 would throw in our way..."

Keep it up mistah Andy, you've got the right mix of dedication and enthusiasm!

Another commendable and creditable performance by a Makabayan 75 member bringing more admiration for

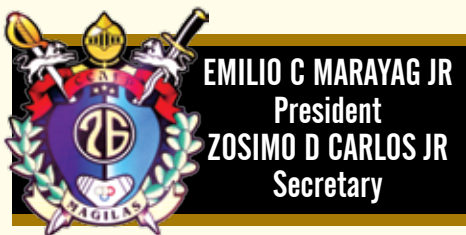


Undersecretary Cardozo Luna trooping the honor guards during the AFP's 85th Anniversary Celebration on December 21, 2020.

the class is Undersecretary Cardozo Luna, Undersecretary of National Defense as he brought colors to the celebration of the 85th AFP Anniversary on December 21, 2020 in Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. He was the honoree for the arrival as well as the departure honors. He was also the presenter

of the awards given to individual soldiers and units.

Just as Ding Luna and Andy Mesa, brought another feather on their cap, respectively, they have also brought fame and prominence to the Makabayans. Congratulations!



We wish everyone a Better, Brighter, and Stronger 2021

Forty-five years ago on Feb 17, 1976, strong members of Magilas Class 76 graduated from the PMA. From that group, 57 are healthy, now in their seniors years ranging from age 66 to 70 years old to date. Sadly, we lost Nanie Perez and Paji Pajarito last year. We will miss them dearly.

In the following years ahead, we hope to remain healthy and happy so as to continue enjoying each other's camaraderie. Of course, the 57 remaining originals have been augmented by our honorary mistahs from the US service academies, and several from the military and private sectors of society. Our total class strength today is 92 Magilas gentlemen and lady.

2021 Plans and Activities

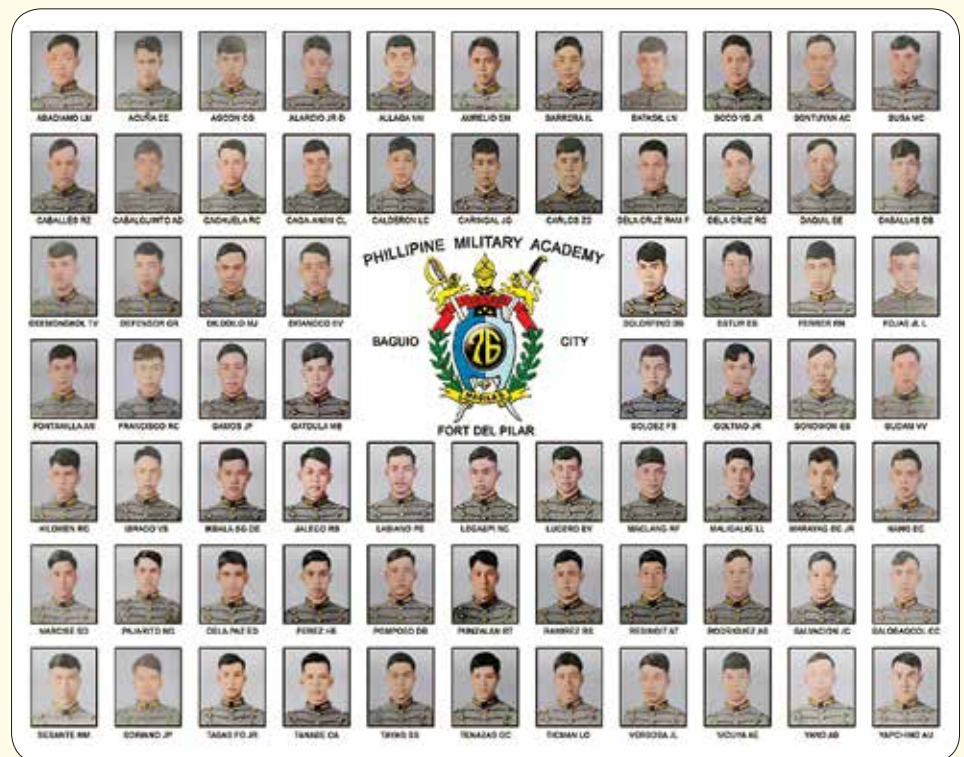
Covid is still around. So, we expect minimal class activities, gatherings, and socials. Perhaps a few couples can go on a road trip and lunch in Pangasinan to visit Lingayen Mayor Pol Bataoil. Perhaps, with the new vaccine and less infections, we can have a Mid-Year assembly sometime in

June. Perhaps we can also push thru with our Yearly Charity Golf tournament. And most specially, we can have our enjoyable class Christmas party in December. Let us hope for the best, Mistahs. In the meantime, let us stay strong and continue keeping in touch with each other via our Viber Chats, Zoom meetings, golf games, and small group gatherings.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PLANS

The Golden Sword will be published, so everyone is encouraged to contribute important pictures, articles, memorabilia, and ideas. Please contact Chris Tanabe, who will be the Editor in Chief.

Also, we have a healthy Class Fund at present. The Class Officers intend to keep it that way, and input more ideas



ALFA	BRAVO	CHARLIE	DELTA
ALARCIO, Boying BATAOIL, Pol BLANCAFLOR, Ric BONTUYAN, Alan CABALLES, Raul CACHUELA, Sonny DELA PAZ, Ely DEL MUNDO, Baby DEEMONGCOL, Tui ESPINA, Eric FERRER, Sendong FRANCISCO, Paco GOLTAIO, Joel GONOWON, Ed HILOMEN, Romy IKBALA, Nong LAGDAMEN, Ipoy MALIGALIG, Doo ONG, Tyron SOLIDUM, Joe SORIANO, Jeff TENAZAS, Gerry	ABADIANO, Adiong ACUNA, Edong BUSA, Maning CABALQUINTO, Abner CALDERON, Lhen CHUA, Paul COMAHIG, Eppie DASALLAS, Jigs DELA RAMA, Jose DOLORFINO, Ben ESGUERRA, Hermie IBRADO, Bong LEGASPI, Nat NANO, Slugge NARCISE, Sammy PAZ, Joey RESNIGIT, Alex SALVACION, Joey TAYAG, Sammy TEODORO, Gibo VERAN, Efrén YOUNG, Wilson ZERRUDO, Ariel	AGCON, Cesar ALLAGA, Igoy BOCO, Vic CAGA-ANAN, Caloy CARINGAL, Jimmy CARLOS, Cholo CAYTON, Nonong DELA CRUZ, Mon DY, Pol JAVIER, Sandy LABIANO, Retep LAPUZ, Teddy LINO, Willy MACLANG, Rod MARAYAG, Epoy MONTELIBANO, Joe PUNZALAN, Mon RAMIREZ, Rey RODRIGUEZ, Arman TABANGAY, Byron TANABE, Chris YANO, Alex YAPCHING, Alex VERZOSA, Jess	ARMADA, Archie BERNARDO, Joseph DACANAY, Raffy DAQUIL, Efrén DEFENSOR, Gerry DITANGCO, Edwin DIVINAGRACIA, Carly FOJAS, Jogy FONTANILLA, Tony GAMOS, Joe GATDULA, Tanggol GOLEZ, Toto GURREA, Ed LACANIENTA, Ed LUCERO, Emil MARTINEZ, Caloy MATA, Paul NATIVIDAD, Philip SANCHEZ, Mar SEGOVIA, Art SIN, James TANDOC, Ben TICMAN, Louie



and fund raising projects to increase our fund to include the expenses for our 50th Anniversary in 2026.

More importantly, everybody is encouraged to remain healthy, active, and avoid any kind of diseases and sickness. We all want to be together for the next five years and more.

Birthday Celebrants

JANUARY: 1- Efrén Daquil, 3- Pako Francisco, 9- Mon dela Cruz, 11- Vic Boco, 28- Sandy Javier, 29- Sammy Tayag, 30- Alan Bontuyan

FEBRUARY: 1- Emil Lucero, 7-Nong Ikbala, 8- Byron Tabangay, 13- Joey

Salvacion, 14- James Sin, 15- Armand Rodriguez

MARCH: 7- Hermie Esguera, 10- Bong Ibrado, 11- Paul Mata, 17- Tyron Ong, 24- Lhen Calderon

STAY HAPPY AND GOD bless everyone.



•NEWS

1. Congratulations to Dr. Jose Maria Carlos "Macky" Camagay 🐔 for hurdling the 2020 Physicians Licensure Exams. Proud parents Roy and Doris Camagay.
2. Ernie de Guzman is recuperating well after his heart surgery last November.

•TSIKENKLAB

We miss our regular weekly frolics. 🐔 Jolly Masikap seniors 🐔 are coping with LCQ (lockdown, curfew, quarantine).

•PASKO

The Class had a 'zoom'ie Pasko party on Dec 19 (Sat).

Zoom hosts: Nes and Mayie Ochoa.

Emcees: Dads and Tess Domingo.

Sunny Pequiras announced some matters re: alumni matters.

Dan Jimenez led the holiday toast for good health and a good year for Masikap families.



Prayers, games, singing pasko songs. Mistahs and spouses, local and overseas, shared stories about the family.

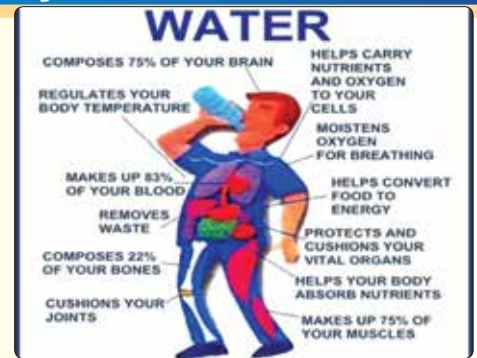
•NEW YEAR

We start Ox year 2021 with positive vibes. May it be a happy recovery year as we turn our trash into treasures.

At sumainyo ang biyaya ng Panginoon. 🙏

•OBIT

1. MMDA chair Danny Lim (formerly with Class 1977) died from covid complications. He rests in peace. Condolence to the family.
2. Sally, spouse of Rey Bangit, passed away. She rests in peace. Condolence to Rey and children.



RODOLFO Y MAGTIBAY
President
FELIPE HB BUENA JR
Secretary

Warm greetings and best felicitations to all Class Members who celebrated their birthdays during the 4th Quarter of 2020!

For October – Winnie Borja, Speedy Cacanindin, Art Cacdac, Rey Mapaggu, Sluggo Mena, Raffy Obrera, Rey Odulio, and Buddy Resurrecion.

For November – Goody Ignacio, Rudy Magtibay, and Butch Silva.

For December – Manny Banta and Orly Mabutas.

The names of our Class Honorary Members Rey Odulio, Sr., Ernest Villareal,



and Alex Quiros, and Associate Member Willy Yu is published in this Cavalier Magazine for info and comments of the PMAAAI general membership.

