



The

CAVALIER

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

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

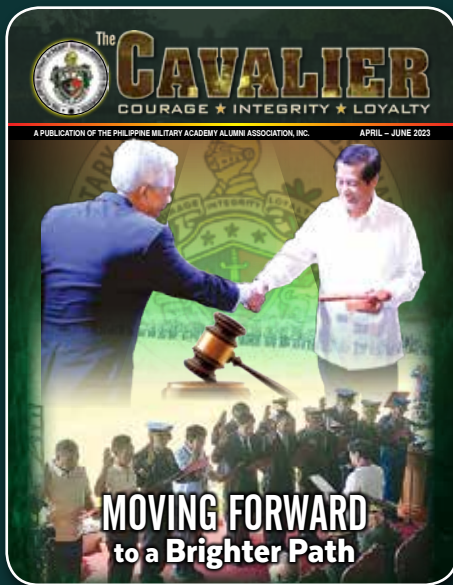
APRIL – JUNE 2023



**MOVING FORWARD
to a Brighter Path**



ABOUT THE COVER



At the onset of the new Association Year 2023-2024, a new set of Board of Directors and officers took the helm of steering the PMAAAI towards more brighter path.

With the revitalized Strategic Framework of the PMAAAI, the Board could never go wrong in attaining the big stride to a greater leap in the coming days ahead.

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The

CAVALIER

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

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

Readers may now view The Cavalier online at pmaaii.ph

Send your letters to:

The Editor, The Cavalier

PMA Alumni Center

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Some articles have been edited to meet space requirements.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV DANILO A ABINOJA '74

PMAAAI Watch, I have the Conn

*"To give and not count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wound,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To work and not ask for any reward,
and to serve knowing that we do God's will."*

– St. Ignatius de Loyola (Patron Saint of Soldiers)

In the 19th century, warships (and, later, submarines) began to be built with structures known as "conning towers." These structures were so-called **because it was from them that an officer could "conn" the vessel.** The verb "conn" (also spelled "con") is first known to have appeared in English in the 1600s. One of the most important principles of ship handling is that there be no ambiguity as to who is controlling the movements of the ship. **One person gives orders to the ship's engine, rudder, lines, and ground tackle.** This person is said to have the "conn."

As I embark on this alumni voyage to fulfill my watch, and as in the naval parlance, I say - '*PMAAAI watch, I have the con*'. With GOD as our navigator, as we cast off all lines, everyone has to be on board less you be left alone and lonely at the dock. We have only one vessel in this journey and together we will enjoy the good weather and following seas. In the same vein, we will also navigate uncharted waters together. Together, we shall weather all storms, strong winds, big waves, and unfriendly shores. Together, we will safely and triumphantly reach our destination.

The voyage was uncharted. I knew that we must tread on a challenging course. I was on solid ground before I embarked on the voyage and was full of hope and excitement. I contemplated the need for a navigator, however, Marco Polo did not have a navigator when he circumnavigated the world, while Magellan trusted only his instincts and he discovered the Philippines. And so this is exactly what I will do, I will have GOD as my navigator, I will trust my instincts and I will use my better judgement.

I then accept, with all humility, the duties and responsibilities of being the 40th Chairman of the PMAAAI. It is just fitting then to give respect and gratitude to all the past and the outgoing Chairmans of PMAAAI for leaving us with an organization that is worthy of unselfish service and personal dedication. Without

the sacrifices, efforts and dedication of the past Chairmans' and Board of Directors, we will not be where we are today. To all of you then, from a grateful new Board for Alumni Year 2023-24, our sincerest and profound appreciation and thanks.

To members of the new Board of PMAAAI, let me share a food for thought.

"During Bible times, the Romans had conquered much of the known world and ruled with an iron hand. By Roman law, a Roman soldier could compel a subject of one of the conquered lands to carry his backpack, or 'load,' for him for one mile, but only one mile. No more, no less. The Israelites resented the oppressive rule of the Roman occupation but would obey the law by going just one mile, but not one step *more*."

Being volunteers, the new Board of the PMAAAI are always asked to walk just one mile. But for the love of our alma mater and our fellow alumni, may I ask the members of the new Board, to walk an extra mile. Going the Second Mile means serving above the norm. Treating alumni with kindness and respect regardless of what they deserve. Being volunteers, it is not enough to simply do what is required. In order for us to find joy, contentment and achievement in our service to the alumni and the alma mater, we must generously give our time, talent and perhaps treasure and go beyond what is expected of us.

It's a brand new Alumni Year (AY) and I feel very optimistic about the direction of the PMAAAI. On a personal level, I feel very excited and at the same time proud to serve the alumni and our alma mater. In truth and in fact, I feel the challenge in managing a very vibrant and fulfilled association. The first month was then devoted to planning of the voyage to our destination. A few selected cavaliers participated in creating the roadmap for AY 2023-24. Modesty aside, below is our roadmap.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK of PMAAAI

Core Values, Vision, Mission and Objectives

CORE VALUES		
COURAGE	INTEGRITY	LOYALTY
VISION		
To be recognized as the most respected, responsive and efficient alumni association		
MISSION		
To promote the general welfare of all alumni	To support our Alma Mater	To contribute to national development
OBJECTIVES		
To support and promote the general welfare of the Alumni. - To promote the general welfare and protect interest of the members. - To strengthen the spirit of camaraderie among the members and enhance their professional growth and career advancement. - To carry on the sound and time-honored military customs and traditions. - To perpetuate the memory of departed alumni.	To support our Alma Mater and perpetuate its ideals. - To safeguard and maintain the prestige and reputation of the Philippine Military Academy and always live up to the Academy's ideals of courage, integrity, and loyalty. - To encourage the best of the youth to join the Philippine Military Academy and eventually the AFP. - To promote the interest of the Academy and support in its academic and training endeavors.	To undertake other advocacies - To contribute to the development of the country and the welfare of the people. - To assist local and national officials to govern well

Having the above as our roadmap for Alumni Year 2023-24, we are confident that we can live up to the expectations of our fellow cavaliers. It is also the basis for creating the action plans of the different committees to serve the alumni and our alma mater better. These action plans are aimed at addressing the three-fold mission of PMAAAI. This is how we intend to serve PMAAAI.

St Ignatius completely explains the meaning of service to which PMAAAI is anchored. This has been proven by many alumni

when they give selfless service without seeking anything in return. Some even had to share a part of their hard earned treasure or income just to contribute to the activities of the PMAAAI. We also get tired performing services, but we can't rest until the work is completed. This is the true meaning of service as very accurately said by St. Ignatius. Knowing that we are doing God's will is the essence of service.

Let's then walk the extra mile. And together exemplify the true meaning of service.





PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV ADRIANO SJ DUADICO '94

Taking Controls for 2024

For this AY 2023-2024, the PMAAAI BOARD is fully loaded as it assumed its mandate with new compositions and new faces at the flight deck. The Chairperson initiated immediately a refreshed strategic framework in order to have plans and projects with a clear vision and direction for this year. As the new President and Chief Operating Officer, it is my responsibility to supervise the operations of the Association, STEERING IT TO SOAR HIGH!

My checklist will be the Annual Plan crafted to guide the Board of Directors on the duties and functions of each and what are the deliverables to be achieved. With limited time and resources, identifying the priorities is crucial in order to accomplish the PMAAAI mission and objectives. Given a one-year term, it is necessary to prioritize projects that would have a greater impact on the association especially in order to be of better service and be proactive to its members. In this flight, I have selected three main waypoints that should be given the utmost attention.

The first waypoint is the construction of the PMAAAI building in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. A monitoring committee was created in order to oversee the fast and proper completion of this project. After its groundbreaking on 23 March 2022, the excavation finally started on 22 March 2023, after the issuance of a Notice to Proceed from the Headquarters and Headquarters Support Group of the Philippine Army. The usufruct agreement between the PMAAAI and Philippine Army was approved and signed by the Senior Undersecretary Galvez Jr last 27 March 2023 due to the diligent effort of Cav Punzalan '76. With the direct supervision of Cav Ramos '84 and Cav Estranero '94, this will now propel the completion of the project hopefully by the end of this year.

The second waypoint is the need for organizational change in the PMAAAI. In order to be an effective and responsive organization, it must evolve and make significant changes to its set-up and composition.

Aside from the committees, the Chairperson appointed Directors as Chairmen of Ad Hoc Committees in order to address unfinished businesses like the PMAAAI Building Construction, the case on ACES, the ASASAAP activities, and most important of which is the amendments to the PMAAAI bylaws. Other changes include reduction of the Board of Directors and merger of some affiliate foundations. As per approved resolution in 2018, the merger of the PMAAA Development Foundation, Inc. is now in the process of Audit prior to its SEC evaluation.

The third waypoint is the Alumni Homecoming for 2024 and its pre-activities. With the post COVID-19 pandemic at its prime, normal business activities are already getting back. The traditional Alumni Homecoming on the third Saturday of February 2024 is already being laid down in order to be ready to accommodate a much bigger attendance. All factors will be considered in order to ensure its successful conduct. Other activities, like the General Assembly is being considered to be held at NCR on the fourth Saturday of January 2024 in order to have more attendees. The Family Sportsfest will have some adjustments on its team composition and the usual Games of the Cavaliers will have some improvement, too. Fundraising activities will still be planned but hopefully it will not be a burden to the members.

These three waypoints are the checkpoints that will bring the PMAAAI to its desired destination. Of course, bad weather and some discrepancies would make our flight difficult but with the strong leadership of our mission Commander, Cav Abinoja '74 and with the dedicated flight crew performing their respective tasks we will reach our final waypoint with flying colors. Fair winds and clear skies will only be possible with the divine powers of our God Almighty.

ALL SYSTEMS GO...CLEAR FOR TAKE OFF!





CAVALIER NEWSLINE

CAV ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55

Cav Abinoja elected PMAAAI Chairman; Cav Duadico president

Cav Danilo A Abinoja '74 has been elected as the new chairman and CEO of the PMAAAI for AY 2023-2024. Cav Abinoja was a former Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard. Cav Adriano SJ Duadico '94 PAF has been likewise elected as president and COO.

The other officers elected are Cav Raul S Gonzales '75, vice chairman; Cav George M Bergonia '95, vice president; Cav Manuel C Kalang-ad '04, corporate secretary; Cav Ryan L Bakabak '95, corporate treasurer; and Cav Dalton John Lagura '14, corporate auditor.

Furthermore, the PMAAAI major chapters have elected their respective Board of Directors except for the Police Cavaliers Association, Inc.: PMARAI chairman, Cav Raul S Gonzales '75, and president, Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76; PA chapter president, Cav Darwin F Hernandez '94; PAF chapter president, Cav Genaro Menor '94; PN chapter president, Cav Ivan Papera '94; and PCG chapter president, Cav Tito Alvin G Andal '94.

PMAAAI affiliate foundations elected their chairmen and president

The PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI) and PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) held their annual meetings and election of officers on 20 April 2023 and 26 April 2023, respectively. Elected chairman and president of PMAFI are Cava Rufino G Ibay Jr '67, and Leo Angelo Leuterio '88. Cava Magtanggol B Gatdula '76 and Arthur M Biyo '86 were likewise elected as chairman and president of PETFI for AY 2023-2024.



Abinoja



Duadico



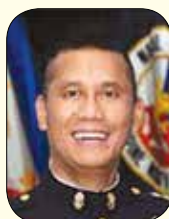
Ibay



Leuterio



Gatdula



Biyo

Cav Acorda, Jr appointed as new PNP Chief

PMGen Benjamin Acorda Jr. '91 has been appointed by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. as the new Philippine National Police chief replacing Cav Rodolfo Azurin Jr '89 who compulsorily retired on April 24, 2023.

Prior to his appointment as Chief, PNP, Cav Acorda became the PNP's chief of the Directorate for Intelligence. He also served as Palawan Police Provincial Office chief from 2014 to 2016 and as the Regional Director of the Police Regional Office 10 in Northern Mindanao.

Likewise, Cav Rhodel O Sermonia 89 was designated The Deputy Chief for Administration; Cav Jonnel C Estomo '92, The Deputy Chief for Operations; and Cav Michael John F Dubria '91 as The Chief of Directorial Staff.



Acorda

Cavaliers appointed to PNPA Advisory Council

Cavs Jaime S de los Santos '69 and Reynaldo V Velasco '71 were appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Philippine National Police Academy Advisory Council. Cava Cesar Hawthorne R Binag '87 and Jose Chiquito M Malayo '89 were likewise appointed as members. Cav de los Santos is likewise a Senior Fellow at the Philippine Public Safety College. PNP Advisory Council plays a very important role in the successful implementation of the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L Plan 2030.



de los Santos



Velasco

Cav Rojas appointed as new Commandant, Philippine Marines

Cav Arturo G Rojas '90 was appointed as new Commandant, Philippine Marines. He received the official appointment from Senior Undersecretary Carlito Galvez Jr. Cav Rojas has specialized in special operations during his deployment in the provinces of Sulu, Bulacan, Quezon, Basilan, Kalinga Apayao, and in the cities of Zamboanga and Cotabato. He was the commander of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) when he received the appointment as the new commandant.



Rojas

In Memoriam

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

LtCol Ceasar G Agcon '76	21 Jan 2023
PBGen Wency T Pascual '81	24 Jan
Cpt Ian Gerru C Pasinos 2011	25 Jan
MGen Ericson C Aurelio '72	07 Feb
PBGen Luisito T Palmera '78	07 Feb
BGen Rolando Y Espejo '63	13 Feb
BGen Alvin Francis A Javier '85	14 Feb
MGen Benjamin N Libarnes '67	18 Mar
PltGen Virtus V Gil '71	22 Mar
Col Noli V Santua '55	06 Apr
PBGen Victor S Tiangco '69	11 Apr
PCol Antonio T Sierra '68	13 Apr
Gen Diomedio P Villanueva '68	30 Apr
Col Federico J Tutaan '88	26 Apr
Gen Diomedio P Villanueva '68	30 Apr
Cpt Steve A Parcon '95	01 May
Cav Ralph L Flores '71	06 May
PBGen Valiant G De Guzman '78	16 May
PltGen Edmundo L Larrosa '67	22 May
BGen Miguel R Hindo '62	29 May
BGen Antonio R Samonte '57	30 May
MGen Ramon J Farolan '56	31 May

The PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) offers scholarship to help in the education of qualified children of married deceased and disabled alumni and younger siblings of those unmarried. To qualify, their alumnus-parent/brother must have been a regular member of PETFI and a regular member of good standing of the PMAAAI at the time of death or disability.

The qualified children or the widows and parents concerned may get in touch with Jane at PETFI office, PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. or at her cellphone no. 0968 854-5593 or by email at petfi@yahoo.com.



ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

PMAAAI Awards: Rules and Criteria

• CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76
Chairman, PMAAAI Awards Committee AY 2023-2024

Pursuant to Sec 3, Art. IX of the PMAAAI Amended By-Laws, the Association shall confer the **Cavalier Award**, the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, the **Valor Award**, and the **Outstanding Achievement Award** to qualified regular members of the association in good standing for distinguished, exemplary and unblemished service and outstanding performance of duties, under such rules as the Board shall prescribe: Provided, That an affirmative vote of at least thirteen (13) or two thirds (2/3) of all the voting members of the Board is required for the grant of the above awards. Accordingly, the following Rules and Criteria in the selection of the awards are hereby prescribed unless modified by proper authority.

A. CAVALIER AWARD

1. **Number of Awardees** - The Cavalier Award shall be given annually to the twelve (12) most outstanding regular members of the Association for outstanding performance of duties during the last five (5) years, in various fields of endeavor as enumerated in paragraph 2 below. In addition, a Cavalier Award (slot) may be granted to outstanding junior officers in the following field: Army Operations; Naval Operations; Air Operations; Police Operations and Coast Guard Operations. Additional Cavalier Award may also be granted to Special Operations and Public Administration provided that the total number of Cavalier Awards shall not exceed twenty (20) Cavalier Awards every Association Year.
2. **Fields of Awards** - The Cavalier Award shall be given to those selected as the most outstanding members in the following fields of endeavor:
 - 2.1. **Military/Police/Coast Guard Service in:**
 - 2.1.1 **Command and Administration** - for commanders of AFP/PNP/PCG units with TO rank of Brig General/Commodore/ P/Brig General or higher, except AFP chief of staff, PNP chief, PCG commandant and AFP major service commanders.
 - 2.1.2 **Staff Function** - for staff officer positions in the AFP/PNP/PCG units.
 - 2.1.3 **Operations** - for officers holding the positions other than those covered under para 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 above who are directly engaged/employed in PA, PAF, PN, PNP, PCG and Special Operations. There shall be one awardee per AFP major service, PNP and the PCG, each being considered a separate field. The awardee for Special Operations may come from any of the five services.
 - 2.2 **Private Enterprise** - for members in private enterprise who are either entrepreneurs or managers.

- 2.3 **Public Administration** - for members in government agencies and in government-owned and/or controlled corporations.
- 2.4 **Contribution to Alumni Affairs** - for members who have made invaluable contribution and/or services to the PMAAAI and/or the alumni.
- 2.5 **Special Fields** - for members who have outstanding achievement in sports, arts, literature, music, science and technology or in other endeavors which at the discretion of the Board of Directors deserve the Cavalier Award.
3. **Qualification and Eligibility** - To be qualified and eligible to receive the Cavalier Award, a nominee must satisfy the following criteria:
 - 3.1 Is a regular member in good standing of the Association and preferably a member of all the four affiliate foundations;
 - 3.2 Has faithfully lived up and adhered to the PMA motto of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty; and
 - 3.3 Has an honorable and unblemished record and whose reputation is beyond reproach. (Any act of commission or omission that tends to cast doubt on the nominee's reputation shall be sufficient ground not to consider the member for the Award.)
4. **Disqualification** - The following shall be disqualified from receiving the Cavalier Award:
 - 4.1. Alumni who have been recipients of Association awards are disqualified from receiving the same Association award category for the next ten (10) years except for Outstanding Achievement Award which can be granted to a recipient cited for his/her election to another position of major responsibility; and
 - 4.2. Members of the PMAAAI Board of Directors and Awards Committee during their tenure.
5. **Criteria for the Awards** - The Award shall be based on outstanding, distinguished and exemplary achievements worthy of emulation, personally and directly attained or done by the member during the last five (5) years in any of the fields enumerated above, that have:
 - 5.1 Enhanced the prestige of the PMA and the PMAAAI;
 - 5.2 Contributed significantly to the attainment of the AFP/PNP/PCG mission; and/or
 - 5.3 Resulted in the improvement of the general welfare of the community or country.
6. **Selection Process** - The selection process shall be from as wide a zone of consideration as possible. All regular members of the

Association are qualified and should be considered for the Award, except as earlier provided for.

6.1 Nomination. Any PMAAAI member, Class President, or Chapter President can submit nomination for the Award not later than last working day of July of the applicable association year. The nomination shall be in writing, addressed to the PMAAAI Board of Directors (Attn: Awards Committee), and e-mail to pmaaaai@yahoo.com. Soft copy must also be furnished to the Committee in a word format saved in the USB. The nomination shall specify the field of award and shall include the following which should be in seven (7) copies each and properly filed in appropriate folders.

6.1.1 Curriculum vitae of the nominee;

6.1.2 Authenticated description or summary of nominee's achievements or accomplishments;

6.1.3 Justification for the Award; and

6.1.4 A write-up of the nominee's accomplishments in not more than 100 words for possible publication in the Cavalier Magazine.

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

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

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

6.4 Deliberation of Board of Directors. The Board shall deliberate on the recommendees and select the Cavalier Awardees during its meeting in December. Approval of any of the awards requires a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote or 13 of all the voting members of the Board. The Board shall limit its deliberations only to those recommendees submitted by the Awards Committee. The list of Cavalier Awardees shall be published in the Cavalier Magazine's January-February issue.

7. **Presentation of Awards** - The Cavalier Awards shall be presented to the awardees during the Alumni Homecoming Parade in February. The order of presentation of the awards

shall be from the most senior awardee by class to the most junior.

B. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This Award shall be given to a regular member of the Association who has rendered at least fifty (50) years of distinguished, outstanding, exemplary and unblemished service to the country and people, whether in government and/or in non-government organizations, who must have served for at least two (2) years as head of any such organization, and who must have been a recipient of any of the other Association awards provided herein. The award will be given during the Alumni Homecoming Parade in February. Any PMAAAI member, Class President or Chapter President can submit nomination for the Award not later than last working day of July of the applicable association year.

C. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

D. VALOR AWARD

The Valor Award shall be given to regular member of the Association who have been recipients of the Medal of Valor.

E. TIMELINES

For the Association year 2023-2024:

1. **20 March to 31 July 2023** – PMAAAI members, Chapter and Class Presidents shall conduct a search of nominees for the Awards.
2. **31 July 2023**– Deadline for submission of nominees to the PMAAAI Awards Committee. Screening by the Awards Committee starts.
3. **8 August 2023** – First meeting of the Awards Committee and Submission of list of qualified nominees to Editor, Cavalier Magazine for publication in the quarterly (September) issue.
4. **Sept-Nov 2023** – Awards Committee receives comments on the nominees from Cavaliers.
5. **29 September 2023** – Submission of Chapters Deliberation.
6. **14 Nov 2023** – Finalization of the list of nominees by the Awards Committee by categorizing them as Principal and Alternate by field of award.
7. **1 Dec 2023** - Submission of the Awards Committee's recommendation to the PMAAAI Board of Directors for the:
 - a. Lifetime Achievement Award
 - b. Outstanding Achievement Award
 - c. Cavalier Award
 - d. Valor Award
8. **8 December 2023** – Meeting of the Board to select the awardees.

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



PBBM Graces PMA “MADASIGON” Class of 2023 Commencement Exercises

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City – President and Armed Forces of the Philippines commander-in-chief FERDINAND R MARCOS JR., exhorted the 310-members of the *Mandirigmang may Dangal, Simbolo ng Galing at Pagbangon (MADASIGON)* Class of 2023 to continue to fuel their undying commitment to genuine love for country and for public service.

“In all your tasks, diligently work for unity, respect for democratic ideals, institutions and mechanisms, and the rule of law,” the President further enjoined the graduating cadets. He further reminded them to apply the hard-won lessons that they have learned while in the halls of the academy, clinging to the values of courage, integrity and loyalty so they will never lose their way. This was the first attendance of PBBM to the PMA graduation as commander-in-chief since he sat in power last July of 2022.

MADASIGON Class of 2023 is composed of 238 males and 72 females who will be deployed in the AFP’s three major branches of service. Some 158 will be joining the Philippine Army; 77 in the Philippine Navy and 75 in the Philippine Air Force.

Cadet 1CL Warren Leonor, who hails from Lipa City in Batangas, will join the PAF as he topnotched all other cadets as valedictorian of the graduating class. He received numerous awards including the Presidential Saber from President Marcos Jr.

At the PMA grandstand, Cadet Leonor also received the Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award, Academic Group Award, Social Sciences Plaque, Air Force Professional Courses Plaque, General Antonino Luna Award, Spanish Armed Forces Award, Philippine Air Force Saber, National Security Studies Plaque, Management Plaque, Tactic Group Award, SPDU Plaque and the JUSMAG Saber.

Other cadets who graduated with honors included Cadet First Class Edmundo Logronio from Manito, Albay, a son of a farmer and a housewife, is second and received the Vice-Presidential Saber.

As the top cadet joining the Philippine Army, Cadet Logronio received the Philippine Army Saber, the Australia Defense Best Overall Performance Award, Aguinaldo Saber, Department of Tactical Officers Plaque and Army Professional Courses Plaque.

Topping third is Cadet 1CL Nicole Sarmiento from Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte and No. 4 is Cadet 1CL Zhen Zhen Cayton from Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya.

Cadet 1CL Rez Mark Cantor from Bugallon, Pangasinan is Top 5. She received the Philippine Navy Saber, and Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award.

Topping the 6th spot is Cadet 1CL Rojan Macario from Zamboanga City and Barlig, Mountain Province; Top 7 is Cadet 1CL Samuel Banac from West Fairview, Quezon City and Top 8 is Cadet 1CL Kimberly Kate Lawingan from Sadanga, Mountain Province.

Cadet 1CL Rico Jay Fernandez from Molave, Zamboanga del Sur is top 9 and will receive the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Inc. Award and the Department of Leadership Plaque.

Top 10 is Cadet 1CL Arla Krish Bahingawan from Kiangnan, Ifugao. She is the recipient of the Department of Humanities Plaque and the Chief Justice Saber.

Relatedly, Cadet Leonor, MADASIGON Class of 2023 topnotcher, commented, in an online interview, that life in the academy is truly different from that of the life in the field. He said,

“I expect bigger roles and responsibilities which also requires bigger commitment and determination to fulfill each of them. I am fully aware that I will be recall for duties on unexpected times but I am also aware that this is part of the profession that I surrendered myself in.”

He admitted that at first, he thought that being a junior officer is only about following orders from senior officers. However, he was enlightened by one of their mentors that *“young lieutenants nowadays are not there to be seen, they are there to be heard.”* Cadet Leonor said he expects to take part in the accomplishment of the mission and vision of the unit that he will be assigned in and further to the Philippine Air Force.

When asked what can he contribute to perpetuate the PMA motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, he replied: *“Our actions will always be guided by the PMA’s motto—Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty—in all our endeavors, particularly as we serve as the forefront of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We will serve as the cutting edge of the AFP by performing our roles as combatants with a heart, partners of national development, managers of resources, military professionals, and most especially, leaders of character.”*

Cadet Leonor further said: *“Courage does not only entails fighting in combat but it is also about taking responsibility of the actions and decisions that I’ve made. Being a junior leader, I know that I still have a lot to work on myself and opening myself to new ideas even from my subordinates is a good manifestation of courage. Integrity, on the other hand, is about adhering to the moral principles and values.”*

As what he has learned in the academy, Cadet Leonor added that, *“I can show integrity able to gain the respect of the people around me by simply doing what’s right, legally and morally, in any circumstances that I will face. Lastly, loyalty, which I believe is affiliated with commitment, is about showing that I am willing to contribute and do my part as a member of the AFP,”* he concluded..

Adm Abinoja administers PMAAAI Membership Oath to Class 2023



CAV DANNY A ABINOJA '74, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO, administered the oath of PMAAAI membership of the 311-strong “MADASIGON” Class of 2023 who have not violated the PMA honor code on 21 May 2023. As regular members of PMAAAI, they swore that they will faithfully perform their duties and responsibilities; abide to its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; obey the rules and regulations promulgated by its Board of Directors; uphold the PMAAAI Code of Ethics; and be guided in all their undertakings in life by the PMA’s motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

PMA Conducts “Salute to PMA ‘MADASIGON’ Class of 2023”



Unveiling of “MADASIGON” Class Crest

The 310 graduating Philippine Military Academy cadets of “MADASIGON” Class of 2023 took their oath on the Long Gray line, 12 May 2023. The Salute to the Class and Ring Ceremony was led by PMAAAI President and COO, CAV ADRIANO SJ DUADICO '94 as Keynote Speaker. PMA Superintendent, CAV ROWEN S TOLENTINO '89, also graced the event to show his unending support and guidance to the graduating cadets.

The ceremony, dubbed as *“The Salute to the Class,”* is a symbol of the graduating class acceptance of bigger challenges and responsibilities as they shift from being members of the Cadet Corps AFP to being full-fledged members of the AFP and the PMAAAI who are ready to serve the Republic of the Philippines and its people.

During the unveiling of the Class crest, CAV DUADICO said in his speech, *“the unveiling signifies that this hallowed ground, we call our womb, is now ready for the re-birth of a new generation of Officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. A start of great stories to be written and told, a spark of fresh ideas, and who knows, the rise of our new beacon of hope. Your character, molded for 17 or 19 years as a civilian, has now been refined by the rigors of training and education to face the real world once again. You are going to be the Leaders of the cyber frontier but molded to remain resilient and experts in face-to-face combat. As you all leave the portals of this hallowed grounds, remember that your four years here in the academy made you a part of a long lineage bound with collective principles of **Values, Traditions, and Passion** to serve...”*



PMA Foundation, Inc.

President's Report

The state of our foundation, the Philippine Military Academy Foundation Incorporated, is strong and sound. It has been buoyed, undoubtedly, by the sophomore enthusiasm of the individual trustees and the effective and efficient corporate management by its Board. To be sure, there have been, as there continues to be, diverse and clashing opinions and perspectives (some heated discussions have ensued); but, all was due to everyone's desire to make things better for the organization and its stakeholders.

In the annual report of the PMA Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI) covering the period 1 January – 31 December 2022, will be found the significant financial and operational highlights of the Foundation's performance during the year. We consider this AY 2022-2023 as another fruitful year for the PMAFI. We have increased the total fund balance of the foundation; increased its income and reduced some expenses adding to net worth (assets). We also have increased participation and membership to the organization banking on its strong performance especially in its legal mandate. Knowledge and the interest in the operations of the PMAFI has increased within the last five (5) years as our outreach programs are sustainably pursued with indifference to hurdles and other challenges the Board faced and faces. They are seen as jumping boards to greater heights and successes. The Board, and the Foundation, is greatly benefited by the tireless dedication and commitment of those who have served and sacrificed for it for long periods of time, as their wisdom and institutional memories remain beacons of how and where the foundation should be steered. The presence of young guards ensure that the future is prepared and settled, notwithstanding, the infusion of new and modern ideas to improve its administration and operation.

Purpose

The PMAFI is a non-stock, non-profit corporation. It was registered with the SEC in 1988. Its purpose, in general, is to contribute to scholastic progress, and; to national security and development. Specifically, the PMAFI was established to help the PMA further improve the "...quality of its instruction...." in pursuit of character building, academic excellence, military skills proficiency, and physical development. With the adoption of the PMA Road Map 2028, the Foundation has endeavored to prioritize its support along the guidelines mentioned therein.

Organization

The affairs and businesses of the PMAFI are managed by a 15-man Board of Trustees elected from among its regular members. The PMA Superintendent is an ex-officio member of the Board. An Executive Committee, chaired by the President with other officers as members, acts for the Board; in between Board meetings. It recommends to the Board actions to be taken on requests of PMA for support and other related matters.

The day-to-day activities of the Foundation are handled by the President who is the Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation.

Membership

Membership in the PMAFI is categorized as regular, associate or affiliate. Regular and associate memberships are open to all alumni and faculty; and, staff of PMA who have donated at least P2,000 and P1,000. Affiliate membership, on the other hand, is open to all other persons and entities who have donated at least P1,000 to the Foundation.

As of 31 December 2022, the PMAFI has a total of 5,330 members, broken down as follows; 5,241 regular, 10 associate and 79 affiliate members. Sadly, 12 regular members died during the year. The table below shows the growth of our membership over the last five years:

Year	Total Members
2018	4,932
2019	4,939
2020	4,941
2021	5,107
2022	5,330

Finance

For the AY 2022-2023, we were able to raise TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P2.303M) in total revenues, broken down as follows: Investment Income – P5.586 million; Membership Contributions – P0.448 million; and Donations to Professorial Chair and Endowment Funds – P1.282 million. After deducting our total expenditures of P5.283 million, we netted P2.303 million. Project expenses used 55.58% of our total investment income while administrative expenses constituted 31.89% percent.

Our total Fund Balance as of 31 December 2022 posted P110,244 million, broken down into Professorial Chair Fund – P82.875 million; Principal Fund – P15.764 million; Endowment Fund – P11.532 million; and General Fund – 0.72 million.

The following persons and organization donated in 2022 to the Professorial Chair Fund and Endowment Fund with amounts as indicated:

Gov Amado T Espino '72	-	Php	250,000.00
PGen Dionardo B Carlos '89	-		300,000.00
MGen Romeo S Brawner Jr '89	-		250,000.00
BGen Leoncio S Tan '28	-		100,000.00
PLtGen Ricardo De Leon '71	-		50,000.00
Jose C Lalisán Jr '71	-		50,000.00
PMGen Leo Angelo D Leuterio '88	-		80,000.00

Total **Php 1,082,000.00**

Endowment Fund

PGen Dionardo B Carlos '89 - Php 200k

Operations

Through the years, the PMAFI has remained a reliable partner of PMA in providing the cadets with highly qualified, competent and dedicated military and civilian instructors. To sustain competence among the instructors, the PMAFI has continued to assist the Academy in developing their full potential through various grants such as scholarship, attendance to seminars and symposia; research, and cash awards for teaching and academic excellence.

In SY 2020-22, seven (7) members of the PMA faculty, who pursued, on part-time basis, graduate and specialized undergraduate studies in order to master the subjects that they are handling, were given full scholarships by PMAFI. The Foundation shouldered their full tuition fees and other school fees plus adding book allowances of P3,000 each per term. In addition, two AFP Sec 22k scholars, who were slated for assignment in PMA, were supported with a supplemental stipend of P10,000 plus a book allowance of P3,000 each per term.

For scholarship grants, the Foundation spent a total of P208,589.

Under the Regular Professorial Chair grant, five (5) faculty members were given by the Foundation a support of P30,000 to P50,000.00. For regular professorial chair grants, the Foundation spent a total of P170,000.

Twenty-three (23) Course Directors were awarded the Course Development and Administration Chair grant during the year to sustain and reinforce "...excellent teaching performance..." Course Directors awarded these Chair grants were obliged to improve the courses assigned to them to ensure the continued relevance of these courses to the needs of the AFP; and to initiate innovations in instruction and classroom delivery, toward a successful performance by the cadets. Each Chair grant carried an endowment, the amount of which ranged from P8,000 to P15,000 per term. In awarding these Chair grants, the PMAFI spent a total of P1,514,000.

To keep the PMA faculty abreast with the latest trends in teaching and to get some updates on the courses that they were handling, three (3) faculty members were sent by PMAFI to various in-house and off-campus seminars and P3,000 was spent in the process.

Under the Lecture Series grant, the PMAFI funded lectures conducted by the grantees for which the Foundation spent P64,000.

To reinforce and reward superior performance and inspire others towards similar achievements, the PMAFI granted a total cash award of P210,000 to twelve (12) faculty members as incentive for teaching and academic excellence.

To strengthen and enhance classroom instruction, our Foundation donated brand-new training equipment worth P747,174 to PMA.

Finally, to provide the cadets and faculty with adequate reference and reading materials at the PMA Library, PMAFI donated 109 assorted books and reference materials worth P122,660.

The table below shows how much PMA actually utilized the yearly budget which PMAFI allocated for the last five years:

Year	Total Amount Allocated	Amount Utilized
2018	3,860,000	2,998,058
2019	4,015,000	3,871,289
2020	3,730,000	3,210,750
2021	3,825,000	3,383,424
2022	4,234,702	3,104,763

Plans

Although we have already an established program for the continuous development of the PMA faculty, the Foundation maintains its wish for all members of the faculty to have not only masters but also doctorate degrees. In this regard, the PMA, jointly with PMAFI, has prepared a plan to make this wish come true in the very near future and the Foundation will see to it that this plan will be implemented vigorously. Relatedly, the Foundation has committed to grant additional support to PMAFI scholars taking masters degrees in critical and high-priority subjects in Metro Manila or in places far from Baguio hoping that this will also contribute to the development of the faculty. We will likewise give emphasis to the conduct of research or study on subjects or topics pertaining to the improvement in the conduct of instruction in PMA and in the performance of the cadets. We will also continue to work closely with PMA authorities on how we can better assist the Academy in the character building of the cadets so that they shall "possess the character essential to the pursuit of a progressive military career."