For the Class charity projects, a total of Php205,000 have been donated to help typhoon victims in five different areas; namely, Php50,000 to Catanduanes

Province, Php50,000 to other parts of Bicol Region, Php50,000 to Cagayan Province, Php25,000 to Tuguegarao City, and Php30,000 to Isabela Province.

In lieu of the Class traditional Christmas Party, a “Mass and Kumustahan” via Zoom was held last 19 December attended by Class Members and their families including





those from the USA. Attendees wore colored shirts representing the original company colors (Alpha Coy – Green, Bravo Coy – White, Charlie Coy – Red, Delta Coy – Blue, Echo Coy – Tangerine, and Foxtrot Coy – Maroon). In attendance but not



included in the screen shot are Jess Altuna, Maricar Cabading, Rolly Detabali, and Paul Mascariñas.

The year-end Class Golf Fellowship was held last 29 December at the Villamor Golf Club.

For the Class continuing CSR Project, financial and in-kind donations were given to orphans and abandoned children of the Religious Missionaries of the Divine Savior in Rodriguez, Rizal last 19 December jointly with McDonalds.



Mighty Mapitagans @ 40+1 by: Nickbart

Thank God we are now in the best stage of our lifetime, 60-70 years of age which is the most productive in human life, according to our mistah uncle Sam Diciano based on an extensive study in the USA published in New England Journal of Medicine in 2018. The study further states that "at age 60 you reach the top of your potential". Therefore, the **Mighty Mapitagans** are in their best level of life.

As majority of the class are now retired it is just right that we treat ourselves well as it is important to be happy. We already made our alma mater proud with the career successes and the service reputations indelibly written under our sleeves. It's just proper that we now relax and enjoy.

As many of us may well be aware, our age level is vulnerable to sickness. Do not be afraid of it. Everyone has to go through it as it is part of life's cycle. Let the doctors handle our body and let God and nature handle our lives. But let's be in charge of our own moods.

Allow me to thank everyone for supporting the different projects of the class especially the **MAPITAGAN VILLAGE** which the class, through the assistance of Police Regional Office 5 under PBGen Bartolome Bustamante, put up in Brgy Batag, Virac, Catanduanes which was badly hit by successive typhoons. On Dec 17, 2020, our class donated 350 thousand worth of construction materials like GI sheets, plywood, lumber, as well as rechargeable light. Kudos to the Bicol Police for helping in

the construction of 30 houses for homeless typhoon victims. Thank you mistah Dante Costes for helping me locate a beneficiary in Virac and many thanks to mistah Jeff Tupas for the legwork and many other errands for the class.

We are the **Mighty Mapitagans** - classmates forever! Let's protect our bond and endeavor to make it stronger.

Happy **41st Anniversary!** Ahoo! Ahoo! Ahoo!



Thanksgiving Dinner was hosted by Sec Ed Sayong who got his confirmation from the CA recently on 01 December 2020 at Veranda, Veterans Golf Clubhouse where 23 Mapitagans attended.

From the desk of the class secretary

A Happy and bountiful New Year 2021 to all Mapitagans! Let me take this opportunity to share a simple but very beautiful and meaningful prayer, "A Prayer for the New Year" posted in our Viber Group by our illustrious mistah, my kinakapatid, Ces Ordoyo, that cez' everything we need to express to God Almighty thanking Him not only the joy and blessings of the past year but also for the trials and difficulties we experienced thus that made us seek Him all the more for the benefit of renewing our Faith and Love for God The Father and Our Lord Jesus Christ to serve Him and our fellow men:

"Lord, Whether I leave behind a year of joy or of trials and difficulties, I pause to give thanks.

Thank you for being with with me everyday of every year. Thank you for making all things new and for giving me the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.

Remind me of your presence in the days to come, even when I feel pushed and rushed by busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year."

"MAY THE LORD ANSWER ALL YOUR PRAYERS." PSALM 20:5

Class Activities in Brief:

Fun times like our regular birthday get-together lunches are no more these days, this is so because we simply cannot have a good number of attendees due to covid19 pandemic restrictions. But, sometimes though seldom now, we get to have really important occasions to celebrate....

Birthday Greetings:

November: 2 - Sammy Diciano, 7 - Butch Bautista, 10 - Arthur Yap, 12 - Drian Esplana (+), 12 - Martin Jubas (+), 17 - O'irog Macapagal, 22 - Ed Sayong Del Rosario, 22 - Zyril Carlos, 23 - Marlou Salazar, 29 - Jun Sanchez, 30 - Mandy Espineli.

December: 2 - Caloy Clet (+), 7 - Meo Prado, 8 - Ome Carbonell, 16 - Roy Palaroan,



Fellowship of December Birthday Celebrants (Romy Pradsky, Monlors and Tanjo) in Baguio Country Club on Dec. 27, 2020 with Sammy D and Noel M attending!

16 - Ed Angel Tan, 19 - Mon Loria, 24 - Noel Dominguez, 24 - Del Lee, 31 - Hermie Colina.

January: 2 - Jess Atoc, 6 - Mel Fajardo, 7 - Albert Bushen Rivera (+), 8 - Ely Tiangco (+), 9 - Herold Ubalde (+), 15 - Segundo Boy Olobs

Bolo, 15 - Mervin Tiu, 16 - Alan Sta. Ana, 22 - Lito Cruz (+).

"Sa 2021 ay magiging Oks na tayo, kasi yan ay Year of the Ox" --- Master Hanz Cua, Feng Shui Expert. Hehehe....



PROJECT: MAPITAGAN VILLAGE, for the typhoon victims in Brgy Bantag, Virac, Catanduanes, Dec 17, 2020.





For this year's Homecoming Issue, we would like to present a brief profile of our Class being one of the Host Classes this year, celebrating its 40th Anniversary.

In 1977, two hundred forty-three (243) young men were appointed by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos to compose the members of PMA Class 1981. With this group are three foreign cadets from Thailand (Thawip Netniyom), Singapore (Vui Chung Chee) and Malaysia (Abu Sarin bin Baha). Similarly, four (4) fourth-class Cadets were sent to Foreign Service Academies (1-USNA and 3-USCGA). The Class adopted the motto – Dimalupig, which means “Cannot be Vanquished” or “Unbeatable”. After four years of rigorous training, 165 graduated in 1981, to include those in the US Service Academies. Of the 165 graduates, only 130 or 53% came from the original Class. The other 35 graduates came from other senior classes (Class 77- 1; Class 78- 2; Class 79-7; Class 80-25), who were turned back to join our Class.

Thereafter, the Class was commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Four Branches of Service: 61 to the Army, 37 to the Navy, 35 to the Constabulary and 29 to the Air Force, while our foreigner-classmates went back to their respective countries to serve in their Armed Forces.



During their entire career, Dimalupig Cavaliers have occupied positions of great responsibility and distinguished themselves, in various Military and Government institutions. Among the significant positions held by the Dimalupigs are: 2- Chiefs of Staff, AFP; 1- Dir Gen, PNP; 1- Senator (Member of the Thailand Parliament); Several Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries; Bureau Heads (Dangerous Drugs Board and the Bureau of Immigration); Director General, NICA. The Class also prides itself to having the only PMAYER to be ordained as a Catholic Priest (Fr Gregory Ramos). Likewise, the Class also has a member who was appointed by the United Nations as concurrent Head of Mission and Peacekeeping Force Commander of a UN Mission (UNDOF) – Cav Boying Ecarma.

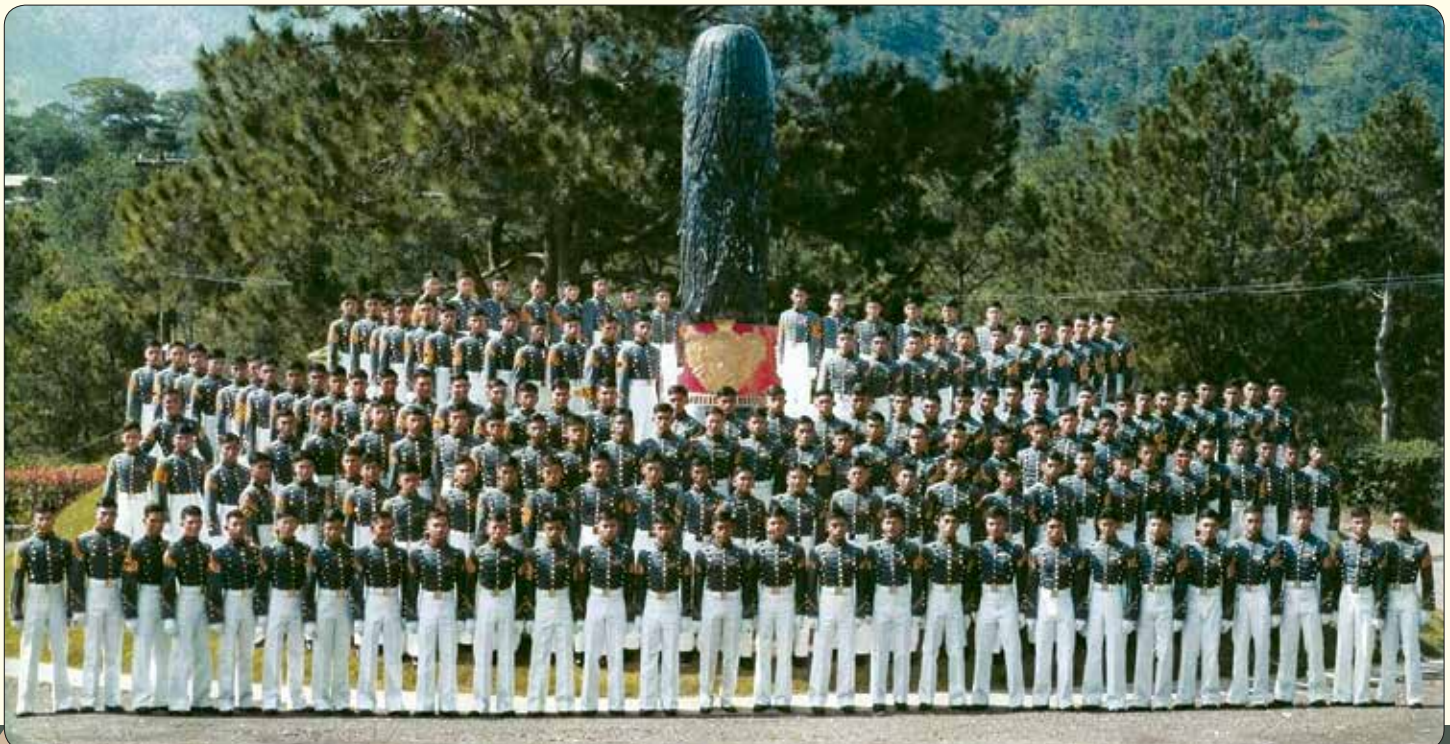
A number of members of the Class have been recognized for their exemplary

performance in the Service namely: Cavalier Awards – 12; PMA Outstanding Achievement Awards – 5; Outstanding Policemen Awards – 2; and TOPS Awards – 2. This includes the recently approved CY 2021 Cavalier Awardee for Private Enterprise – Cav Norman Legaspi, and Cavalier Awardee for Special Field – Cav Gabriel Riego de Dios.