At this point, the consultations and engagements with the PMA Management continue to be sustained and heightened. This assures inclusivity, ownership and "stakeholdership" in all the grants and other projects presented by PMA for funding assistance. In a dialogue with the PMA, done sometime in November 2022, the PMAFI "clientele" expressed their utmost appreciation and gratitude to the foundation for the "...huge help..." extended to the Alma Mater. In response, the Board, thru its Chairman, Cav Rufino Ibay '67, encouraged the PMA to make "...more requests..." and to ensure that these be "...made in advance..." so funding can be made prompt and timely. The PMA Superintendent, on the other hand, assured the PMAFI that they are already in the thick of planning the requests they will be making for the next Association Year, 2023-2024, and, to make sure that, this time, their "absorption rate" will reach one hundred percent of the budget intended for the purpose.

Acknowledgment

In closing, we wish to convey our sincerest gratitude to the Trustees, the Officers and all the other members of the Foundation. We thank our generous donors for helping the PMAFI successfully pursue its noble mission of assisting the PMA maintain excellence in educating and training the future leaders of the AFP and of our country. We have assured them of the "perpetual nature" of their donations even as we ensure prudence and efficiency in fund management. We are fully aware that without such full support and cooperation, it would be difficult for the Foundation to accomplish its objectives.

We look forward to the coming Association Year, with more enthusiasm than ever; with more innovations, applying the lessons of the years and the wisdom of those who advise the Board. The PMAFI has achieved a lot in this past period and intends to achieve more in the next years to come. At this point, our foundation can claim that it has the most exciting tasks ahead of it. We remain strong and true to the vision of those who established this very important aggrupation.

s/t CAV RUFINO G IBAY JR
Chairman

s/t CAV LEO ANGELO D LEUTERIO
President



PMAFI NOMELEC Proclaims Election Winners

• CAV BOMBONG LEUTERIO '88
President, PMAFI

The PMAFI NOMELEC announced the winners of the recently concluded PMAFI election of Trustees during the resumption of the General Assembly of Members held on 1:00 p.m., April 20, 2023 at the PMAAAI Center conference room in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. They shall comprise the new set of the Board of Trustees of PMAFI for AY 2023-2025.

The names of the winners are listed according to ranking based on the number of votes garnered.

1. Cav Leo Angelo Leuterio
2. Cav Florentino Manalastas Jr
3. Cav Restituto Aguilar
4. Cav Rufino Ibay Jr
5. Cav Anselmo S Avenido Jr
6. Cav Rolando Aquino
7. Cav Salvador Esquerro
8. Cav Manuel Mariano
9. Cav Allan Corpuz
10. Cav Robles Lean Alia
11. Cav Jose C Lapus
12. Cav Doplayna Demosthenes
13. Cav Meneses Gil
14. Cav Hibaler Irvin
15. Cav Jose Lalisan Jr

The top seven highest vote-getters will served as Trustees for a term of two years (2023-2025). The next eight will serve for a term of one year (2023-2024). There was a total of thirty (30) candidates vying for the posts available from an initial list of 45 nominees who participated in the Nomination Process.

At this point, the new Board is set to conduct their Organizational Meeting to decide on the officers of the Board who will manage its affairs based on the Manual of Operations.

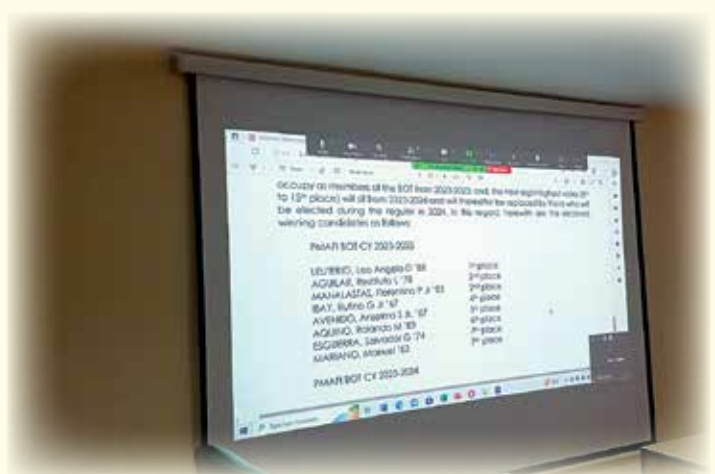
The Chairman and the President of PMAFI sent congratulatory greetings to the NOMELEC, chaired by Cav Diosdado Carlos Pambid, with Dr Maria Monica C Costales, PhD., and Dr Lea Grace B Salcedo, PhD, assisting him, for a job well-done; and, to the new trustees for accepting the challenge of managing the foundation.



The NOMELEC is set to submit their full report containing their observations, comments and recommendations, including violations committed by some candidates of the election rules and procedures, to the PMAFI Board, the PMAAAI Chairman and the Ethics Committee of the Alumni Association. The PMAFI is purposed on proceeding with its mandate to assist the PMA in "... improving its quality of instruction..." by providing post-graduate scholarships to the faculty and staff of PMA; and, to donate tools and equipment to enhance instructional capabilities. For the association year 2022-2023, the PMAFI had given approximately PHP500 M to PMA.

With the election of a new board for 2023-2025, the PMAFI is optimistic that it will be able to assist the PMA continuously in the next relevant period.

The PMAFI General Assembly, during its Annual Meeting of Members, expressed confidence that with the new mandate given to the elected Trustees for 2023-2025, PMA will continue to be greatly benefited in the pursuit of its vision and mission.





The Graduates of PMA Helping Out Project (TGPMA HOP)

The TGPMA HOP traces its humble beginnings from a post by Cav Roberto DLC Yap '82 on December 1, 2021, about the *"Suspended Coffee,"* which is a tradition that comes from Naples, Italy. When customers buy coffee, they also pay in advance for a cup to be given to somebody else — usually someone who otherwise couldn't afford it. Since then, it has become a worldwide movement.

Suspended coffee: <https://youtu.be/upr4U89GuKU>

The video became a hot topic among PMA Graduates, and amid the suffering caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the idea of doing similar acts of charity was born. Spontaneously, many generous PMA Graduates entrusted their voluntary contributions to Cav Roberto Yap '82, and with a core group of alumni volunteers, the idea became an action plan, within two weeks! The first project was "MEALS ON WHEELS" (MOW), a food feeding program conducted in some areas within the National Capital Region, in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

While the MOW was launched, Typhoon ODETTE hit the country, especially the Visayas regions. This heightened the concern for more humanitarian efforts, and so the MOW evolved into other projects aimed at helping those affected by calamities. Indeed, the *"Suspended Coffee"* video was an inspiring concept. From these thoughts of kindness and caring, of compassion and love, the "TGPMA HOP" was born. The PMA Graduates found a noble PROJECT OF HELPING OUT.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (From Dec 2021)

MEALS ON WHEELS: The First Project



Cav Azcueta delivering his message during the first-ever activity of TGPMA HOP in Malabon.

1. Feeding program - Barangay Catmon, Malabon. Dec 15, 2021.
Beneficiaries - 500++

2. Feeding program - Barangay Payatas, Q. C. Dec 16, 2021.
Beneficiaries - 500++

The MOW was implemented in coordination with the AFP CMO units in NCR.

TYPHOON ODETTE (Dec 12-22, 2021):



3. Project Negros: Dec 31, 2021 - Jan 31, 2022. Distribution of relief goods, Negros Occidental. Beneficiaries: 500++



4. Project Cebu: Dec 31, 2021 - Jan 31, 2022. Distribution of relief goods. Cebu Hinterlands. Beneficiaries: 500++



The AFP Mobile Kitchen in Cebu

The MOW feeding program was implemented in coordination with AFP units under VISCOM, supervised by Cebu-based Cavaliers.

5. PROJECT PANAON
(Rehabilitation Assistance- Typhoon Odette)

Construction of 29 houses - Barangay Pinut-an, Panaon Island, Leyte, January-March 2022. Beneficiaries - 45 families.



The Housing Project is a designated relocation site for families rendered homeless by Typhoon Odette. Completed in March 2022, it was implemented in coordination with 8ID units in Leyte, the Army Engineers, the PNP, the local Catholic Church, and the LGUs.

TROPICAL STORM AGATON (Apr 8-12, 2022):



6. Distribution of relief goods - Lemery, Iloilo, April 14, 2022. Beneficiaries - 500++

7. Distribution of relief goods - Dumarao, Capiz, April 15, 2022. Beneficiaries - 500++



8. Distribution of relief goods - Concepcion, Iloilo, April 22, 2022. Beneficiaries - 500++

9. Distribution of relief goods - Sara, Iloilo, April 22, 2022. Beneficiaries - 500++

The Relief Operations were implemented in coordination with the 3rd ID units, LGUs, and supervised by Cavaliers in the area.



PMAAAI DONATION. Aside from the individual donations from kind-hearted Cavaliers, the PMAAAI donated from its own funds. Shown is Cav Amado Espino, then PMAAAI Chairman, presenting the One Million Pesos donation to Cav Roberto Yap on Jan 26, 2022.

MEALS ON WHEELS

10. Feeding program - Pag-asa, Quezon City, June 30, 2022. Beneficiaries - 500++

SEVERE TROPICAL STORM PAENG (Oct 26-Nov 3, 2022):



11. Relief Operations - Learning Kit Distribution for Children/ Kusiong IDPs on Nov 10, 2022, in Broce, Datu Odin Sinsuat (DOS) and Kurintem, DOS, Maguindanao.

12. Relief Operations - Food Packs Distribution for 245 Families (Kusiong IDPs) on Nov 11, 2022, in Broce, Awang, and Badak, DOS, Maguindanao. The relief operations were implemented in coordination with 4CRG, CRS, AFP, other AFP Units, and LGUs.

MEALS ON WHEELS



13. Feeding Program- Bgy 101, Tondo, Manila, May 1, 2023. Beneficiaries – 500++

MILESTONES

The TGPMA HOP FOUNDATION, INC. was registered with the SEC on Dec 23, 2022. The pioneer Cavaliers aim to lead and manage the Foundation professionally, anticipating future challenges, and keeping in mind the expectations of its donors, especially the Cavaliers.

The core group of Cavaliers who participated in the planning of the various projects since its inception, met on Feb 6, 2023, at Cavaliers Restobar, Camp Aguinaldo, QC, and organized themselves as the Board of Trustees, and elected the following officers for the year 2023-2024.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES & OFFICERS:

Chairman	- Cav Generoso S Senga '72
Vice Chairman	- Cav Honorio S Azcueta '68
President	- Cav Roberto DLC Yap '82
Vice President	- Cav Dioscoro T Reyes '81
Corporate Secretary	- Cav Lysander A Suerte '82
Treasurer	- Cav Noel O delos Reyes '82
Sr BOT Member	- Cav Manuel B Mariano '62
Sr BOT Member	- Cav Winston G Arpon '64
Internal Auditor	- Cav Natalio C Ecarma '81



*BOT Members after the Meeting –
Cavaliers RestoBar, Feb 6, 2023*

In the same meeting, the BOT formally discussed and adopted the TGPMA HOP Vision and Mission, to wit:

VISION:

A reliable catalyst among PMA Graduates in uplifting the quality of life of the marginalized in Philippine society.

MISSION:

To provide assistance to the needy and underprivileged members of Philippine society and to the victims of calamities/disasters.

BOT POLICIES

The BOT has unanimously adopted a policy that no money from the donors will be spent on meals/snacks during BOT meetings. All expenses shall be borne by the BOT members themselves. Likewise, the BOT unanimously declared that the Foundation shall be kept away from the influence of partisan politics.

BOT EXPOSURE TRIPS

The BOT members have visited reputable humanitarian organizations for further education and possible partnerships:



1. Gawad Kalinga in Angat, Bulacan on Sep 28, 2022. GK is known for its poverty alleviation and nation-building projects all over the country.



2. Tzu Chi Philippines Headquarters in Bacood, Sta. Mesa on Feb 25, 2023. TzuChi is the world's largest Buddhist humanitarian organization.

Latest Donation

On January, 29, 2023, the BOT members travelled to Tiaong, Quezon to inspect the proposed land donation by the family of Dr Rodrigo T Largoza. Lately, however, the offer was revised, and instead of pursuing the tedious process of land donation, the Largoza family donated half a million pesos to the Foundation. The check was received last April 12, 2023 at the PMA Alumni Center with the BOT members in attendance, including the Executive Director of PMAAAI, Cav Domingo Pequiras '77.



Cav Senga, TGPMA Chairman, receives the P500,000 check donation from Cav Mariano, representative of the Largoza Family.

WAY AHEAD

The TGPMA HOP will soon be operating as a full-fledged Foundation once the necessary documents, licenses, and permits are completed.

As TGPMA HOP draws inspiration from the "Suspended Coffee", it hopes that more Cavaliers will join the HOP, mindful of the Cadet Prayer, which in part, says,

***"Endow our hearts with kindness,
so that we may sympathize
with those who sorrow and suffer."***

TGPMA HOP is the Cavaliers' new arena- the humanitarian front. The Cavaliers, men and women of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, shall henceforth be pursuing what have been in their brave and strong hearts all along: generosity, compassion, gratefulness, kindness, and love.



The Wonder Years

COURAGE



INTEGRITY



LOYALTY

RETIREES SECTION

• **CAV RAUL S GONZALES '75**
Chairman, PMARAI

• **CAV JOEL D PAGDILAO '84**
Director for Public Relations

Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc (PMARAI)

WHO WE ARE

The PMARAI is a SEC registered non-stock, non-profit organization composed of all regular and associate members of the PMAAAI, who have retired from or have otherwise ceased to be in the active service of the AFP, PNP and PCG. We are one of the Chapters of PMAAAI, whose members are no longer in the active service.

OUR VISION

To be the model alumni association of retirees recognized as a respected and influential organization.

OUR MISSION

Promote the general welfare of members, support the ideals of the academy and PMAAAI, and contribute to national development.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Courage, Integrity and Loyalty
- Excellence
- Leadership
- Mutual Respect



PMA Retirees Association Inc. (PMARAI)
PMA Alumni Center, CGEA, QC - 13 January 2023



Turnover of Leadership

Turnover of PMARAI Chairmanship by outgoing Chairman Cav **DANILO A. ABINOJA '74** to incoming Chairman Cav **RAUL S. GONZALES '75**



PMA Retirees Association Inc. (PMARAI)
PMA Alumni Center, CGEA, QC - 30 to 31 January 2023



PMARAI Strategic Planning

The two-day Strategic Planning of PMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. (PMARAI) Incoming Officers and Board of Directors.

MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN, PMARAI

Cav Raul Gonzales '75

It is with great pride that I take the leadership helm of the PMA Retirees Association Inc (PMARAI). Retirement is a happy place that we, Cavaliers, all look forward to after giving the better part of our youth to meaningful years in service of God and Country. As we retire, we transition into equally important roles in the Private and Public Sectors -- we remain beacons of Transformational and Servant Leadership and Ethical Service. Thus, we must continue to epitomize Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty in these endeavors and hold our Fellow Cavaliers accountable to these treasured ideals, even during the portion of our lives outside the Service.

The PMARAI asserts its relevance in the continuing support to Cavaliers. Upon bowing out of the service, we, Cavaliers, find ourselves longing for the fellowship, camaraderie, and esprit d'corps that can only be found in the military and law enforcement. The Association supports this endeavor by providing channels for continuous networking and hands-on support to Cavaliers' welfare.

The past three years has been a challenge to PMARAI to uphold these endeavors due to the perils brought about by Covid-19 situation. And now, with the pandemic in decline, we strive to jumpstart the engagement momentum thru the Association's recent webinars for personal and professional development; sports activities such as Virtual Run, Fun Bike, and golf tournaments; vaccination drive; regional visits and fellowship activities with the members. With these, I call upon you all. Let us continue to support the Association by giving our time, energy, and expertise. Let us encourage our Mistahs, Juniors, and Seniors to connect and engage. Let us continue the journey of brotherhood as Cavaliers beyond our military and law enforcement services.

PMARAI OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR AY 2023-2024



CAV DANILO A. ABINOJA '74
Chairman, PMAAAI



CAV RAUL S. GONZALES '75
Chairman, PMARAI



CAV RAMON T. PUNZALAN '76
President
Chairman, Executive and Advocacy Committee



CAV ALEJANDRO T. CAMAGAY JR '77
Vice President
Awards Committee



CAV FELIPE H. BUENA '78
Corporate Secretary
Membership, Morale and Welfare Committee



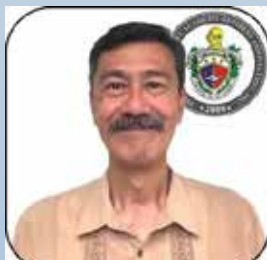
CAV RAMON C. LIWAG '79
Corporate Treasurer
Finance Committee



CAV EDMUND C. TAN '80
Corporate Auditor
Ways and Means Committee



CAV ROMEO V. POQUIZ '81
Professional Devt. Committee



CAV JOB NOLAN D. ANTONIO '82
Election and Amendments Committee



CAV MARCELINO J. LLORCA '83
Sports and Fellowship Committee



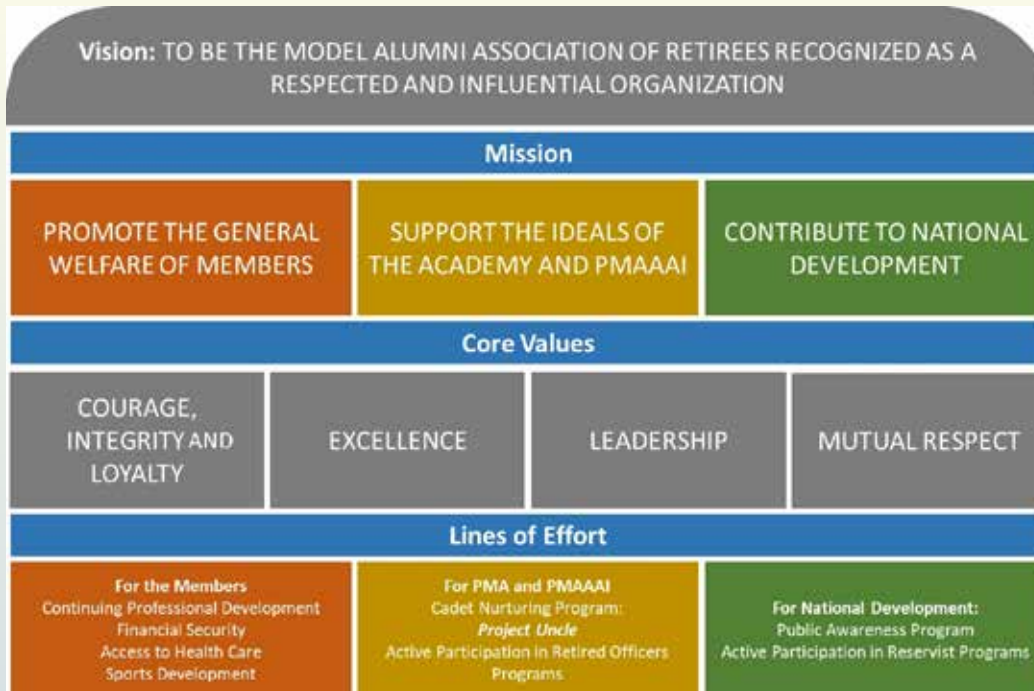
CAV JOEL D. PAGDILAO '84
Public Relations Committee

PMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. (PMARAI)

STRATEGIC PLAN CY 2023-2024

The newly elected PMARAI Board of Directors held a Strategic Planning last January 30-31, 2023 to determine the direction of the association and focus its efforts to ensure that everyone is

working towards a common goal. This is to help achieve the goals, and allows a more efficient use of time and resources.



PMARAI E-NEWSLETTER

The Long Gray Line

The PMARAI Public Relations Committee under Cav Joel D Pagdilao '84 created a monthly E-Newsletter The Long Gray Line for its members and published its 1st Edition on March 21, 2023 to the following social groups: PMARAI Execom, PMARAI Forum and Bulletin, Council of PMA Class Presidents, and The Graduates of PMA.





PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Long Gray Line

PMARAI E - Newsletter

1st Edition - March 2023

WHO WE ARE

The PMARAI is a SEC registered non-stock, non-profit organization composed of all regular and associate members of the PMAAAI, who have retired from or have otherwise ceased to be in the active service of the AFP, PNP and PCG. We are one of the Chapters of PMAAAI, whose members are no longer in the active service.

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. (PMARAI)



Turnover of Leadership

The PMARAI Board of Directors, during the 2023-2024 General Assembly and Election, held at the PMA Alumni Center, CGEA, QC, on January 13, 2023.



OUR MISSION

Promote the general welfare of members, support the ideals of the academy and PMAAAI, and contribute to national development.

OUR VISION

To be the model alumni association of retirees recognized as a respected and influential organization.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Courage, Integrity & Loyalty
- Excellence
- Leadership
- Mutual Respect



PMARAI Strategic Planning

The PMARAI Strategic Planning Session, during the 2023-2024 General Assembly and Election, held at the PMA Alumni Center, CGEA, QC, on January 13, 2023.





PMA Retirees Association Inc. (PMARAI)
PMA Alumni Center, CGEA, QC - 13 January 2023



Oath Taking of the Board of Directors

Oath Taking of the Board of Directors of PMA RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC. or PMARAI for CY 2023 - 2024 during the General Assembly and Election

PMARAI STRATEGIC PLANNING January 20-21, 2023		
TIME	ACTIVITIES	DETAILS
DAY 1 0800H-1200H	Review on Basics of Strategic Planning	Strategic Planning Process, Elements of Strategic Planning, SWOT Analysis, Vision, Mission & Values
1300H-1700H	Group Discussions	Expected Outputs/Deliverables: Vision, Mission, Core Values, Association Strategic Plan & Committees Action Plans (Projects, Timelines & Budgets)
DAY 2 0800H-1200H	Group Presentations	Expected Outputs/Deliverables: Vision, Mission, Core Values, Association Strategic Plan & Committees Action Plans (Projects, Timelines & Budgets)
1300H-1700H	Consolidation of Groups Output	Expected Outputs/Deliverables: Vision, Mission, Core Values, Association Strategic Plan & Committees Action Plans (Projects, Timelines & Budgets)

COMPOSITION OF PMARAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR AY 2023-2024			
PMA CLASS	BOARD MEMBER	POSITION	COMMITTEES
74	CAV DANILO A ABINOJA	Chairman, PMAAAI	
75	CAV RAUL S GONZALES	Chairman, PMARAI	Advocacy
76	CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN	President	Executive
77	CAV ALEJANDRO T CAMAGAY JR	Vice-President	Awards
78	CAV FELIPE H BUENA JR	Secretary	Membership
79	CAV RAMON C LINAG	Treasurer	Finance
80	CAV EDMUND C TAN	Corporate Auditor	Ways and Means
81	CAV ROMEO V POQUIZ	Member	Professionalism
82	CAV JOB NOLAN D ANTONIO	Member	Nominations and Election
83	CAV MARCELINO J LLORCA JR	Member	Sports
84	CAV JOEL D PAGDILAO	Member	Public Relations

PMAAAI PA Chapter News

PMAAAI-Army Cavaliers Chapter Installs New Set of Officers CY 2023

Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila – Colonel Darwin Hernandez, together with nine other Cavaliers, took the helm of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association – Army Cavaliers Chapter Incorporated (PMAAA-ACCI) in an Oath Taking Ceremony held at Headquarters Philippine Army on 27 March 2023.

This set of officers include - Colonel Darwin Hernandez '94 – President; Colonel Von Albert Sumergido '95 – Vice President; Colonel Diosdado Carlo Pambid '96 – Athletic Officer; Lt Colonel Lorvina Lamug '99 – Public Relations Officer; Major Benjamin Aguilar '07 - Auditor; Major Karlo Rufino Aguilar '10– Assistant Auditor; Major Jonaire Benis '12 – Secretary; Captain Niko Angelo

Tarayao '15 – Assistant Secretary; Major Mayleen Salvador '09 – Treasurer; and Major Dyan Cabalza '10.

The ceremony was graced by the Vice Commander, Philippine Army Brigadier General Steve Crespillo who ably represented the Commanding General, Philippine Army Lt. General Romeo S Brawner. In his remarks, he urged the new set of officers to give out their best in performing their sworn duty and to always live with the PMA Motto of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

Lt. General Brawner is a member for Philippine Military Academy "Makatao" Class of 1989 while Brigadier General Crespillo belongs to PMA "Bigkis Lahi" Class of 1990.



PMAAAI PAF Chapter News

PMAAAI-PAF CHAPTER GENERAL ASSEMBLY AY 2023



On March 11, 2023, the PMAAAI PAF Chapter successfully held its Annual General Assembly and Elections for Association Year 2023 at the PAF Gym, CJVAB, Pasay City. One of the highlights of the activity was its conduct with Air Cavaliers gathered together for the first time in person to grace this formal occasion since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two Hundred Nineteen (219) Air Cavaliers took part in the event led by no less than the Commanding General, Philippine Air Force LTGEN STEPHEN P PARREÑO PAF, as the Guest of Honor and speaker. The activity featured the induction of new Air Cavaliers coming from PMA class of 2022, the Vice-President's yearend report for AY 2022, and the election of new board of trustees. Recognitions were also given to: Distinguished Air Cavaliers who have performed exemplary in their respective fields, Golden Jubilarians from PMA Class 1972, and all newly promoted PAF General Officers.

The CG, PAF gave his inspirational talk to conclude the assembly. In his message, he thanked everyone for the sustained team effort of the members of PMAAAI and encouraged each member to help reach a common goal. He also urged every Air Cavalier to lift each other up in support to the ideals of the beloved Alma Mater and reminded Air Cavaliers to seek help if needed and heed each other's call for support. The CG, PAF further motivated members to never give up on themselves, their peers, their leaders and the organization. He highlighted his message with *"... this is the essence of service: marching on and doing your duty no matter how difficult it is."* He ended his message with a challenge



to everyone, *"...to seize the day, to do our best in the service, to help our Alma Mater stay on top of the field, and stay in step with the challenges of time."* The venue was filled with solemnity as the air cavaliers sang the PMA Alma Mater Song to formally end the proceedings.



The PMAAAI PAF Chapter has its new set of Board of Trustees (BOTs) namely: Cav Genaro C Menor '94 – President, Cav Gerardo B Gramata '95 – Vice President, Cav Charlie L Tiu '95 – Senior Representative to the Mother Chapter, Cav Melvin A Banua '97 – Treasurer, Cav Ann Marie T Gerodiaz '98 – Auditor, Cav Gene Paul P Santos '04 – Public Relations Officer and Cav Bernardo C Alibasa II '07 – Board Secretariat. In 16 March 2023, the outgoing PAF Chapter Board of Trustees passed their duties and responsibilities and had a proper dissemination to the new BOTs. At the same time, the new PAF Chapter BOTs had their first meeting where Plans, Programs and Activities for the Association Year 2023 were discussed. To help the board, new set of Committee Chairpersons and Assistant Chairpersons were appointed to the different committees namely: Cav Glen Mark R Cabalquinto '01 and Cav

Ranell L Bugash '02 (Welfare and Grievances), Cav Ana Liza F Tio '05 and Cav Claire Belle C Siminig '06 (Special Committee on Female Cavaliers' Affairs), Cav Rogelio A Ombao Jr '06 and Cav Clintone Carlo E Cabili '09 (Sports), Cav Mario C Mendoza '07 and Cav Lee Van S Marayag '10 (Ways and Means), Cav Denzil M Langwas '07 and Cav Ramon Kristofer E Engay '11 (Education and Professional Development), Cav Joel D Perante '10 and Cav Rey Anthony L Manguni '12 (Awards), Cav Jiaan Victor R Dominguez '10 and Cav Hideki Jan H Jubay '11 (Socials), Cav Joseph Richard P Calma '11 and Cav Paul Ramil L Llanes '12 (Public Relations), Cav Sedfrey F Canizares '11 and Cav Jade B Reymunde '12 (Membership and Election). The newly elected and appointed BOTs and Committee Chairpersons will render their courtesy call and oath-taking to the Commanding General Philippine Air Force on 16 May 2023.

PMAAAI PN Chapter News



PMAAAI-PN Chapter Turnover of Duties and Responsibilities



The PMAAAI-PN Chapter AY 2022-2023 board and committee members successfully relinquished their duties and responsibilities to the newly appointed members during the Turnover Ceremony at the Fleet-Marine Restaurant on Mar 23, 2023.

Cav Zosimo M Bolaños Jr '93, formally turned-over the helm to Cav Ivan DR Papera '94 as the PMAAAI-PN Chapter AY 2023-2024 President. Cav Toribio D Adaci '89, FOIC, PN graced the ceremony as the Adviser.

Cav Bolaños '93, PMAAAI-PN Chapter AY 2022-2023 President, along with the chapter officers, assumed the mantle of leadership beginning April 08, 2022, of which showed great feats of effort and dedication in pursuing and upholding the objectives of the association despite the challenges faced during the post COVID-19 year.

PMAAAI-PN Chapter AY 2022-2023 board and committee members successfully conducted several annual activities. One of which is the reception rites and oath taking of the new members of the PN cavalier family, a ceremonial tradition of welcoming the young blood of the organization that took place at the Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS), graced by limited PN cavaliers, Jurado Cup 2022-2023, and PMAAAI family day.

Cav Bolaños '93, with a grateful heart, expressed his sentiments, during his speech, to the outgoing committee members, *"... for all your efforts, hardwork, and dedication for ensuring the success of all our activities and projects,"* and shared the success to all outgoing members for *"...what we have accomplished is all the effort of everyone."*

Cav Papera '94 further acknowledged the efforts of the outgoing committee members *"... despite all the challenges...they have truly exerted the effort to fulfill our mandate"* and that he *"really salute"* them. He then gave his guidance for the duration of his term, and encourage all the new members to *"... let's work together and pagpatuloy natin ang magandang nasimulan ng mga previous members."* At the end of his speech, he introduced the current PMAAAI adviser.

Cav Adaci '89, in his speech, emphasized the reason for this institution to exist is *"to provide an avenue for us to come together as cavaliers and share moments to strengthen the bond and camaraderie to relive our professionalism."* Another reason is for cavaliers to recall the teachings of our alma mater *"the motto: Courage; Integrity; Loyalty, and all the professional learnings"* and for all cavaliers *"...to*

contribute back to the institution or alma mater which geared us to what we are today.”

Cav Adaci '89 then advises the new members that when we innovate *“the sky is the limit”* and gratefully thanked the outgoing members and new member for heeding the call and for *“accepting this patriotic duty.”*

PMAAAI-PN Chapter AY 2022-2023 board and committee members took an oath to take over all the responsibilities of the former members and vowed to exert their utmost effort and dedication in fulfilling their given roles and uphold the objectives of the association.



The Philippine Military Academy (PMA), a prestigious institution that produces great leaders that lead the Armed Forces of the Philippines, started to accept female cadets on the year 1993. This opened doors to passionate and dedicated women to conquer the stigma.

The purposeful effort to keep up with men and the general public's impression of women are already challenging, they have not, however, been halted. Because the desire to pursue what they want, has ultimately guided them in the route of becoming a great leader.

We invite you then, to celebrate with us as we honor four of our first female PMA cadets, who withstand the obstacles, the stigma, the prejudice and break through the tradition to bring forward a new norm that woman can effectively do it just like men, who now transition their way as Captains of the Philippine Navy.

With the help of Civil Military Operations Group-Philippine Navy (CMOG-PN), who produced a docuseries titled **“Behind**

the Three Suns”, we can now get a glimpse of their journey and perseverance in the Military field. Watch as how Capt. Marissa Arlene A Martinez PN(GSC) teaches us on how to conquer setbacks and shortcomings; as she said *“Failure will make you stronger.”* As Capt. Robles PN encourages us about our unlimited capability to achieve any task, as she says *“...achieve things we thought were not capable of,”* she further adds, *“Struggle helps you to excel in what you do.”* With Capt. Gonzales PN that helps us understand that *“success is a product of hardwork, determination and faith in God,”* it will not come on an easy way but with the drive to reach it. And how Capt. Domine PN challenges us to keep going and push through those difficulties because *“quitting is not an option.”*

Through the effort to advocate their wisdom, they hope to lead us that nothing is insurmountable as long as you have faith, believe that you can do it, and go above and beyond what is expected of you.



PMAAAI PCG Chapter News

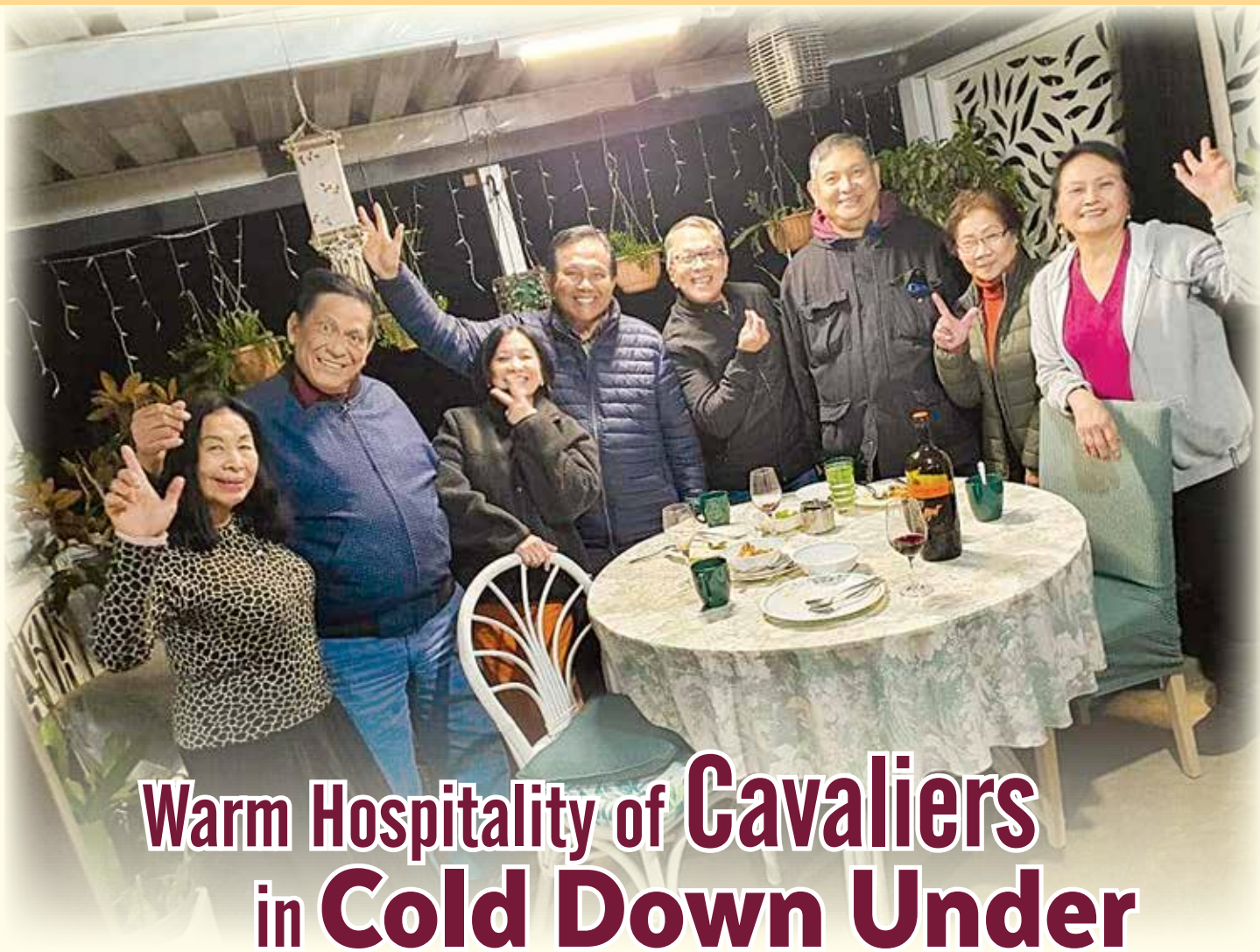
PMAAAI-PCG Chapter Installs New Set of Officers CY 2023-2024

On 17 February 2023, the PMAAAI PCG Chapter's Board of Directors took their oath of office at the Newtown Plaza Hotel in Baguio City, administered by the current Chairman and CEO of PMAAAI and a former Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, Cav Danilo A Abinoja '74.

Cav Tito Alvin G Andal '94 is the new President of the PCG Board of Directors CY 2023-2024 with Cav Hostillo Arturo E Cornelio '95 as Vice President; Cav Larry C Cendaña '03 as Secretary; Cav Nelson Jay T Timbang '01 as Treasurer; and Cav Allen J Dalangin '94 as Auditor.

Furthermore, the PMAAAI PCG Chapter designated the following representatives to different Mother Chapter committees: Cav Joseph M Coyne '94 for Awards; Cav Roben N De Guzman '95 for Ethics and Professionalism; Cav Inocencio C Rosario, Jr '96 for Membership and Welfare; Cav John B Esplana '95 for Public Relations; Cav Nelson Jay T Timbang '01 for Sports and Fellowship; Cav Havelino A Salih '03 for Finance; Cav Prudencio C Patricio Jr '94 for Ways and Means; and Cav Rommel A Supangan '95 for Convention and Homecoming Committee.





Warm Hospitality of Cavaliers in Cold Down Under

• CAV ALEJANDRO T FLORES '72

My March to April trip to Australia was an eventful and auspicious trip. As a former director of both the PMAAAI and BIRCI, I was aware of the thirst for current news about PMAAAI by cavaliers outside of the Philippines and thought that perhaps this feeling was exacerbated by the restrictions of the pandemic. I requested Chairman Danny Abinoja for me to be an informal representative of PMAAAI to meet with the cavaliers in Sydney and Canberra. My wife and I were in Sydney to attend the christening of our apo Lucia Flores Cajucom and thus escaped the heat wave in the Philippines while coping up with the fast developing wintry weather in Australia.

In a brunch in a Penrith cafe, West of Sydney in late March, I met with Cav Ruben Gange '71 to relay the greetings of PMAAAI Chair Abinoja to the Sydney PMAAAI community. Later, I suggested that since his group has been doing fraternal activities to PMayers in Sydney he might like to work with other cavaliers to formalize its evolution into a PMAAAI, Australian Chapter. I turned over some PMA pins, ball pens, and publications that Executive Director Sonny Pequiras allotted for the Sydney group.

More than a week later, on a trip to Canberra, I also met with Cavalier Ernesto De Leon '72, former Ambassador to Australia. I

extended a similar felicitation from PMAAAI Chair Abinoja and gave him similar mementoes I brought for Sydney cavaliers. Cavalier Ernie is a close friend and was warmly engaging. He pre-arranged for our lodging at a well appointed hotel at the center of the Capital. I was glad to hear from him about his family including his son who was once a popular young model.

He welcomed our group with a delicious snack before we teed off at the Gungahlin Golf Course with Cavalier Pierre Pel'88, a former army officer who made lateral entry into the Australian Defense Forces. Other cavaliers who could have joined the game included Leo Asuncion'89, Bayani Fernandez '89, John Batayola of the Corps of Professor, Alex Gigantone 2007 DAFA, Paul Aviquivil 2000, Asst Dafa. Later at night, Cav Ernie hosted a dinner at the popular Kinn's fusion cafe in downtown Canberra.

In a coffee cum cognac in our hotel, Cav Ernie intimated about the development of a Fil-Australian think tank that would link up with a counterpart organization in the Philippines to foster closer bilateral relations. As past ambassador, he supports the initiative of the embassy officials as well as its past diplomats in residence in Australia to help facilitate the informal and less restrictive relations of people-to-people diplomacy as encouraged



by President Marcos Jr. I offered our Philippine Council for Foreign Relations as a counterpart by the group during its deliberations next month. I also relayed to him the desire of Chair Abinoja about the PMAAAI chapter.

Back in Sydney, while watching TV reports about the hot weather that had tormented Manila and wide areas of Luzon, I and wife Lucille were again invited by Cavalier Gange to join his vacationing mistah Joey and wife Alice Lalisan '71 in a post Easter get-together and meet with PMAAAI families.

Ruben and Diding Gange migrated to Australia in early 1980s and are deemed one of the low-profile pillars of the Filipino community in Sydney and its environs. The Ganges consist of 11 grandchildren from four sons and daughters. The retired-from-employment couple is active in religious groups while Ruben finds fulfillment in popularizing an affordable coronary facility project made possible by local community organizations that he thought could be replicated in the Philippines including the PMAAAI through its future chapters in the country.

Another couple, Miles and Lucy Millena '71, are successful in business with long years of local and international transactions. Among others, his main thrust is memorial and related services including their complex subsidiary concerns such as real estate. Other cavaliers I met were Nick Guevarra '95, Armando Malinao '99, Mike and Eve Oñate '77, and Lito and Carmen '78 and Mario Icaro '75. Most of them are excellent officers of various Australian correctional institutions.

It appears that the PMAAAI informal center in Sydney is the sprawling Gange residence in a Sydney suburb. A dinner of Filipino and fusion cuisine was prepared by the lady of the house with pot luck contributions of other families. The gazebo over Diding's garden is where visiting cavaliers and locals 'drink and drink' to recall the Del Pilar hallways and laugh about balitang sink, old and new. The ladies chatted about the juiciest in 'marites' while sipping sweet wine inside the more comfortable dining room. A showing of the Matatag Class 1971 film was interesting. It was a scene like most PMAAAI affairs and ended with a great cup of coffee.

The following day was golf at the Dunheved Golf Course close to the Blue Mountains while the ladies went visiting tour and shopping destinations. Ruben was trying hard to control his swinging due to back pains. I whispered that many senior cavaliers suffering the same condition in Manila attribute it to bridging as

plebes..he he. Towards late in the afternoon, we converged to visit the quaint Schoenstatt Chapel and then dinner at St Mary's Leagues Club.

I thanked Cavaliers Gange and De Leon about their warm hospitality and favorable response to the suggestion of the PMAAAI Chair. I returned before the end of the month and reported to Chair Abinoja the outcome of my trip to Australia with high hopes about the formation of a seminal PMAAAI Australia Chapter and probably the materialization of a people to people relations involving Fil-Australian cavaliers.

Mabuhay ang PMAAAI!





SUPE'S REPORT

CAV ROWEN S TOLENTINO '89

Philippine Military Academy: Moving Forward on a Brighter Path

In retrospect, the onset of pandemic has taught us important lessons of deepened synergy, resilience, and above all, faith to the power of the Almighty. The past three years were marked with seemingly insurmountable peaks and valleys where inevitable uncertainties are the only constants. These include the catastrophic natural calamities of typhoons, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet above all, we were able to manage, surpass, and live up to our value of Filipino resiliency as we continue to move forward on a brighter path.

As the popular adage from an American activist Martin Luther King Jr goes and I quote: *"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."* end quote. This best describes this year's The Cavalier Magazine's theme as the Philippine Military Academy was not put into halt by any challenges but instead continued to cadence as it endeavours to pursue greater heights. The odyssey of PMA as the Philippine's premier military educational institution started from a mere technical school during the revolution to the now breeding ground of alumni who consistently make names for the academy and the country.

Amidst the disruptions and intricacies in classroom instructions and administration, the Academy was able to turn these challenges into countless opportunities. Staunch efforts and initiatives were undertaken to adapt to these unique circumstances and changing demands of time that call for firm, deliberate, and responsive undertakings to carry out its mandated mission. Apart from resiliency and persistence, the core values of courage, integrity and loyalty inculcated by PMA

*"All the things in this world are gifts of God,
created for us, to be the means by which we can come
to know Him better, love Him more surely,
and serve Him more faithfully."*

- Ignatius of Loyola

remains to be our guiding principles in the conduct of our actions.

Indeed, PMA, with its primordial mission to *instruct, train, develop, and inspire cadets so that each graduate shall possess the character, the broad and basic military skills and education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career*, continues to strengthen its commitment of molding the character and developing the competencies and capacity of our future military leaders. Specifically, the enhancement of our curriculum through the newly crafted BS in Management major in Security Studies certainly benefits the cadets as they are honed to become well-informed and skilled officers who will one day lead the organization and the nation.

Similarly, the Academy, comprised of equally competent and dedicated personnel, remain steadfast in sharpening their abilities and possess tireless aspiration in refining the PMA's standards of excellence. The term *excellence*, therefore, must be the adjective and synonyms attached to our three letter acronym. Needless to say, our way forward unfolds significant opportunities for PMA to continue to aspire for greatness among its people, processes, and program thrusts.

As we are hopeful for the promises of brighter future for our beloved institution, let this publication of the 2nd Quarter Issue of The Cavalier Magazine be a source of inspiration for all of us to continue to give our very best in the performance of our duties and mandated tasks. The ups and downs, zigs and zags, waxes and wanes have their own purpose— that is to teach us lasting lessons and leave us with no other choice but to keep moving forward.





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

Baron's Dissemination

"Leaving a Legacy: MADASIGON's Pledge to the Alumni Community"

As Graduating Cadets from the Philippine Military Academy, we, the PMA "MADASIGON" Class of 2023, are honored to have been given the opportunity to soon serve our country as young military officers. It is with great pride that we will soon join the ranks of our nation's defenders, and it is with an unwavering sense of duty that we will fulfill our obligations as a servant of our nation.

As we embark on different paths as military officers, our class will embody and exercise the Core Values that we have long treasured and embodied here in the Academy: Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

COURAGE in the military enables us to face dangers and battles with bravery and a tactful mind. As future military officers when faced with adversities, we will display stability under pressure, and sum up the courage to proficiently decide in tough situations, lead our subordinates by example, and stand up for what is right.

INTEGRITY is crucial in our role of establishing trust and credibility, it imposes us to always bring honor, honesty, transparency, and accountability in every action we do. It will be our guide to be mature enough in recognizing our mistakes and accepting the consequences of our errors.

LOYALTY must be highly valued for it binds us together as a team, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie coming from one common ground, our dear alma mater. As future military leaders, we will manifest loyalty to our country, fellow officers, our subordinates, and our mission. In addition, it will be our guiding principle to always put the interest of the organization, the welfare of our men, and the people at all times above our personal interests.

Furthermore, I would like to stress the importance of the strong bond we have as "magmimistahs", even after we depart from the bricked gate of PMA. The relationships we have built, shall not be grounded to cadetship only but should extend up to our officership. Even upon moving on to our different units and assignments, this bond shall live on and will continue to be nurtured.

Our mistahs are more than colleagues and comrades, they are also our confidants and family that we can always rely on. We have shed blood, sweat, and tears together. We have experienced the highs and lows of cadetship together. We intend to keep each

other's back in times of need and triumphs of our journey in the officer corps.

Our Class is certain that as future leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, we will always strive for excellence and honor above all in everything we do. We will learn from the achievements, failures, and experiences of those who come before us, as we thrive to make our own along this journey.

We will remember that success in the military is not for one person only to celebrate but for the team and the organization to share. That moving up in ranks means increasing responsibility over our subordinates. We will guide them to what we are envisioned to become through leading by example. We have been a member of the Cadet Corps for four years, for some of us five or six years, and proudly lead the corps for a year, as we finish we will prove that the "corps is not sick" and is, producing the same, if not better breeds of officers.

To the alumni community, we, the PMA MADASIGON Class of 2023, pledge to work hard efficiently out on the field for we take pride as graduates of this prestigious institution. We are ready to face the challenges that lie ahead, committed to serving our country with courage, integrity, and loyalty. As a class, we will continue to support and uplift each other and work together to achieve our goals and objectives. We will strive for excellence in our respective fields and branches of service and make meaningful contributions to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Our journey in the real McCoy will not be easy, but we will persevere to make it a noble and fulfilling one. Guided by the knowledge and wisdom imparted to us, we will walk this path valiantly. We hope for the support of the alumni community, in the spirit of esprit de corps, as we go on our way to nation-building, making significant changes as we are given an opportunity to prove ourselves as "Bugo-Bugos" and exemplary sons and daughters our Alma Mater would be proud of.

We pledge that we will continue to uphold the reputation and values of PMA and work towards promoting the institution and the ideals it represents. For now, we are no longer cadets but place ourselves in the highest of statutes along with the proud classes of CAVALIERS that came before us as proud members of the Long Gray Line.

MANDIRIGMANG MAY DANGAL, SIMBOLO NG GALING AT PAGBANGON, MADASIGON.



FEMALE CAVALIER SEGMENT

Photo during the Opening of 6-km Road from Brgy Datu Tutukan to Labangon, Dumingag, ZDS.

CAV LORVINA NEPOMUCENO-LAMUG '99

Impactful Leadership: How **ARMY ENGINEERS** Build **HARMONY** and **GROWTH**

Leadership is a critical component of peace and development initiatives. Effective leaders possess the ability to inspire and influence their team, to work collaboratively towards a common goal. The accomplishments of the 551st Engineer "Kasarian" Battalion (551EBn) of the Philippine Army demonstrate the power of effective leadership in driving peace and development efforts.

The 551EBn, led by LTCOL LORVINA N LAMUG CE (GSC) PA, has played a vital role in numerous projects aimed at improving the quality of life for the residents of Zamboanga del Sur in the Philippines. Their work has included road rehabilitation and construction, the opening of diversion roads, and the provision of water systems to remote communities.

LTCOL LAMUG's journey towards becoming an Army Engineer Officer began with her education and training at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). After graduating in 1999, she continued to hone her skills through various training programs that combined academic, military, and leadership. Over the years, she has held various roles and responsibilities,



Completed 6-km Road Opening from Brgy Datu Tutukan to Labangon, Dumingag, ZDS.

gaining a diverse and comprehensive understanding of the military landscape which paved the way for her rise in the officer ranks.

Under her leadership, the 551EBn has played a crucial role in various peace and development initiatives. She and her team have been instrumental in the construction, road opening, and road graveling of various Barangay Development Program (BDP) projects in the area of operations of the Army's 53rd Infantry "Matapat" Battalion (53IB). Collaboration and partnerships with other military units maximize the effectiveness and reach of their initiatives. This approach leverages the strengths, resources, and expertise of each unit to achieve their common goals of peace, stability, and development in remote and vulnerable communities.

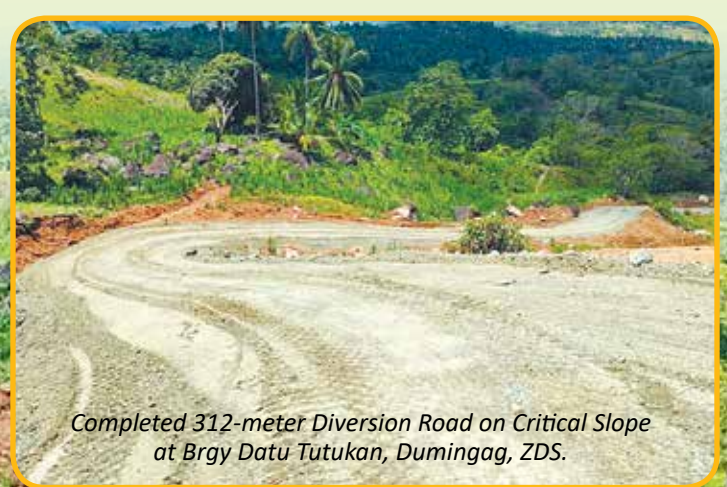
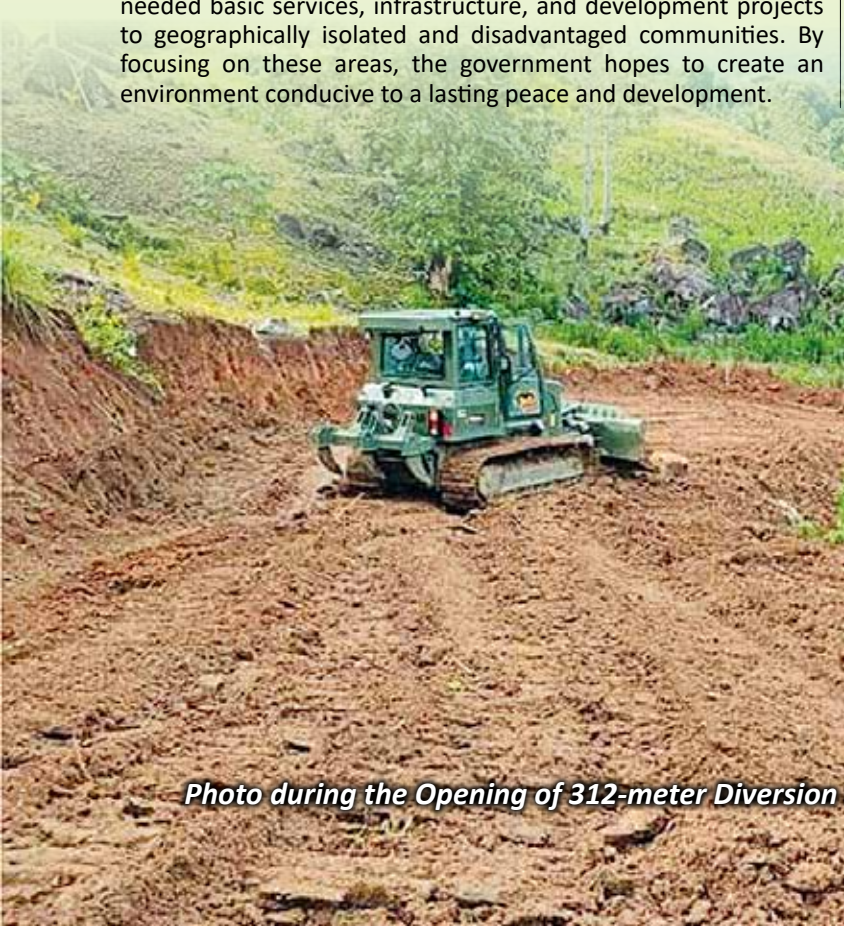
The BDP is a flagship program of the government's Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) initiatives. It aims to address the root causes of insurgency by providing the much-needed basic services, infrastructure, and development projects to geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities. By focusing on these areas, the government hopes to create an environment conducive to a lasting peace and development.



R to L: CO 53IB Representative, LTC LAMUG and Mayor Abejuela turn over the completed 6-km Road Project to Brgy Captains of Datu Tutukan and Labangon, Zds.

Some notable projects LTCOL LAMUG has been involved in include the road opening and rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, the construction of a multi-purpose hall in Ocapan, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur; the opening of a six (6) kilometer road and graveling from the villages of Datu Tutukan to Labangon in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur and opening of a 312-meter diversion road, also in Datu Tutukan.

These infrastructure projects have not only made remote communities more accessible but have also created opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and the delivery of essential services such as healthcare, food and education. These



Completed 312-meter Diversion Road on Critical Slope at Brgy Datu Tutukan, Dumingag, ZDS.

Photo during the Opening of 312-meter Diversion Road on Critical Slope at Brgy Datu Tutukan, Zds.

developments have had a positive impact on the overall security and stability of the region, furthering the goals of the ELCAC initiatives.

The impact of the 551EBn's leadership extends beyond the immediate projects and initiatives that they have undertaken. By working collaboratively with other military units, government agencies, and local communities, the 551EBn has helped to build a culture of peace and development that is rooted in mutual respect, trust, and shared goals.

Effective leadership involves inspiring and motivating others towards a common goal, as well as fostering a culture of collaboration, trust, and mutual respect. LT COL LAMUG's success as a leader can be traced back to her education and training at

the PMA. Through her career progression and achievements, she has demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of leading by example and fostering a culture of accountability and ownership within her unit.

LTCOL LAMUG's leadership and dedication in serving the people and communities have not only contributed to peace and development but also established her as an exemplary figure for her fellow soldiers.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT:

- *Construction of Elevated Water Tank with Cistern Tank and Pump House for ATF Malagutay, Zamboanga City (04 Nov – 01 Dec 2022)

- *Construction of 17FSFO Office with barracks and CO's Qtrs in Malagutay, Zamboanga City

- *Enhancement of MPH and Female Barracks of 101BDE in Isabela City, Basilan

CIVAC:

- *300-m Brgy Road Improvement in Cabatangan, Zamboanga City

- *29 Engineer Equipment Support to PA Units in Zamboanga City

DRO:

- *Manpower Assistance for loading and unloading of 7,000 boxes of relief goods for Typhoon Odette victims

- *Rescue of Container truck from Tumaga Rlver using Telescopic Crane

- *Provided DRTs and Engineer Equipment support to Zamboanga City DRRMO for SRR in Zamboanga City during Typhoon Paeng

NLE 2022:

- *Provided personnel support to NLE 2022 in Lamitan City, Basilan Province, Dumingag, ZdS and Godod, ZdN



Photo of JPST Tipo-Tipo Station, 85% accomplished.



TIAC of JPST Tipo-Tipo Station.

YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES



CPT MARK ROLLY N BACANI PN(M)

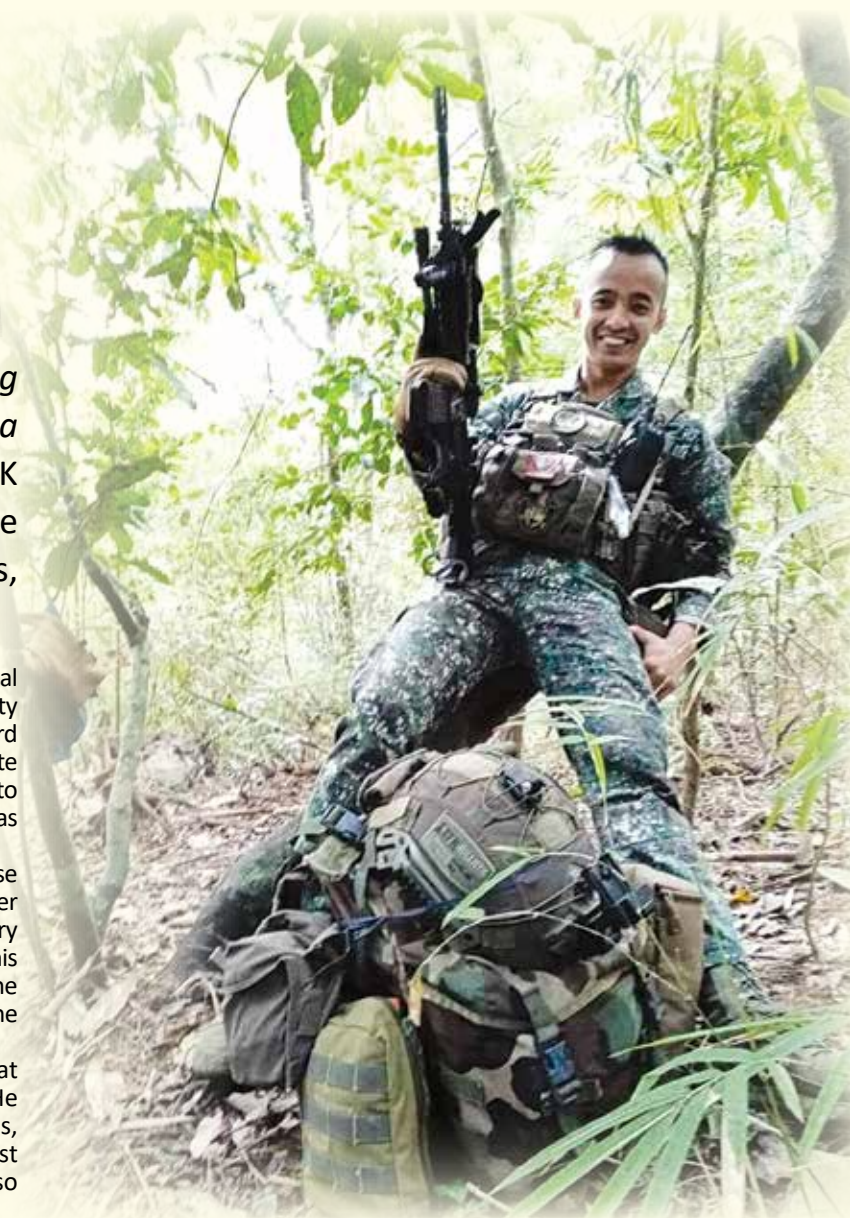
Heeding the Call of Service

"...hangga't may maibubuga o maiaambag pa sa Corps, tuloy lang ang serbisyo para sa bayan," said Cavalier Awardee CPT MARK ROLLY N BACANI PN(M), as he continues the path as part of the Philippine Marine Corps, the *"AFP's Cutting Edge."*

Cpt. Bacani initially intended to pursue a career in BS Electrical Engineering, but he eventually heeded the call to active duty and joined the Philippine Military Academy. Since the word "reneege" has never been in his vocabulary, he will devote to everything he has, to see it through. For him, he will continue to dedicate himself to selflessly and devotedly serve our nation for as long as he is able. All for the Philippine Navy's success and glory.

Through his commitment and perseverance, Cpt. Bacani chose to enlist in the Philippine Marine Corps, *"AFP's Cutting Edge,"* after successfully completing his education at the Philippine Military Academy "Pudang-Kalis" Class of 2013. With the goal to advance his career, he completed the Marine Officer Basic Course (Cl. 36), the Force Reconnaissance Course (Cl. 19), the Marine Basic Airborne Course (Cl. 43), and the Company Commander Course (Cl. 08).

He successfully conducted various missions such as combat security, enforcement operations, and combat operations. He participated in combat security, and enforcement operations, as a member of the 63rd Marine Company (SPECOPS), against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF). He also



participated in many missions such as: part of Naval Task Force 86; implementation of JTFP OPORD "Finders Keepers"; execution of Oplan "Payback 2" against more or less 100 heavily armed Abu Sayyaf group; conduct of Malpahi Laut; and many more. Those missions and operations led him to acquire his two Meritorious Achievement Medal, Gawad sa Kaunlaran, two Bronze Cross Medals, Eagle and Shield Award, four Presidential Citation Badge, and a good deal of Military Merit Medal and Military Commendation Medal.

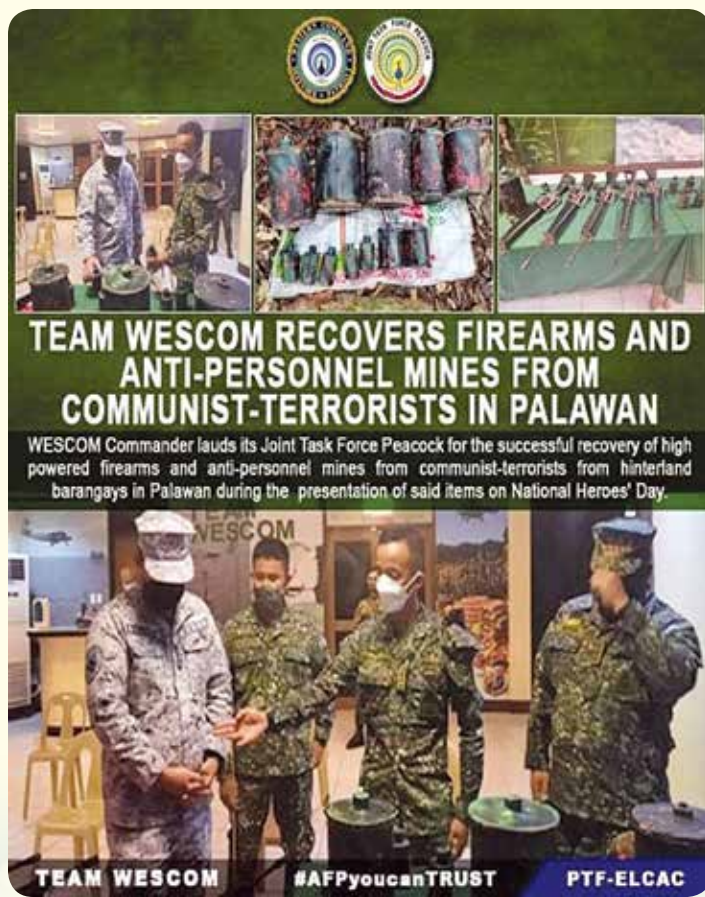
Unwavering tenacity, constant sacrifice and firm convictions led him to complete every mission he was given without suffering a single loss of life among his comrades. "... *syempre para maging effective tayo, continuous learning and training lang,*" he further says.

This great leader who sacrifices his own personal safety, comfort, and time for his family, shared his victories and encourages others to "Train as a team" and he humbly adds "... *thankful ako sa mga tropa kasi, hindi naman magagawa ang mga bagay-bagay or accomplishments kung wala sila.*"

"Para sa Corps, tuloy lang and serbisyo," he said. This is one of his recipes in motivating himself to be the best Marine Officer he can be.

Cpt. Bacani's embodiment of being a leader is to never forget the basics, understanding how to hone one's leadership skills so as to win the respect and loyalty of one's subordinates, and last is to take motivations from one's family and his love to serve the country.

"Gawin lang ang ating sinumpaang tungkulin," he declares with heartfelt gratitude, "...let's perform and deliver with our best, and syempre, laging tandaan at isapuso ang tatlong salitang naimulat sa atin sa akademya: COURAGE, INTEGRITY, LOYALTY," he said as he ended the interview. He appreciated those who gave him strength and motivation to pursue what seems to be impossible.



VISITOR'S ACCOUNTS

Cav Eduardo Manahan Año '83

Beyond selfless and lifelong service

For dedicating more than half of his life to his fatherland and the Filipino people, no one can contest that service to the nation loudly reverberates to Secretary Eduardo Manahan Año's core. A member of the illustrious PMA Matikas Class of 1983, the present National Security Adviser and Director General of the National Security Council has already cemented himself in the public service sphere. In a career spanning more than four decades, Cavalier Año has unquestionably earned a name for himself and has significantly left an indelible mark in all fields and circles of influence he pursued, led, and served.

From being regarded as a seasoned intelligence and combat officer, to leading the Armed Forces of the Philippines as its 48th Chief of Staff, and from supervising one of the largest civilian bureaucracy in the Department of the Interior and Local Government as Secretary, to becoming the country's top security counsellor—this distinguished PMA Cavalier has almost done it all. He has gone above and beyond, proving his competence, commitment, and character to everything he has been entrusted with, steadfastly embodying the values fitting and



expected of a true PMAer. Armed with the ideals of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, he did not only show but more importantly generously shared these values to whoever he met along the way.

Under his able leadership, the AFP achieved its highest net-satisfaction rating from the populace—a feat he earned when he was designated as Martial Law Implementer in Mindanao during the five-month-long Marawi Crisis. In addition, him leading the charge in laying out and implementing various intelligence build-up projects and case operations led to the neutralization of several high-ranking terrorists. Such an accomplishment propelled him to be respected as a legend in the Philippine Intelligence Community.

His reputation “preceded him” with his accomplishments. The capture of New People's Army commander Leoncio Pitao, aka “Kumander Paragu,” Communist Party of the Philippines leaders Benito Tiamzon and his wife Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, and a host of high-ranking communist and violent extremist personalities impressed his Commanders-in-Chief. Likewise, with his name untarnished and his service reputation in the rank and file evidently great, he was eventually chosen to lead the Filipino uniformed services.

Cavalier Año's duties have since transcended administrations because of his brand of leadership and service. During President Benigno Aquino III's term, he was appointed as the 57th Commanding General of the Philippine Army. Because of his outstanding leadership, exemplary work, and consequential contributions, he also stood to be one of the most trusted and reliable Cabinet Secretary of then President Rodrigo Roa Duterte during such a crises-roiled era and landscape.

And at a time when problems stemming from the harrowing COVID-19 pandemic ran thick and fast, he carried over his exceptional brand of leadership and servanthood at the DILG in the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EMID). With the country beset by a slew of challenges then, he



steadfastly advocated for effective delivery of services, participatory governance, strengthening and cleansing of institutions, holding people accountable, scaling up disaster preparedness and resiliency, and ensuring safety and security across communities. More significantly, by building the bridge between the national government and the local government units, several reforms in the institution were made and programs were given a clearer direction under his watch.

In all of these, there is no doubt that it was Cavalier Año's brilliance that shone through. But on top of his sharp and quick-witted mind, exceptional academic prowess, and love for growth, the values which he continues to demonstrate in every responsibility he takes on certainly allowed him to sail wider and farther horizons. Although he would agree that a big part of these characters rooted in his upbringing having been raised and nurtured by devout Catholic and family-oriented parents, he is also quick to acknowledge that his beloved Alma Mater imbibed these into him and it was the PMA which further strengthened such unbending moral compass.

Courage at its finest

Much of Cavalier Año's success can be greatly attributed to his bold, strategic, and forward-thinking dispositions and mindsets. From gathering information to driving troops forward, from studying policies to bringing them into action, from his firm decision-making to critically weighing things down, and from thinking ahead to not being afraid to take a step back, he is so well-known to be very courageous but calculated in his moves and decisions. For him, courage is not only demonstrated on the battlefield but also in one's disposition in advocating ideas and action not in the mainstream of thought.

He recognizes that being a leader is never a mastery of the craft. Instead, it is about continuously learning and advancing. As such, Cavalier Año would always reiterate to his subordinates that as one goes up the hierarchy, leaders will realize that "they need to learn new tricks" to navigate numerous emerging requirements of the leadership post. Continuous learning is driven by the desire to be better and achieve the mission and the demands of leadership—military statesmanship to complement commandship.

A leader who is very eager to learn and grow, he said he must "become an expert in a whole new set of skills" with each waking day. Truly, a valiant leader, he is never afraid to move outside of his comfort zone, embracing new learnings each time an opportunity presents itself.