Of the 165 who graduated, ninety six (96) stayed with the service until compulsory retirement. Eighty nine (89) made it to Star Rank with four attaining the highest ranks (4-Stars): 2- Chiefs of Staff, AFP; 1- DGen, PNP, and 1- Thai Armed Forces. Additionally, eight (8) members of the Class attained 3-Stars; forty (40), 2-Stars and thirty seven (37), 1-Star.

As of 2021, twenty nine (29) members of the Class have gone to the Great Beyond.

The road to our 40th Anniversary has been long and winding. Every member





experienced ups and downs, triumphs and failures in their journey. But we have a long way to go. We will have many more challenges to face and activities to experience. But surely, these will be cherished by every Dimalupig in their memories. Once a Dimalupig, always a Dimalupig.

Happy 40th Anniversary and Mabuhay!



The first of its kind: The Matikas Hybrid Christmas Party

The period over the last quarter of 2020 put our class in a cusp of two profoundly opposing spirits: The realm of pandemic which oppresses all of us to the pervading regimen of a lockdown and be hermitically ensconced in our lonesome and melancholic shell, and the spirit of Christmas that draws us to the season of merriment and celebration. The Christmas

spirit of course prevailed and we bravely decided to celebrate. But we took all measures to ensure that we do it without any trace of real or imagined violation of the prescribed anti-COVID protocols. Again, thanks to the applied intervention of technology, the PMA Matikas Class of 83 conducted a Hybrid Online Christmas Celebration.

The first challenge was how can we ensure the fluidity and fun of a party given the limitations of an online medium? The next challenge is how can we encourage the participation of the class members given the expected drab of just seeing each other's facial profile on the screen (which we have been so used to doing for like endless times)? Then next came the challenge of controlling a mob of

celebrities (according to their respective set of measures) each of whom with a sovereign disposition and an entitlement for a monopoly of airtime to tell his horrifying plebe experience for the nth time. Add to all these the fetid prospect of having a party without music, food, drinks and entertainment which is totally an uncharted zone that we must just have to tackle or accept.

So, in a yet to be disclosed venue (that would challenge embattled veterans of treasure hunting to locate and for the treasures it keeps), we held our party. With the combined wizardry of USEC Kid Florece who provided the cutting-edge equipment for the overarching technical control, the charisma of Gil Bombita and his team (not to mention the priceless support

of Atty Louie Baltazar that's still kept as class precious secret) to assemble the enticing monetary rewards, the fastidious dedication of Per Quilicot to coordinate for the program details and technical nuances, the collaboration of Dante Villanueva and the Party Emcee, Ronnie Mercado to whip

the entertainment and games of the party and the calming assurance brought by the presence of Allen Bantolo, the challenge was faced.

Combining the secret sauces of entertainment, showmanship, online techniques, the prospect of REWARDS,

and most importantly, the eagerness of the members to see the participation of their progenies, the celebration held its ground as among the events that the class will remember in a lifetime. To see more the details of that, please refer to this link in YouTube: <https://youtu.be/c8cB91InO1U>.



Class President delivering his greetings and felicitations.



The Steering Group in Action.



Digital Online Raffle made it fast, fair and clear.



Online Stage with the FOIC as Program Emcee.



The Christmas message of SILG Ed Año capped the night.



Very eager and active class participation.



World Class...



Performers...



Tik-tokers



SALVADOR MB MISON JR
President
FRANCIS B ALAURIN
Secretary

The Maharlikans and the 21st Century Technology

Driven by his desire to know the actual medical condition of a Class member, Rogelio 'Tianong' Santiano, at 1416H of 30 November 2020, Philippine Time, requested that we make verification whether the patient Virgilio Capati admitted of dementia-type of Alzheimer and renal failure at the Veteran's Medical Memorial Center (VMMC) was the same Class member we have at the Maharlika Class. It took only a couple of minutes for the Class to confirm, that, indeed, they were one and the same persons. Just over two weeks earlier, Eduardo 'Loy' Loyola, anxious about an transpiring intensifying natural catastrophe, sent a weather update at 0425 of 15 November 2020, Philippine Time, on how the Cagayan Province was turning into 'Pacific Ocean' under severe rain brought by Typhoon 'Ulysses'. Useful, precautionary and factual, the information they provided were real-time which did not reflect they were, respectively, delivered 10,777 kilometers (Auburn, Washington State), and 14,643 kilometers (Tampa, Florida) from where the events actually unfolded.

Speed, accuracy, frequency and volume in information exchange are, indeed, few of the wonders of the information technology that we, Maharlikans, enjoy today.

From the aircraft carriers' navigational equipment, ICBMs, FBI and Mossad Secret Services, banking and finance, traffic lights, point-of-sales of groceries, to the computers in our living rooms, etc., anything equipped with microchips are now accessible from any point of the globe. Technology has shrunk global distances, and transcended real and artificial borders, new-found professions, people and ideas.

Roger Santiano and Loy Loyola are a subset of the bigger Maharlikan Class who have embraced the adapt-or-perish mindset that would, otherwise, bring us back to the Dark Ages, or, deeper still, into the Neanderthal times, so to speak. Adaptability - inarguably, the Maharlika's gold standard of character - keeps us on-course in this increasingly competitive, radically transforming world where technology has not only become part of our routine lives, but is one that we cannot do without.

“

Historic first for the Maharlikans.
Rogelio "Tianong" Santiano
received his 2nd and complete
shot of Pfizer Covid 19 vaccine.

To you Tianong and to all other
brave frontliner- Mistahs
who selflessly work thru the
virus every single day ...

Maraming salamat po.
Go go go Maharlikans!

Short message from PMA '84
The Maharlikans
12 January 2021

MAHARLIKA
News and Events

Maharlikans share with multitude of humanity worldwide as technology's primary beneficiaries.

Still struggling from the deadly novel coronavirus, we successfully carried out critical decisions, and performed social obligations as a Class. We extended financial assistance to families of dead and ailing Class members, attending PMAAAI-wide zoom meetings, consultations and conferences, organizing golf fellowships, planning periodic bike runs, etc., all made possible by technology and social media platforms. At the comfort of our homes, we promptly attended to our respective family duties - on-line grocery placements (and, deliveries), on-line banking transanctions, on-line class sessions and instructions, etc. - all completely protected from the deadly virus.

Facing the rapidly changing social and scientific terrain, Maharlikans of today think and act in new and more creative ways.

More than a dozen have now ventured into cryptocurrency; and, their numbers are increasing. Stock market, once viewed as a rare and scary investment proposition during our active armed service years, has become a popular investment haven to entrust our hard-earned retirement monies. Over-the-counter bank transactions are, definitely, things of the past, and the novel coronavirus has made on-line banking, not only essential but even more imperative by DOH's social protocols. Technology is now an integral part of an effectively functioning society as, recently,

we, the motoring Maharlikans compulsorily complied to the RFID installations regulations, which, conversely, have been made available as early as 2008 (Magan 😊!). With technology, Maharlikan industrialists have, likewise, acquired added multi-role competencies to monitor 24/7 their expanding businesses in the countryside while in Manila, vacationing elsewhere, or at the other edge of the globe. Indeed, technology enables us to explore daunting global challenges, and the unlimited opportunities that come with it, keeping us afloat in the race for relevance, otherwise, erosion to obsolescence.

Inarguably, technology provides three of the Maharlikans' current and future underpinnings.

First, it expands the Maharlikan network. It facilitates 'shepherding', our sacred Biblical duty to account for every Class member. So says the Lord: "Behold, as a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness." (Ezekiel 34:11-16). Human resource remains the Maharlika Class' greatest asset, and technology gets us connected in a common information super highway thread. It is our medium to disseminate Class Resolutions, policies, guidelines, duties and responsibilities, and to get the members' commitment to Class programs and activities.



Less OBs, less jabong, less hazards, less bogeys, less missed putts,

Happy New Year Golfers!

and loads of eagles/birdies, possibly a hole in one and more friends.

Necrological Services for Mistah Ver

Libingan ng mga Bayani - 06 January 2021



Paalam Mistah

"When bells for us are rung and our last taps is sung"

Second, it provides platforms for an open, free-wheeling expression of individual opinions. Where there are 'no right or wrong answers', such platforms remain venues for market of best ideas to promote 'your opinion is just as good as mine' mindset. We keep discussions in utter cordiality and respectful way, and do not require stringent beyond-reasonable-doubt standards of information exchange. We take full responsibility for what we publish, ensuring that they are factual, beneficial and are not 'fake news' by-products. What we publish are simply an expression of ourselves, interests and discipline. Technology ensures constant dialogue and information exchange, thus keeps Class cohesion, unity and esprit de corps.

Third, 5G technology is forthcoming. New adjustments in skills and knowledge may be required of us in this upgraded technology to sustain relevance and to keep track with the entire Maharlikan gang. Let's brace ourselves with 20x faster-than-LTE lightning speed internet experience; **quality streaming** without interruptions in real-time latency; **clearer video** conference calls with zero lag; clear audio; super-sharp video resolution; and, more **intelligent homes and offices which we can absolutely** control and secure from far-distant locations.

However, technology does not simply guarantee success. In his book, 'Strength to Love' (1963), little did Martin Luther King Jr know how prophetic his words would be about 'Guided missiles and misguided men' which, in literal sense were witnessed during the Gulf War (August 1990 - February 1991) and Afghanistan War (Oct 2001 - 2014).

Therefore, technology has intrinsic limitations. It cannot perform such subliminal acts that only human predisposes, as the genuine care and concern of Roger Santiano and Loy Loyola when they supplied factual, timely information when they mattered most. So was technology a mere medium of Art Lim's generosity transcending great distance from 'Down Under' Australia to send Class members hand gloves, protective masks and medical equipment against the novel coronavirus. Our US-based Maharlikans seemed just one-meter close to support Class mobilization efforts in extending financial assistance to some of our ailing Maharlikans. Likewise, technology plays an indispensable role in the transformation initiatives at the Bureau of Customs, but needs the guidance of righteous Maharlikan hands.

Indeed, technology has been, inextricably linked to the contemporary 21st Century environment. Everything now happens right at our fingertips. However, Maharlikans will continue to be technology's most responsible inheritors, users and beneficiaries.





GALILEO GR KINTANAR JR
President
RESTITUTO F PADILLA JR
Secretary

At the outset, the Class Board of Officers conveys its wishes of a better, safer, healthier, and more prosperous 2021 to everyone! Let us all continue to count our blessings and continue to pray for our country, our people and our class that we may all get out of this pandemic wiser, healthier and much more open to the opportunity of being of help to others.

Speaking of blessings, we are happy to announced that we have another SANDIWAN who was officially appointed to head an important corporation of Government. Manny Gaerlan was appointed as head of the Clark Development Corporation (CDC) this January 2021 by the President and joins Aaron Aquino who heads the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC). Clark plays a vital role in spurring the growth of the Central Luzon area and we are sure Manny and Aaron will have a lot to contribute as we see the gradual economic reboot of our country.

Last December, we informed everyone of the cancellation of our Class Christmas Party and instead made it doubly meaningful by sending our widows and orphans our class Christmas gifts and special greetings. Most were delivered personally by members of the board while a few who lived in Mindanao/Visayas were sent via courier or mail. All of our widows and orphans were overjoyed and

convey their profound thanks to the whole class for remembering them specially during the holidays.

We are proud to announce too that our Brats continue to do their bit and were able to raise funds and goods for our needy Kababayans who were affected by the massive flooding in Northern Philippines. Again, we wish to make special mention of the Pernes and the Farnacio siblings for leading the way in organizing our Brats for this very kind and charitable activity. We encourage our Brats to remain relevant and continue with your soul-enriching activities. You are all truly an improvement of the race!

Homecoming this year will be held under very strict conditions and as of this writing, we await the announcement of the Mother Chapter on its actual conduct. Nonetheless, the Class may most likely adapt a virtual reunion this year to ensure everyone's safety. We will announce this ahead of time via our social media platforms. Abangan!

The current board is also winding up their tour of duty and we would like to announce that the Class is preparing to elect its fresh set of officers. Class Major Service Reps are already making the rounds to get their respective nominees. For those who have not served yet, we encourage you to volunteer and pitch in. The class needs your dynamism and energy to spur our Sandiwa family to a more united and stronger future together.

As part of the mini social gatherings to keep the members connected, the monthly golf activity of the month's birthday celebrants initiated by the "Hampas Lupa Sandiwans" is now officially endorsed by the Class as part of our monthly fellowship activity. All members are encouraged to take on the sport and join this monthly gathering

to ensure our class bonding continues. This activity is held under strict health protocols to guarantee everyone's safety. Your respective Company reps have distributed unique Company masks for use during this event. So please ensure you wear this along with your respective faceshields. We hope to see more of our members attend.

Before we close this Class Call, we would like to acknowledge the very generous contribution of the Bustos Family, led by our very own Tom Bustos, for the patient room renovation project of our class at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC). The project was successfully completed and was officially turned over to the VMMC last year at the height of the lockdown. To the whole Bustos family, maraming maraming salamat sa inyong lahat!

As the nation's Vaccine Czar has mentioned, the virus is still very much around and we must not let our guard down. As we wait for the roll out of the vaccination program, we must continue to strictly observe the Minimum Public Health Standards (MPHS) and encourage everyone to do so in order to guarantee the safety not only of ourselves but also those around us specially our loved ones. So to the whole Sandiwa family, STAY WELL and SAFE!

NOTE:

The Class conveys its sincerest condolences to Sid Purisima and his family on the demise of his mother this January 2021 and to Tica and Jun Padilla on the passing of Tica's father last 24 Dec 2020.

We would also like to remind members who have not yet settled their lifetime dues with the Mother Chapter to please do so at the soonest time possible. It is to our benefit that we do.. Thank you!



ROZZANO D BRIGUEZ
President
SAMUEL Z FELIX
Secretary

A vibrant and covid-free (*definitely no beso-beso and handshakes*) Sinagtala greetings to all cavaliers! In spite of all the challenges and difficulties that we have faced in 2020, there is still no better way to start this year right than to thank our Lord for all that He has done in the past years and praise Him for continuously pouring His blessings upon us and through us. With all that has happened and is happening, we may have overlooked the positive things and focused on the negative ones but we need to pause and see

that there are still a lot of things to appreciate and be thankful for. Let us practice gratitude all the time and appreciate even the small things so we may be channels of blessing to others.

Almost one million families were displaced when typhoon Ulysses struck the Philippines in the second week of November 2020. Cagayan Valley was one of the most severely affected areas as the heavy rainfall triggered massive flooding in Region II. Our mistahs from Cagayan, Alex Rafael and Bob Empedrad, initiated and headed the SINAGTALA relief operations in some of the barangays in Cagayan Valley that were considered as most hard-hit by typhoon Ulysses. The relief operations were conducted from December 3 to 6, 2020.

Also, the office of Senator Bato Dela Rosa partnered with LGUs, sponsors, military

units and other government agencies in conducting a month-long relief operations since the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses in different barangays in Tanay Rizal, Quezon, Isabela, Tuguegarao and Albay. Truly, the *bayanihan* spirit of Filipinos never dies but gets stronger in every calamity or disaster that we are faced with. Thank you to everyone's generous hearts and tireless efforts in extending help to our *kababayans*.

Other Matters: Congratulations to our mistahs who recently bowed out from the military service! Welcome to our retirees' club! We wish you all the best as you enjoy your retirement plans.

* 10 November '20 – Police General Camilo Pancratius Cascolan, Chief, PNP

* 16 November '20 – Vice Admiral Allan Ferdinand Cusi, PMA Superintendent

* 21 November '20 – Vice Admiral Gaudencio Collado Jr., Vice Chief of Staff, AFP

* 4 February '21 – General Gilbert Gapay, Chief of Staff, AFP

2021 Alumni Homecoming: This year's Alumni Homecoming is extra special as we also celebrate our class' 35th Anniversary. It maybe a lot different from what we used to do in our previous homecomings but let us not be sad because we have reached this far. Even if we will not be able to gather together physically, we can still celebrate together virtually via Zoom. Happy Jade Anniversary Sinagtalans!

Birthday Greetings: Happy birthday to each one of you!! We wish you good health, more blessings and many years to come!

Name	Birthdate
Cav Reczon Tito T Acabado	04 Jan
Cav Rozzano D Briguez	17 Jan
Cav Jose Mario M Espino	19 Jan
Cav Samuel Z Felix	02 Feb
Cav Robert A Empedrad	03 Feb
Cav Lyndon G Cubos	03 Feb
Cav Gilbert I Gapay	04 Feb
Cav Perfecto M Rimando Jr	02 Mar
Cav Alvin A Parreño	09 Mar
Cav Joseph N Ramos	13 Mar
Cav Alexander E Querol	15 Mar
Cav Jose Gil E Guillermo	19 Mar
Cav Joselito R Serrano	19 Mar
Cav Jose G Caringal Jr	20 Mar
Cav Albert M Mangadang Jr	22 Mar
Cav Bon Dan D Chan	22 Mar
Cav Othello P Lopez	24 Mar
Cav Lenard T Agustin	25 Mar
Cav Laur Cris P Tumanda	25 Mar
Cav Johnny R Gulla	27 Mar
Cav Rolando C Manalo	28 Mar
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



Photos taken during the 4-day Relief Operations in Cagayan Valley.



Photos taken during the Relief Operations in Rizal, Quezon and Albay.



The Year that was!

2020 had been a good year for the Class especially to the PNP MAKATAO, because it was the time where the majority of mistahs occupied command positions – like Police Regional Directors and Directors of National Support Units. PRO 1 - Jun Azurin, PRO 3 - Rhodel Sermonia, PRO 3 - Val De Leon, PRO 5 - Bart Bustamante, PRO 7 - Bert Ferro, PRO 9 - Jess Cambay, and PRO BAR - Manny Abu. Director IG - Jess Cambay, then Uly Gohel; Director Maritime - Jun Azurin, then Jireh Fidel; Director PNPA - Chiqui Malayo; Director Finance Service - Rex Dela Rosa; Director CPSM - Sterling Blanco.

We cannot freeze time, for us to enjoy everything that is good at the moment. Definitely, they too will pass.

For 2021, better things are in store for most of the PNP Makatao – like getting their 2nd star, even if they object. Rhodel just received his 2nd star, on January 5, as an early birthday gift before he turns 53. The 2nd stars of Uly, Jess, and Bert were inevitable. Jireh is pre-positioned, and anytime he will soon occupy a 2nd star position too!

Unfortunately for Chiqui, as Director of DIPO-WM, his 3 stars will fall like “manna from heaven..” Because when things go wrong in the PNP, who will they call? It’s always “Chiqui” who fix things – yan si incoming LtGen Jose Chiquito Miparranum Malayo.

On retirement mode is Rex and Sterling, who will also be celebrating their birthday this May and June, respectively. They will join our retired mistahs like Erwin, Kuya Ed, Uly C, Manny C, Bert S, and Mario S.

For the remaining RDs of the PNP Makatao - JunAz can still stay as RD until December 2021, Val maybe up to January 2022, and Bart B until April 2021. But this is just my “Wishful thinking!”



PAF Group hosted successfully the 2nd Quarterly Makatao activity Funshoot at Rigos Firing Range, Clark Air Base last 29 Dec 2020. This activity also served as Cris Marquez's testimonial event in view of his upcoming retirement on Feb 2, 2021. A total of 20 Makatao attended the team shootfest and the lunch/fellowship/raffle/awarding ceremony afterwards. A golf game at Mimosa was also conducted the following day for those who stayed behind and enjoyed the perfect weather (other than beauty of the fairways/greens) please don't ask for the scores. By the way, all is well icow the preparation for the PMAAAI Battle of the Classes come January 2021. Cheers and mabuhay Makataos!



PHILIPPINE ARMY GROUP



LUISITO P MAGNAYE
President
RUMMUELL J PEREZ
Secretary
NOEL A VESTUIR
Class Historian

The year 2020 had been a blessing to the PMA Class of 1991 with numerous members of the class being designated to key positions in the AFP- PNP-PCG.

Despite the pandemic and natural calamities that had affected the entire country the members of SAMBISIG had emerged strong in their various fields of endeavors. This year 2021, the Class would celebrate its 30th year in the service of the Filipino people with this the bond between members of the class continued to be strong and takes pride that each member of the SAMBISIG continues to exemplify the Academy's motto of COURAGE, INTEGRITY and LOYALTY.