In the strategic direction, as CGPA, he laid the foundation for a land maneuver force operating in a multi-domain environment. As CSAFP, he pushed for the parallel and simultaneous development of the country's internal security operations and external defense capabilities. Being the strategic leader that he is, he appreciates diverse perspectives and takes notes of recommendations from experts. One of his close-in writers recalls how Cavalier Año would always instruct his staff to get input from concerned authorities because he would simply want to extract the best ideas and is always careful of what he wields and says—be it in public or private engagements.

The value he gives to continuity was also demonstrated in his various post in the AFP and even in DILG. He improves and sustains the momentum of the programs of his predecessors; and along the way, builds on these and develops new systems. According to him, "best practices are best practices," and he respects and acknowledges the great ideas of whoever came before him for the advancement of the institution.

Many of those who have worked behind and beside Secretary Año would attest to his boundless sincerity and selflessness in the service. Words do not even begin to describe his love for his country, they would say.

He would have honorably exited from government service in 2017, but Cavalier Año's deep and abiding commitment to serve his fellowmen prevailed. After his illustrious military career, he willingly



took the challenge of leading the DILG—one of the most critical arms of the government in charge of the police and local governments in what panned out to be the most challenging years for the Philippines in recent memory.

And after withstanding the biggest challenge yet in his life because of his health, he took things in stride and accepted another responsibility—this time taking the lead in advising the President on matters pertaining to national security. Indeed, courage and fortitude at their finest.

Integrity beyond reproach

To many, he is known as a visionary and a man of action. But he mostly keeps himself away from the public eye, hiding under the shadows of his popularity and great accomplishments. He works and operates very silently. He only lets his work do the talking.



Although he likes to keep things that way whenever he performs tasks assigned to him, Cavalier Año's integrity is unquestionable. From the way he ensures that all his steps and directives must be in accordance with the law, rules, and orders, to how he maintains his rightful conduct even in smaller circles, Cavalier Año demonstrates honesty and respect for others.

Even more admirable is he never made his colleagues perform the work that he himself cannot do. When things do not get easier, he always encourages teamwork. He always sees to it that his team operates as a single cohesive unit and that they put their heart into everything they do, just like what he always does.

Throughout a decorated career, Cavalier Año has never been involved in any controversy that casts doubt on his integrity nor has seen his name dragged into corruption. This speaks volumes that he is well-trusted to hold vital positions, including the most recent one delegated to him. His appointment as NSA was welcomed with praises and encouraging words because of his full appreciation and vast experience in working from the grassroots up to the top management level. With incorruptible character written across the name Eduardo Año, he is undoubtedly destined to achieve and accomplish more.

Loyalty best exemplified

His sincerity is reflected in the kind of work that he was able to accomplish and the recognitions he achieved in a decades-long career. Through his genuine love to lead and serve, not only he developed exceptional professionalism, but he was able to ascertain such a polished skill to his mentors, colleagues, comrades, and subordinates. Calling himself a "stickler for details," there was never an instance when Cavalier Año was not able to perform and deliver, because he always makes sure that he attends his meetings and public engagements well-prepared. He takes the time to review his speeches, sends last-minute edits, and always carries his thick and heavy reference folder with him.

Inspired by the hard work and diligence of Cavalier Año, his staff would spend lunchless days and sleepless nights profusely pouring over through boxes of data to prepare his reference material, persistently calling concerned offices and officials, painstakingly sifting through and analyzing data and talking points, and patiently editing, proofreading, and developing drafts to come up with well-applauded and interesting speeches, and comprehensive reports and presentations. All of these are because they have a meticulous superior who wants nothing but to bring only the best to the table. Speaking of being meticulous, he taught the importance of "check, recheck, countercheck" to all his staff at the DILG. This was how Cavalier Año made those who served alongside him walk in his footsteps, carrying the values he demonstrated to them.

Indeed, loyalty to service has since been the byword and guiding principle of Cavalier Año even up to now—as he brings the values developed in him by the Academy wherever he goes. Nourishing the seeds PMA has planted in his core, Cavalier Año is poised to reach greater heights in his new designation.

Kindness and generosity above all

Not only is Cavalier Año gracious in sharing his harvest of insights and wealth of experience, but he is generous in recognizing the efforts of those he guided and mentored, including those who worked with him. He never runs short of pleasantries and kind words to people who are committed and hard at work in helping him accomplish his job. Oftentimes, the plain and simple "Very good," "Thanks a lot," and "Kumusta ka na?" are more than enough to compensate for the sacrifice that they make. He knows when to keep people in high morale by making them feel worthy and rewarded.

At the height of Marawi Siege, Cavalier Año was not only busy in the battleground, but he made it a point to make rounds and visit the soldiers killed and wounded in action. "As much as possible, *gusto*



ko talagang mabisita sila just to cheer them up and recognize what they have done. That is actually beyond the normal call of duty. And I make sure na as long as *buhay sila*, they will feel the support," he was quoted saying.

When he contracted COVID-19 when he was still DILG Chief, Cavalier Año took time to pen a moving message to all DILG officials and employees, highlighting the importance of our health and how he fought for his life during his longtime hospitalization. He said that sometimes, in our affairs to do well and succeed, we are too contained that we forget to listen to our body. "We should treat our bodies like a temple, and make our health the utmost priority," the SILG emphasized. He also sent COVID-19 care kits to all employees of the DILG who contracted the disease—something that they would never forget.

Behind his strong and determined persona, Cavalier Año is amiable, always smiling, and never loses his sense of humor. Although we see him at times as focused, calm, and collected, he strives to make the work environment very fun, light, and encouraging at the same time. Gatherings are always with jokes and laughter as he is never shy to crack a few jokes and share funny but lesson-filled anecdotes.

Through his life's stops and starts, gains and fails, and highs and lows, Cavalier Año puts the Almighty God and his family above everything. A loving husband to his wife, a father to his four children, and grandfather to his three *apos*, he sees to it that he does not sacrifice his time giving thanks and praises to the Lord and for his family. When his schedule frees up, Cavalier Año likes to spend time with his family by roaming around the mall, watching movies, visiting churches, playing golf, and dining out.

Cavalier Año continues to demonstrate what genuine love for the country truly is in the name of public service. Bannering the ideals and values the PMA has instilled in him, Cavalier Año's selfless and lifelong service has willingly and courageously answered the call to bring change to our nation we can all be proud of. ###

Side-bar caption:

For demonstrating outstanding service and work ethics, Sec. Año twice received the coveted Philippine Military Academy Cavalier Award, first in 1996 as an outstanding PMA Alumnus in the field of Army Operations, and second in 2021 as PMA Alumnus in the field of Public Administration. PMA also bestowed the Outstanding Achievement Award to Sec. Año in 2016 as CGPA, in 2017 as CSAFP, and in 2019 as Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. He was also recognized by the Academy as among the Pandemic Heroes in 2023.



Much to Do in so Short a Time

• RAFAEL M ALUNAN III



In my view, as I've said before, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. made the right call to shift to external defense. It means that the AFP's main mission has now changed to ensure the protection of Philippine territory as disputes with China and the US-China rivalry intensify.

Speaking before Philippine Army troops in Fort Bonifacio, President Marcos told them to be vigilant as the external threat to the country's security was becoming more "complex" and "unpredictable." He said he was aware of an emerging threat to the country's territory requiring "adjustments in our strategy." Diplomatese aside, the "emerging threat" is now a clear and present danger.

Geopolitical conditions are steadily deteriorating. Despite decades of strategic patience and peaceful efforts at conflict resolution China has only become more coercive and provocative. Thus, in line

with presidential orders, the shift to territorial or external defense has been formally taken but it must retain a portion of our armed forces to address internal security concerns.

Our future conflict will be hybrid in nature — both conventional and unconventional — focused on external and internal threats. It will require full-spectrum warfare readiness — from irregular warfare to conventional warfare, to include the mitigation of WMD impacts.

We're caught in the middle of the great power rivalry between the US and China. Their clashing core interests are pulling them toward war as China aims to displace the US as the regional and global hegemon. Both sides are accusing the other of containment and undermining each other's economies. They're laying their premises for war.





Despite exhaustive efforts to promote peace in the Indo-Pacific region, the threat of force is now required to demonstrate resolve and capability to deter war and return to a state of peace. Unfortunately, it raises war risks.

Our efforts to seek closure on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea have been ignored. We've sought concrete action on human and ecological security in our EEZ but nothing so far has happened. Instead, China ramped up its belligerent behavior and "wolf warrior" diplomacy.

Its conduct of warfare has evolved into a more lethal and aggressive hybrid form through "gray zone tactics" that intentionally blur the line between war and peace by combining legitimate and illegal actions short of full-scale war.

We only know too well China's gray zone tactics to exercise effective control over us and neutralize our MDT with the USA.

- It serially violates our sovereign rights to fish and move freely in our EEZ.
- It has destroyed marine resources in the WPS to build its artificial islands and military bases.
- It has infiltrated our vital institutions and business sectors.
- It engages in political, cyber and information warfare.

Global security analysts now believe that China could go kinetic within the next two to three years. In such a case, the manpower, combat assets and operating systems of all our uniformed services must possess the quality and quantity needed to fight smart, operate jointly and impose a very heavy price on its enemies, both foreign and domestic.

We need to adapt quickly to new innovative forms of hybrid attack in the realms of information, cyber and political warfare. We must tame our debilitating VUCA situation — volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity — with ourselves, our allies and defense partners, to be a worthy friend and foe.

When the great powers go kinetic, our worst case scenario would be dealing with modern warfare; unconventional warfare (guerrilla, information, cyber); and MOOTW (search-rescue-relief operations, evacuation, refugee handling). Hopefully, it doesn't get to the level of strategic warfare involving WMDs.

Fortunately, we've reactivated the VFA and EDCA, and studying the prospects of maritime patrols with our allies and defense partners. The more we conduct joint proficiency and interoperability drills with our allies and defense partners the

better. As they say, it's better to sweat in training than to bleed in battle.

China's waging irregular warfare. One form is economic that aims to impoverish local producers by dumping and smuggling in cheap goods using networks of infiltrated agents and local collaborators. It takes control of critical infrastructure like water, energy and land reclamation through sell-outs by dummies and corrupt officials.

The same technique is used to acquire mining rights in vital areas overlooking strategic lines of communication. The hectareage provides wide spaces to hide hostile forces and logistics. Be it agriculture, aquaculture or mineral resources, it smuggles, poaches and controls the means of production.

What is being done about it? Except for a few patriots, our civil authorities by and large cannot be relied upon. There's not much the uniformed services can do if the powers-that-be are unreliable. Moreover, our uniformed services — AFP, PNP, PCG — are outsized, outnumbered and outgunned.

Modernizing them has a single purpose — to transform them into powerhouses that can ably uphold or defend our national interests by projecting national strength as the need arises. They should be seen as instruments of national power that were long neglected and are now being optimized to detect, deter, defend, defeat any threat.

We're still in catch-up mode facing various barriers that keep delaying the modernizing process. The major disablers have been the global pandemic, economic downturns and endemic corruption. But that's no excuse.

Other less endowed countries have a better grasp of their national security imperatives than us, a better sense of nationhood and impressive patriotism. They've gone through the same hardships, probably even worse than us. We've stopped building our nation while others accelerated theirs. They're pulling away while we're falling behind.

We need to wake up from our stupor. We must reform our ways, perform to the max in all nation-building arenas, and transform in the process into a vibrant Philippines composed of mature, patriotic, dutiful and responsible citizens; of statesmen in government; a throbbing economy with no one left behind; and a security sector that ably defends and protects.

To become that, we must become better Filipinos in all respects — a society that holds the high moral ground, trusted and held in high esteem by the world.



Vignettes of Elder CAVALIERS

People say...stop dreaming and stop living! Everybody dreams because dreams are what fuel life. Dreams push...direct...motivate. Dreams give meaning to life. At eighty three (83) years of age and way past my retirement, I continue to dream. My grandest and simplest dreams are for my country. These dreams come with the hope that they will turn into reality. These dreams push me to continue with my journey on my personal crusade, a journey that has never been easy but has always been fulfilling.

Genuine service . . . to see, breathe, feel, live public service in this country . . . my grand yet simple dream. Grand because it will be for the good of all; simple because it is achievable.

I dream of genuine public service; let's walk the talk.

- Leaders lead by example, the character and behavior they demonstrate should be beyond reproach. With moral courage they can galvanize the citizenry into positive cooperation and action. Leaders serve as models who the youth can look up to in order to remain faithful to the values and principles we teach them at home and in school even when they are already on their own. Thus, we have responsible individuals who work harmoniously together; a nation of individuals respected by the world. The resolution of the basic ills of society namely, **POVERTY, INJUSTICE, DISEASE and ILLITERACY** should be the responsibility of both national and local government leaders.
- The government is transparent and honest in all transactions, thus graft and corruption are things of the past and grafters and plunderers are penalized severely to discourage others from doing the same; looked at as a shame and disgrace to the family; their ill-gotten wealth confiscated in favor of government. Publicly reward the true, honest and just.
- A truly professional military and police force such that they become the epitome of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty. "Conversion" is no longer a practice because new laws would have been enacted to solve this unique problem. Only the military and police are allowed to carry firearms for them to implement laws, not civilians.
- The entire government bureaucracy is reduced by at least fifty percent (50%) and the salaries of those who are retained would be increased based solely on merit and accomplishment. This is to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. Even the legislature should be reduced substantially. After all, we have all the laws necessary to maintain order, we just need the will to do it. This is similar to the strategy of Malaysia in improving public service.
- Full support extended to local talents and inventors. These are a creative and intelligent group who simply need the support in order to be more competitive in the global economy yet protective of our local economy.
- Government spending is more prudent; borrowings are stopped; existing loan such as for the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant evaluated and renegotiated, even repudiated, if deemed disadvantages or adverse for the good of all.

Cav Manuel B Mariano '62

Dream For My Beloved Philippines

Sadly, we see the predominance of greed at the top and the lack of discipline at the bottom rooted in the lack of regard and concern for others and the common good. Greed for wealth and power at the top and poverty at the bottom are what fuel graft and corruption. Greed uses people especially the poor and the weak; it brings about social injustices; and national wealth and resources are then controlled by a very few. Thus, we should strengthen the middle class to have a stable economy.

But there is hope. . . . we are a hardworking people: we have a strong faith in God; we love and nurture our families; we respect and protect our elders; we can smile in the midst of adversity; we care for our children; we are loyal to our friends; we are faithful to our country; we take care of our own; we are proud of our history; we believe in working together; we ably overcome obstacles. Are we not a people noted for hospitality and resiliency?

Hence, the call for action can and must be heeded by all Filipinos. The need to redirect our focus and objective in life dictates that everybody must do his share, whatever it may be.

We need to go back in time... back to the basics.... where the home is fortified and guarded against the evils that destroy the foundation of the family, knowing that the nation is determined by the kind of families we become. Let us set aside the failures and negative attitude for the good and positive ones, start together for a new life.

Character building should be the goal of everybody from home, to school to society. As long as we truly believe in God, character building becomes imperative, our only road to salvation. Let us focus on the positive and learn to undo the negative, be more constructive, build rather than destroy and let us move forward.

Stand up and be counted! "*Kung hindi tayo kikilos, sino pa? Kung hindi ngayon, kailan pa?*"

The Filipino spirit is indomitable. We have demonstrated an enormous capacity for resilience and collective effort. We must have a national vision geared for all and together we can achieve it!

My dream will become a reality very soon because we shall work together as a nation regardless of beliefs and origin, as we are all Filipinos!



Dissent and Lead

• CAV DANTE D LANGKIT '95

We have met the enemy and he is us" (Barry Commoner). This becomes true with the PMAAAI objective of maintaining military customs and traditions. Are we trained to lead only in war fighting and to win wars? Truly, we have to enhance our role as cavaliers in national development even as we get out of the service. But having the objective to maintain military customs and traditions can pose a dangerous proposition, especially in our civilian functions and roles.

Mindful of government investment with the taxpayers' money in us, we become duty-bound to be patriotic, ready to lead and serve. I also humbly share, with my privileged personal realization experience, that man, in order to be alive, must strive to matter to others' lives. We can lead in various capacities, with or without authority. Aiming to be with unquestioning military behavior can put us in a disadvantage. We can be manipulated. As cavaliers, we should be able to constructively dissent as necessary in helping to transform our country and the Filipino nation to be better at this point in time.

We, Cavaliers, should instead aim more to maintain PMA customs and traditions and become partners of the government leadership. We have to innovatively redefine the role of the PMAAAI on the national and world stage, and bring pride and hope to the Filipino nation. We can do this by raising our leadership capabilities toward the path to achieve greater things in nation-building and national development while ensuring how the people want to be led. Such leadership capabilities should be equipped with our ability to reasonably dissent, founded on values, aggressive with opportunities, putting value on relationship, and being attached with the people.

The leadership capabilities with reasonable dissent become active and participatory. It helps using proactively reducing corruption and reassuring the people's liberty and freedom.

Our leadership capabilities should be always founded on values as with known great leaders and our predecessors. Our values- courage, integrity and loyalty- remain our foundation. But we consciously put humility to be the deeper bedrock of all our virtues. We lead with or without authority as members of our family, organization and community to foster national consciousness to values. As we do, we keep developing ideas that will improve our behavior to combat corruption-

the pervasive hindrance to development as a result of value deterioration.

We lead by anticipating and seizing opportunities of engagement, local and abroad. The regional threat involving the West Philippine Sea is such an opportunity to accentuate our role nationally and internationally. We can become active partners of the government to achieve global peace by deterring aggression. Our organized and united citizenry is our first achievable deterrent to aggression. The cavaliers, setting the example, can forge the cohesion and fuel the love of country among the whole citizenry.

Our leadership should value relationship. All accomplishment and contribution as output are achieved through and with other people like a member of a big team. Time and again, we need our different stakeholders' participation and support. The challenge becomes real with politics. Even for us cavaliers, the active participation in electoral exercises can put us pitted against one another. We degenerated further by even joining with the dirtiness of the partisan game.

But do you remember the camaraderie we had to survive starting with the rigors of plebehood? We need that camaraderie now. We need it to gather our flock as we should close our ranks to fight the divisiveness of partisan politics. Such divisiveness reflects the disintegration of our nation. Our ability to foster camaraderie ensures our value of relationship with the Filipino community.

Finally, our leadership abilities should prosper relationship to people attachment. This allows us to understand their circumstance. With empathy, we learn to understand together a problem, and collaborate and arrive at consensus. Such understanding of the people circumstance are good sources of valuable input in policy development and helping the government leadership as a whole.

We remain to be good soldiers even in 'fading away' especially at these challenging times. We must be active partners of the government leadership. We are duty-bound to adopt leadership capabilities that are more intolerant with corruption. We preserve the democracy that our people desire. We aggressively pursue good governance and national patriotic transformation. In our path towards these greater things, our reasonable dissent and people attachment are our credibility, effectiveness and strength.





Reforming the MUP Pension System

A Position Paper of PMA Class of 1971, Inc.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This position paper is an offshoot of the pronouncement of Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Benjamin Diokno on March 28, 2023 about the Marcos administration's intent to overhaul the pension system of the military and uniformed personnel (MUP). The salient points of that announcement focused on the non-contributory systems of the MUP retirement pensions and indexation of pensions to prevailing current rate. Controversial was the Secretary's assertion that the current MUP retirement system is not sustainable, and if not reformed, could lead to fiscal collapse in the future.

This position paper was jointly prepared by Retired Vice Admiral Ariston Delos Reyes and Retired Colonel Rolando Malinis, both members of PMA Class of 1971 and was adopted by the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1971, Inc. It is based mainly on several studies of the former, the latter's book "BROTHERS", with significant contributions from former Senator Panfilo Lacson (PMA '71), Retired Commander Bienvenido Alano (PMA '71, USNA '71), former Chief of Staff, AFP Retired General Narciso Abaya (PMA '71, USMA '71), Retired Police Director Victor Batac (PMA '71), Retired Colonel Marte Chioco (PMA '71), and other Class members. This paper, which is completed on April 28, 2023, is the updated and expanded version of the position paper bearing the same title released on April 10, 2023.

Its specific objectives are: a) to present the MUP and stakeholders' arguments against the current government plan (per se) to reform the MUP Retirement System; and, b) to list down the recommendations resulting from such discussion.

The following is a summary of the key points of the position paper.

1. **Retirement pensions should be seen as a vital part of an incentive package** for: a) retirees who not only served the country well, but also gave more during their active service tour by working beyond than the mandatory eight hours a day without overtime pay and being assigned on various missions like national defense, internal security operations, UN peacekeeping missions, and disaster relief operations at great sacrifice to life and limb; and b) as a motivation for capable and promising young men to choose the profession of arms;
2. The need for a sound budget outlay must be balanced with the motivational needs of the MUP;
3. The MUP pension is not ballooning as claimed by Secretary Diokno;
4. The data gathered indicated that the main problem is not

the growing financial requirements of the MUP pension, but the neglect of the government to sufficiently adjust its budget to cope with the capability development and operational requirements of the military;

5. The fallacy of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) study about the P9.6-trillion liability of the MUP pension and its insufficiency as basis for outright and drastic changes to the MUP pension system. In 2021*, then Senator Ping Lacson emphasized the need for such completed actuarial study; and

(* Portion 'in 2021' was based on the hearing in Sept 2021: <https://pinglacson.net/2021/09/29/senate-joint-committee-hearing-on-mup-pension-reform-bill/>)

6. That the MUP Retirement System will cause fiscal collapse in the future was debunked.

Towards this end of our paper, we presented the following recommendations:

1. That the proponents of pension reform led by Secretary Diokno heed the advice of Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile as well as the appeal for prudence by former Senator Ping Lacson, and wait for the much-needed, completed actuarial study;
2. That during preliminary discussions and consultations by the proponents with MUP and other stakeholders, an alternative bill on pension reform be duly considered with the following salient provisions:
 - 2.1. Equalize the MUP disability pension as mentioned by the President during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2022;
 - 2.2. Equalize the maximum MUP pension at 90 percent of base pay and longevity pay, thereby adjusting that for the military (85 percent at present); and,
 - 2.3. Ensure that the MUP and all other existing non-contributory pension systems are indexed to account for inflation.
3. That the Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs to consider recommending to the President to certify as urgent a Joint Resolution authorizing the increase in MUP base pay for 2024-2027, to be at par with that granted to all civilian government personnel in 2020-2023, pursuant to RA 11466. The pay adjustment should be strictly in accordance with RA 9166 of 2002.

INTRODUCTION

The contentious issue regarding the magnitude of the cost of military and uniformed personnel (MUP) retirement pay is once again in the limelight.

As reported by the Manila Bulletin on November 20, 2022, Secretary Diokno, during his confirmation hearing, again cited the fallacious and misleading GSIS study, adding that the Department of Finance vowed to resolve the complicated MUP pension system that “continues to take a heavy toll on the government’s yearly budget.” Among other things, he posited that not only new entrants but also even those already in the active service would contribute to their retirement benefits.

During the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) press briefing on March 28, 2023, Secretary Diokno said: “*The Marcos administration is pushing to overhaul the pension system for the military and uniformed personnel (MUP) to avert fiscal collapse stemming from higher pension costs.*” According to Diokno, President Marcos has agreed to reform the pension system for MUPs to address the country’s fiscal deficit. The current MUP pension system is non-contributory and, as such, retirement pensions and benefits are fully funded by the government through annual appropriations. Diokno indicated his predecessors did not want to address this, saying: “*It’s the elephant in the room and nobody would like to touch it and they simply ignore it.*” He added that the current pension system is not sustainable and if it goes on, there will be fiscal collapse.

It may be recalled that the President, during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 25, 2022, mentioned that among his priority legislative measures would be the grant of monthly disability pensions in lieu of unequal disability benefits under existing laws for the MUP, but not changes in the MUP pension system as again being proposed by Secretary Diokno – changes similar to those contained in various bills which were not passed into law during the 18th Congress (2019-2022).

Limitations

During the advent of salary standardization in 2016, the Department of Budget Management (DBM) and Department of Finance (DOF) had lumped the military with the different civilian uniformed services such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA). This group is now commonly known as Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP), conceived for the DBM’s use in the drafting of the salary standardization bill and the consequential pension indexing as well as the MUP pension reform bill.

This system of indiscriminately grouping or treating as alike without regard for particulars created several problems insofar as coming up with a common position regarding the issues raised by Secretary Diokno, especially about the MUPs’ non-contributory system and indexation of pension to the current pay of similar rank.

This paper presents limitations in scope insofar as it details the position of the military more extensively than the representation of other MUPs. This is primarily due to the limited access to critical data from other stakeholders. While we recognize that the discussions may not reflect the diverse contexts of MUPs and hence, results may not be generalized, the paper presents the more strengthened position of the military. Notwithstanding, we hope that this approach will lay the groundwork for a more exhaustive and inclusive research study that will encompass the situations of the rest of MUPs.

The data limitation has been addressed by making some assumptions. For example, we assume all MUPs are exposed to the

same risk to life and limb, though in differing degrees. MUPs are *sui generis* because they work 24/7 without overtime pay. The weakness of this setup is that it leads to confusion because sometimes things unique only to the military are also interpreted to apply to all other MUPs. For example, the data of the military does not show that the pension for the military is ballooning. This state would be interpreted as true for all MUPs. In the absence of data, we could say *non-sequitur*. At the outset, it is our belief that despite the limitation, the strength of the argument of the military will not be affected and it will lead to a stronger common stand of MUPs in the future.

Objectives

The objectives of this paper are: a.) to present the MUP and stakeholders’ arguments against the current government plan (per se) to reform the MUP Retirement System; and, b.) to list down the recommendations resulting from such discussion.

Historical Background

Since 2015, Retired Vice Admiral Ariston Delos Reyes, PMA ’71 has been involved in research and continuing study of the MUP pension system. He provided the Office of the President, Congress, Department of National Defense (DND), Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO), National ROTC Alumni Association, Inc (NARAAI), and other MUP organizations with studies and papers in defense of its non-contributory nature and being indexed to the prevailing rate of those in active service. The Confederation of the Uniformed Services Associations (CONUSA) and the PMAAAI in particular have had successes in the recent past – most significant of which was the MUP pay adjustment and resumption of pension indexing pursuant to Joint Resolution No. 1 s 2018, benefitting more than 400,000 active and 220,000 MUP pensioners; notwithstanding the recommendation of then Secretary Diokno to suspend the indexing.

During the 18th Congress, certain financial technocrats in government pursued the enactment of bills to make the MUP pension system contributory and to affect the outright stopping of pension indexing.

Fortunately, both Houses of Congress had been receptive to another alternative to the drastic measures embodied in said bills. During the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee in the House of Representatives to review the MUP pension system on June 9, 2021, it decided to propose that MUP pension remain non-contributory but indexing would be limited to maximum five (5) percent per annum for 10 years. Then, during the hearing of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification, and Reconciliation on September 30, 2021, the five-percent limit to indexing was also taken up. Delos Reyes concurred with the proposal, provided that such limit will also apply to non-MUP pension systems that are non-contributory and indexed at 100 percent not only to pay but also including allowances of those in the service pension systems for the judiciary, prosecution service, and constitutional commissions. The annual limit of five percent will prevent sudden increases in funding requirements when indexing to high pay adjustment is in effect. It has similarity with the annual pension adjustment due to inflation (cost of living adjustment) being granted to all retired United States federal employees including the military. Unfortunately, the said proposal was not enacted in 2022.

CONFRONTING ISSUES RAISED BY DIOKNO

The PCO Press Briefing with Department of Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno on March 28, 2023 raised concerns among the MUPs because he proposed major changes to the pension system but short of being in accordance with the doctrine of completed staff work.

For instance, he only discussed that compared to SSS and GSIS members, the MUP pensioners have the highest average monthly pension at Php40,000.00. However, he did not include a fourth group: the members of the judiciary, prosecution service, and constitutional commissions whose pensions are the highest and are estimated to exceed Php200,000.00 - or five times more than that for the MUPs.

Diokno expressed that he wants the MUP pension to be made contributory and that pension indexing be stopped. Yet, those of the judiciary, prosecution service, and constitutional commissions will remain non-contributory, based not only on pay but including all allowances, indexed at 100 percent. Hence, his proposal is discriminatory against the more than 600,000 MUPs, active and retired. He proposed that all those in the active service can start contributing to their pension and that those who will optionally retire will only receive their pension upon reaching the age of 57 - proposals that will have an outright deleterious effect on the morale of the MUPs. Definitely, not a few will opt to retire just before his proposals could be enacted.

Rationale of Non-Contributory System and Pension Benefits of Retirees

Pursuant to Section 7, Article XVI of the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, the government shall provide funds for the benefits of veterans. Such benefits include, among others, AFP retirement pension, old age pension and total administrative disability pension which have all been funded by the Government. [Any effort contrary to this provision is therefore unconstitutional.]

It is easy to see that the above provision is consistent with the military's non-contributory pension system that has been in effect since 1935 pursuant to Commonwealth Act No.1 (CA 1). The non-contributory system and retirees pension benefits are based on valid and strong arguments.

The military career is a noble profession of arms. This calling is unique from all other professions, as it calls for those who pursue it to defend our country even if it means sacrificing their lives. As the Code of Conduct of the Philippine Military states:

“... I am a Filipino soldier. I WILL FIGHT AND DIE in the true Filipino tradition of valor, honor, duty and loyalty. To all these I PLEDGE MY LIFE, my treasure and my sacred honor.”

Similarly in the United States, Article One of the Code of Conduct for members of the armed forces states: “I am an American fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I AM PREPARED TO GIVE MY LIFE IN THEIR DEFENSE [capitalization supplied].” This is perhaps the reason why in the US Government, the non-contributory pension system is exclusive to the military, it being considered as a gift of the American people to their soldiers for their honorable and dedicated service.

The following partial list of actual deaths of soldiers in the battlefield is being presented as proof that the sacred oath of the military to die for the country is real and not a mere statement:

1. In November 1972, the casualty count at the Battle of Sibalu Hill listed 15 Marines killed-in-action (KIA) and 22 wounded;
2. During the height of the conflict in Mindanao in 1973 when the government almost lost Central Mindanao to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the military forces at the Battle at Lebak lost 48 soldiers, 148 wounded, and one missing. Subsequent battles in Central Mindanao led to heavier casualties. The Army reported at least 149 deaths and 506 wounded on the part of the military;
3. During the confrontation between the MNLF and the

government in 1974, also known as burning of Jolo or Siege of Jolo, 29 soldiers died;

4. Government troops and Muslim rebels clashed in Basilan Island on April 30, 1978, which resulted in the death of 11 government soldiers;
5. The Patikul Massacre, referring to an event that took place on October 10, 1977 in Patikul, Sulu, led to the death of 35 officers and men of the Philippine Army. Among the casualties were Brigadier General Teodulfo Bautista, Colonel Gabriel Pangilinan, and four Lieutenant Colonels;
6. In the infamous Mamasapano Clash in 2015 between the Special Action Force of the PNP and the MILF, some 44 troopers of the PNP were killed; and
7. More than 165 soldiers died during the Marawi siege in 2017.

Our soldiers did not die in vain. Their supreme sacrifices, as well as the sufferings of those who survived, bore fruit. For one, they have fulfilled their mandate of protecting the people, territorial integrity, and sovereignty that goes with securing our democratic way of life and institutions; they have prevented the loss of Central Mindanao in the early 1970s Secessionist War; and they have halted the loss of more lives and further destruction of properties in Mindanao and other hotbeds of insurgency.

More significantly, they have confronted well the more serious threat to our democratic way of life posed by the Communist Party of the Philippines's (CPP's) strategy and plans. For many decades, the MUP prevented and protected the country from communist takeover with clear intent to destroy our democratic and economic systems including the judicial, legislative and banking systems, among the strong pillars of our society.

This threat against the economy, including banks and financial institutions, is clearly laid out in the 2016 CPP Constitution and Program for People's Democratic Revolution. The CPP General Program states, “The commanding heights of the economy, including the banks and other financial institutions, existing strategic enterprises, major sources of raw materials and main instruments of transport and communication must be in the hands of the people's democratic state in order to ensure planning and development of the economy and lay the foundation for socialism”. This is socialism of Marx, Lenin and Mao under the dictatorship of the Party as prelude to communism. On the other hand, the CPP Specific Program talks about developing and applying a revolutionary justice system to replace our current judicial system.

Over the years, the MUPs have thwarted CPP's strategy and plans although the MUPs also sustained their own casualties. The string of successes includes the reported death of the Chairman of the CPP Executive Committee and the CPP's Secretary General during an encounter with the military on August 22, 2022, effectively losing the insurgents guiding lights and direction to their effort. This success was followed by the recent arrest of the secretary of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee in Langkawi, Malaysia wanted for murder, kidnapping, and other crimes.

The military personnel have too much on their plates. Aside from internal security operations, they have been in the forefront in national defense (defending the West Philippine Sea), UN peacekeeping missions, disaster relief operation, search and rescue, etc., with consequential risks due to loss of life and limb, 24/7 work to include holidays and during disasters without overtime pay even if our working hours extend beyond eight hours a day, a benefit being enjoyed by their civilian counterparts. Retired Police Deputy Director General Rex Piad, PMA '71 said in jest, “If we are granted overtime pay for all the extra hours that we worked, MUPs would be happy to contribute for our pensions.”

It is noteworthy to mention that our MUP retirees of today, both dead and living, have their own share of time during their active military service in the past when they fought, bled, died, and served for God, country, and family even at the cost of their lives and intense hardships. There is no doubt on the great sacrifices they have given in the pursuit of their duties. Due to the nature of their work, they unarguably have the highest rate of casualty and morbidity while in active service. It therefore goes without saying that the arguments why the MUPs should be considered as special and unique from among the non-military retirees are strong and unassailable. This is exactly what Chief Presidential Legal Adviser Juan Ponce Enrile had in mind when, during a radio interview, he expressed total disagreement with said proposals of Diokno. He mentioned “*Iba ang trabaho ng sundalo eh*, [The mandate of the military is different]” and that the soldiers “are gambling their lives to protect the country.” His advice: “*Kung ako si Secretary Diokno, dahan dahan ako diyan* [If I were Secretary Diokno, I’ll slow down]. That is very explosive.”

In view of the foregoing statements, we find it compelling to go beyond the scope of our paper and briefly discuss the mandates of selected MUPs, which often entail to the sacrifice of their lives. Aside from the military, other MUPs like the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) are *sui generis* among all other government personnel. The PNP is tasked to enforce the law, prevent and control crimes, maintain peace and order, and ensure public safety and internal security with the active support of the community. The PNP has the moral duty to protect the lives of innocent others when they are in danger. Evidently, the police personnel, in the performance of their sworn duty, have to put their own lives in grave danger. In fact, law enforcement has taken on a different level of risk particularly in the war against drugs because aside from fighting enemies with unlimited funds and sophisticated weapons arsenal at their disposal, even their own families have become targets of those involved in the drug trade.

The personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) are tasked to promote the safety of life and property at sea; safeguard the marine environment and resources; enforce all applicable laws within Philippine waters; and conduct maritime security operations. Clearly, they are also risking their lives and limbs in the performance of their duties. In times of war, as declared by Congress, the PCG may be attached to the DND in performing similar tasks expected from the military. Right now, they are on the frontline in the West Philippine Sea protecting our national interest. Every day, the chances of death for PCG personnel are higher as direct confrontation or exchange of fire against a foreign country with formidable naval force may be forthcoming.

It is expected that both the PNP and the PCG, and for that matter, all other MUPs, will tackle the issues brought forth by Diokno through a lengthier discussion of their respective positions for dissemination to their stakeholders and the public. Hopefully, as the scope widened, a united MUP stand is not far behind.

Going back to the issues at hand, what is then the relevance of the discussion above on the matter raised by Secretary Diokno?

Per se, the position of Diokno as a technocrat is understandable but it is not inclusive. As Finance Secretary, he is tasked with allocating a finite budget in such a way as to: 1) address the financial requirements of the different government departments to ensure that they function effectively in pursuing their respective mandates, and, 2) create the conditions that would allow the economy to remain on a viable and sustainable growth path.

In attempting to attain these objectives, Diokno would most probably lean towards devoting resources to the most productive sectors, with the expectation that these sectors would lead the country towards higher levels of economic growth. Sadly, the retirees

are among the last in terms of economic productivity. Thus, they expect to find themselves at the tail end of the queue for economic resources – a position undeserving for retirees who had served the country well.

Comparing the MUP retirement system to other government agencies’ retirement systems (contributing and not indexed to current pay of equivalent grade) is like treating the retirees’ pensions as mere dole outs to old soldiers whose productive years have long come and gone. This is a direct disrespect and an act of ingratitude to a profession involving the risking of lives while in the service to the country. Rather, it is more fitting that the system should be seen as a vital part of an incentive package that goes a long way to help them and their families. These extended support and appreciation would surely boost the morale of the organization. It would help convince capable and promising young men to choose the profession of arms despite the risks involved in such a choice knowing that the government assures him and his family of a comfortable life even beyond his productive years serves as a strong incentive for him to take on the risks inherent in joining the MUPs ranks.

Amid ongoing controversy, former Senator Panfilo Lacson “appeals for prudence” from the proponents of drastic changes to the system and to wait for a completed actuarial study which is an indispensable part of a reformed pension system. He briefed the Class that during the 18th Congress, the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation required the MUP’s, National Treasurer, GSIS, and other concerned agencies to submit their inputs to the study. However, the MUP’s including the AFP failed to submit on time their inventory of assets. As a result, the actuarial study was not completed, and the Committee was not able to come up with its report on the pension reform measures before Congress adjourned *sine die* in mid-2022.

Fallacy of Ballooning Pension Budget

Based on the statistical data on Philippine Military/Defense Budget below gathered by Retired Vice Adm Delos Reyes the AFP pension is not ballooning as claimed by Secretary Diokno.

Year	National Budget	AFP Pension	AFP Pension as Percent of Budget
2011	P1.645 Trillion	P24.17 Billion	1.5
2017 (prior to indexing pursuant to JR 1)	P3.350 Trillion	P33.11 Billion	1.0
2019 (after indexing)	P3.662 Trillion	P54.809 Billion	1.5
2021 (two years after indexing)	P4.500 Trillion	P56.447 Billion	1.2

It may be recalled that in the past attempt to reform the pension system, the GSIS, based on its study, has presented the P9.6 trillion as liability of the MUP pension. Delos Reyes has exposed the fallacy of this argument. Please refer to the REPORT ON SENATE WEBEX ON PLANNED MUP PENSION REFORM/FALLACY IN THE GSIS STUDY ON MUP PENSION (Attachment). According to him:

1. The P9.6 Trillion is the present one-time cost to ensure the perpetual financing of all MUP annual pension requirements in lieu of annual appropriation for the pension;

2. The GSIS study should have included projected annual MUP pension for reference as compared with the annual total budget. For the AFP, the pension for 2021 was P60 Billion. Since 2018, the annual increase has been less than two (2) percent. It was only in 2017 - 2018 that it increased by 73 percent due to pension indexing (JR 1); hence, the increase in annual pension requirement does not increase considerably;
3. That the P9.6 Trillion figure is misleading and not being well understood by readers.

The earlier statement of former Senator Lacson that there is still a need for a completed actuarial study only proves that the initial GSIS study is not sufficient; hence, it is not a suitable basis for the outright and drastic changes in the MUP pension system that are being proposed.

It is also noteworthy to mention that Retired VAdm Delos Reyes who gathered data on Philippine military/defense budget, indicated that the main problem is not the growing pension but surprisingly the neglect by the government to sufficiently adjust its budget to cope with its capability development and operational requirements. The following are the salient findings of his study:

1. Military spending has continually increased in nominal value from 1960 to 2021; however, it has also continually gone down in terms of percentage of GDP from 1.78% in 1960 to 1.04% in 2021.
2. From highest to lowest, the Philippine military spending in percentage of total government spending in 2021 ranked No. 91 out of 142 countries at 3.82% which is way below their average of 6.22%. Based on the 2021 budget, the government would have to infuse an additional P108 billion if only to elevate our military spending that already includes pension in order to match the worldwide average.
3. Likewise, Philippine military spending in percent of GDP ranked No. 108 out of 145 countries at 1.08%. The average for all countries is 1.87%.
4. The study assessed that due to low military spending, our soldiers had been ill-equipped and had to pay with their lives and limbs in gallantly fighting the enemies of the state for decades.

The above statistics indicate that notwithstanding the years of economic progress, the government has neglected the national defense program and shifted higher priority to numerous other programs of the government like education, infrastructure, and poverty alleviation program, etc., all of which now have much higher percentage of government spending. Consequently, our ill-equipped soldiers have to pay the high price with their lives and limbs in gallantly fighting the secessionists in the 1970's, the CPP/NPA in the 80's, and thereafter the terrorists, highlighted by their heroic liberation of Marawi City in 2017.

Now we are barely capable of defending our national interest in the West Philippine Sea. Regrettably, our defense spending relative to our neighbor leaves us dangerously vulnerable considering that we are faced with both external and internal security threats. Amidst such neglect of government in truly modernizing the AFP over decades, it is saddening to hear from Secretary Diokno that the solution is to make the military pension contributory.

Another area long neglected related to promoting the morale and welfare of our military is the prolonged delay in adjusting their pay in four tranches, equivalent to that already granted to all civilian government personnel from 2020 to 2023 pursuant to Salary Standardization Law of 2019 (RA 11466). While it is true that the base pay from the rank of candidate soldier to Technical Sergeant had been

considerably increased above those granted under EO 201 s 2016 to their civilian counterparts, the pay from the rank of Master Sergeant and higher, as well as those for the cadets and commissioned officers of all ranks are lagging behind when compared with the pay that their civilian counterparts have been enjoying for the last four years.

On February 12, 2021, Chairman and CEO Edgar B Aglipay of the PMAAAI, a retired police general and a former Chief PNP, endorsed to then Senate President Vicente Sotto III a draft Joint Resolution that could have rectified such discrepancy effective 2022-2025. The letter further explained that the proposal would entail an increase in monthly pension by an average of only seven (7) percent annually for four years. Regrettably, it was not passed into law. Its enactment would definitely boost the morale of more than 600,000 active and retired MUPs as well as their more than two million loved ones.

Fiscal Problem Issue

Former Senator Panfilo Lacson, expressed his opinion before the *Matatags* (referring to PMA Class '71) in our Viber group regarding the issues of the MUP Pension System. He said:

"I have nothing against a pension reform being suggested by DOF secretary. In actual fact, I spearheaded the legislative initiative to reform the same. But Diokno should not use the MUP retirees as his scarecrow describing the problem of sustaining the present pension system long term as the cause for the country's 'possible fiscal collapse', which some financial experts have suggested is far from happening. Even calling a general's pension as the 'elephant in the room' when his 2021 pay as Central Bank governor was a whopping P41.811 M which is at least 18 times more than what I, Narciso Abaya, Egay Aglipay, Aris Delos Reyes, or all the other 3 and 4-star retired generals are currently receiving."

Before Lacson made the above comments, he had already expressed this sentiment on Twitter. He said, *"My tweet on the matter elicited a lot of reactions and I hope Ben Diokno reads or hears about the thread so he would realize the effect of his not-so-responsible statement. He could have explained it better without making the MUP retirement pay as a scapegoat of whatever fiscal problems our country maybe confronting in the future, if it actually comes to that."*

While waiting for the outcome of the actuarial study, for now we can just explore other possible alternative sources of our future fiscal problems, that is, if the study will lead to the conclusion that the government is indeed on the way to fiscal crisis.

Retired Colonel Marte Chioco '71 offered some useful insights. *"Maybe it's not true that nobody wants to touch the MUP pension as Secretary Diokno alludes to as 'Elephant in the Room'. The problem could be the failure to see beyond the room or take the overall view of the situation. MUP pension is welfare payment and just recognition of their services and sacrifices. Likewise, it also inspires those in the active service who look forward to their future. It is a government expenditure not subject to corruption. No percentage cut, bribery or unlawful disbursement. In fact, the pension payments received monthly are spent wisely by retirees on goods and services which eventually contribute to the Gross National Product (GNP) or the whole economy as consumption expenditures. The real problem could be the failure to see the white elephants in the government budget and expenditures per the economic or business definition of term. White elephants that perform below par in terms of utility and values like pork barrel, excessive allowances and government infrastructure projects which have been prone to corruption. Among others, these budgetary items could contribute to government financial and fiscal crisis that Diokno believes will occur in the future."*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the above discussion, this paper is presenting the following recommendations:

1. That the proponents of pension reform led by Secretary Diokno heed the advice of Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile as well as the appeal for prudence by former Senator Ping Lacson, and wait for the much-needed, completed actuarial study;
2. That during preliminary discussions and consultations by the proponents with MUP and other stakeholders, an alternative bill on pension reform be duly considered with the following salient provisions:
 - 2.1. Equalize the MUP disability pension as mentioned by the President during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in 2022;
 - 2.2. Equalize the maximum MUP pension at 90 percent of base pay and longevity pay, thereby adjusting that for the military (85 percent at present); and,
 - 2.3. Ensure that the MUP and all other existing non-contributory pension systems are indexed to account for inflation.
3. That the Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs consider recommending to the President to certify as urgent a Joint Resolution authorizing the increase in MUP base pay for 2024-2027, to be at par with that granted to all civilian government personnel in 2020-2023, pursuant to RA 11466. The pay adjustment should be strictly in accordance with RA 9166 s. 2002.

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(Attachment: Report on the Senate WebEx Hearing dated 2 February 2023)

REPORT ON SENATE WEBEX HEARING ON PLANNED MUP PENSION REFORM/FALLACY IN THE GSIS STUDY ON MUP PENSION

• VADM Ariston V Delos Reyes AFP (Ret)

A. FOREWORD

Below is my report of participation on the last Senate hearing on MUP pension reform in September 2021 with my attached comments on the GSIS actuarial study. I emailed same to my mistahs, some DND officials and other stakeholders. It is intended to update the reader on the Senate hearing on 30 Sep 2021 regarding planned MUP pension reform.

Ref: Manila Bulletin, 24 Nov. 2022, p1. During his confirmation hearing at the CA, Sec Diokno again mentioned the fallacious and misleading GSIS study and that the DOF vowed to resolve the complicated MUP pension system that "continues to take a heavy toll on the government's yearly budget." Among other things, he posits that not only new entrants but even those already in the active service will contribute to their retirement benefits.

If such will happen, then the non-contributory pension system will become exclusive to the members of the judiciary, prosecution service, and constitutional commissions, indexed at 100 percent of prevailing pay and allowances. Like in the USA, the non-contributory pension system has been exclusive to the AFP since 1935 until enactments allowed it to numerous groups of civilian government personnel. Thus, losing it will be an insult to the dignity of the soldiery.

B. THE SENATE WEBEX HEARING ON PLANNED MUP PENSION REFORM

1. On invitation, I attended the WEBEX meeting of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation, chaired by Senator Ping Lacson on 30 September 2021. Senator Drilon and Senator Gatchalian were present. The DND was represented by USEC Ding Luna, USEC Rey Mapagu, USEC Duco, ASEC Gaverza and ASEC Bautista while PVAO was represented by USEC Carolina. The National Treasurer, Dir De Leon, representatives of the AFP and other MUP agencies, DBM, GSIS, DOF also attended.
2. The meeting was a continuation of previous hearings regarding the different schemes/proposals/bills to reform the MUP pension system. Initially, Sen Lacson informed that the Ad Hoc Committee at the House of Representatives has considered adopting a simplified MUP pension reform bill

that will only peg the annual increase of base pay at five (5) percent for 10 years. Hence, the consequent annual pension indexing will likewise be limited by such increase.

In this regard, Senator Drilon suggested that such proposed bill might have to include also making the pension system contributory but only for new entrants. I was asked to comment.

Summary of my comments

- 2.1. I concur with the Ad Hoc Committee's proposed bill that will only limit the annual increase in base pay at 5 percent annually for 10 years and from which pension indexing will be based.
- 2.2. I expressed concerns if the pension system for new entrants will be made contributory. First, for the military, the non-contributory system has been in effect since 1935 pursuant to Commonwealth Act No.1 (CA 1) and which further finds support under the 1987 Constitution regarding veterans' benefits being funded by the government. Second, it could have adverse implication to military recruitment because there will be no more significant added benefits that will accrue to military service vis-a-vis civil service because all military ranks have equivalent salary grades for the purpose of salary standardization. Third, such will be discriminatory to the MUP because the new entrants in the judiciary and constitutional commissions will continue to enjoy non-contributory pension system. In the United States, only the military and coast guard personnel enjoy the non-contributory pension system. All other federal employees contribute to their retirement including the justices. The military pension system pursuant to CA 1 was patterned after that for the United States Armed Forces. I also mentioned the present great disparity in annual pension received by a retired CSAFP at P2.3 million compared with more than P10 million for an associate justice in the Supreme Court. (The Chairman noted said disparity.)

3. On the presentation of the GSIS Actuarial Study. The presentation included various iterations based on certain inputted assumptions. Nevertheless, it remains rooted to the initial study, which has been much publicized regarding the P9.6 trillion MUP pension liability.

My Comments:

- 3.1. The study has misled the public on the real meaning of the P9.6 trillion pension liability. I researched on the issue at hand and came up with my article FALLACY IN THE OUTRIGHT USE OF P9.6 TRILLION AS LIABILITY OF MUP PENSION (attached below). For want of time I mentioned its key provisions only.
 - 3.1.1. The P9.6 trillion is the present one-time cost to ensure the perpetual financing of all MUP annual pension requirements in lieu of annual appropriation for the pension.
 - 3.1.2. The GSIS study should have included projected annual MUP pension for reference as compared with the annual total budget. For the AFP, the pension for 2021 is P60 billion. Since 2018, the annual increase has been less than two (2) percent. It was only in 2017 - 2018 that it increased by 73 percent due to pension indexing (JR 1); hence, the increase in annual pension requirement does not increase considerably.
 - 3.1.3. When asked by the Chairman if I informed concerned agencies about my observation, I mentioned that I emailed Finance Secretary Dominguez about the P9.6 trillion not being well understood by readers. During a brief telephone conversation, he said he would refer me to the National Treasurer to discuss the matter; however, the meeting did not materialize.
4. When the Chairman asked the DOF and DBM as to the feasibility of the annual MUP pension requirements indexed on the planned annual increase in base pay for ten years, DBM presented the slide/matrix on the matter.

When asked, I replied to the Chairman that such annual projection should have been included in the early part of the GSIS actuarial study for better understanding of the readers.

USEC Luna commented that the projected AFP strength used by DBM should not be based on population increase as the case for the PNP. Rather, it is based on the national defense and security situation.

My personal observations (not part of the proceedings) relative to the comments of Sen Gatchalian on the DBM's annual projection

In his initial statements, he mentioned the P9.6 trillion cost of MUP pension for a "number of years" which is an indication of his misinterpretation of what the figure really meant, as in the case of the other readers. In the ensuing discussion, he asked about the additional annual cost to the government for the counterpart contribution if ever the new entrants would contribute to their pension. Again, with the benefit from hindsight, such could readily have been included in the GSIS actuarial study because it is a significant additional cost factor for the government to consider. I mentioned this matter in my Comments on Senate Bill 1419 (Para C.4.), which was endorsed by PMAAAI to the Senate.

5. Finally, I am very grateful to the Chairman for inviting me to join the hearing and I feel honored and privileged to be allowed to express my opinions and views regarding the

ongoing Congressional review and plan to institute reforms in the MUP Pension System. Moreover, being addressed as "Mistah" by the Chairman during the hearing of the powerful and prestigious Committee was a music to my ear, really made my day, and an unforgettable experience.

C. FALLACY IN THE OUTRIGHT USE OF P9.6 TRILLION AS LIABILITY OF MUP PENSION

1. The GSIS actuarial study merely presupposes that the government will have to pay/invest one-time P9.6 trillion if it wants to have a perpetual annual source of payment in lieu of annual appropriation for the present MUP pension which is non-contributory and indexed to prevailing pay rate. The study assumes that the amount will earn annual interest rate at 7 percent and that annual average increase of pension is 10 percent. In lieu of such enormous one-time payment, the government may opt to pay/set aside annual amortization at P848.39 billion for the first 20 years. Obviously, both options are not affordable (not feasible as categorized under a staff study). Yet, some government officials therein have used the figures as outright justification to enact drastic changes to MUP pension system. Since there is no explanation, it tends to mislead the public (exemplified by the Rappler article, below [omitted]). As such, it may be considered as intellectual dishonesty. Likewise, it is a clear case of non sequitur. Just because the present cost of one-time payment of P9.6 trillion is needed to perpetually support the MUP pension, it does not justify making the system contributory; indexing to prevailing rate shall stop; age for compulsory retirement shall be extended; pension for optional retirement shall be payable only upon reaching much later age; etc. IT DOES NOT FOLLOW. Why?

The MUP pension is non-contributory and funded through annual appropriation; hence, the GSIS study should have included projected MUP annual pension as compared with total annual national budget. If the pension will significantly increase in percent of total budget, then it is ballooning and problematic. Thus, simpler options short of making the pension contributory should have been considered such as but not limited to indexing to inflation, say, not exceeding 5 percent annually and only in years when SSL for all government personnel shall be in effect. (But then such option will not have the hoopla and drama of the "P9.6 trillion MUP pension liability" that needs to be addressed at once to avert alleged fiscal crisis.) Note that at present, MUP pension is only P135 billion (including P60 billion for the military) or three percent of national budget for 2021.

Moreover, using the AFP's projection, the increase in pension from 2018 to 2023 is only 8.2 percent or a five-year annual average of 1.6 percent. This further indicates that pension indexing is the main factor that increases MUP pension considerably such as 73 percent for military pension from 2017 to 2018, pursuant to JR 1

The above data further justify that a contributory pension system should apply to new entrants for uniformed services only and not to those already in the service.

2. Further, the position to include other non-contributory pension systems in the ongoing review/reform cannot be overemphasized. Retired Supreme Court Associate Justices (SG 31) are already entitled to annual pension of more than P10 million and will further increase over the years, compared with now-to-be-pegged P2.287 million for a retired CSAFP (SG 30).
3. Finally, for information, below is my email to Finance Secretary Dominguez commenting that the improper use of data from the GSIS actuarial study is misleading [omitted].



Letter of Cav Romeo Poquiz '81 to Secretary Benjamin Diokno

05 April 2023

Subject: Military Pension

To: **DR. BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO**
Secretary, Department of Finance
DOF Building, BSP Complex
Roxas Boulevard
Manila

Dear Secretary Diokno,

Please allow me to respond to your assertions on the MUP pension system.

1. You said the pension scheme is ridiculous because personnel in the active service can optionally retire after completing 20 years of service and receive pension for 50 years because they live up to 90. The pension scheme is not ridiculous but your assertion is. That pension benefit you refer to was vested by law. Pension after 20 years of service, once approved by the competent authority, is the norm even in most foreign militaries. Also, living up to 90 is a blessing and pensioners must not be faulted for it. Discipline explains it.
2. You compared military pensions with those of civilians, where military men do not contribute to it while civilians do.

Your comparison is wrong. The military is a service where one's life is the capital, 24 hours a day, in war or in peace. In fact, it is not termed pension in the AFP retirement law. It is called Military Retirement Pay. When they retire, they are only placed on the Retired List and may be recalled back to active service during war or other national contingencies. Also, almost all militaries around the world, including those in the USA, do not contribute to their pension.

3. You said that pension indexation, where the retiree's pension increases when the salary of those in the active service increases, must be stopped.

Why pick only the military or MUP? Indexation is also the case for pensioners in the Judiciary (judges and prosecutors), the Constitutional Commissions (Comelec, COA, CSC), and the Energy Regulatory Commission. This is also the practice in most foreign armed forces. Further, we waited decades before

the full implementation of indexation and it was only a couple of years back when the indexation was finally completed.

4. You said the MUP pension scheme is unsustainable and will lead to fiscal collapse. Again, why pick on us only? As finance manager and as the highest-paid government official, it is your duty to explore all available options to solve the problem. You can start by returning most of your unconscionable P41.81 million annual salary, allowances, and bonuses, including those of your BSP colleagues. The law fixed your salary only at P150,000 monthly or P1.8 million annually, yet you received P41.81 million.

You can also stop the pork barrel allocations of lawmakers and go after corrupt officials in all the departments, especially the revenue agencies under you - BIR and Customs. Further, improve the business climate in the country so that your touted investors in your many foreign travels may finally come and do business in the country.

5. You said we receive huge pensions compared to SSS and GSIS and that the scheme stipulates we get pensions based on the rate of the next higher rank when we retire. Again, no point of comparison between military and civilian retiree entitlements. Also, you must have missed the gargantuan pensions aside from the huge salary and allowances plus the golden parachutes of high SSS and GSIS officials. Much more for you and your colleagues at the BSP who all belong to the top ten highest-paid government officials but only do minimal work in the comfort and safety of your fully air-conditioned suites and offices. Further, the MUP pension is very small when compared to international armed forces standards.

You brought out the elephant in the room, Mr. Secretary. Go then, do your job, without opening your mouth too much, and without picking a fight against us military retirees. Even in the twilight of our lives, we fight our battles well.

Sincerely,

s/t **ROMEO V POQUIZ**
MGen AFP (Ret)
Military Pensioner





Developing A Credible Deterrence: Philippine Navy Submarine Force As A Game Changer

• CAV JOSE RENAN C SUAREZ '82

A NAVY in charge of protecting an extensive naval domain must have a credible deterrence against potential adversaries which may have more naval and maritime assets in their inventories. In the absence of a deterrent force, a navy would be unable to perform its missions of protecting its country's maritime domain, defending the national interest and contributing to the security of vital sea lines of communications and the maritime commons.

A navy that has limited capabilities and a small number of assets must possess a capability that would enable it to face forces that have numerical, technological and overall combat superiority. The superior numbers, size, firepower and capabilities of larger navies have to be nullified or overcome. Otherwise, these powerful navies with overwhelming material advantage over other navies would have unchallenged control of the sea.

Quantity and quality of assets and crew skills give or deny advantage to a force. Being outnumbered, outclassed and outskilled at the start of battle can lead to outright defeat. Strategy and asymmetric warfare are needed to overcome enemy advantage in men and materiel. A small force must avoid direct force on force confrontation with the enemy unless other less suicidal alternatives are exhausted. A strong foe's weaknesses must instead be exploited and its vulnerabilities attacked.

Small navies therefore must overcome their disadvantage in numbers, size, firepower and capabilities against an adversary. They must develop the ability to take the initiative, go on the offensive and dictate the tempo of action. The capability to inflict greater damage to superior forces and warships and at the same time having the capacity to perform multiple diverse missions are essential in developing credible deterrence against stronger forces.

A small navy whose mission is to protect a country's maritime interest must have the means to strike and imperil aggression by hostile forces at sea. Otherwise, it would have no choice but to wait for or merely react to enemy action, putting it at the mercy of the enemy. Its actions or responses may end up being inconsequential or inadequate. Hence, there must be a proper force to alter the lopsided power imbalance.

A submarine force by itself is a significant deterrent and countermeasure against vastly superior naval forces. While surface

vessels are easily detected, surveilled and neutralized, a submarine is able to hide and remain undetected beneath the waves. Its chances of delivering telling blows and surviving against the enemy are higher than other capital ships. Its stealth and versatility under water provide it with the means to take the offensive and strike at significant targets, even if its mission is only defensive in nature.

The proliferation of surveillance and scouting assets at sea puts surface warships under the mercy of long-range weapons and an assortment of attacks from air, sea and undersea vessels. Even warship transit to the scene of action would be dangerous and its neutralization can be made with ease at any point in time. Surface warships could be wiped out by superior forces with impunity. The enemy can remain unscathed and free to do as it pleases.

Possession of multi-capable surface warships is definitely not enough for small navies. Being outnumbered and outgunned are a death sentence for their forces at sea. Even if more of their enemies are sunk or put out of action, the smaller force is likely to be annihilated. In the end, these warships may just be expensive easy targets for better equipped enemy forces. A warship may also be unable to even approach large task forces. But a submarine can penetrate the latter's screens and inflict substantial damage or even sink the high value vessels.

A submarine force is necessary to develop credible deterrence and striking power. However, it is essential that the development of a submarine force follows a systems approach. It must go beyond the mere acquisition of hulls. The weapons loadout of torpedoes, mines and missiles must be complete with stocks available on base. Secure port facilities with workshops and storage must be built. There must be crew training facilities and simulators. Maintenance and repair infrastructure must be set up. Technicians for the various weapons systems and their integration and alignment must be available at all times.

For an archipelagic and maritime country, undervaluing the submarine would be a strategic blunder. The country cannot be oblivious to the worth of this stealthy undersea vessel. Submarines can achieve surprise, deliver lethal firepower and strike effectively first. Employed soundly and operated skillfully, it can decide the course of a battle or engagement or frustrate enemy intentions.

Patrolling unseen, striking surface and land targets, laying mines and delivering special forces while being discreet cannot be said of other naval assets. Versatility, lethality and survivability which a submarine possesses are highly priced combinations for naval combat. A submarine poses a threat to many vessels and even installations at sea and on land.

The formation of a submarine force allows a navy or a country to play the games of defense and deterrence. Submarines can bring battle to the enemy, spring surprises and live to fight another day. The force becomes a real game changer once the system infrastructure, support systems and crew competence develop, mature and continuously evolve to face technological, geopolitical and naval challenges.

Facing a submarine would demand more resources from enemy forces which must search for it and hunt it down. The possibility of having a submarine lurking nearby and ready to pounce at any moment is a nightmare for any surface action group which would have to divert many of its assets to locate even a lone submarine. What a surface vessel can do, a submarine can do with the added advantage of keeping enemy forces on the edge and hindered from performing main missions.

To make it truly a formidable weapon, the submarine force must be backed up by a sound naval strategy, high quality of command, competency of the crews, security in its bases, adequacy of its support services and the availability and serviceability of its weapons systems. An adequate supply of ammunition must be available. The submarine force ecosystem must be properly in place.

On the ground, men are served by weapons but at sea weapons are served by men, therefore crew qualification is a must. A submarine force's potentials cannot be realized by merely purchasing the submarines. A submarine has to be operated by competent crews, maintained and repaired in safe havens and facilities by able support staffs. Technicians that keep sophisticated systems on-line and aligned are a must. Sensitive guidance systems have to be taken care of as well. Otherwise, expensive weapons may not be operational nor able to hit targets as they should.

The development of a submarine force requires a major investment of financial and material resources. The cost of developing a complete submarine warfare ecosystem requires major outlays. Building an effective submarine force that is a truly credible deterrent, demands not scrimping on costs and settling for cheaper less capable systems. In getting value for money, quality must not be compromised and undermined by only considering the least cost options.

Strategic use of submarines, their tactical operations and logistical support base to keep the subs operative, provide the foundation of a submarine force that could not only change the nature of naval combat but the fate of a maritime nation itself. For an archipelagic country like the Philippines, war and battles must be won at sea that the land and its inhabitants are protected and saved. In the fog of war and heat of battle, the better employed and developed forces and units prevail.

To think of naval defense and security without thinking of combat at sea as a possibility is a pipe-dream, a precursor for defeat and a stumbling block to developing good policies and a sound strategy for defense and the development of adequate forces that would support them. Changing the game goes beyond mere asset acquisition, there must be a well thought out strategy that harnesses all the resources of a country to mount an effective defense.

The development of the defense organization and system and the incorporation of assets is the real game changer. Bravery and fighting spirit are not enough for defense forces, strategy is the key. Heroism without the possibility of accomplishing the mission is pointless.

Perhaps this article is not about changing but rather playing the game. A force of a small number of submarines cannot change the balance of power nor assure battlefield superiority. Nonetheless, it

may enable small forces to inflict damage that could impede or stop enemy operations altogether.

It is true that current enemy advantage in organization, numbers, technology, support systems, evolved submarine and anti-submarine tactics plus crew experience and skill cannot instantly be overcome. But making the right choices and doing the right things can close the gaps. The blueprint for the development of a submarine force must be done and done right.

It is worth mentioning that coordinated employment is a must in maximizing the capabilities of all naval assets. Every weapons platform must be made to count in the battlefield. The lack of synergy and coordination diminishes the potential of each asset and further disadvantage a country with limited assets and resources. Well-coordinated integrated war-fighting creates opportunities to overwhelm or neutralize larger forces.

It is imperative that development plans must be completed and not just started. Doing things depending on the availability of funds is a recipe for unrealized capabilities and lack of sustainment capacity. A platform ends up either not fully armed or incapable of sustained operations.

In such cases, the money spent and resources used would be wasted as an effective platform is not developed and sustained. It is important that major weapons programs must be pursued with vigor until the desired end states are achieved. Incomplete systems may end up as mere costly sitting ducks for enemies to sink. Likewise, spreading resources too thin among many projects would not realize strategic objectives and develop needed capabilities.

Due to the pace of technological change, platforms can become obsolete before they can be completed. Rapid developments in submarine and anti-submarine warfare always challenge the effectiveness and survivability of a submarine. Its operations must be at the cutting edge and not lagging behind technological progress. Hence building and upgrading times cannot be ridden with delays.

Submarine forces must be made capable of countering enemy anti-submarine measures. To enhance mission effectiveness and survivability, these submarine forces must overcome threats and challenges posed by surface ships, ASW helicopters, maritime patrol aircraft, seabed mines and submarine-based systems. Due consideration should be made to the full spectrum of undersea warfare. Domain awareness while underwater is also vital. Improving surveillance, detection, and human performance must be emphasized.

So that an unfavorable balance of power can be addressed and advantage could be gained, submarine force development must be pursued with a sense of purpose and urgency. To be slow and indecisive would favor enemies that are widening capability gaps to their advantage. For small navies, to dilly-dally is a recipe for disaster!

An archipelagic country in the middle of a hotly contested maritime area could not afford not having a submarine force. Regardless of the cost, a submarine force is a very strong deterrent and potent countermeasure against larger naval forces. The country needed it yesterday.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Pragmatic Solutions to Metro Manila Urbanization and Traffic Congestion

• CAV PROSCORO A MUNDO '98

The Greater Manila Area is the contiguous urbanized regions surrounding the Metropolitan Manila area include the neighboring provinces of Bulacan to the north, Cavite and Laguna to the south, and Rizal to the east.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data published in 2021 shows that Mega Manila which covers the original 17 towns and cities of Metro Manila, the provinces of Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite and Laguna has a total population of 28,250,517 spread across a land area of 8,099.63 square kilometer or a population density of 3,488/square kilometer. For comparison, the Metropolitan area of New York and New Jersey on the other hand has a population density of 2,053 per square kilometer, while Metropolitan Tokyo has a population density of 6,158 persons per square kilometer. However, both New York and Tokyo has a very mature mass transport system and a highway system that cut across the city.

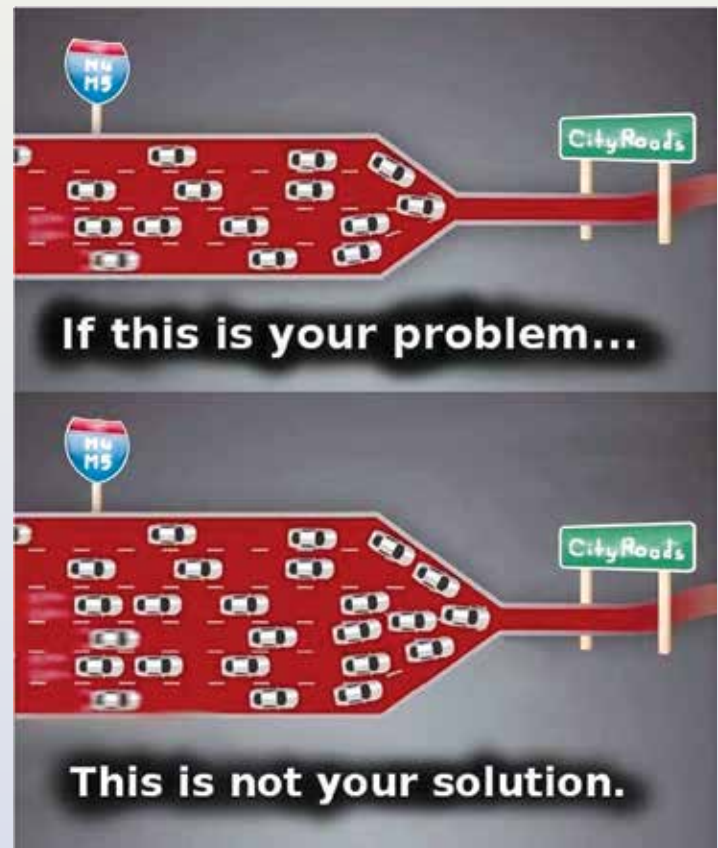
With Mega Manila's population density, lack of mass transport system, outdated highway and road system that carries a reported 4,951,662 registered vehicles as of December 2021, traffic congestion would be one of the most pressing urban planning issues in the country. The road network in Mega Manila was primarily laid out after the end of the Second World War when urban and regional planning was a major concern to rebuild Manila from the ashes of war. Under the Republic Act 4341 signed into law in 1965, the Institute of Planning was established within the University of the Philippines, which later become known today as the School of Urban and Regional Planning. RA 4341 envisioned a think-tank that will implement a national policy to strengthen the capability of national and local government agencies and private organizations to find solutions to their development problems, to improve human settlements and their environments through comprehensive integrated planning, and for these reasons, to develop and make available a pool of capable professional urban and regional planners.

Causes of Traffic Congestion

At its most fundamental level, road congestion in Mega Manila was caused by the lack of a mechanism to efficiently manage use of capacity, driver discipline and political will. Common perception to the solution of traffic congestion, are based on three E, namely Engineering, Education and Enforcement.