As an update herewith are the current position or designation of the members of the Class as it celebrates 30 glorious years of service:

For the Army Group

Mon Abang- Comdr, Light Reaction Regiment; Boyet Abeleda- Chief of Staff, PMA; Jun Nayve - Dep Comdr, SFR (A); Dan Benavides - Comdr, 502Bde; Dennis Pacis-IG, 7ID; William Peñafiel - GSMO, 7ID; Alex Rillera - Comdr, 202Bde; Tolentino, Norwyn-Comdr, 201Bde; Peñafiel, NAQ - Comdr, 903Bde; Febbie Fortez- GSMO, 9ID; Paloma Joel - AGMO, PA Vic Tanggawohn- HRO, PA; Moro - AJ6; AJ Papa -E-XO, J6; Cesar Molina

- XO, J3; Sparu Morada- Dep Chief, AFPMCC; Abregana- IG, 6ID; Oliver Maquiling- Dep Comdr or DBC, 701Bde; Angel Madarang - DBC, 702Bde; Jono Pasamonte- DBC, 703 Bde; Zosimo Oliveros - Commander, 802Bde; Noel Vestuir - DBC, 802Bde; Lenart Lelina - DBC, 801Bde; Erwin Rommel Lamzon - 8th Division IG; Pits Penaredondo - Chief of Staff, 8ID; Vince Iringan- Chief of Staff, CENTCOM; Paji Pajarillo- DBC, 203 Bde; Ace Aseron- Chf of Unified Comd Staff (CUCS), SOLCOM; Alea, Erwin- DBC, 202Bde; Armand Arevalo - DepCom SolCom; Marion Sison - 301st Bde comdr; Odie Edralin - DBC, 301Bde; Leo Peña - 302nd Bde Comdr; Gerry Borja-deputy/ Task Group Comdr of 302 Bde; Inocencio Pasaporte - Comdr 303rd Bde; Mike Samson- DBC, 303Bde; Glenn Jun Calambuhay - DBC, 1001Bde; Ted B Dumosmog - DBC, 1002Bde;

Jake Fuerte - CS 10ID; Febie Lamerez - ADCRRA, 10ID; Poten Camba- 1002Bde Comdr; Bong Patrimonio - Bde Comdr 1102nd; Tony Bautista - Bde Comdr 1101st; Gio Franza - ADC, RRA; Joel Mariano -IG,11ID; Ed Gubat - Bde Comdr - 603rd Inf Bde; Humby Hambala - Bde Comdr 401 Inf Bde; Ferds Barandon - Bde Comdr 403 Inf Bde; Jun Balaoro - DBC 402 Inf Bde; John Divinagrancia -TF Zamboanga; Leonel Nicolas - Bde Comdr 102,1ID; Anton Abrina-CS, Mechanized Inf Div (MID); Alex Aduca- IG, MID; Joel Paloma - Chief, AGSMO; Jaji - Asst Chief AFP OSSM; Palma - Chief AFP OSSM; Clemencia - Chief AFP FC; and Jem Niembra - C, ISAFP.

For the Navy Group, PN-PCG Sambisig

Sundy Fernandez - DC, AFPCC; Miraflor - C, JTFM; Caloy Sabarre-AJ3; Paul Marcelo



- Airbus driver; Caloy Lagasca- D, CNLE; Jun Baldovino - C, NFC; Karl Decapia - C, NAW; Trining Trinidad - C, LCF; Flor Gagua- C, SAF; Dennis Quines - DCNIC; Torres A. - DCNETDC; Al Tumanda - C, NCEBde; Jay Ilagan - IG, NETDC; Eric Nicanor - C, AFPSEO; Juny Canlas - IG, CENTCOM; Labrador -IG,SOLCOM; Ice Ezpeleta - C, NFSL; Angeles - former DAFA SoKor; Bobby Patrimonio - C, PCG WCEIS Command; Allan Corpuz - C, PCG Western Visayas; Ming Pulido - C, MRRV-4404; Joer Gaviola - USEC DSWD; Bong Nebrija - MMDA; AK Tingabngab III - Retiree; Natz Torento - Security Manager; Vince Blanco VMAP - ExO, J2; Racadio - CUCS, WESCOM; Amadar - Supt, MCFDC; Dijo Jalandoni - ExO, J8; Larida - C, 3MBde; Andres - Airbus driver/farmer; Cunanan - CebPac driver; Aquino R. - Boeing COMMS Officer; Gerlo Elchico - MAAP; Valenton - retiree; Mel del Mundo-Asian Devt Bank; Lito Acosta-Australia; Bonks Empedrad - retiree; Divino - Contel Communications; Gerry Parinas - retiree.

For the PNP Group, we have:

Vic Danao - Acting RD, NCRPO; Fil Escobal - RD, PRO 11; Mike Dubria - RD, PRO 12; Rad Gongon - Dir, Communications and Electronics Service; Jimili Macaraeg - Dir, Logistics Support Service; Sayong De Leon - Dep. Dir, Directorate for Information and Communication Technology Management; Roque Vega - Dep Dir, Directorate for Comptrollership; Digoy Rodriguez - Dep Dir, Directorate for Personnel and Records Management; Boy Peralta - District Director, SPD; Jun Arnaldo - Dean of Academics, PNPA; Chito Magnaye - Deputy Director, Special Action Force; Acorda - Deputy Regional Director for Administration, PRO 10; Patrick



Villacorte - Deputy Regional Director for Administration, PRO6; Tony Yarra - Deputy Regional Director for Operation, NCRPO; Yoyong Agnila - Ex- O, DIPO - Eastern Mindanao; Benjie Santos - Acting Chief, PNP Command Center; Marbil - Acting Ex-O , Directorate for Plans; Neil Alinsangan - Chief of Staff, Civil Service Group; Estoy Estrada - PAL; and Ed Chico - Bureau of Custom.

Lastly but not the least our Air Force Group, we have:

Ax Parreño - AFIG; Bhai Bailon - WC 205; Ed Libago - WC 710SPOW; Mon Guiang - Chief AFP PC; Rene Honosan - AJ4; Jeff Hechanova- AJ5; Dennis Estrella- Dep Cmdr AETC; Dodong Dirilo - WC 300AIS; Banny Banaag - WC TOWSOL; Georgy Blanco - WC 355; Lloyd Cabacungan- Div Chief PP J9; RJ Perez - Asst Chief AFP PDO; Ting Malinit - WC 580 ACW; Jogs Gamido - U5 SOLCOM; Rey Bes - Dep AFRC; Soliven - WC TOWWest; Al R Murata - Corporate Chief Pilot, Chalgrove

Properties Inc.; Neil R Gomez - Captain, Airbus 320/321 Cebu Pacific; Buboy Caballes - Captain, Airbus Cebu Pacific; Bong Cuartero Jr - Chief Pilot Pan Pacific Airlines; Raymond M Fernandez - Airline Pilot; Luke Melchor O Martem - Captain/Instructor A320, Philippine Air Asia; Sid Antonio - Captain, Airbus 321/320 Philippine Air Lines; Binong Turingan - Airbus 320 Bamboo Airways Vietnam; Saki M. Ali Jr - CEO, Platinum Paramount Pacific Group of Companies Inc.

Recently, even with the hectic schedule of the SAMBISIG aviators they took time to send some relief items to our needy countrymen in Cagayan affected by the flooding in coordination with Binong Turing and TOG2.

Truly, the year 2020 was a challenging year for all but despite this the Class continued to shine, and serve for country and people. **HAPPY NEW YEAR FELLOW CAVALIERS.**



LEO M FRANCISCO
President
BERNARD M BANAC
Secretary

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

—Romans 8:18 KJV

HAPPY NEW YEAR, gallant Tanglaw-Diwans!!! May God shower each one of us with the blessings in store this 2021. The past year has been one of the biggest challenges of our time with Covid-19. In spite of these trials, there is still so much to be thankful for!

The Army gets their first star with Jess Durante, Group Commander, PSG.

The Navy is also thrilled with the promotion of Joe Anthony Orbe, Commander, Offshore Combat Force. Mac Racacho replaced JoeOrbs as Deputy Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, an O-7 position.

The Coast Guard welcomes the second star of Chris Villacorte, CG Inspector General. Rear Admiral na, General pa!

Here are some of the updates of our mistahs....

For the Air Force: Pablo Rustria - WC, 250PAW; Aristotle Gonzalez - WC, TOWNOL; Pedro Francisco III - DC, ADC; Erick Escarcha - C, AFPCC; Joannis Leonardo Dimaano - C, AFIA; Bienvenido Casaclang - WC, 220AW; Jeffrey "Bagets" Vilela - WC, TOWEM; and Fermin Carangan - SMA to the President; Tony Francisco - DWC, 205th THW; Juls Llenas - DWC, 15th Strike Wing; Edgar Torres - DWC, 300AISW; Malaya Francisco - A9; Gerold Gagan - DWC, 410MW; Rommel

Roldan - DC, ALC; Josel Zuñiga - OJ2; Mico Okol - PAFHRMC.

For the Army: Julius Tomines - Commandant, CCAFP, PMA; Jagger Guerrero-ALDEC, TRADOC; Dodjie Belloga - Maneuver Center, CAC, TRADOC; Audie Mongao - TDC, CAC, TRADOC; Mitch Anayron - ADCRRA, 4ID; Rommel Almara - CS, 4ID; Meme Ragudo - Ex-O, OJ7; JD Pauly - Commandant, CGSC; Donald Gumiran - DBC, 602Bde, 6ID; Archie Pel - AC of S for C4S, G6, PA; Leo Edward Caranto - C, OACOCCS; Glenn Villaflor - DC, SFRA; Lynart Castisimo - Ex-O, OJ4; Medel Aguilar - DC, CRSAFP (utusan ni Meme); Ferdie "KaKru" Dela Cruz - CS, 5ID; Dondo Landingin - GSMO, 5ID; Chris Sab-it - DBC, 503Bde; Krish Mortela - C, 701Bde; George Banzon - C, 1003Bde; Gil Noora - incoming ADC for RRA, 5ID; Yegor Barroquillo - C, AIR (P); Andre Santos - C, AAR (P); and Arvin Lagamon - C, CMOR (P); Naz Floresca II - C, ISOD, OJ3; Ferdi "Superman" Napuli - Dep

Cmdr, PSG; Geminic Ramirez – C, AFPCEs; Aldwine Almase - CS, 9ID; Leonardo Dacumos - DBC, 903Bde; Freddie dela Cruz – RC, FSRR; Rey Alemania - AC of S for Logistics, G4, PA; Edmundo Peralta - G2, PA; Ariel Orio - CS, ISAFP; George Banzon - BC, 901Bde; Jong Lorenzo - DBC, 401Bde; Andre Santos - RC, Aviation Regiment; Manolito Montiel - C, GSMO, 3ID; Emil Cruz - IG, 3ID; Eugene Mata - CS, 7ID; Carmelito Pangatungan - GSMO, 8ID; Efren Morados - DBC, 803Bde; Boyet Sendaydiego - PHILDAFA Vietnam; Dodoy Yecla - C, TF Davao; Mike Santos - CS, 6ID; Ferds Lacadin - DBC, 1Mech Bde; Arn Real - DBC, 403Bde; Jeff Grapa - C, 1LSG, ASCOM; and Ariel Mabagos - DBC, 201BDE.

For the Navy: Romulo “Bimbo” Quemado – C, CDR (P); Doods Albalate – DC for Marine Operations, NFWM; Lemuel Espartines – DC for Fleet Operations, FMRF; Greg Hernandez – DBC, 4th Marine Bde; Dado Caluya – CNLC. Lloyd Casis recently graduated with honors from CGSC last December 16, 2020 and is still the GM of AFPCOC.

For the Coast Guard: Doy Punzalan – CS, PCG; Art Abu – C, CGETDC; Jojo Ramos – Deputy Commander, Marine Environmental Protection Command; Rudyard Somera – Director, Coast Guard Strategic Studies and International Affairs Center; Joeven Fabul – Commander, Coast Guard Finance Center; and Ramon Lopez – Deputy Coast Guard Inspector General.

For the PNP: Leo Francisco – Director, MPD; Bernie Banac – Director, Training Service; Matthew Baccay – Director, EPD; Jonnel Estomo – Director, AKG; Romeo “Bong” Caramat – RD, PRO13; Ronald Lee – Dir, IMEG; Steve Ludan – Director, Crime Laboratory; Belli Tamayo – Ex-O, DPRM; Mario Reyes – Director, LSS; Tony Cirujales – Ex-O, DHRDD; Sidney Hernia – Director, PRBS; Maffy Bazar – DRDA, PRO7; Sidney Villaflor – Director, SOSIA; Incoming... Uly Cruz – Ex-O, DIPO SL; Jose Melencio Nartatez – Director, FS; Wes Obinque – SEA to SILG; Maeng “Lolong” Yu – DRDA, PRO4A; and Eric Noble – Director, PCADG.

For the BIRC: Wawee Peñamante-Chief Pilot (Helicopter) INAEC Aviation Corporation; Conrad Dieza Jr - CEO, CDJ Global Realty and Devt Corp; Teody Valdez is a Captain of A320/321 Cebu Pacific Air; Jun De Vela - South Luzon Security Manager, DITO Telecommunity; Sam Sagun continues to enjoy his retirement by organizing communities in IP areas; Sam Pallorina - Safety and Security Manager - BGC Area; George Dominguez-Security Manager, Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRT1); Ronald Villapando – Board of Director, Sandatahan Credit Cooperative.

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

Stars continue to land on shoulders of Tanglaw-Diwans!!!



ADM GEORGE B URSABIA JR PCG, Commandant, PCG dons the second star of RADM CHRISTOPHER T VILLACORTE PCG at HPCG. ENS ROMULO BALONGA PCG, Flag Lieutenant of RADM VILLACORTE is assisting.



VADM GIOVANNI CARLO J BACORDO PN, Flag Officer In Command, assisted by Mrs Ma Celeste A. Orbe during the Donning Ceremony of COMMO JOE ANTHONY ORBE PN, Commander, Offshore Combat Force at the Headquarters Philippine Navy.



His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte dons the first star of BGEN JESUS P DURANTE III PA, Commander, Presidential Security Group at the Malacañan Palace.



ROY A ECHEVERRIA
President
RANDY O REMONTE
Secretary

How do Cavaliers maximize their experience during Alumni Homecoming '21 when Fort Del Pilar is on virtual lockdown and the Cadet Corps on strict quarantine? Well as they say in some areas, "where there is a will, there is ... water!" As such, Cavaliers only need to dig deep into their imagination and attempt to reminisce their days past in the Long Gray Line like a typical, dozing plebe clueless as to the day's Guard Details.

Levity aside, we begin with an acknowledgment that among the multitudes of Maalabs who have served in the Academy in different capacities over the years, it is the latest who takes the cake – **Hawk Hunter ROGER PESCADOR VIDUYA** as the new **ASUPT** effective 01 December. Truth be told, Maalabs would have wanted to storm the gates of Fort Del Pilar on that historic Tuesday had it not been for the Pandemic. Navy's pride, **VIDZ** is the right man for the job as the Academy currently transitions to a new COVID-19 normal while remaining true to its mandate to produce a steady stream of young Cavaliers that will help shape the future configuration of the country's national security. He is also well positioned to snatch the first star among Navy Maalabs. Way to go **VIDZ**! Proud roommate here!

Likewise, Coast Guard Maalabs are equally ecstatic with the promotion of **ROY ECHEVERRIA** and **ALLAN DE LA VEGA** to Rear Admiral. They join **RONNIE GIL GAVAN** with 2-stars and together form a trinity that effectively ensures aggressive and law based maritime law enforcement especially in the territorial waters of the West Philippine Sea and Philippine Rise. Needless to say, it is Coast Guard's maritime operations that are decisive in establishing the country's sovereign rights under International Law. With these fine Maalabs on board, we can expect steadfast enforcement of our maritime laws, no matter what!

The New Year found PAF Maalabs, in a manner of speaking, "waiting in the wings" for that coveted 07 positions so that they could posthaste join **FABBIE PEDREGOSA** as aviator BGENs. Leading the pack is ace helicopter pilot and certified Davao hearthrob **NELSON MORALES** who is presently warming his boots as Deputy



Maalab's pride. Cdt 2CI Krystlenn Ivany G. Quemado leads the charge of Maalab brats equally determined to make a difference in the country's national security and development.

WC of TOW EASTMIN. **MASANG** arguably holds a service record that is hard to match among his peers. Providing him company are **IKING ENRIQUEZ**, current Deputy WC of 220 Airlift Wing in Cebu, **ERIC GACHALIAN**, the Deputy WC of 520 ABW in VAB and **LOUIE ANGELES**, newly installed Deputy WC of 420 Supply Wing based in Clark.

Army Maalabs as the future inheritors of about 70% of the AFP are adopting a rather upbeat attitude while fine tuning their preparations for that brigade or equivalent positions, knowing very well from experience that destiny favors those

who wait. In the meantime, they have taken the different billets through the years in every nook and corner imaginable in the archipelago through different AFP Campaign plans, always drawing valuable lessons from the interplay between carefully formulated assumptions and prevailing realities on the ground.

In this regard, HPA Maalabs find themselves reinforced by **ALLAN TAGUBA** who brings his wealth of experience in intelligence and operations in crafting responsive training and education policies to complement **ED DE LOS REYES'** leadership in the OG8 family. In the same



Once again it is proven that Timing is everything, be it in career or gift-giving.

manner **EDDIE PILAPIL** as CS, HHSO observes all activities at HPA, always with an eye for further improvement. In the PAMUs **AMBO RUSTIA** is re-acquainting himself in 6ID while **LEROY DAANTON** is doing the same thing in 11ID. Maalabs in WMC saw the addition of **JIGZ GESOLGON** who is tasked to ensure no dead spots (pun intended) in the AOR, especially since its Chief of Staff **TEX SUDERIO** not only recruited **JUN MANDANAS** to be the Command IG but also persuaded him to act, in an acting capacity, as Internal Auditor, GSMO, U3 and U5. Likewise, ACDTCOM'S **JOEY ESCANILLAS**, **GERRY BESANA** and **MARION ANGCAO** provide critical staff support and oversight in the full implementation of ELCAC in the Visayas.

While everything seems to be hanging by a thread in the course of this Pandemic,

let us pause to think of Maalabs who have chosen a different pathway in serving the country, and are remarkably doing well! **FERDIE ABAD** (New South Wales), **MARK ANTONIO** (Queensland), **PALMIX PALMERO** (New South Wales) and **REX SAGGE** (Canberra) have integrated well in Australia's economy and society while **VANGIE EVANGELISTA** and **RICKY YABUT** are still trying to make full sense of BREXIT and the future that it brings. **FRANCIS SANTILLAN** is the lone Maalab in Auckland, New Zealand always trying to connect with Canada Maalabs **OLAN DIEGO** (Edmonton) and **RANDOLPH MALLILIN** (Toronto).

Ace Bicolano pilot **ROB BOSCH** has successfully found a new precious destination in Washington, USA to raise his family, a fate he embraces together with **IDE LOPEZ** (Washington), **WENDELL CACHERO** (Illinois), **JOE ALCIDO** (Indiana),

VICE VIGILAR (Texas), **ONJO MIANA** (Texas), **LUTHER ECOBIZA** (Texas), **ERIK LLAGAS** (Texas), **TONY ICO** (New York), **JAGGER GUERRERO** (New Jersey), and **RONJON RAZON** (Massachusetts).

This Class Call ends with the Maalabs extending their collective salute, encouragement and support to mistahs who have raised exceptional members of the Cadet Corps, namely **NICK QUEMADO** (Hawk, 2CL), **MACKY MACALINTAL** (Alfa, 2CL), **ARSING SADURAL** (Alfa, 3CL), **RODNEY INTAL** (Golf, 3CI), **CHARLIE DURAN** (Echo, 3CI) and **CAM REYES** (Echo, 3CI). This not only assures continuity to the Maalab bloodline in the AFP but also presents an opportunity to gently impose, if not strongly suggest, "implied tasks" to the scrutinizing eyes of no less than the "ASUPE".



EMERSON F OXALES
President
PAUL AV AVIQUIVIL
Secretary

Sustaining excellence in every Undertaking is reflected on the achievements of the PMA SANGHAYA Class of 2000. These are built upon the quality of action and the integrity of intent in various endeavors in the course of its members' professional development and service. To highlight, LTC RONALDO DP SARMIENTO INF (GSC) PA has shown his exemplary performance and dedication to duty in the aspect of development support and security operations that led to the dismantling of Pulang Bagani Command 4 and Guerilla Front 34, Southern Mindanao Regional Committee. Such feats have been recognized through the Award of the Commanding General Philippine Army Streamer to the 60th Infantry (Mediator) Battalion, 10th Infantry (Agila) Division, Philippine Army. Meanwhile, the CGSC paper of LTC ERWIN Y COMENDADOR INF (GSC) PA regarding the need to address the mental health issues of AFP personnel became one of the instrumental tools in the conceptualization of the Philippine Army's Comprehensive Mental Health Program. From the PA, the program is currently in the process of development for the whole AFP.

The class also showed its mettle in the civilian world with the accomplishment of our very own, LTC FRANCEL MARGARETH

PADILLA-TABORLUPA (SC) PA who has been selected as one of the TOP TEN WOMEN IN CYBERSECURITY in the Philippines for the year 2020. The award was bestowed by the Philippine Women in Cyber Alliance in coordination with Women in Security and Resilience Alliance composed of women leaders from Asia Pacific countries who contributed in the Cyber Security Domain together with Security Matters. Our mistah serves as an inspiration to the next generation of women eyeing careers in technology and cyber security not only in the country but internationally as well.

Moreover, academic excellence is also a standard of the PMA SANGHAYA Class proving its determination to make conscious and constant efforts to raise its level of performance. To underscore, LTC CRIS ANTHONY B MORALES (MI) PA has graduated at the top of his class on the recently concluded Strategic Intelligence Course (SIC) Class 40. Another notable officer, LTC RICARDO GARY B GARCIA III, graduated at the top of his class on CGSC 67. He received the CSAFP, AFP Award ("Kampilan Award"), "Commanding General, Phil Army Award" and the "Best Commandant's Paper Award". Since



CGSC 63, our class has produced a lot of Honor Graduates and adding to the long list of Sanghaya Honor Graduates are the following members of CGSC 67: JAVINES, REUYAN, SEÑORON, TENORIO, TAYABAN, PANOPIO, REYES and TERIA.