When searching for a solution to the congestion problem, most people immediately think of engineering by adding a new lane to an overburdened highway – this has been a prevalent notion among Mega Manila politicians since Second World War. Data from the DPWH shows that construction costs for concrete re-blocking in the National Capital Region was valued at PhP

12,054,009.03 per kilometer. From a business or contractor perspective – this is a huge business opportunity to generate wealth but traffic studies shows that more roads will not solve traffic congestion as this encouraged people to buy more cars – under the transportation theory of “induced demand” until it reaches equilibrium and back to the very the same traffic congestion problem again.



Source: www.pinterest.ph

On the other hand, some people that were hired to manage traffic would often see solutions to traffic congestion through “education and enforcement” – a professional bias common among government officials with police and military education. For the past three decades – Mega Manila is into road construction frenzy coupled with iron-handed enforcement of the Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) or more popularly known as the “number-coding” system implemented since 1996. However,

traffic engineering and transportation studies pointed out that “number coding” in effect in Metro Manila were not able to reduce the volume of cars but rather encourage people to buy alternative cars.

The volume of cars on the road at any given time in Metro Manila continue to increase as the actual number of car sales in the Philippines exponentially increases since 1996 which were attributed to the improvement of the Filipino’s sources of income with both the government and the private sector salary increases for the past decades and easy access to affordable, low interest car loans. Other factors contributing traffic congestion in Metro Manila aside from population density and increasing number of cars is the over-centralized government centers in Metro Manila. The presence of major military camps and its daily activities that draws in foreign dignitaries and local visitors from the provinces is estimated to contribute to several thousands of vehicles on Metro Manila streets on a daily basis. Thus traffic congestion is a day-to-day urban problem plaguing Metro Manila citizens, workers and visitors alike every hour except on few occasions such as during observance of Holy Week, Nov 1 and 2 (Undas) and during the height of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Transportation planners and traffic engineers use various traffic simulation tools to test any envisioned traffic solution on computers before implementing this on the ground. However, a unique aspect that baffles transport planners and traffic engineers are the Filipino human factor – the driver behavior in the Philippines that have no established standards in transport planning. We Filipinos’ are neither Asian, using the established Japanese behavioural standard or that of the western just like how Americans and Europeans behave while driving. This behavioural dilemma is another unique condition that local and foreign transport planners are trying to address at when conducting traffic simulation – thus the need for a constant yet very expensive traffic counts and actual road based observations. Despite the advancement in CCTVs and traffic cameras, the DPWH must need to conduct actual traffic count as Filipino driving behaviour is quite unique among established standards. The current traffic congestion is a nightmare for Metro Manila residents and visitors alike, especially at certain times of the day considered as “rush” or “peak” hours invoke a need for a better policy to reduce congestion.

User Fee to Solve Traffic Congestion

The University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies (UP-NCTS) in a Policy Paper published in 2010 titled “Introducing Congestion Pricing as a Key to Reducing Road Congestion” introduced a more pragmatic way to solve Metro Manila traffic congestion by introducing “user fee” principle, whether through “congestion pricing” or imposition of “toll fee” on certain roads. Researchers from the US DOT provided empirical arguments that by removing a fraction (even as small as five percent) of the vehicles from a congested roadway, pricing enables the system to flow much more efficiently, allowing more cars to move through the same physical space.

The above-mentioned traffic studies delve into a common problem present in Metro Manila since the 1960’s: road congestion. This is supported by statistics that show the demand for vehicle usage has continued to grow in the Philippines that has been causing roads to become increasingly congested. Data from the Philippine National Statistical Coordination Board for years 2002-2007 show that there is a constant increase in registered vehicles which would result to inevitable traffic congestion in the roads regularly travelled given the supply of roads is relatively fixed over time.

Congestion pricing, sometimes called value pricing as defined by the United States Department of Transportation, is a way of harnessing the power of the market to reduce the waste associated with traffic congestion. Congestion pricing works by shifting some rush hour highway travel to other transportation modes or to off-peak periods, taking advantage of the fact that the majority of rush hour drivers on a typical urban highway are not commuters. Local experts from the UP-NCTS are in a consensus that congestion pricing represents the single most viable and sustainable approach to reducing traffic congestion in Mega Manila. Introducing congestion pricing on highway facilities discourages overuse during rush hours by motivating people to travel by other modes such as carpools or transit, or by travelling at other times of the day.

Although ordinary Filipino drivers are generally unfamiliar with the concept, study show that drivers who were able to experience with congestion pricing in the streets of Singapore or London support it because it offers them a reliable trip time, which is very valuable especially when they need to be somewhere on time. Transit and ridesharing advocates also appreciate the ability of congestion pricing to generate both funding and incentives to make transit and ridesharing more attractive to the riding public. Thus “congestion pricing” despite being recommended over more than a decade ago and has been tested effective in other mega cities such as London and Singapore – this was not implemented in the Philippines for simple basic reason. No government officials despite technical literatures, legal viability and economic feasibility arguments supporting “congestion pricing” that would try to impose taxes on EDSA (C4), C.P Garcia (C5), Roxas Boulevard (R1) and Osmeña Highway (R3) – the traditional traffic congested major thoroughfares in Mega Manila as this is deemed a “political suicide”.

Another form of “user fee” is the imposition of toll fees on privately funded expressways, mostly constructed through Public-Private-Partnership (PPP). This expressway provides less hassle due to lesser vehicular traffic, connecting much faster from one point of Manila to another. To date, there are 14 expressways in operation that draw in/draw out vehicular traffic to Metro Manila, as follows:

North of Manila	Greater Manila Area	South of Manila
• Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) • North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) • Subic Freeport Expressway (SFEX) • Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) • Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX)	• C-5 Southlink Expressway • NAIA Expressway (NAIAX) • NLEX Harbor Link • Metro Manila Skyway	• Cavite – Laguna Expressway (CALAX) • Manila – Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) • Muntinlupa – Cavite Expressway (MCX) • South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) • Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR Tollway)

Another nine (9) new expressways are proposed to be built as follows:

North of Manila	Greater Manila Area	South of Manila
• North Luzon East Expressway (NLEE) • Plaridel Bypass Road Phase II • Tarlac – Pangasinan – La Union Expressway (TPLEX) extension	• NLEX–SLEX Connector Road • NLEX Harbor Link (segments 10.1) • Southeast Metro Manila Expressway (SEMME) • Pasig River Expressway	• Cavite -Tagaytay - Batangas Expressway (CTBEX) - SLEX Toll Roads 4 and 5

Long and Short Term Solutions to Decongest Metro Manila

Other approach was the decentralization of government services and private enterprises outside of Metro Manila. The 1950s and early 1960s were the periods in which urbanization and industrialization were vigorously pursued in the Philippines. This is appropriately referred to regional planning as 1) Growth Pole/ Growth Center Strategy; 2) Balanced Agro-Industrial Development Strategy (BAIDS); 3) Integrated Area Development (IAD), and 4) Decentralization.

During the early term of President Ferdinand Marcos Sr, emphasis was on relocating large-scale manufacturing outside of Metro Manila through tax incentives, government support in providing the infrastructures and manpower skills needed for mass production – thus leading for the establishment of various export processing zones in Cavite and Laguna. It was also during the time of President Marcos Sr that the country's first truly mass transport system, the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 was opened in 1984.

During the time of President Cory Aquino, the establishment of additional growth poles or centers outside of Metro Manila were developed to absorb labor and to meet the demands for other economic sectors. Former United States military bases were converted for other higher uses, thus creating the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and highlighted the role of Subic Bay and Clark Airbase in urban growth of the country, which as planned will draw out economic activities and thus traffic away from Metro Manila. Also, it was during the time of President Corazon Aquino that fly-overs across EDSA are sprouting – this was then touted as a stop-gap solution to Manila traffic congestion instead of pursuing the construction of the Mass Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3.

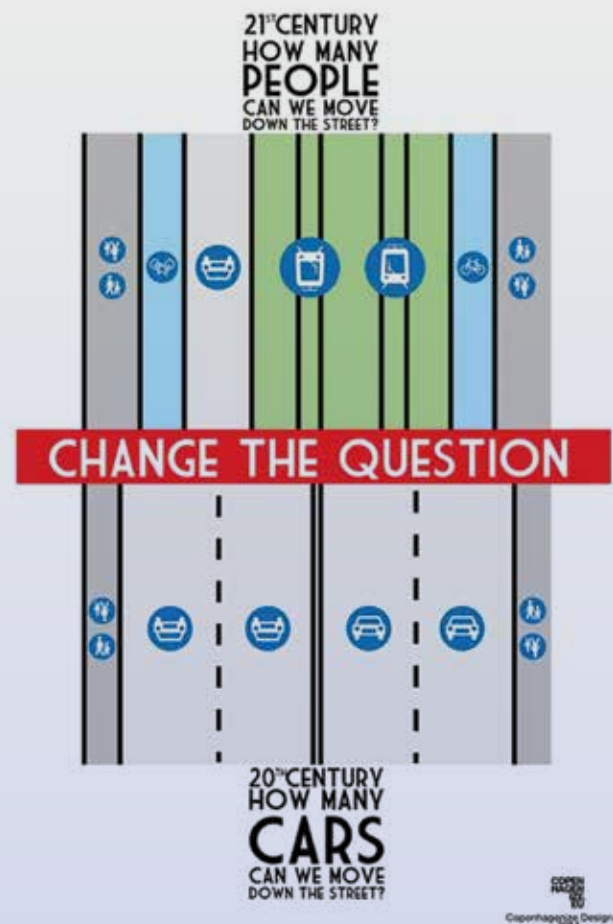
During the time of President Fidel Ramos, massive road construction and flyovers were undertaken along the EDSA corridors as an engineering solution to resolving Metro Manila's traffic congestion. Also during the time of President Ramos that massive development works were conducted at the former Clark Airbase with the overly hyped "centennial celebration" coupled with construction frenzy of government centers and pour in hundreds of billions of taxpayers' money, most of them were from the proceeds of Fort Bonifacio to decongest Manila physically and to provide immediate solution to traffic congestion.

The construction frenzy in Clark was continued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the construction of Mass Rail transit (MRT) Line 3 which was opened to the public in 2000 as a long term solution to traffic congestion along the EDSA corridor. Another significant milestone during the time of President Arroyo was the

opening of LRT Line 2 in 2003. Envisioned in the 1970s as part of the Metropolitan Manila Strategic Mass Rail Transit Development Plan, the line became the first rapid transit line extending outside the Metro Manila area after its extension to Antipolo, Rizal in 2021.

During the time of President Benigno Aquino III, solution to traffic congestion shifted towards construction of various PPP funded expressways and the extension of LRT Line 1 up to Cavite. The development of Clark was continued by President Aquino up until President Rodrigo Duterte – but one thing that stand out among this massive government infrastructures in Clark are its underutilization, with some buildings already in some derelict conditions and some were not used since its construction.

During the time of President Duterte, the so-called EDSA bus carousel was opened and paraded to the riding public as a solution to traffic congestion and movement of people along the North-South axis. The EDSA carousel which in itself is a kind of "bus rapid transit (BRT)" a cheaper form of mass transport compared to a rail based mass transport system. With EDSA carousel and MRT Line 3 sharing the same alignment, the same riding public – thus it appears that the EDA carousel is not a panacea to EDSA traffic congestion but rather a solution to a pressing current political situation in response to the riding public's clamour for an efficient mass transport system. As the adage would say that "yesterday solution is today's problem" - the EDSA carousel in itself will become a major problem as it reduces the road space available for other form of vehicle and will contribute to the further deterioration of Metro Manila's traffic congestion.



Source: www.pinterest.ph

Common Sense Solution to Traffic Congestion

A recent discussion among the social media chat groups of PMA alumni on the purported common sense solution to resolving Metro Manila traffic congestion pointed out that all it needs is a simple behavioural change and by reducing the number of vehicle at any given time – simple and straightforward plans. However, it's in the implementation of said common sense traffic plans that are lacking.

Traffic congestion is everywhere in the world and as old as our recorded human history. During the time of the Romans, in order to resolve traffic congestion among the streets of Rome, standards for the width of the roads was established based on the width of two horses pulling a chariot. Even on top of Mt Everest, at some point in time when volume of mountain climbers is at its peak that deadly traffic jams do occurs. Yet, despite the advancement in computer technology, remote sensing and artificial intelligence - traffic congestion is still a major urban problem in the modern history of mankind.

Traffic planners and engineers discuss solution to traffic congestion during weeks of sleepless brainstorming in the conduct of traffic impact assessment simulations that cost the government and the private investors like expressways operators, several millions of pesos. Raw data were generated from the actual data gathered over the years and drivers behavior thru visual/remote observation on the roads through actual traffic counts regularly conducted by DPWH and MMDA/LGU/Expressway traffic cameras to constantly validate the assumption that are then solved mathematically (individually). These data are used to come up with the trip generation rates and trip attraction rates vis-à-vis trips per signalized and un-signalized road and land area over time and space in order to determine the microscopic multi-model for each entity such as bus, car, train, motorcycle, bike, and person with its intended destination such as office, church, supermarket and among others in order to generate specific nominal numbers used as Passenger Car Equivalent (PCE) or Passenger Car Unit (PCU). PCE or PCU is a metric used in transportation engineering, to assess traffic-flow rate on a highway. Traffic engineers constantly validates proposed traffic solution mathematically that when discussed among us PMA alumni, will invoke some nightmares as we endure dy/dx on our plebe and yearling years – a subject we all agree as the killer of dreams among former and current PMA cadets.

The solution to Metro Manila's traffic congestion is very complex and better left to the hands of experts and specialists. We ordinary mortals should not play or test case these brilliant wild ideas just like how we order a plebe to change the color of the pompoom on top of Melchor Hall overnight as implementing this wild traffic solution directly to the streets of Metro Manila will cause inconvenience to the life of millions of Filipino commuters that will be affected and billions in economic losses per day.

Way Ahead

Researchers, the academe, traffic planners and government officials are continuously attempting to solve the traffic congestion problem in Metro Manila by altering the supply of roads such as changing infrastructure and promoting other more efficient modes of transportation.

To date, the only traffic congestion recommendations that are not yet implemented as recommended by the UP NCTS is changing the demand for roads through imposing a tax or charge

on a certain road network during peak and off-peak hours. Such proposition is called "congestion pricing" which is effective in various places such as London, Stockholm and Singapore but definitely not in the Philippines where people expects that anything the government constructed should be available for free to the public. Thus no sitting government official would dare to impose "congestion pricing" as a form to reduce traffic congestion on major roads such as EDSA.

In summary, I would like to end the discussion on traffic congestion solution by pragmatically recommending to people who are not anymore part of the working age population that are still living in Metro Manila to relocate to the provinces. We all agree that we are all frustrated on Metro Manila's traffic situation and agree that since we can't solve the traffic problem as an individual then we might as well get out from being part of the problem now.

This specific recommendation appeals to all PMA graduates that are already retired from government service to individually relocate to the provinces and enjoy retirement in the rural areas. The pension we receive from our service to the country can be maximized by living in the province where cost of living and real estate is relatively cheaper; we can afford to construct our own modest houses among the greenery of the farms or along the beach while enjoying fresh air and fresh food directly from the sources. Despite living in the province, we do still have greater accessibility to tertiary health care facilities in Metro Manila. Driving from Batangas or Pampanga to visit Veterans Memorial Hospital is now attainable in an hour thru the expressway system. With TPLEX and NLEX, driving from Pangasinan or Tarlac to Makati is even faster than driving from Quezon City to Makati using EDSA during rush hour. Another option is totally relocate back to our respective hometown before we entered Fort Del Pilar and enjoy retirement with our relatives in some distant towns of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

A takeaway for this article is about the common trait among as PMA Alumni on the love of golf as a way to spend time with Mistah and friends. This greatly influence why several retired AFP Officers choose to stay in Metro Manila because of the accessibility of the AFP's golf courses in Camp Aguinaldo, Bonifacio Naval Station, Villamor Air Base and that of the Veterans Memorial Hospital. However, simple financial analysis would show that it is relatively cheaper if we stay in the province and drive to Manila in order to play in this AFP golf courses as necessary. While living in the province, we do still encounter another form of traffic, not as strenuous to that of EDSA but once in a while on the golf course fairways enjoying with Mistahs and friends.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

CAV PROSCORO MUNDO is a member of PMA Masinag Class of 1998 – retired from the Navy in 2017 and is enjoying retirement in the province. Cav Mundo is a licensed and registered real estate broker and environmental planner. He earns his graduate Diploma, Master of Arts and PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of the Philippines School of Urban and Regional Planning.

BARRACKS

- Repository of Basic Military Values

• CAV JAIME S DELOS SANTOS '69

Call, sir; may Fourth Classman Dela Cruz enter the room, sir!" This ritual ushers the entry of a plebe into the room of an upperclassman. It distinguishes the rights and privileges bestowed upon senior cadets. These perks, however, are replete with awesome responsibilities tempered with strict control mechanisms to curb excesses and abuses.

In a likely manner, this article ushers in its entry into this column. Barracks and Strategy will cover issues and concerns surrounding the military and other uniformed services as they relate to strategy.

By definition, a barracks is a facility, where soldiers live, train, and perform various activities relative to or having to do with the accomplishment of a mission. By virtue of its military nature, it is governed by a set of military rules and regulations that are strictly enforced, infractions of which demand sanctions and punishments.

Military establishments have their roots in the barracks. It is the foundation from which military culture and values evolved. The state of its readiness to fight is determined by the infrastructure of its facilities, the quality of its officers and men, and the systems and procedures that govern its administration and operations.

Military values that shaped a warrior's mindset were developed within the confines of the barracks. Its bedrock is military discipline—the state of order and obedience within a command. It involves the ready subordination of the will of the individual for the good of the group. Military discipline is applied with justifiable reason. When appeal to reasons fail, punishment may be applied judiciously.

Military discipline has a critical role in ensuring the efficiency, effectiveness, and success of any military operation. It also aids in the maintenance of order upholds the value of responsibility, and fosters camaraderie and loyalty.

The leader-follower relationship

Is a principle that states that one cannot become a leader who has not known to obey. Military hierarchical organization is based on this concept, around which the principles of chain of command and defined individual responsibility revolve.

As military leaders, it is crucial that they inspire and motivate their subordinates, set clear expectations, and provide feedback to usher improvement among their followers. As followers, it is expected that they are disciplined, obedient, and focused on accomplishing the mission. The military operates in an environment of warfare and warfighting, in which its sole purpose is to win wars and battles. Having these principles and characteristics ingrained and trained within the organization can dictate the line between victory and defeat.

Esprit de corps

Identifies the standing of a unit relative to other military units. The pride of every individual soldier to belong to an elite

organization provides the inertia and momentum to perform, excel, and win. Team spirit breaks down barriers. It empowers the individual soldier with a deep sense of responsibility as a mechanism for growth and transformation. It can be developed thru their shared experiences, traditions, and values.

In military strategy, the sense of esprit de corps can have a significant impact as it can create a highly motivated and coordinated force capable of overcoming obstacles where courage, resilience, and teamwork are required. It can promote effective communication, coordination, and collaboration among troops.

Leadership

It is in the barracks where the sense of leadership starts. From small units to the higher echelons of command, leadership is always the pervasive factor. Military leaders inspire and direct their troops toward a clear and common objective. They are responsible for making sure that their troops are properly trained, equipped, and prepared. Having a combination of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and personal qualities like courage and discipline makes an effective leader.

On Feb. 18, 2023, the Philippine Military Academy held its alumni homecoming in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. It is an annual activity that brings together alumni from many generations. This pompous ceremony is part and parcel of what projects the strength and power of any military establishments. The PMA is one of its institutions that showcases the professionalism and excellence of its officer corps.

The PMA alumni all share a common thread. They all started their careers in the cadet barracks, in Fort del Pilar. All were subjected to the rigors of extreme physical stress and academic grind. In the end, only the best and the brightest survived. Their education and training provided and molded their tactical mindset. It is here that discipline was instilled, physical limits were tested, leadership was developed, and strategic and tactical thinking was honed.

The barracks mentality that has provided them with unending stories that only a cadet can understand has since been transformed into a strategic mindset, especially for the mature and elderly. The challenge is a direct call to what the barracks experience has provided for all its cadets and officers – discipline, loyalty, unity, leadership, and excellence.



(GEN JAIME DE LOS SANTOS served with distinction as a military professional, 42nd Commanding General, Philippine Army; 1st Force Commander, UN Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in East Timor; former member, UP Board of Regents and Professorial Lecturer II (part-time), UP-Diliman.)

A Soldier of the People is a Soldier of the Environment

From Beneath the Sea There is Justice for the Fisher Folks of Pola, Oriental Mindoro

• CAV LEYSANDER THOMAS A ORDENES '88

Naval Special Warfare Group, Marine Science Teacher,
OFW Technical Consultant, Department of Justice

Men, Machine, Oil and Mother Nature...

During the sunrise of 29 February 2023, the internet and radio-TV newscasts were being filled with flash reports of a half-submerged Motorized Tanker M/T Princess Empress, somewhere at the vicinity Pola, Oriental Mindoro. M/T Princess Empress, owned by RDC Reield Marine Services, was chartered by San Miguel Corporation, and was transporting 9,000,000 million liters of highly toxic industrial fuel oil (IFO) from the SL Gas Harbor Terminal, port of Limay, Bataan to the port of Iloilo. There were thunderstorms and rough seas with wave height up to three meters for the past two days in Southern Luzon and Central Visayas. The 20 crew members were all rescued within hours. Thanks to a nearby Panamanian-flagged MV Efes, enroute to Subic, Zambales. Before sunset, the Philippine Coast Guard has secured the site. On the next sunrise, trouble loomed on the horizon – oil spill.

On 1 March 2023, the oil spill spread out to six kilometers by four kilometers...the color was deep black and had strong odor. The oil spill affected nine municipalities in Oriental Mindoro: Pola, Naujan, Calapan, Pinamalayan, Basud, Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay and Bulalacao. In Antique: Liwagao Island and Caluya, Semirara. In Palawan: Casian Island and Bgy Calawag, Taytay, Palawan.

The sunken tanker was finally found on 21 March 2023 by a Japanese salvage vessel Shin Nichi Maru. The actual depth of the tanker's location was 389.1 meters, 13.89 kilometers northeast off Balisangan Point, Pola, Oriental Mindoro. The United States Coast Guard also came to help and launched their own submersible. They placed six (6) special bags on six (6) valves....and they all left.

On 22 March 2023, the Department of Justice led by Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla flew his Team of National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Agents via two (2) private helicopters and had a Town Hall meeting with Pola Mayor Jennifer Cruz and the fishing folks. A fishing ban was declared on selected municipalities and barangays and that meant a crippling blow to the vibrant Pola because since 15 March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has literally flattened the tourism industry of this coastal municipality and now an oil spill has made Pola "Ground Zero" due to the "Black Oil Plaque". Alumni who own beachfront resorts, dive shops, hotels, restaurants, swimming pools, karaoke bars, boat tours, car rentals and specialty boutiques know what these bans meant. Those really badly hurt and affected economically are the fishermen families who thrive on daily fish catches. It's now back to the DSWD ayuda. Two months into the Summer of 2023, and the people become jittery.

I recalled being in the Office of the Secretary of Justice on a Friday morning and he asked me a direct question, "What do you think of this oil spill?" I have lived as an Overseas Filipino Worker, being a Marine Science teacher in Catalina Island, California; been facilitating diving activities in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; lived and worked in the Maritime Conservancy of Anegada Reefs, British Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Caribbean and served as Liveboard Cruise Ship

in at UNESCO World Heritage Site Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park, Sulu Sea, Palawan, to name a few of my adventures in the world's oceans.

I looked the Secretary of Justice straight in the eyes and these are the words I said. "It is a crime scene."

From thereon, weekly Case Conferences were attended by a multi-agency task force and from 29 April 2023 until now, I have been doing an independent Marine Science Technical Diving Assessment of the areas affected by the oil spills because there are still oil leaking from the sunken M/T Princess Empress.

By Mothers Day on 14 May 2023, we are commemorating the 76th Day of the Motorized Tanker Princess Empress with a Congressional Hearing on the Pola Oil Spill. In June 2023, DOJ shall be filing cases against all private persons, entities and government regulators who were responsible for this massive environmental catastrophe.



**"A soldier of the People is a soldier
of the Environment."**



Beacon MOU signing, Longayban Hall, PMA. Seated: Cav Rufo de Veyra and Supt Oscar Lopez, 20 Feb 2015. DND Sec Gazmin, 7th fm left: Class 70, fm left, Santillan, Ver, Ocampo, Calvo, Cimatu, Maluyo, Heredia, Fernandez, Carolina, Rabonza, Israel, Esguerra and Atienza.



The Beacon Offsprings - SENTINELS OF TIME

• CAV RUFO A DE VEYRA '70

Graduates to occasionally assess and weigh-in their collective worth against the core values they were sworn to uphold.

Almost unnoticed amidst the frenzy of Homecoming 2023 activities was the Unveiling/Blessing of the PMA Beacon in a somber sunset ceremony, Friday, 17 Feb 2023, Borromeo Field, Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City. On a clear day, it is almost impossible to ignore the majesty of this landmark at the right edge of Borromeo Field where it all started. On a less than foggy evening, its flashings signal to its host city Baguio, a safe and secure environment.

A Beacon of Hope

"A project of the Magiting Class of 1970 'Ahead of its time' and led by Rufo de Veyra, who served as the 48th superintendent of the Academy, the Beacon symbolizes the collective strength and unity of the alumni and their communities in their sworn duty to serve and defend the pillars of our democratic way of life. The Tower serves as a source of encouragement and inspiration during times of adversity and remains a beacon of hope for our nation and our people," Philstar columnist, Cav Ramon Farolan wrote in his column.

The use of the Beacon to symbolize the Academy and its graduates is a no-brainer. It comes so naturally, even subliminally each time the Alma Mater Song is sung.

But to take the extra step to erect a real live working beacon? Only loonies do that. But it seems that Class 70 view lunacy in another light. However atypical or outrageous it is considered instead as an opportunity to make a difference, however small -hence this project.

Setting the Democratic Context

"With this offering we show our countrymen, indeed the whole world how we, the military in this country, respect our democratic institutions and its pillars - our Flag, the Constitution, Government, and People, further reaffirming the principle of the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, the bedrock of our democratic way of life," Class 70 Prez Mar Ilagan stressed in his opening remarks.



Cavs Pete Atienza and Roy Cimatu sending off Telco tower from Ft Bonifacio to PMA, 2017.



GOHAS Mayor Benjie Magalong with his keynote address, Unveiling/Blessing Ceremony, 17 Feb 23.

Indeed, how we show respect to these pillars leave a profound mark on those who would follow.

The Beacon Pedestal Narrative

The Beacon's 4-sided pedestal sends a clear message of HOPE starting from the façade on how the caliber of our soldiers is gloriously etched in the mind of no less than Gen Douglas MacArthur by mid-century. Moving counterclockwise, the virtue of COURAGE in the battlefields and even the streets and boardrooms of government and business is celebrated; next INTEGRITY, by its manifest reverence towards democratic pillars in the Cavaliers' Pledge; and finally, LOYALTY, shared among its members, associates and honoraries and the communities they serve.

Beacon Support Group

The Beacon Project formally started with an MOU signing ceremony at Longayban Hall, PMA between its then Class 70 Prez and PMAAAI Chair Rufo de Veyra and then sitting Superintendent, Cav Oscar Lopez, 20 February 2015, witnessed by then DND Secretary Voltaire Gazmin with Class 70 in attendance. After two years the telco tower was sent off from Ft Bonifacio to PMA by Cavs Roy Cimat and Pete Atienza.

After eight years work-in-progress encompassing six PMA Superintendents, common grounds were sealed with communities and support groups with shared interests like the Order of the

PMA Magiting Beacon consisting among others of Jorge Consunji of DMCI who did the casting, foundation, concreting and erection of the tower, Alo Murillo, Uly Sevilla and PRA, Bert Lina, Tony Ilagan, Bert Tagayuna, all Class honoraries backstopped by the Magiting Class funds with Cavs Jun Ebdane, Romy Acop and Vic Signey at the backburners. Providing CAAP backchannelling was former ATO Chief Cavs Charlie Tanega and Bay Suemith. These turned out to be the priceless, though unexpected outcomes that made The Beacon project endure.

The Academy and its Alumni

The relationship between the Academy and its graduates is something unique predicated upon the general perception that the basic core values instilled among cadets and graduates holds. But if a sense of drift is perceived from these dreams, values and aspirations, the graduates themselves take the initiative and provide the energy to re-establish it back to its original trajectory.

Sentinels of Time

Thus the Beacon's symbolic ascendancy places graduates in an ennobling, albeit tough role -as sentinels of time to occasionally assess and weigh-in their collective worth against the core values they were sworn to uphold.

This theme is appropriately reflected in a line of the song "Put Your Dreams Away" which goes;

*"When your dreams at night fade before you,
Then we have the right to adore you."*

The Beacon belongs to the Academy and its Alumni and it is their burning hope and dream that the trajectory continues to remain on course the better to assuage themselves to exclaim in deliverance and relief, as they must,

"Oh, Beacon, how we adore you!"

Hope Springs Eternal

This early it seems that hope indeed springs eternal. In his keynote address, Mayor Benjie Magalong, himself an alumnus



Magiting Class '70 and Mas-Magitings with Bang Adriano, front and center.

readily accepted the task. *“But the journey ahead will not be easy. Just as a lighthouse must withstand the toughest storms, so must we be ready to face the challenges that lie ahead. When our nation is plagued by corruption, poverty and inequality it is easy to lose hope but as graduates of the esteemed institution, it is our duty to stand tall, inspire others and lead by example.”*

Magalong commended the Magiting Class of 1970 on their throwback project and the Academy for providing the facility and vision to make it happen even as he pledged the City’s unwavering support for whatever it takes to preserve its positive role in our lives.

Source of Pride and Joy

The Beacon also serves as a source of pride and joy for the Academy in that by its incessant nightly flashings it is constantly reminded of its own civility. In helping air carriers through airways and synchronizing aids to navigation it takes pride in its role for the benefit and protection of the environment.

As the sitting Superintendent, Cav Rowen Tolentino took great pride in serving as a final conduit for this project. *“And for that we consider The Beacon as a prize possession and promise to secure it.”*

Providing some comic relief he announced specific security measures for the Beacon with the added special safety provision of making its pedestal off-limits to fourthclass cadets for their own *“good health and well-being”*.

Hope springs eternal, most especially for the Plebes, indeed.

About the Author

CAV RUFO DE VEYRA was 48th PMA Superintendent, PMAAAI Chair 2020, and former Class President of PMA 1970.



Beacon facade, post Unveiling/Blessing.



The Beacon super Honoraries, from left, Jorge Consunji, Uly Sevilla, Alo Murillo, Bert Tagayuna, Tony Ilagan and Bert Lina.



Full view of the Beacon from 60 meters.

A JOURNEY Ending Where it Began

• CAV JESUS ALTUNA III '78



Forty-five years had passed. It is not the years in our lives that mean much but rather the life in our years that matters the most. Tales of our glorious past have now spilled into our dinner tables as we eagerly share them with our grandchildren and to anyone willing to listen.

Upon leaving the Academy on February 18, 1978, we took different but also similar paths to chart a future full of hopes and dreams. It is now 2023 and we are still here, having successfully survived the gauntlet of a profession that placed our lives in the line of fire. We have persisted and it is not over until it is over.

Among ourselves, our chatter has shifted to bucket lists and medications we take, but we have made it this far to be able to spend our twilight years with our families for more quality time, which was a luxury then while we served. Our ranks have thinned out from our original strength of 139 but we have regrouped to form a tighter bond to better support each other. We have the opportunity now, to not only share our plebe escapades and travel back in time but also to re-acquaint us from our long lost squad mates since the Academy diaspora of 1978.

We have all been born out of the same tree and as we have flowered and blossomed, we are now returning to our root, not as solitary souls but a swarm of fluttering leaves carried by the winds of destiny. We have come full circle from our humble beginnings in the hallways of Melchor Hall. We have realized that



beyond our families and friends, we have formed lasting bonds that transcend any other we have made outside of our class. All of us are benefactors of everybody else and the awareness of the debt of gratitude that we owe each other permeates in our consciousness. It is this humble virtue of gratitude that has made us even closer as we faced challenges, not only in our career but also in our personal lives.

Our class effort has made tremendous contributions to the well being of the Filipino people. We owe them so much because although we are a poor country, their collective efforts have sent us to school and jumpstarted our lives on the path to greatness. In return, we have dedicated our entire productive years in the



this time, we are doing it because we are passionate about it and expect nothing in return but the serenity it brings to our soul.

We are celebrating today to remember, not our own sacrifices, but for those made by our countrymen who gave their unconditional support to us so we can preserve peace, which is the backbone of any civilized nation's ability to prosper. We also dedicate this day to recognize the sacrifices made by our families, friends and those who worked with us so we can accomplish our mission knowing that they have our backs at all times.

We leave behind our legacy of love for our country, wisdom sourced from our experiences to the next generation of Cavaliers, our abundance of moral perfection, loyalty to our Alma Mater embodied by the virtues of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty and an enviable sense of camaraderie among us.

Our journey began when we made the first step out of the sanctuary of Loakan 45 years ago and we will now begin the next chapter of our lives when we make the same step out of the same spot where it all started. Each step will be cherished and we hope that someday, we can come home again like a leaf falling to the ground to rest for eternity.



service of our country. We may feel that most times, our effort is unappreciated by the communities we have served, and this is because national security is an intangible benefit. We are still an independent sovereign country and our cities and hinterlands are safe and secure from internal threats. Our class initiative to directly reach out to the poor and innocents is commendable because sharing and being empathic is something we have been practicing among ourselves from the get-go. It has been fully understood by us, that if we are not ready to exchange our own happiness for the suffering of others, we may never know happiness.

Health and relationships now take center stage in our day-to-day lives. A new day is a gift and we want to spend it in a memorable way. We now focus on simpler things and appreciate our surroundings more. We are also rediscovering ourselves and our ability to adopt to our new found freedom. We are now well aware that we still have something to offer the world, but



The Ruby Jubilee march of the class on 11 March 2023, also known to us as Matikas Day.



MATIKAS '83, Four Decades After

• Written by Jun Quilicot in collaboration with Allan Martin, Class Historian

The PMA “Matikas” Class of 1983 saga began when 6,411 young men decided to unravel their murky future with a will for military servitude. With their tender but committed personal resolve, they muster the courage to be counted as applicants to the most acclaimed but equally daunting life of a PMA cadet. The first hurdle: the entrance exam. In the midst of Martial law, the life of the military then is a mixture of honor, fear, and expected struggles. From among the applicants, only 4,610 dared to show up to take the test in October of 1978. Of these aspirants, 690 were blessed to proceed to the next level: the physical and medical exams at the V Luna AFP Medical Center. It was not by sheer luck that some were admitted because then, some innovations were already infused into the usual battery of examinations. Psychiatric and psychological examinations were given primacy in addition to the rigorous physical and mental selection.