Meanwhile, seven mistahs from the Navy finished their Command-at-Sea billet (GACUSAN, LACHICA, MORATA, CANTAL, BENAURO, NULLAR and NEGRANZA) and a lone Battalion Commander (NASTOR) has fulfilled his tour of duty this 2020. It is worthy to note that LTC ASHLEY N NASTOR PN (M) was awarded by PRRD the "Order of Lapu-lapu" for his numerous accomplishments as Battalion Commander in Mindanao wherein his unit was also adjudged as Best Battalion in 2020. On the PME course, three (3) finished their CGSC (Class 67) last year and are reporting to their new assignments (CORTEZ, DOMINGO and NEGRANZA), four (4) classmates are taking the course as members of Class 68 (MANALIGOD, MENDOZA, SUAREZ and DEMETILLO) and the rest who are already occupying key positions in the Fleet, PMC and HPN are expected to join CGSC 69 this year. Further two (2) are overseas taking CGSC at the US Navy War College (BENAURO) and Masters of Science in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University in Sweden (BANGSA).

For the Philippine Air Force, most of our flyboys who are graduates of CGSC have occupied key positions (O-6) as Commanding Officers (CALUBIRAN), Group Commanders (PABLO, DANCEL, CARINGAL, DE OCAMPO, and AVIQUIVIL) and Staffs at the higher headquarters and various wings (MANGAYA, HERNANDO, NAING, GABOY,

CORONG, DOLLENTE, VICENTE, ALPA, and MENDOZA). On the PME course, two (2) graduated as members of CGSC Class 67 (SOTTO and SEVILLA) while the remaining four (4) are expected to take CGSC 69 (COSTALES, MENDOZA and SARMIENTO) and CGSC in Australia (DE OCAMPO) this year. On accomplishments, LTC SIR BYRON L DE OCAMPO PAF was adjudged as PAF Officer of the Year for 2020. Likewise, LTC DE OCAMPO and LTC PAUL ANTHONY V AVIQUIVIL PAF (GSC) were awarded the Air Cavalier Award in recognition of their accomplishments as Group Commander of PAFCMOG and 301st Special Mission Group, respectively.

Indeed, the PMA SANGHAYA Class of 2000 thrives and produces exceptional military officers in the country. It lives up to its name "Sanghaya" by maintaining dignity, excellence and honor in this noble profession of arms. Our felicitations goes to our members who did well in their respective fields. Mabuhay ang PMA SANGHAYA Class 2000.



SADIRI R TABUTOL
President
EVANGELINE MARCELINO-ESPAÑOLA
Secretary

Greetings fellow *Kaakibats*! Time really flew faster than we have expected. Who would not have noticed how much each of us had been so pre-occupied by the ongoing contagion? But no matter what, this COVID-19 pandemic will never change our milestone to have reached this alumni year 2021, our 20th glorious years as Cavaliers after our hard-earned graduation from our dear Alma Mater.

Mga mistah, even with more years to offer for those still staying in the service; a new chapter to turn for those retiring/retired; and a fulfilling venture for those who have sought such earlier in their careers, we all have one reason to be jubilant in this "one-of-a-kind" alumni homecoming celebration. Sans the usual Borromeo field congregation of never-



ending "bolahan" and chit-chats, we as a class must take pride as the youngest Jubilarian Class in commemorating this alumni year our 20th anniversary year. 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 endeavor updates as of this date.

Air Force Group:

Foremost, we congratulate all CGSC 67 graduates – Gavilan (Honor Grad, Nr 1 PAF grad), Hallara, and Lacbain. For the



active Air Kaakibats, most are now holding key designations as follows: Tabutol – GC, AFSSG; Olave – incoming Cmdt, NCOS, De Leon – HEA, CGPAF; Baquiran – CO, 4th ARCN, Somera – C, RDD, OJ3; Aguhob – GSMO, EMC; Medroso – C, RPAD, OJ9; Sevilla- GM, GHQ Pro-Fund; Quiming – CO, PAF ALEN; Benitez – GC, 450th MG; Ty – AFPETDC; CGSC 68– Parugrug, Gador, Buan, Eugenio, Balico, Dauz-Cadungan, Chan, Tolentino; Castro – CGSC Korea; Piquero – ACSC, Alabama; Isla – 205th THW; Alvarino and Plaza – RDs, PDEA; Grande – DD, TESDA; PAL - Vergara, Marinas, Magluyan; Ret/Resigned (PAF reserves in civilian/business sectors): Hussein, De Guzman, Penaflorida, Caronongan, Vasquez, Carandang, Macarubbo, Fabic, Asis, Anonat -Daniels, Matias, Ariola, Bajesta and Rosete. –Stay safe Air Kaakibugs and God bless us always!

Navy Group:

The Navy Group proudly congratulates the outstanding feats of its Command-At-Sea and Command Pilot Badge Holders: Cerezo – HEA, VCSAFP; Donga - NAVSOCOM; Umbac –Director, Fleet Warfare School; Coloma – Commander, ASW Helicopter Squadron; and Simeon – Commander, Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron. We also give

premium to the sacrifices of the brave sailors, marines, naval aviators and SEAL operators out in the field starting with the PMC Group: Uraaah! Maslan –CO, MBLT-5 (Lanao Del Sur); Olaso – CO, MBLT-7(Sulu); Pola – CO, MBLT-2 (Cotabato); Tabo – CO, MBLT-4 (Palawan); and Rimas – CO, MBLT-10 (Cagayan).

White Caps: Colita – CO, BRP Salvador Abcede (PC114) and CNTG2, JTF Storm; DeVera – CO, BRP Jose Loor (PC390); Ilarde – Ex-O, PC386; Lopez – 4th PBD, NF Central; Mosuela – CO, BRP Subanon (LC 291); Pantaleon – CO, BRP Heracleo Alano (PG376); Parpan –BRP Waray (LC288); Pilar – BRP Iwak (LC289); Plaza – Ex-O, BRP Conrado Yap (PS39); Ruiz –CO, BRP Manobo (LC297); Sandalo - CO, BRP Agta (LC 290); and Torres – CO, 1st PBD, NF Northern Luzon. Navy Flyboys: Bosch – Deputy U2, WESCOM; Hechanova –Ex-O, BRP Jose Rizal (FF150); Marquez – CO, AIMS; Resuello – Commander, MF31 Squadron. Of course these “Navy Kaakibats” in the field will always be grateful to the full support of our mistahs on shore duties starting with our ever reliable Jo Marcelo – MFO, CEISSAFP; Basco - OJ1 together with Murito (deployed soon for another UN stint); Valdez - OJ4; Mangahas - N7; Cayabyab - LC4, NLC; Mabbagu – CS, NICT Center; Pre - HSU

PhilFlt; Tañag - DC, NMOC, PhilFleet;); Imee Mariñas – NIC; Timbang- PCG, Panes-MA to the Executive Secretary;

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; and LG Rosos – US East Coast GRO.

Army Group:

Solamo – CO, Presidential Escort Battalion, PSG; Mapalad - CO, Presidential Guards Battalion, PSG; Garcia - Chief, OFM, PSG; Dalangin - CGSC 68; Mugot - Deputy G1, 4ID; Hamlag - Chief, PPD, OTIG, AFP; Baldomar - 6ID, PA; Gawiden - CGSC CL 68 (Davao City); Sasing - Cmdt, DTS, 2ID; Estolas - 6ID; Torcelino - Opns Officer, SIF, ISAFP; Rayman - CGSC CL 68 (FBMM); Caranguian - GM, PA PROFUND; Arojo - C, RDDD, SITS, ISAFP; Dayata - G1, FSRR; Cordero - C, GSMO, FSRR; Askalani - Candelaria -CGSC CL 68 (Quezon City); Panganiban - Assigned 3ID; Delmendo - Floating PA; Guillermo - CGSC CL68 (Ilocos Norte); Noche - G7, 1ID; Calero - Chief, SEIB,



OG6,PA; Joepearl - CO, 10SBn, ASR; Marvs - EX-O, APMC; Enca - CGSC CI 68; Estrada - CO, 12IB; Cariño - CO, 15IB; Calilan - CO, 95IB; Cadiente, Ex-O 602Bde; Tabas - C,IAB OG5; Ilanga - 22k Dumaguete City; Banong - Chief RB, TRED, OJ8; Enteng - G3, 7ID; Panaligan - Chief of Staff, AFPCEs; Abdullah - CO, 2FSSU, ASCOM, PA; Frivaldo - Cndt TAS, Armor Div; Desingano - A/U, HHSg, PA; Reano - G7/CO, 7CMOBn, 7ID; Bautista - CGSC CL 68; Paeng Caidz - CO, 6SFBn, Island Paradise of Sulu; Gerns - Commandant, Special Forces School; Mico - Acting CO, 22IB; Apresto - Chief, ACDO, Armor Div; Villar - C,RPDD, J10; Diasen - MA7, PMA; Espiritu - Loss Prevention Manager, Marriott Hotel Manila.

In this class call issue, allow me to welcome and update our group with our associates who have been with us in our past struggles during our stay in the academy. Clearly, they have carved out among themselves their respective niches in the society as successful individuals in their chosen fields. Be mindful and you may meet them just around your respective works areas. Over a cup of coffee (*pwede rin*

hot darn), surely, we can rekindle our shared memories of cadetship and among other “*bolahizing*” topics to chat over with.

Kaakibat Associates Group:

Alota - Machine Shop Proprietor; Apostol - Engineer, Electronics/Semicon Manufacturing Industry; Aquino - ISA II, Bureau of Customs; Balid - Research Engr, CTI Engineering International; Bantic - PNP ITMS; Basa - Security, Aboitiz; Calderon - Bureau of Immigration; Calvario - PNP PRO10; De Jesus - Security Manager, Sunlight Air; Del Mundo - Deputy Head, Traffic Opns, NLEX; Dela Roca, Security Manager, Accenture Global Asset Protection; Dignadice - Security Manager, VisMin, Filinvest Land Inc; Domingos-Simon, Department Head, AXA Philippines; Domrigue - DND/AFP; Fernandez - Security, Cebu; Lopez - Security, Makati; Maborang - Bureau of Immigration; Marcos - PNP COMEL; Mijares - Regional Manager, SM Mart Inc; Nioda - A/U, PMC, PAF; Nogal - Elected Government Official, Pangasinan; Ong - Manager, Inbox; Panaga - PNP-IG; Pante - Gasoline Station

Proprietor; Parallag-Garcia - Army Chief Accountant; Pedroso - Manager, Accenture Global Asset Protection; Ramin - Coca Cola; Ramos - Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office; Remonde - Freelancer; Salinas - CRS Manager, Waltermart Shopping Center & Supermarket Inc.; Sigue - Security, Land Bank of the Philippines; Suson - IT Infrastructure, AFPMBAI; Tomabini - PDEA; Tungpalan - Nurse, OFW; Valenton - Corporate Security Head, MeralcoGen; Veniegas - PRO, PNP; and Wanawan - QCPD, PNP.