Diverging from the usual format of admission where the plebes are directly made to report to Fort Del Pilar, the class then numbering 321, reported to the Philippine Marines Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio Naval Station on 01 April 1979 for their first taste of military life - the two-weeks Pre-Cadetship Training. Proudly, we were the first PMA class to undergo the Pre-Cadetship Training. After two weeks of road runs, army dozen, sun exposure, and the rending blasts of the marine drill sergeants, the class appeared ripped enough to be shipped to Loakan for our two-month Summer Camp or “Beast Barracks.” Having gone through the crucible of the Marines, the class may be rightly “awed but not shocked” when our

plebe details attempted to gnaw at our shaken but definitely not stirred faces. More road runs, army dozens, lectures on military science and leadership in the sleep-conducive weather of Baguio, filled the class’ subsequent hourly-memorable days. In no time, the class started to become the unflinching fans of noble Cataline as we beg her to shorten the ticks and seconds that silently witness our painful but honorable transformations. After what seemed like an eternity, our **Incorporation Day** came. It was a cold rainy day in June when we were ceremonially included in the Corps: a fitting shower of the unexpected graces and blessings to come.

The academic period that followed came like a double treat for us plebes: it is the time when we can officially sleep with a threat of a delinquency report; and, cope with the unspeakable threats that our upperclassmen subject us in the barracks. It was also a period when plebes pursue their God-given talents, as they enrolled in different clubs and hobbies. Those who are endowed physically and with the spirit to endure, join the marathon and silent drill.

For all the prestige and accolades associated with the silent drill, aside from a way for the Academy to demonstrate the perfection of its military training in terms of fortitude and precision, it is likewise a channel for some cadets to become part of the most admired few during the most awaited Southern Cruise when we exhibit the best of our drills to our countrymen in different parts of the country. This is done while the class is oriented with the naval intricacies aboard a Philippine Navy ship as second-class men. But then again, the Matikas did the unprecedented: We etch it once

again as the first “Firsties” to perform the farewell performance during our graduation week.

The four-year academic season saw the separation of some classmates with whom we have become familiar, accustomed, and bonded as brothers. Some of them are even with us today as members we can always proudly call our own. Of the 321 that originally set out, 135 donned their first “Vicks” or the 2nd lieutenant badge on 11 March 1983, who joined with the other achievers to complete the 198 that comprise the PMA Matikas Class of 1983. Of these, 13 graduated with honors; two were Magna Cum Laude, and 11 Cum Laude.

Aside from our classmates that came from the different US Service Academies, whose branches of service were already predetermined way before their commissioning, the rest of the class characteristically, in a unique manly fashion, left the determination of their branch of service upon the indiscriminating sphere of Ping-pong balls. Consequently, 65 joined the Philippine Army, 66 with the then Philippine Constabulary, 30 with the Air Force, and 31 with the Navy.

Following the one-month break afforded to all new Academy graduates, the basic service orientation and training ensued as members of the class reported to their respective branches of service. Those from the Army and Constabulary were unceremoniously shipped to the Scout Ranger Training School in Tanay, Rizal for their Regular Scout Ranger Course: again, **a FIRST among all PMA graduates**. After six (6) months of yet harrowing ordeal of training that culminated in real combat, or test mission, the Scout Ranger Training Center rolled out the most scout ranger graduates in a PMA class: 125 of them. Those from the navy reported to Sangley Point for their Naval Officers Qualification Course while those from Air Force went to Fernando Airbase in Lipa City in Batangas for their Undergraduate Pilot Training.

For some, the beginnings that were set upon graduation needed some adjustments and fine tuning. From the original set, three (3) chose to join the Corp of Professors. Subsequent changes in the branches of service also happened. The implementation of the PNP law and the separation of the Philippine Coast Guard from the Navy created conditions and opportunities for some members to opt for transfers. After the juggling settled, the roster then stood as follows; 66-Army, 64-PNP, 32-PAF, 30 Navy, 3-Coast Guard, and 3-Corps of Professors.

The class witnessed the sounding of taps for some of our mistah as they rendered their all for God, Country, and Service: All 33 of our own, 16 from the PNP/PC, 12 from the Army, three from the Air Force and two from the Navy.

While in the service, the class reaped its fair share of national honors and coveted distinctions: 7 were recipients of the Ten Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) award, 5 Cavalier Outstanding Achievement Awardees, and 13 of the PMA Cavalier award. These accolades all served as testimonies to the colorful and aspirational military achievements of its members. By far, the only class to have been honored with (3) four-star generals, six (6) three-stars, 25 two-stars, and 58 one-stars for a total of 92 generals and two Christian Pastors. You may also add two (2) of their adopted members who made it to star rank. This level of competence ushered in making possible the Matikas the first PMA class to place the whole Armed Forces under the command of four of its members in four consecutive turnovers in a period of four years. A truly unprecedented achievement in Philippine Military History.

In the same token, on 12 November 2016, The AFP and its three Major Services were under the leadership and command of one single PMA Class: The Matikas of 1983. Like some rare astrological phenomenon, this achievement was recorded only by the PMA Marangal Class of 1974.

The lethargy of retirement proved to be not for the class. Just as our youngest member retired in 2018, four members were whisked out from their slowed cadence to serve as Department Secretaries or assignments equivalent to secretary positions while enumerable others ruled in varying capacities as undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, bureau heads, and consultants during the Duterte Administration.

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

Leading the pack is Secretary Eduardo M. Año who steered The Department of the Interior and Local Government. His term came with brilliant accomplishments and horrors having been placed under the knife twice after he contracted COVID twice. Undeterred, with the assistance of USEC Bernardo Florece who once served as the OIC of the Department, Joel Canapi as Chairman of NAPOLCOM, and ASEC Manuel Felix, they put aside comfort and safety to push forward in forging together the local chief executives (LCEs) and their respective units to combat all threats in all fronts and forms: local terrorists [Islamic extremists, and armed communists], corruption, drug cartels and most importantly, the invisible menace of COVID 19. This is made possible in part, by utilizing a retooled version of the Community Security Program of the AFP. This preempted any form of threats from evolving on the local scene. It is through these efforts that the phrase “whole-of-nation approach” was coined. To make these gains endure, he created institutions within the bastion of public safety. The Philippine Public Safety Academy was created and made separate from the Philippine National Police Academy to provide graduates with specialized training for the BFP and BJMP. With the drive for professionalism as a backdrop, the Department presided over the various fora of matters on transnational crime and took the lead in developing shepherds against human trafficking which caught the attention of the US government and earned the country the TIER 1 category: a much-coveted standard of no equal among ASEAN members.

The National Irrigation Administration was led by Administrator Ricardo Visaya with the assistance of Abe Bagasin as his Senior Deputy Administrator; the late Romy Gan as his Deputy Administrator for Admin and Finance; and, a score of consultants from the class in various capacities who are all conquerors in their spheres of past commands: the late Asher Dolina for Legal; Bimbo Colina for Northern Mindanao, Gerry Barrientos for Eastern Mindanao, May Dela Cruz for Western and Southern Mindanao, the late Jojo Donato for Cordillera, Larry Espinelli Regions 1,2, 3 and Jun Asanias for Region 2 took the management of the organization by storm. Together, they breathed life back into projects that have been in hopeless slippage for decades and put back on stream dams that were either dormant or utterly dysfunctional. They also transformed the agency into one cohesive bureaucracy that became spritely responsive to the requirements of the farmers. They also modernized equipment and irrigation methods through the establishment of water and land-based solar systems. Known and famous as “the Presidential Troubleshooter of Pinoy”, he brought to the fore all the concerns that have created trouble in the agency and shoot them until they shaped up or shipped out.

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

Usec Ricardo Jalad, with the assistance of Noli Orense as his regional manager in Davao, proceeded with his duties as Administrator of Civil Defense in a stoic manner devoid of fanfare. There is no reason for fanfare when you're in the midst of a brewing pandemic while managing one of the most disaster-prone locations. Straddling two of the world's major bodies of water [the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean], howlers, and on some occasions, super-typhoons are among the challenges that he has to unflinchingly face. Add to the brew earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and you'd have a blend that would fry the nerves of average mortals. As if not yet enough, he has to grapple with man-made hazards like the settlement of the displaced residents of Marawi in the aftermath of the local jihad. Every day in his office is a sacrament of indulgences that only the rare of us who are gifted with such calm forbearance can withstand.

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

Taking the cudgel that Alex left, Anselmo Pinili took the helm of PCSO in a grander stature concurrently as Chairman and General Manager of the Office. He was transferred from his equally significant post at the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime (OSETC), a post with an equivalent rank of an ambassador. With optimization and efficiency at the top of his mind, he immediately initiated an office-wide digital transformation covering both vertical and lateral: a reform that spared no crannies in the

organization untouched. Policies were streamlined; duplications in functions were raided; acuity in cost accounting resulted in optimal procurement; and, human resources reduced to a squeaky rationalized minimum were just among the many other laudable changes that accrued from his advocacy. Providentially, these very same operational shifts lend the office a smooth ride even in the oppressive period of the pandemic. Gil Bombita and Alen Bantolo served as his consultants throughout his term. Sadly, Wesly Barayuga, in his dedication to make real the transformation and his adherence to the new policies, lost his life while serving as Corporate Secretary of the Office. Benny Jose replaced him not long after.

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

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

Sharing the same building with PAOCC is the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime where the late Allan Guisihan once served as its Executive Director. While the rest of the country was preoccupied with its domestic criminal problems, Toto is watching over a bigger field of engagement. One that should prevent the following from even taking root: Illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; Money laundering; Terrorism; Arms Smuggling; Trafficking in Persons; Piracy; and, other crimes that have an impact on the stability and security of the country. Readily one can see the overlaps of the concerns of the agencies that were earlier mentioned. This implies that close coordination among mistahs is sanctioned and even considered necessary. It is no wonder that the Tier 1 Category of the Philippines can be ascribed to intense official exchange between the people in this center and its neighbors.

Coming from the highest earning Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation (GOCC). Carlos Quita left BCDA for an agency where his efforts will form part of his future legacy. He joined the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) as its Deputy Director General and Undersecretary for Admin and Finance. To capacitate the agency, he initiated a series of planning and operational workshop to streamline the very same organization with the task of imposing bureaucratic efficiency, transactional convenience, and reduction of processes to its barebone. To expedite and assist in its transformation, he enlisted the help of Jess Cardona, who just came from his stint at the Bureau of Customs and ATC-PMC, to serve as Senior Operations and Special Project Officer of the office. Their



teamwork has already yielded results with impressive promises: the completion of the strategic plans and manual of operations; the rollout of the Go Smart App; the commissioning of an army of volunteer support organizations; and various entrapment operations resulting in varying levels of prosecution and even conviction.

In the meantime, Paterno Padua has been busy ridding off the roads and byways of Koronadal and Cotabato City of colorums as the regional chief of LTFRB in the area. Taking to heart the thrust of the government to modernize the public utility vehicles, he filled his impounding area with infirmed vehicles ranging from the smoke belchers to the downright ghastly specimens

For some [surely] undeserved reasons, one of the lawyers of the class earned his stripe as the longest-staying Officer-In-Charge in the government bureaucracy. Atty Jun Manalastas, who is in his 55rd Month now as OIC of the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center (ATC-PMC) of the Office of the President, has proven his mettle in the bar of legislation, notwithstanding. Starting as head legal of the same office and with the late Mike Manquiquis, Jess Cardona, and Rolly Aquino as his officemates and some help from other agencies, they orchestrated in codifying one of the landmark bills of the Duterte administration: the Anti-Terrorism Bill (ATB). Together with the grizzled luminaries of the Solicitor General, and the Department of Justice, he faced the broadsides of the progressive legislators in both Houses of Congress and Senate dodging conjectures in exchange for legal brickbats that eventually eroded the cons' appeal. Largely through his epic endeavor, the ATB fused with Senators Lacson and Imee Marcos' bills, passed to become the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 and will forever be etched in the country's history.

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

It has been said that life begins at 60 and that 60 is the new 40. While there could be mixed views on this, we in the Matikas are one in the thought that our journey has taken a new leaf. The adventure continues and for certain, more can still be written. At present, three of the members are serving as government Department Secretaries while some are still in significant civil duties. Ed Ano has just been appointed as the country's National Security Adviser, Alen Capuyan continues to serve as the Chairman of the National Commission for Indigenous People, and Popong Felix is now the Secretary of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Military and Police Affairs (OPAMPA). As the country continues to receive more of our selfless service in varying fields, we vow to remember to share the very thought that gives each Peemayer the quest for excellence and not put to shame the wellspring of our common identity "I am because we are..."



HUMOR IN UNIFORM

How do different branches of service use stars?

NAVY: navigates by the stars.

ARMY: sleeps under the stars.

AIR FORCE: chooses hotels by the stars.



* * * * *

The Navy was about to launch its completely autonomous computer-controlled ship, and wondered whether to still consider the vessel female as dictated by naval tradition. It They shall commission a study group to decide on the matter based on what gender shall be assigned to a "computer". The group was divided between men and women and the study yielded the following results:



The men's group decided that computer should definitely be the feminine gender (la computer) because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later review; and

4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should definitely be masculine (le computer) because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The Navy decided that the ship shall be addressed as an "it".

* * * * *

Q: Why does the military have a strict dress code?

A: Because they avoid CASUAL TEES

Q: What note do you get when you drop a piano on an officer?

A: A-flat-Major

ANG TANONG: "taga-saan ka ba talaga, Kuya?"

1. Cdt Bacolod - taga-Cebu pero sabi nya Ilongo sya. -Sir Nap Estilles '81
2. Cdt Visaya - Cadet na Ilocano pero akala mo taga-Cebu. -Sir Nap Estilles '81
3. Cdt Baguio - isa pa ito, di naman sa North dahil sa Visayas galing. - by Sir Art Gosingan '75
4. Cdt Los Bañes - not from Laguna naman sya! Hehehe - by Leo Ferrer
5. Cdt Ballesteros eh hindi taga-Cagayan.
6. Cdt Claveria is not from Cagayan din
8. Cdt Lukban is not from Quezon

9. Cdt Indanan is not really from Indanan, Sulu
10. Cdt Buan is your guessed wrong! He's from earth, though!

Sigh-yang: These didn't happen

1. Cadet Sugarol receiving a DR for gambling
2. Cadet Malinis reported for dirty uniform
3. Cdt Palaruan reported for playing during study period.
4. Cdt Matanguihan not complying with orders
5. Cdt PARRA '83 ordered Cdt GO '85. nag-abot eh.

Bandang Tedaks:

1. Cdt Musico - sya po ang in-charge ng Cdt Combo. Also, music arranger
2. Cdt Lira provides, of course - the lyrics
3. Cdt Piano kasama nya si Cdt Orga (kulang lang ng konti)
4. Cadet Dance '68 - choreographer
5. Cdt Merengue - partner ni Cdt Dance
6. Cdt Sing-son (kulang ng "g" at talagan singer na)
7. Cdt Canta - sya ang lyrics provider
8. Cdt Cantor - sya yung lalaking counterpart ni Cdt Canta
9. Cdt Symbal-an (Simbulan - amercian slang eh)

★ ★ ★ TRIVIA ★ ★ ★

Trivia 1:

Who are the first Father, Son and Daughter who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the year the individuals graduated?

Father - Factor 1995
 Son - Factor 2014
 Daughter - Factor 2019
 +1 Son from PCGA 2020



Trivia 2:

Who are the Cavaliers given their diploma by President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos (PFEM) who have sons graduated this year and received their diplomas from the son President Ferdinand Romualdez "Bongbong" Marcos (PBBM)? (The "father to son" history for PMA)

Answer:

PGen Miguel Laurel and Commodore Eduardo B Gongona PCG, who both graduated in 1982 were handed their diplomas by the father PFEM.

Both have sons, Cadet Titus Laurel and Cadet Jose Eduardo Vivencio Lumbea Gongona who both graduated on 21 May 2023.

The graduation and oath taking of PMA Class of 1982, whom both father Cavaliers belong, were graced by the father President FEM. While the PMA Class of 2023 graduation and oath taking were also graced by the son President BBM.

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

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

CLASS CALL

FORTUNATO C CORACHEA
President
THOMAS P MANLONGAT
Secretary

A gathering of survivors. On 4 April 2023, a few of the class golfers who can still stand AT ATTENTION and walk on their own power dined at the Kimpura Restaurant in Greenhills to celebrate the 67TH YEAR of their graduation from the PMA. Now in their early 90s and late 80s, the original 51 grads that left Loakan in 1956 are down to 14 with various ailments arising from old age or simply put - by natural attrition.

A recollection. After our one month leave as 2nd Lts., the class reported to the PA Training Command at Ft. Bonifacio to take up the Company Officers Course, but were surprised by the sudden appearance at our class opening rites of GHQ AFP top brasses headed by Col. Dominador Garcia, G3, AFP, who announced that on orders of President Ramon Magsaysay, all AFP training activities including ours are suspended and all trainees are to be deployed to the jungles of Quezon and Laguna provinces, where the core of the HUK top brass and operating units are reported to be active. The first 13 volunteers

of the class got their assignment orders after lunch for II MA (2nd Military Area for Southern Luzon) and were transported to its Hqs at Canlubang where they received their issued carbines, two ammo magazines and a bandoleer of ammo each. The next day, they were transported in an open truck (all standing) and were caught by heavy rains along the way to Lukban, Quezon, HQ of the LIGHTNING SECTOR (LISEC) of the operational area. After lunch, all valises/bags containing wet uniforms/clothes were opened and laid to dry at the Officer's Club, when B/Gen Manuel Cabal, Chief PC and B/Gen. Juan Relosa, Cmdr., II MA /PCZ (both classmates of PCA Class 1933) arrived seeing them all wet and half naked. Before sundown, a situation briefing was conducted by LISEC officers in the presence of the two top brass, and right there and then, three classmates each were requested to be assigned to the BCTs (Battalion Combat Teams) in action in the operational area. The next morning, each of the BCTs picked up their newly assigned 2nd Lts. and brought them to their respective areas, some where the sun cannot be seen due to thick foliage and most where drinking water comes only from streams (disinfected by issued halazone tablets).

The SRC Bn (School for Reserve Commission for AFP Enlisted Men) was formed and activated with its companies and platoon leaders manned by the class.

They were deployed to secure the Lukban-Sampaloc-Mauban road in Quezon. The rest of the class were assigned to the BCTs operating in the nearby mountain ranges in Laguna.

The class experienced the jungle war of the Filipino soldier fighting the HUKs - carrying on his back, hands and feet his combat arms and ammo, beddings and spare clothing, and 7-days of food rations purchased by supply officers from his One Peso per day meal allowance which were issued to them at designated supply points. Each squad carry their own cooking utensils and cook for the 10 to 12 men under them on alternate basis. Cooked rice for lunch is already included in the breakfast menu to be packed by individual soldiers in their mess kits with canned sardines/other viands for their lunch rations during patrols. Returning to their base camp in the afternoon, they go to the nearby stream to wash their used, dirtied and wet uniforms to be dried for wear on the next patrol day and bathe/clean themselves. Dinner is eaten as early as 4 pm because it was already dark and lights were not used due to the fear of attracting intruders. Because of the difficulty of finding the exact location of the Base Camp itself, trees 500 meters away are chopped as markers to serve as guide posts. Fighting the Huks was indeed never a dull moment, a worthy experience and many lessons learned from the Filipino soldier.



ORLANDO B SALIENTES
President
MANUEL P OXALES
Secretary

After almost three years of imposed non-socialization in response to a worldwide pandemic, finally the class had a reunion on April 14 at the posh residence of Prexy Orly and Inday Salientes in Ayala Alabang. The last time was in Dec 2019 at a Seabees Headquarters, Ft Bonifacio Naval Station.

Present with the graceful hosts were Loven Abadia, Joe Azansa, Leny



Balbas, Ceasar Go, Lilian Kintanar, Chit Paredes, Juliet Yap, Esting Carino, Fanny Marino, Jessie Panes, Tony Leviste, and Special Guest Senator Pong Biazon. Juliet, widow of Gumer Yap, and Pong also reside in Ayala Alabang. Over very delicious food and finest coffee flowed pleasant conversations. It was Orly's valedictory, as he turned over the mantle of class leadership to backcoming President Loven.

In previous Class Call, we reported the socially oriented inspiring activities of the members. On those who left the service early: Rudy Enojas had to join his wife, Babe, a nurse who would receive in U.S. five times more the pay of a Captain then. Isabelo Iban whose features are more American than Pinoy and wife Norma merged well with Uncle Sams. Belong worked in a golf course, had all the space and time on the green. Bob Tagala, with wife Letty, also left early and they have a thriving rental business. Nestor Lim retired after 20 years, joined his wife Edith in California, a doctor, have the means and times to travel worldwide where their legs could enable them.

Mars Blando, CO of Special Forces Regiment, retired before his term ended, settled in Sta Maria, Pangasinan in his mango plantation, was Prexy of mango exporter group. He migrated to U.S. and joined wife Nelly.

Of the locals, Virgilio Bas, a well rounded intelligence officer, retired early, settled in an eco friendly setting in Cebu away from noise, traffic and pollution. Fred Reyes lives in a community of military retirees, neighbor to Upper and High End residences, an ex-army camp. Epi Logic in Bohol, a foreign tourist destination with its fine beaches, seas and scenery. Cesar Go from a big farm in Mabalacat Pampanga sends his quotes from the Holy Book. Manny Oxales' advocacy has been acted upon: Pursue recovery of alumni of funds of P44.8M (P24M in deposits and P24.8 shared capital from affiliates) in closed ACES from its physical assets, the figure stated by ACES in its Dacion en Pago. Continued recovery of P66M audited as risky placements in lending firms. He recommended that members of a Corporate Board attend seminar on their responsibilities and liabilities as they are answerable individually for its collective decision unlike in a CO and Staff military set up; and be oriented on the Arms Length principle--promote the interests of the organization that one represents and not be influenced by friendship, fellowship or any kind of relationship. An investment must be ensured safe, to be recovered with



a fair return. Observe enhanced diligence and care investing funds held in trust. O.S.

If you hang around in a Golf Club you miss contemporaries. Whom you see are younger by ten or more years. Pete Sistoza, 85 the youngest in the class, a PC man lives

in Tandang Sora Q.C. We miss since January 2020 his yearly birthday celebration at a swanky hotel on EDSA. The living members of the average 86 and aiming for the 90's, with God's blessings.





EDUARDO G DOMINGO
President
RAYMUNDO T JARQUE
Secretary

WE ARE STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!

For quite a long time, we have been lost among the Peemayers' environment. This could be attributed to a number of reasons. From the lame excuse of lack of time; our dying attitude in appreciation of our class 61 spirit, plus among our classmates who prospered economically, we seemed to have exhibit lack of interest.

But it's all in the past now. Our hibernation is over and we have decided to revive our class spirit through this Class Call, the most read section of the Cavalier Magazine. We are now back in circulation after coming out victorious in our fight against COVID-19. We have become firmer in our decision to bounce back and to imbibe both the PMA spirit of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty and the Class 61 Spirit, "Don't Quit" with great fervor and enthusiasm.

Class 61 beginnings

There were 78 of us who were appointed to take the PMA entrance examination. Class 61 originals were pegged at 54 during reception rites but only 33 successfully made it after four grueling years on March 25, 1961. Out of 33, only 21 are still alive, others went ahead to the Great Beyond. The class accepted six turnback Ayers from different classes.

We had one foreign cadet from Bangkok, Thailand. He is Vorayudh Messomonta but sadly, he was forced to resign during the summer camp because he had a hard time coping with the rigorous training.

During our Plebe Year, some of our classmates were unlucky to finish their plebe year. One mistah Vicente Perez became Chief Petty Officer of the U.S. Navy; one classmate (Macaraeg) became a Fiscal. We lost tract of our topnotcher in the Entrance Examination (Gatmaitan). Anyone who is in touch or in communication with him, kindly share his contact numbers please.

During our graduation rites, the class decided not to invite a military personality to be our main guest of honor and speaker (GOHAS). We chose to invite then Far Eastern University President Teodoro Evangelista. The tradition of inviting the Commander-in-chief as GOHAS during the PMA graduation ceremony started during the Martial Law era in the country.

During our time, the PMA superintendent was Brig Gen Manuel

Flores. The class will never forget what he told us during our graduation day: "After this, you will join the service. Remember, you cannot be too poor, and you cannot be too rich, either."

May I also add, our Class is but one of the few who has no so-called monicker, unlike others that are known prominently as Matikas, Maringal, Kalasag-Lahi and many more.

The early casualties of the Class included Cav Ernie Batongmalaque (PC) who died in Jolo and Cav Eduardo Tiqui who died in a plane crash in the mountains of Antique.

Class 61 New President and Secretary

If you noticed, the Class has a new president and a new secretary: Cav Ed Domingo and yours truly, Cav Jarque, respectively. This reminded me that both of us were in the New Cadet Squad during the Summer Camp. We were nine in that squad,

but we are now the two living members, Ed and I.

Our new prexy hails from Cagayan. He was the former Chief of Naval Staff of Headquarters Philippine Navy; Deputy Commander, Southern Luzon Command; Deputy Commander, Naval Forces Southern Philippines, and Task Force 61 Philippine Navy under Southcom. Meanwhile, yours truly became Commander of Southern Luzon Command; Commander, 1st Infantry Division, and Commander, 3rd Infantry Division, among others. I spent long years in Mindanao. I had a son, the late Cpt Jose Rene N Jarque, belonging to PMA Class of 1986, who was a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, U.S.A.

Footprints After Retirement in 1994

Aside from the two mistahs mentioned above, here are some bits of information about the other class members:





Pong Biazon became a Senator of the Philippine Republic and was also a former Brigade commander of the Philippine Marines.

Umbert Rodriguez joined the Philippine Constabulary and first saw action in the Visayas, particularly in the Leyte Island. He was commander of PC Regional Command IV

and eventually rose to become the Chief of the Philippine Constabulary.

Romy Sunga joined the Philippine Marines and later assigned with the Philippine Navy Southern Western Command (SOWESCOM). He was later recruited by the Inter-Pol Narcotics Command in Bangkok Thailand.

List of Living Class 61 (By Order of Age)

Name	Birthdate	Age	Wife	Wife Birthdate
Padua, Perseverando M				
Tan, Ernesto	24 Feb 1934	89	Beng	02 March
Biazon, Rodolfo C	14 April 1935	88	Monchie	27 April
Lagera, Jorge D	22 Feb 1936	87	Auring	04 Oct
Calupig, Ernesto B	17 Jun 1936	87	Cely	09 Jan
Fortuno, Cesar F	03 April 1937	86	Charito	16 Oct
Domingo, Eduardo G	16 Jun 1937	86	Claire	12 Aug
Lukban, Manuel B	29 Sept 1937	86	Yayot	19 Nov
Bello, Urso D	30 Sept 1937	85	Lina	14 Dec
Cabanlig, Eduardo T	03 Mar 1938	85	Lina	10 Aug
Rodriguez, Umberto A	07 Mar 1938	85	Nini	07 Oct
Jarque, Raymundo T	19 April 1938	85	Xenia	16 Aug
Ventura, Rizal E	09 May 1938	85	Bubut	25 Aug
Simon, Rodolfo J	11 July 1938	85	Lucy	14 Nov
Mamon, Victor J	23 Sep 1938	85	Biyette	17 Jun
Sanga, Romeo J	23 Nov 1938	84		
Carandang, Cesar P	23 Jan 1939	84	Jing	
Suratos, Antonio G	09 Jun 1939	84	Mar	23 Oct
Aguirre, Alexander P	02 Sep 1939	84	Chit	29 May
Santos, Joselito L	28 Feb 1940	83	Zeny	15 Jun
Gironella, Celso C	23 Mar 1940	83	Josie	20 Sept

Ed Cabanlig joined the Philippine Marines, PN and saw action in Jolo, Sulu. He also became a Brigade Commander. He also became president of the National Defense College of the Philippines.

We heard Commodore Ding Simon is a successful farmer in Tarlac; became president of Tarlac's Farmers' Cooperative. He joked that he could be a good candidate for Secretary of Department of Agriculture so he could clean its "trash" and its "corruption."

It is worthy to mention that two of our mistahs, Cav Thelmo Cunanan was a West Pointer graduate while Cav Victor Mamon was a US Naval Academy graduate.

Some of our living classmates are now facing medical problems and are requesting for prayers. Cav Jorge Lagera is presently confined at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Cav Pong Biazon and Cav Ernie Calupig are walking patients.

Voice of A Class 61 Femme

By Xenia Jarque

Class 61 mistahs are encouraged to contribute write-ups of interests on classmates and families. It feels amazingly great to get back in circulation. Everyone wants to know where we are and how we are doing, now that we are all octogenarians. Forget the senior moments of life. Let aches and pains lull our minds to beautiful rainbows of love and spirituality.

Anyway, Cavalier Ernesto Tan celebrated his 89th birthday last February 24 at the Kalayaan Village Social Hall. In attendance among classmates included Pong and Monchie Biazon; Erny and Cely Calupig; Ed Domingo, Flora Marcelo and of course, we the Jarque couple, Ray and Xenia.

Tannie, although in a wheelchair, was in high spirit, Beng was the gracious host of the early afternoon get-together. Laughter and recollection of the days gone by was by far the gist of the conversation.

Another two April birthday celebrants included Pong Biazon (April 14) and my one and true love, Ray Jarque (April 19). Everyone seemed to be occupied with medical concerns and hardly had the time for celebration. So let us just say good luck, good health and let's wear that hearing aid – so voices in conversation stay at normal decibel.

In a separate topic, Mrs Dolly Nazareno has her fried chicken business in Davao City and enjoying the returns of investment. Mrs Codera, on the other hand, is attending her farm in Laguna and finds enjoyment in doing so.

We hope that with this issue, this will be the start of a continuing updates so we will keep abreast of each other's well beings and whereabouts.





Achievable Goals After Retirement

by: Cav Manuel B Mariano '62

Bunting Farm is nestled in a 2.5 hectare property in Barangay Ayusan 1 in Tiaong, Quezon. Established as a fun concept for a development enclave in a farm. My three youngest children and I committed to develop something relevant on the land acquired by my wife who passed on way back in 2017. The only visual image my wife had was a printed out masterplan of our ideas for the farm. During the last few years of her life, the plans kept her going, even on her death bed, her willingness to push through with her plans in the farm kept her strong in spirit and her mind purposeful, this was her IKIGAI, this idea of the farm made her waking up hours worthwhile.

I shared the vision of my wife, together, we want to make an impact in ways that we can, now with my children grown up and very much capable of realizing our family's dream of reaching out to inspire young minds and hearts through tangible ways e.g. skills creation, values formation, creative workshop and bringing nature back to the center of life. As stewards of our surroundings, we need to bring the context of sustainability and sensitivity of our development, making the Bunting Farm as a venue for creativity, an enclave for artists and enthusiasts to develop their creative works.

Putting our vision into action, my children established an Art Camp where they sought the assistance of Prof. Analyn "Ikin" S. Amores for resources of credible artisans, she has provided the Bunting Farm Art Camp a potential outline of activities throughout the calendar year. We kicked off the first art workshop on the weekend of April 15-16, by inviting a renowned Paper Maker, Ms. Nora Dumsang. This activity was attended by the local youths from within and outside Bunting Farm. These are the children of the farmers, some local enthusiasts also joined in the 'fun' workshop. The financial resources to conduct such a workshop was solicited from friends and family, there were enthusiasts who also paid for the workshop. We also made known to the



local youths that this was only possible because there were generous people who sponsored the event. This information will help everybody to value and appreciate the resources that had been shared to them.

The programs, activities and merchandise of the Bunting Farm Art Camp is our avenue to stir positive changes in our host community, in Bgy. Ayusan 1, Tiaong, Quezon. Through our learning workshops we hope to inspire the local residents to be creative and to keep challenging themselves on how to improve quality of the environment and their quality of life, by introducing new skills and trades as sources of livelihood. I have been retired from the AFP for nearly 30 years now, however, this does not stop me to keep on going. My children became my partners in pursuing our collective vision to help create livelihood and sustainability in the Bunting Farm along with the communities that surround it. For more visuals and information, please visit our social media pages: The Bunting Farm: facebook and Instagram

Artist-in-Residence: **Nida Dumsang** is a recognized pioneer in papermaking



in Northern Luzon, known for her environment friendly process that uses wood pulp and renewable plant resources to make paper. She co-founded Duntog and Km 6 Paper Mill 2000 in Baguio and Benguet. She has travelled overseas giving paper making and craft workshops and share her knowledge in paper-making.





GUILLERMO R RUIZ
President
RENE LEANDRO P EBRO
Secretary

Warmest greetings from Matindi Class of 1963. Wishing everyone to stay healthy and hydrated. Here are our event highlights beginning with our Alumni Homecoming happenings last February as told by Bob Manlongat and a personal note by Ardy Abaya.

PRESENTING, THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN JUBILARIANS ON BEHALF OF THE MAJESTIC JUBILARIANS OF PMA MATINDI CLASS OF 1963 WHO DID NOT MAKE IT TO BAGUIO:

"Seven members of the class attended the ALUMNI HOMECOMING last 18 February 2023. The MAGNIFICENT SEVEN were Pert Andaya, Ardy Abaya, Billy Enerio, Vince Roallos, Reggie Lacson, Boy Orevillo and Bob Manlongat. President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. was the guest of honor for the occasion. Being Diamond Jubilarians, Pert Andaya represented our class president, Bill Ruiz, as well as the whole class in receiving our Diamond Medallion from President BBM. The other six received their medallion from their respective wives and children. Maximum attendance of our widows was noted composed of Naty Laput, Virgie Aquino, Beth Arevalo, Aida Mayo, Ching Saavedra and Judy Valdez.

For us who made it to our alma mater as our last official participation felt melancholy and teary eyed as the cadets passed in review.

Here's my media interview transcript.

Question One:

How do you feel being a Diamond Jubilarian?

Robert Manlongat:

I am happy and proud that I have reached this far in my career. I have surmounted the hardships, risk of life, the ups and downs of soldiery and being away from my family while being assigned in the field. The soldier's heart is distinct yet awesome.

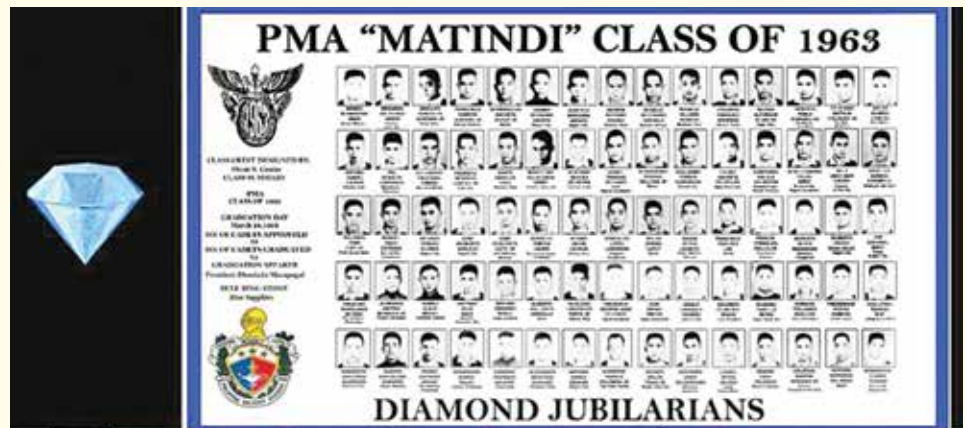
Question Two:

What is your secret of your long life?