Finally, 2021 is a year that all “Kaakibats” will yearn to live on with so much to be thankful for. Even though still laden with pandemic-filled worries and some sense of desperations due to delayed shift to normalcy, it will not in any way spoil what each one of us have earned to reach this far in our respective careers and personal priorities. We will not succumb to the challenges and unknowns ahead of us. Instead, let us remain steadfast, take each other hands in unity, and together we will progress forward, full steam ahead for a brighter horizon. **Godspeed everyone!**



Bright Lights Ahead for Maliyab

Yaber Stories

While playing Penoy Henyo, a Yaber showed his true color. During the game, the word KIWI was on the forehead of Mistah A.

So he started asking, tao?

Mistah B, hindi!

Mistah A: Pagkain?

Mistah B: Oo!!

(and it was the start of Mistah A's misery. Everything for Mistah B is edible, at least for the hungry and “no choice” mammals I presume.)

Next word, KISSING ROCK.

Mistah A: Tao?

Mistah B: Hindi!

Mistah A: Lugar?

Mistah B: Oo! Oo!!

Mistah A: Lugar kung saan natutulog?

Mistah B: Oo! Oo!!

Mistah A: Lugar kung saan kumakain?

Mistah B: Oo! Oo!!

Mistah A: Lugar kung saan may nakakatay?

Mistah B: Oo! Oo!!

Mistah A: mmmmm, saan ito?!?!

YABER HOPES

2021 will be a year full of hope and faith, and all the scars of 2020 will be nothing but tokens of the battles won. Last year may be a challenging year but it has taught us to be grateful for the things we have and the things we can do. Adios 2020!

This Year of the Ox, we Yabers see smiles and bright lights up ahead. We have surpassed difficult challenges, from plebehood to 2020, now there is nothing we cannot overcome. And, while we are smiling today, we will maximize! Maximize our time spent with family and with the people who matter. Maximize doing good and being kind while we can, and maximize our outputs in our work and offices.

Although Nostradamus' quatrains predicted 2021 with zombie apocalypse, solar storms, famine, devastating earthquake in the US, and other terrifying events, a happy and positive disposition at the start of the year will make a great difference. Although it will be a very useful information that zombies move slow, no intelligence and no survival instincts; hence, they can easily be lured into traps. For other eventualities, a “once a plebe always a survivor” attitude can rise above all the challenges that may come our way. And just like what most millennials would say “Please be kind 2021!”.



ARMY UPDATES

The Class is very proud of our mistah MAJOR DAVID BONIFACIO who was recently designated as the Senior Tactical Officer (STO) of the cadet corps. Looking back, I used to think our Tac-Os are Gods, with whom our future depend. Whether my Saturdays will be happy or sad depends on them. I can clearly recall how I explained my DRs with argumentum ad misericordiam “sir I did, I did not, because



I am only human”....Rebook!

This is only a Tac-O, whom I consider a God. How much more an STO!? My mistah Boni is an STO, who is now a higher being than those I consider Gods when we were cadets. My short message for Boni (although I will text him this later) “Mistah kaya pa ba? Kaya mo pa ba manirahan dito sa mundo naming mga ordinaryong nilalang?”

But Boni is indeed born for greatness. He was the Company Commander of Golf Company when we were cadets, the home of the gallants, gwapings and everytheeng. During his stint, he was able to lead the company to receive numerous awards including the Jurado Cup, Close Order Drill championship and made a very famous plebe back then survive without any harm and markings whatsoever. From second class year to our first class year, the corps was all eyes on the Gallants on how they handle, train and transform this awesome and wonderful plebe. Kudos to Boni, many young people, especially yearlings, were able to control their anger, and eventually graduated to be snappy officers of the AFP. As for the plebe, of course he graduated and joined his chosen branch of service; just like all of us, who were once an awesome and wonderful plebes.

AIR FORCE UPDATES

Another source of pride and inspiration is our youngest mistah, LTCOL APOLONIO PULGAR who was recently designated as the General Manager of the Mactan Air Base Golf Club. I did not know Apol plays golf until recently. I only knew he is a great badminton player ever since we were cadets. Aside from being a GM of one of the best golf courses of the AFP, Apol is also an esteemed Huey pilot of the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing.

Speaking of being an esteemed pilot, another Air Force mistah, LTCOL REXZON



PASCO, is on his way to make history as being one of the first pilots of our newest air asset, the Black Hawk. We now have six of these mighty birds, which will be 16 in the next years. Rex finished his training as Pilot and Instructor Pilot of the Sikorsky S70i Helicopter last November 2020.

Fly high and safe mistahs!

NAVY UPDATES

The Navy group also has its FOIC able entries. Introducing the mistahs who were

already designated or currently positioned as Commanding Officer of their respective ships. LCDR PAUL CARBAJAL is now the CO of BRP Fort San Antonio Abad (AGS701), LCDR JENNIFER MONFORTE is the Acting CO of BRP Ramon Alcaraz (PS16).

LCDR LILYBETH JAMORALIN-CUNTAPAY is still the Protocol Officer of the SND. I will be sharing her “throwback picture” to show that Megan Fox was once a Navy officer.



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

LAST CALL

COL CLEMENTE U BRAZIL '52

15 March 1928 - 18 October 2020

CAV BRAZIL passed away on 18 October 2020 due to pneumonia at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Wake was at Arlington Memorial Chapels and Crematory, Quezon City from 21-23 October 2020.

Inurnment was done at Christ the King Parish, Quezon City on 5 November 2020. He was given full military honors.

He left behind his wife, Teresita, children: Ellen, Elizabeth and Eunice and grandchildren.



PBGEN BENJAMIN F VALENTON '62

04 May 1940 - 14 December 2020

CAV VALENTON passed on 14 December when he succumbed to his illness at the Asian Hospital. Memorial services were held for him by his family on 21 December via Zoom.

CAV VALENTON distinguished himself in counter-insurgency operations where he was promoted on-the-spot twice to temporary captain and to temporary major. He is also a recipient of the TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) Award in 1967 when he was still a first lieutenant. He is an Alfa Indian. And he is also an accomplished tennis player and golfer.

CAV VALENTON was married to Anita Vinson and they have two children - Benjamin Oliver and Aleksandr Joan (Sanj).



BGEN PAUL O CANALITA '56

03 April 1932 - 5 January 2021

CAV CANALITA, 88 years old, passed away on 5 January 2021 in the hospital in Antipolo City at 11 a.m. due to kidney failure. The cause of his death was new, fast and fatal. Before the covid lockdown, Paul had been missing from several class socials due to a heart malady. He left behind his wife Daly, daughter Carla and their five grandchildren.



COL OSCAR E LEGASPI '71

08 October 1948 - 6 January 2021

CAV OSCAR OSCAR "TITO" LEGASPI passed away on 6 January 2021 due to MDS complicated by dengue. Tito was a member of Hampaslupa '71 golf club.

A regular guy, there was never a dull moment with him whether in play or during fellowships. He liked to crack jokes and tell funny stories especially between drinks. He left behind his wife, Dra Nona and three children. (See *Class Call 1971 on Cav Legaspi in this issue of The Cavalier*)



BGEN DANILO D LIM '78

2 June 1955 - 6 January 2021

CAV DANILO LIM joined our Creator on 6 January 2021 at age 65 due to cardiac arrest. He was tested positive for COVID-19 on 29 December 2020.

CAV LIM served as Chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority from 2017 until his death in 2021. He is known for his competent, selfless and dedicated public service throughout his military and civilian careers. Inurnment was on 9 January 2021 at the Heritage Park, Taguig City.

He left behind his wife Aloysia and daughter, Aika.



RADM BRILLANTE C OCHOCO '55

09 October 1931 - 18 January 2021

Cav Ochoco '55 passed away on 18 January 2021 at the VMMC, Quezon City. He suffered a stroke and the events turned for the worst leading to cardiac arrest. He has been confined at the VMMC for many years due to dementia and Alzheimer's. Cav Ochoco was a former Flag Officer-In-Command of the Philippine Navy and former Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard. He was also a former Chairman of the PMAAAI from 1981 to 1985 and a recipient of Cavalier Award in



1969 and 1979. Cav Ochoco will always be remembered for his humility and integrity.

COMMO GUALTERIO "TERRY" DE LA CRUZ '64

21 June 1940 - 27 November 2020

"Very prominent among our associate classmates," as Class '64 President Clem Mariano acknowledges (see Class '64 Class Call in this issue), Commodore Gualterio de la Cruz AFP (Ret) was a lifer in the Navy and served with distinction. He served aboardship in Sulu sea during the height of the MNLF rebellion in the 70's. He was Chief of Staff of PCG and HPN Comptroller.



He was Commander of the Naval Training Command when he retired in 1996.

He attended the US Naval War College in 1991, and earned his degree of Master in Business Management from Ateneo de Manila University. He was a licensed Mechanical Engineer from Mapua Tech before joining the Navy. In fact, he finished his BS in ME, before joining Class '64 in 1960 as a plebe. After retirement, Terry served in various capacities with HERMA Group of Companies, as CEO and consultant with HERMA Shipping, HERMA SHIPYARD and others until his demise.

He served with AFPGEN, the insurance company of AFPMBAL. He was GM of AFP Commissary and Exchange Svc in the early 90's. He was chairman of Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting during one election year.

Terry left behind wife Ellen, with whom he would have celebrated 53 years of marriage in three months; daughter Mae, UP BS Architecture graduate, CALPOLY Master in Architecture, and currently residing in Seattle, Washington, USA; son GUALTERIO DELA CRUZ II, PMA Class of 1994, who followed his footsteps, optionally retired from the Navy and joined ARMSCOR as one of its top executives; and, another son Nelson, University of Asia and Pacific, Entrepreneurial Management graduate, who contributes to Australian-based BAIRD MARITIME.





PMA Alumni Association, Inc. Supports the Abrogation of the UP-DND Accord

The collective will of the people enshrined in our constitution includes the freedom of speech.

It declares democracy as our form of government and mandates all its instrumentalities to conform with this way of life.

It is our duty as citizens to assist, protect and defend government perform its mandated tasks.

We all live in a dynamic authorizing environment that affects the attainment, favorably or adversely, of our constitutional objectives.

The UP-DND Accord needs to be abrogated because it is no longer responsive to our national security objectives. Thus, the DND as a government institution not only acted within its rights but on its sacred duty.

Amidst these times, however, the abrogation clearly demonstrates a real opportunity for both parties to once again work closely and craft a working arrangement that will enable the attainment of mutually beneficial and shared objectives all within the bounds of our constitution. After all, academic freedom and security are shared responsibilities grounded on mutual respect and cooperation.

Through the years the PMAAAI and its members have assumed the enormous burden of securing the people and the state both in times of war and peace.

As your stakeholders we call on both sides to take the extra mile for renewed efforts to create an authorizing environment for the stability and prosperity of our country.

It can, it must be done and it must be achieved!

With the aforementioned, PMAAAI supports the abrogation of the UP-DND Accord and looks forward to the establishment of a new and mutually-beneficial working environment.

With our Deepest Respects,

PMAAAI BOARD 2020-2021