Robert Manlongat:

Liberal discipline. You can do anything, eat and drink anything, adventure on anything as long as it is done in moderation.

Baguio trip continued: To cap the weekend celebration, a sumptuous dinner was served in Le Monet Hotel organized



PRES. FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.'s ATTENDANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY (PMA) ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2023



by Baguio Mistahs Bob and Pert and generously supported by Rudy Javier, our class treasurer. Candon Mayor and Mrs. Eric Singson, owners of the hotel, were there to welcome us.

Finally, I brought back and shared the memories of that unforgettable event by producing an audio visual presentation entitled FLASHBACK OF DIAMOND JUBILARIANS IN PMA 2023 where the

other members of the class viewed the nostalgic event in PMA during the Diamond celebration of our graduation last 24 March." - Robert Manlongat

"I went up to Baguio to attend the Alumni Homecoming along with Diamond Jubilarians of PMA Class 1963 together with my wife Beth and the whole family of my two daughters, respectively. My oldest daughter Leah and husband Earl who belongs to the host class of 1993 brought along their four children. My younger daughter Lynn and her husband Charles took their three children. It felt really good to enjoy the occasion as well as spend time to go around Baguio and take lots of photos with my wife, kids, sons-in-law and grandkids. We went home noontime of 19th February Sunday. All was well that ended well." - Ardy Abaya

IN LOVING MEMORY:

We're sad to announce the demise of our Mistahs Rolly Espejo last February, Fred Pflieder and Lilia Duldulao last April. We will always remember those who have gone before us in our thoughts, hearts and prayers.

24 MARCH 2023

We celebrated our 60th Graduation Day Anniversary at the Philippine Navy Golf Club. It was a year ago when we first gathered again after the lockdown. Everyone was filled with joy to commemorate this day. Friendship and food brought us together even on a warm sunny day.

In attendance were Bill and Norma Ruiz, Billy and Rose Enerio, Ardy and Beth Abaya, Aida Mayo, Beth Arevalo, Rudy and Offie Javier, Reggie and Marga Lacson, Frank and Annabelle Adriano, Cire and Josie Cirera, Naty Laput, Estela Andaya, Virgie Aquino, Pert and Inday Andaya, Bob and Yayang Manlongat + Herbie and Melanie, Danny and Nena Delgado, Filong Pante, Gaps Sabarre, Ching Saavedra, Gie Aquino, Ebor and Flor Ebro + Mymel, Monet Ong, Cora Blancas, Boy Orevillo, and Jimmy Ileteo.

1 MAY 2023

Holiday gathering at the Philippine Navy Golf Club for fellowship over food, stories to share as well as reflections and class updates.

In attendance were Ardy and Beth Abaya, Aida Mayo, Beth Arevalo, Rudy and Offie Javier, Frank and Annabelle Adriano, Cire and Josie Cirera, Naty Laput, Estela Andaya, Pert and Inday Andaya, Bob and Yayang Manlongat + Herbie, Danny and Nena Delgado, Bill and Norma Ruiz, Filong

1 May 2023 Navy Golf Club Lunch



Pante, Gaps Sabarre, Ching Saavedra, Virgie Aquino and Ebor Ebro + Mymel.

CAPTURED MOMENTS IN A PHOTO:

Acknowledging a combination of snapshots from Inday Andaya, Marga Lacson, Herbie Manlongat (especially for the awesome audio-visual presentation) and Mymel Ebro to make this matinding entry possible. Greatly appreciate the time, efforts and editing. Visual images append and give more meaning to our story!

HEADS UP EVENT FOR THIRD QUARTER 2023:

Till we meet again on 23 July 2023 for Danny Delgado's 85th birthday!

SECOND QUARTER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS:

Enjoy your new octogenarian number! Cheers!

April: 4 - Dante Cruz; 9 - Rolly Roallos; 29 - Ningning Tillah

May: 3 - Avelino Noble; 4 - Lino Medina; 17 - Angie Villamor; 25 - Susie Sabarre

June: 3 - Baby Domondon; 7 - Bob Manlongat; 7 - Gie Aquino; 8 - Maning Estrada; 10 - Marga Lacson; 29 - Brenda Ito; 30 - Fred Pflieder

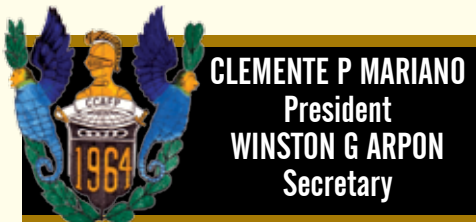
ForEBOR NOTEWORTHY NOTES:

May you always remain hearty and hale, happy and healthy! In all your endeavors, forEBOR cheering you on! Thank you for patiently reading all my entries all these years.

This is Rene Leandro Piccio Ebro also known as Ebor, forEbor, the class secretary since 1963.

A snappy salute, a firm hand shake and multifold of thanks! (18121605)

24 MARCH 2023: 60th GRADUATION DAY ANNIVERSARY



April

09/1980 – Jim Vandevoort
21/1935 – Buddy Peran
30/1942 – Sophie Dino

May

21/1946 – Sandy Reyes
22/1976 – Nida Garcia

June

20/1941 – Rolly Pabellano
22/1938 – Louie Bareng
26/1941 – Rene Garcia

WEDDING

May 18, 2012 – Rene and Nida Garcia



59th Graduation Ceremony Celebration – PN Golf Club, March 21, 2023

In attendance: Rey and Sandy Reyes; Billy and Beth Villareal; Arfs Arpon; Rene



Host Jim Vandevoort and guest/greeter Cav Ferdinand Golez '76.



Garcia; Glo Valeros; Jim Vandervoort. Clem Mariano missed the event due to conflict in schedule. Ding Odonon was unable to attend at the last moment. Jimmy Valeros was in town but had to hurry back to Baguio City. Guests for the occasion were Cavaliers Ben Lim '54 and Augustus Paiso '56. Greeters included Cavs Toto Golez '76, Bong Golez '79, Jun Rosario '96, and Leo Dimoc '96.

PMA Alumni Homecoming Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, February 17-19, 2023

Rey Reyes, with Sandy, drove to Baguio City to attend, and, in the process see for himself the part of the Saturday parade and review honoring this year's Diamond Jubilarians, our yearlings, the Class of 1963. Of course, an inevitable, automatic visit with Baguio residents Jimmy and Glo Valeros.



Underclass GREETERS



MEMORIES - 55TH Anniversary – Rey Reyes; Arfs Arpon; Jim Vandervoort; + Guzi de Guzman +; Clem Mariano; Woodrow Estrera+ Terry de la Cruz +; Tony Aguilar; Orly Cabanlig +; Billy Villareal; Jorge Agcaoili+



Diamond Jubilee - Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, February 16-17, 2024

It was an opportune trip and of great benefit to the class in its preparation for our class, next year's Diamond Jubilarians. In the absence of Clem Mariano, Rey Reyes, as Class VP, convened immediately after the 59th graduation anniversary at PNGC, a meeting with next year's Diamond Jubilee as the only agenda. Decisions were reached on practically all issues on class preparations for the event, to include transport, accommodations, uniforms, and budget, among others. A few days thereafter after these matters were disseminated, a roll call/show of hands was conducted.

Culled from US-Canada Class Call Coordinator Jorge Agcaoli

Always mindful that reporting on our mistahs here abroad may enhance the image of the concerned individual and adding prestige to our Class as a whole, I regret I may have been remiss. (No



apology necessary, none taken – Class Call). Anyway, in a nutshell, here goes: Louie Bareng and Andy Pabellano dealing with health issues. Been trying but unable to connect with Jun Padillain Canada, Tagoy Dino already announced he and Sofie will attend our Diamond Jubilee. Am pleased to be receiving emails from him and the good news that after successful knee surgery, he is now regularly doing conditioning exercises like long walks, swimming, and extensive dancing. Likewise, Sofie has successfully endured and overcame several health concerns for many years now. She and Tagoy are gladly back to wowing Chicago Filipino parties with their dancing prowess.

Laughter II

They have been in very close collaboration for several months now – Jim Vandevoort and Arfs Arpon with Francisca de Zwager of Joyful Business SOLUTIONS, Laughter II, the 2nd printing of Laughter in the South/Footnotes to the Southern Philippines Conflict may finally find print this year, sooner than later.



Class President Clem Mariano

He had an appointment with the French embassy in connection with his trip abroad. Class Call has asked him for and hopes to receive and account of this first trip with his family since his last to western and central Europe.



Fearlessly, and, proudly spelling out his full identity thusly, Col. Leonardo O. Odoño (Ret), PMA Class of 1964, Filipino, he's not giving up, continuing his charge initiated recently, charge vs the COMELEC - no pun intended: an impeachment case against the Comelec Commissioners for culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of the public trust. The Articles of Impeachment which specify the grounds for impeachment will be filed with Congress when Congress returns from recess. @waga/cc64-2302





MIGUEL A LEONARDO
President
EVERLINO P NARTATEZ
Secretary

The pandemic has really affected many Class socials, reunions and get togethers. The first class activity after three years of the pandemic was our Get together affair last July 2022 which was timed for the presence of Mulawin Mon Azurin and spouse Nory, and the number of attendees was not as much as we would have wanted and so with the two succeeding Get togethers last December 2022 and the 2023 1st quarter and 2nd quarter fellowships last February 8, 2023 and April 20, 2023, respectively. The latest get together was timed to honor the presence of JOEY MENDOZA who was here on vacation after some years and MON AZURIN and spouse Nory who were here for the retirement of his nephew PGen Rodolfo S Azurin Jr, PMA CI '89, as Chief Philippine National Police. Joey is based in down under Australia while Mon and Nory are based in LA since 1986.



Our traditional memorial mass offering at the St Ignatius Cathedral in CGEA QC, which we have always scheduled on the first week of January, was done this year last February 8. This Memorial mass was offered for our deceased classmates PMA MULAWIN CLASS 1965 as well as to our

deceased Mulawinettes: 1. PCOL Rolando N Abadilla; 2. PA Col Edgardo Q Abesamis; 3. PCol Bernardo R Alejandro; 4. PMaj Gen Warieto A Capitan; 5. PA Capt Antonio A Daza; 6. PCol Rodrigo S de Guzman; 7. PA Maj Gen Emilio B de Leon; 8. RAdm Manuel L de Leon; 9. P1st Lt Pedro S Domingo; 10. PA Brig Gen Samuel T Dunque; 11. PCol Francisco C Fernandez, Jr; 12. PMaj Gaudencio B Gaddi, Jr; 13. PA Col Herminio L Limon, Jr; 14. PAF Col Renato L Lintao; 15. PAF 1st Lt Ferdinand S Llapitan; 16. PN Capt Romeo L Malig; 17. PM LtCol Lito D Monta; 18. PMaj Gen Alfonso M Mora; 19. PLT Eduardo C Nepomuceno; 20. PCol Wilfred A Nicolas; 21. PA Brig Gen Danilo P Olay; 22. PA Capt Antonio O Ortiz; 23. PA Lt Gen Romeo A Padiernos; 24. P COL Michael C Perena; 25. Commodore Rex C Robles; 26. PBrig Gen Tirso L Rosal; 27. PAF Lt Col Ignacio A Santos; 28. PN Capt Primitivo S Solis Jr; 29. PN Cdr Rogelio M Umali; 30. Commodore Constancio T Velasco Jr, and Mulawinettes 1. Linda C Acenas; 2. Ma. Luisa Alejandro; 3. Rulina Capitan; 4. Lorna G Chee; 5. Teresita de Guzman; 6. Evelyn delos Santos; 7. Blanquita Leonardo; 8. Sylvia Lintao; 9. Jana Mora; 10. Leticia Padiernos 11. Primitiva Rimando; 12. Violeta Santos; 13. Juanita Solquillo; 14. Melecia Tapia; 15. Jane Albano Nartatez; and, 16. Esther A Velasco.

As in previous Alumni Homecomings, which is one of the many memorable traditions in the PMA community, this year 2023 is no different from previous years homecomings in terms of our class presence as the MULAWIN CLASS has always been represented and this 2023 there were four (4) in attendance and





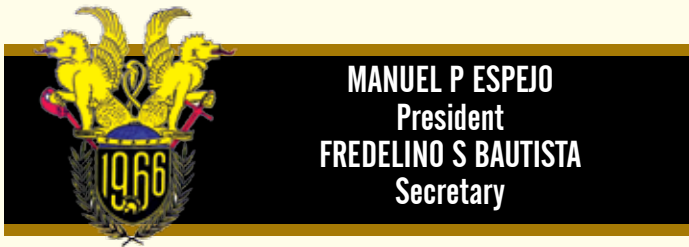
had even joined marching in cadence, in the trooping of the line as if they are not yet octas . Three are deltans -- Enri Bulan; Ofring Marcelo and Tates Nartatez and the other one is Alfán - Doming Habos. These attendees were joined by their OAO's: Lita Marcelo, Lynn Nartatez and Mimi Habos. In two years time, our class will be the most senior host class in the alumni homecoming 2025 and so this early, we would like to remind all that we would be THE DIAMOND JUBILARIANS and hopefully we will have the same number of attendees as we had during our Golden Jubilee in 2015 less the following: Romy

Padiernos; Rex Robles; Ed Abesamis; Willy Nicolas; Tirso Rosal; Bangbang de Leon; Mike Perena; and Tony Daza who in the interregnum have joined our 22 other Mulawins as advance parties in the Great Beyond.

To honor Classmates who are vacationing here for a short period of time, the class schedules a fellowship get together party. So last April 20, 2023, we held a lunch buffet at the NIU Resto in The Podium, ADB Ave., Mandaluyong City. This was purposely to honor JOEY MENDOZA and MON AZURIN and MULAWINETTE NORY AZURIN. The

attendees included four Junior Mulawins: JunJun Abadilla; Raffy Alejandro; Joel Azurin; Roslyn Monta and Nel Duque. The Mulawin attendees were: Mary Rose Monta; Ofring and Lita Marcelo; Berlie and Lynn Nartatez; Bert and Dona Acenas; Roger and Gloria Bergado; Pat and Baby Duque; Lito Tapia; Egay and Dina Velasco and Pepe delos Santos and of course the Honorees --- MON AND NORY AZURIN and JOEY MENDOZA.

And before I end this CLASS CALL , I am belatedly greeting the CLASS a Happy 57th Graduation Anniversary (just to remind all that we graduated March 28, 1965).



PAMBUNGAD

Natutuwa kami sa klase sapagka't sa loob ng tatlong buwan sa taong ito ay dumami ang mga okasyon na nagkatipun-tipon kami. At marami pa ang mga dumalo, kung ihahambing sa taong 2022. Ang ibig sabihin, ay nagagapi na ng bansa ang COVID-19. Sa malayong tanaw, handa na kaming umakyat sa Baguio upang ipagdiwang ang ika-60 taong anibersaryo ng aming pagtatapos sa PMA noong ika – 20 ng Marso taong 1966. Parang kailan lamang. Sa isang iglap nawala ang aming kabataan.

Ipagpatawad ng aking mga mistah at mga esposo, na sa siping ito ng The Cavalier Magazine, isusulat ko sa Pambansang Wika – ang Filipino (Hindi Tagalog).

MGA MASAYANG PANGYAYARI

Uunahin ko ang mga pangkaraniwan. Ito ang tinatawag naming ehersisyo sa umaga – ang paglalakad mula sa aming mga bahay sa West Rembo at East Rembo, patungo sa lugar na napagkasunduan naming mag-agahan, tuwing Lunes, Miyerkules, Biyernes at Sabado sa Denny's, Nonas, Mannan (paminsan-minsan), at Coffee Beans. Pagkuhanan ng pension (ika – 16 ng buwan), sa Larry's Restaurant sa Boni High Street, Global City. Ang tawag namin sa grupo: walking/ coffee group. Yung mga esposo naman, mayroon din silang church group – yung nagsisimba sa umaga sa malapit ng St Michael's Cathedral.

Paborito nila – Denny's restaurant sa Uptown, Global City. Gustong gusto sila ng mga taga silbi ng order kasi galante sila mag tip (tulad din naming mga lalaki). Ang mga sumusunod ay mga impormal na pagtitipon na di pangkaraniwan ang dami ng mga dumadalo:

a. Pagtitipon ng mga isinilang noon Marso na ginananap noong ika – 16 ng Marso sa Six Doors Restaurant, Uptown Mall.



b. Pagdiriwang ni Gerry Cunanan sa ika-80 kaarawan niya noong ika-9 ng Abril sa Mckinley Hills Village Clubhouse.



c. Naantalang pagdiriwang ni Fe Cuison sa kanyang kaarawan na ginanap sa Butejyu, Market Market, noong 15 April. Special guest ang kanyang anak na si Rear Admiral Ferrous Cuison, Commander ng PN Reserve Command.



d. Pagdiriwang ni Class President Noli Espejo ng kanyang muling ika – 80+ na kaarawan sa Niu Restaurant, Aura noong ika – 18 ng Abril.



Sa lahat ng mga kaganapang ito, hindi bababa sa 25 ang mga dumalo. Dahil sa limitasyon sa space, hindi na nating isinulat ang mga pangalan ng mga dumalo. Tiyak, mamumukhaan sila sa mga larawan.

MGA NAGDIWANG/MAGDIRIWANG NG KAARAWAN

Abril – Gerry Cunanan (06), Rudy Eco (06), Manuel Espejo (18), Luz Baylon (07), Edna Gopilan (10), Fe Sabularse (13), April Fernandez (21).



May – Rey Gopilan (29), Tony Romero (03), Raul Urgello (05), Simeon Cruz (22), Magdalena Atienza ().

June – Andy Andres (01), Buds Perez (05), Bert Sabularse (08), Rec Sarmiento (27), Roly dela Cuesta (05), Elsie Rivera (09), Edna Bello (12), Dee Cagurangan (13), Agie Bantolo (23), Estrella Reodica (14).

Maligayang kaarawan, mga Octo-super teenagers!



ANSELMO S AVENIDO JR
President
RUFINO G IBAY JR
Secretary

CLASS ACTIVITIES

A. With the COVID situation in Metro Manila down to a very manageable level, we were finally able to hold the following schedule for the January - April 2023 period:

12 January – Dimasupil Monthly Forum (DMF) hosted by Jun and Agnes Avenido, Bobby and Penny Lastimoso, and Joseph and Reina Young in NIU-Viking Resto, Podium Mall, Mandaluyong City. Edsel and Toto Salvana, who were supposed to be co-hosts, could not yet leave Cagayan De Oro City due to his still delicate health.

17-18 February – PMAAAI Annual Convention in Baguio City Convention and Cultural Center and Annual Alumni Homecoming Parade in PMA, respectively. Our Class was represented by Jun Ibay and Louie Sanchez in both activities. We hope to resume “normal programming” in 2024.

19 February – DMF hosted by Congressmen Mannix Dalipe (Majority Floor Leader) and Dionix Dionisio in the Buffet Resto, Solaire Resorts, Paranaque City. Mannix is the son of Manny and Maryrose, while Dionix is the son of Ernie

and Dinsay. We have observed by the way they conduct themselves that these young Congressmen are obviously as good as their fathers. We had with us Warlie and Mila Sadiarin who just came from Virginia, USA where they reside.

19 March – DMF and celebration of our 56th Graduation Anniversary hosted by Manny Dalipe, Jun and Ronnie Ibay, and Nic and Glo Parena at the AFP Museum, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Pol Aliac, who is based in California, USA and elsewhere in the universe, was able to join us.

27 April – DMF hosted by Alice Averilla, Ernie and Dinsay Dionisio, Linz Gabuna, Rody and Graise Gaerlan, Mar and Mely Gatmaitan, Judith Pajaro, and Bert and Ruby Torres in NIU-Viking Resto, Podium Mall, Mandaluyong City. Libbie and Arleen Brawner, who came from Washington, USA where they are based, attended the affair.

B. The following will be our schedule for May - June 2023, onwards:

May - DMF to be hosted by Pol and Norma Aliac and Tante and Prosy Torrechante.

June - Joint DMF for June and July to be hosted by Abe and Cora Din, Hedy Duenas, Louie and May Sanchez, and Ross and Mandie Sibal for the June group; and Vic and Delia Laurilla, and Jovy and Baby Sales for the July group.

August - Joint DMF for August and September to be hosted by Sergs and Zeny Austria, Fred Encarnacion, Ed and Myrna

Espinosa, Vir and Marina Odulio, and Mar and Beth Santiago for the August group; and Jake Caruncho, Merle Odi, Vlady and Josie Olivares, and Elen Reventar for the September group.

UPDATES ON THE DIMASUPILS

On 18 March 2023, Ben Libarnes passed away in Diliman Doctors Hospital, QC where he was rushed after suffering from a heart attack. His remains were brought to the Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary for the wake on 21-24 March. The necrological service was held in the Cathedral on 23 March wherein Jun Avenido and Jun Ibay were among the speakers. Full military arrival and departure honors were provided by GHQ elements led by the Camp Commander, BGen Armand Arevalo '91, the son-in-law of Jun and Agnes Avenido. Cremation was done in Arlington Crematorium on 24 March. The schedule of inurnment will be announced accordingly. We pray for his eternal rest in the bosom of the Almighty. May God comfort Lea and family in this trying time of bereavement.

The inurnment of Romy Odi was conducted on 11 March 2023 at the Odi Mausoleum, Loyola Park, Marikina City. He died on 28 January 2021 in the ICU of a Metro Manila hospital due to sinus cancer, at the height of COVID.

The burial of Orly Tucay was held on 31 January 2023 at the LNMB, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. He died on 22 August 2020 at VMMC where he was transferred after

suffering from a heart attack, at the onset of COVID.

Congratulations to Jun Avenido and Jun Ibay on their reelection as Trustees of the PMA Foundation Inc (PMAFI) for 2023-2025. During its organizational meeting, the Board reelected Jun I as Chairman, PMAFI and Jun A as Chair of the Policy Formulation Committee.

Congratulations also to Manny Dalipe for having been awarded as the Breeder of the Year 2022 by the Zamboanga Gamefowl Breeders Association, local chapter of the International Federation of Gamefowl Breeders. This is his third award, having received the said award also in 2013 and 2018.

The Panacan Pier in Davao City has been named as the Manuel Feranil Pier. This is an honor not only for him but also for our Class.

Recently, we received the following message from Lita De Guzman regarding Alex: *"Continued pa rin yung medication nya sa high blood, heart, diabetes, and a little of dementia."* Let's continue praying for him.

We also received the following message from Vldy Olivares last February: *"I got confined in Fatima Antipolo Hospital with severe asthma and mild heart attack."* When we saw him last 19 March at the AFP Museum, he appeared to have fully recovered. He extended his thanks to us for our prayers.

UPDATES ON OUR FAMILIES

We had not known that Lettie Baula died on 16 April 2021 until we accidentally learned of her death during the inurnment of Romy Odi last 11 March. Ross Sibal was standing in front of the tomb of the Baula Family when he noticed the name of Lettie together with the name of Cesar. May she rest in peace in the bosom of the Almighty.

We convey our heartfelt condolences to Vir and Marina Odulio and family on the death of his sister Estrella Odulio Owen in New Zealand last February. May she rest in peace in the infinite grace and goodness of our loving Father in Heaven.

Alice Averilla celebrated her 75th birthday with a bang on 14 April 2023 in an events place in Quezon City with her family and friends. Food was abundant, music was good, "roasting" speeches were funny, and dancing was lively.

Prosy Torrechante suffered a mild stroke on 19 January 2023 and was confined for four days in the ICU of Fatima Antipolo Hospital. She is now under rehab and medication at home in the loving care of Tante.

Congratulations to Atty Gia Ibay, daughter of Jun and Ronnie, for overseeing the successful holding in the Philippines of the Earth Hour 2023 last March. Gia now heads the Climate and Energy Programme



Dimasupil Class 67 March 2023 Birthday celebrants in AFP Museum Jun and Ronnie Ibay, Manny Dalipe and Pareng and Glo Pareña with wife Glo and Pres Jun A and wife Agnes.

of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) - Philippines.

Congratulations also to Ross and Mandie Sibal for finally having their first grandchild. When Mandie comes home from USA where the grand daughter is, Ross will then be sleeping with a grandmother.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

Best wishes to the following Dimasupils and spouses who celebrate their birthdays in April, May and June: Alice Averilla (9 April), Nenie Abendan (12), Carol

Rigor (12), Bert Torres (16), Eve Villacorta (17), Rudy Gaerlan (18), Mar Gatmaitan (26), Dinsay Dionisio (28), and Mila Pinto (29); Auring Garcia (6 May), Agnes Avenido (7), May Garcia (15), Jun Gabison (24), Ida Aquino (28), and Meds Reyes (30); Tante Torrechante (1 June), Abe Din (15), Ross Sibal (16), Walter Briones (17), Beth Santiago (19), Louie Sanchez (21), and Cora Din (30).

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



Lunch blowout of Dimasupil 67 congressmen DALIPE and DIONISIO in Solaire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be informed that no Dimasupil won in the PMAAAI raffle last 17 February. Better luck next time!

The class approved last 19 March the Revised Guidelines on the Funding and Utilization of the Social Amelioration Fund (SAF) for Medical Assistance and Death Benefit. It covers eligibility, benefits, and contributions which all of us must be conversant with. This was published in our chat groups.

May we clarify again the purpose of our Dimasupil Monthly Forum (DMF). Contrary to what some of us may think, it is actually a periodic Class meeting, the main purpose of which is to disseminate information, to enhance camaraderie, and to exchange views on matters of mutual concern and interest. This has been going on for almost two decades already. The hosting is done on voluntary basis, mostly by birthday celebrators of the month. Attendance is also voluntary, depending on the availability of the members and spouses.

CLASS TRIVIA

Last February, we received the following message from Pol Aliac: *"I was so excited about our Solaire affair. I drove to the place alone. I arrived at 9:00 a.m. and asked the guards where the affair was. They seemed not to know so I thought I went to the wrong place and left."* Then last April, he again sent the following message: *"No wonder I was a finalist in Map Reading. I arrived at Vikings and crisscrossed the entire resto but failed to see or smell any Dimasupil, neither the Tagasupil. Sorry I missed again!"*

The following is an interesting conversation among Dimasupils with still bright ideas in their heads:

Bobby Lastimoso: *"Men with no interest in sex die earlier, according to a Japanese study."*

Bernie Patino: *"Sex is a physiological need of the human anatomy; just like food, sleep, and water. That is why the vow of celibacy by some religions is a farcical anomaly. Cords Cordero can explain*



scientifically the relationship between sex and very long life! (Marines need not explain, they just do it! Hahaha.)"

Mar Cordero: *"Ancient knowledge and modern science have long proven that sex (an essential function of all living things- including plants and microorganisms for the survival of the species) - triggers the secretion of 'feel good enzymes' in organisms especially of higher orders. A case in point (this is among men, but there are equivalents in women as well): A group of scientists of the University of Oxford made a research on a compound called spermidine - named for its presence in semen, where it was originally discovered. One of the scientists, a woman, also had experience as a sexologist in China, and was familiar with the ancient Taoist practices and beliefs around sexual arousal, intimacy*

and their health benefits. She also knew of Oxford research demonstrating that spermidine triggered autophagy, the body's inbuilt ability to renew and recycle cells, the foundation of life - and a youthful life - itself. So important is autophagy that Ohsumi Yoshinori, a Japanese scientist, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2016 for discovering its mechanism of action. A woman's 'after glow' after sex is not just a romantic concept, it has scientific bases."

Bernie Patino: *"The great Sage (Mariano Cordero ang kanyang 'is my name') has spoken, kaya no more debate. Just Do It ! (lots of sex, I mean). Ang pinagsawaang chicks ng Pulis at Marines, ipasa naman sa mga taga Army, Air Force at Navy! Hahaha."*

May God be with all of us and our families always!



ARTURO B CARRILLO
President
WILFREDO G NUQUI
Scribe

Our Feb 13, 2023 Class meeting and pre-Valentine celebration was participated by ten CMs and nine Class ladies who enjoyed

the company, food and dancing. Planned Class events in 2023, status of Class Fund and other matters were discussed. The Class had no representation in the Feb 17, 2023 Annual General Membership meeting in Baguio due principally to administrative challenges. Annual Meetings are recommended to be staged in Metro Manila as these are more participation-friendly especially to seniors and younger Classes.

Class President Art Carrillo joyfully celebrated his birthday on March 14, 2023 at the PEFTOK Korean War Memorial

compound, Taguig. Ten loyal CMs and 14 pretty CLs warmly greeted Art in person on his special day. We were joined by Art's former 51D colleagues and tennis friends including two former chiefs of staff who claimed to be graduates of 'Gazmin military academy'. Excellent music was provided by the 2nd Inf Div band and their three wonderful lady singers. Mel and Shirley rendered solo songs. Many thanks to Art for the joyful sharing. We all wish him to always stay healthy, cheerful and generous. CMs, families and friends are encouraged to visit the nearby PEFTOK

Museum and internalize its significance.

We happily celebrated our momentous 'emerald' 55th Class PMA graduation anniversary at Gloria Maris on March 22, 2023. We started with President Art's welcome statement and a thanksgiving prayer led by Willy:

"Dearest and merciful Lord our God, With your guidance and blessings, we celebrate today the 55th anniversary year of our graduation on Mar 24, 1968 as members of PMA Class 1968. Coming from all walks of life, You enabled us together in a special bondage which shall last in our lifetimes. Equally significant, you paired us with our respective ladies in loving bondage with our growing families. Accept our immense gratitude for Your most precious gifts of life, peace, health, faith, joy, hope and special friendship among us.

We remember and pray for our dear and departed 27 regular, associate and honorary Class members (CMs) and eight ladies. We seek Your blessings for the eternal repose and peace of their souls. We seek your healing especially of our CMs and ladies who face challenging health and other issues for their comfort, recovery and unending faith. Finally, Lord we seek your kindness, protection and mercy in the remaining years of Your gift of life and beyond. Amen"

The 55th graduation anniversary was highly participated in by 16 CMs and 16 CLs. By cadet company they are from Alfa: Nori and Candy Azcueta, Oscar and Gigi Cabaron, Sony and Luth Penilla, Cecile Canson, and Evelyn Erolin; Bravo (most attended as usual): Volts and Rhodie Gazmin, Rudy and Arlene Rabago, Hector and Peewee Tarrazona, Bobby and Purita Santiago, Alex and Shirley Costales, Rene Santos, Julie Ruiz, and Tita Pangan; Charlie: Willy and Isay Nuqui, Arthur and Paulene Juan, Art Carrillo and Mel Rosales; and Delta: Patrick and Bebot Madayag, Diomeng Villanueva, Cris Francisco, Tess Pangantihon, and Hilda Fajardo. Everybody had fun especially recalling cadet days and



Villanueva

post graduation social, exciting, funny and other bonding events. The joint Charlie and Delta table group which included Diomeng had the liveliest exchange of exuberant cadet, in-service and other stories.

Our Mistah Antonio 'Tony' Teodones Sierra passed away and joined our Creator on April 13, 2023. He was given full military honors before he was finally laid to rest in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija on April 17. Tony had a very colorful career in the Constabulary and Police. He is an exemplar of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, and exceptional Service to God, country and people. He was an active Rotarian and a source of unselfish assistance to Mistahs in need. His family provided extreme care with unequal love especially in senior years. He is survived by his wife Ledy, sons Antonio Jr, Ariel Antonio, Antonio Carmelo, Antonio Jayson, and grandchildren.

We all pray that Tony's soul rest in eternal peace.

A week later, our dear Diomedio 'Diomeng' Villanueva was likewise called by our Lord on April 30, 2023. After our graduation in March 1968, he pursued his successful Army career as a multi-competent and proven professional soldier in the service of our country. He was a CG, PA before serving as Chief of Staff, AFP on Mar 17, 2001-May 18, 2002. He was consistently jolly, amiable and very approachable. Class 1968 is extremely thankful for his genuine friendship and sharings. Heartfelt memories of his character and kindness were openly shared by Art C, Alex, Patrick, Ying and a close childhood friend. Diomeng is truly a lasting pride of Class 1968 and Tagudin, Ilocos Sur.

May his soul rest in eternal peace in the grace of our Lord as he joins his late and beloved wife Erlin. Their children Marikit, Jojo and Yumi with their families and grandchildren shall truly miss their faithful parental love and care.





JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JESUS B DULLER
Secretary

Tributes and Memories for PC Gen Vic Tiangco, Sr., the latest Suaviter to have left us to join our Creator and reunite with other Suaviteres who had crossed the great life divine and are now forming a reception line to welcome him in Heaven.

Mistah Vic Tiangco passed away today, 11 Apr 23! May he rest in eternal peace! I was lucky to have visited him at his condo a day before he was taken to the hospital. He was very lively and no sign that he was suffering from anything. He was even telling me that he was the care giver of Inday! – Ike Begonia.

What a shocking turn of events! RIP Vic and sincerest condolences to Inday and family. – Joey Syjuco.

I thought he was on the way to recovery!! Rest in Peace Mistah, Vic. God bless you. – Willie Wong.

My prayers for you dear friend and pinsan Vic. May God grant you eternal peace and happiness. Joyful moments will be my

memories when I visit my farm where our common hobbies are. – Benjie D.

Rest in Peace, Mistah Vic! Will always remember your patience and resourcefulness as Manager, Sounds of '69! So thrifty with

words but overflowing with Smiles and Nice Words, will always recall ALL those Christmas Parties you and Inday hosted for our class and Families! So long, Mistah... till we meet again.... Bobing Brillantes.



You are all invited to attend Vic Tiangco Sr.

Birthday and Remembrance Celebration on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at the Social Hall of The Makati Tuscany Condominium, 26th Floor 6751 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Mass is at 6:00 p.m. Dinner and socials begin 7:00 p.m. See you there!

Thanks to my Class 69 Titos. God bless you all. I hope to see most of you on Dad's birthday.

– Vic Tiangco, Jr.

Photos at The Makati Tuscany Condominium ...



Courtesy of Ingging Begonia

Our Suaviter Documentary: Dan and Emy Reventar's Family, Socials and Travels:



Young Dan and Emy Reventar ...

Dan and Emy with their kids and growing number of grandkids during the family holiday reunion at Rancho Cortez of Bandera, Texas – the cowboy capital of the world.



Meet the Norman Rockwell of the Suavites. PAF Pilot turned artist, Dan Reventar, the pride of PMA Class 69. Retirement has awakened his passion and delight to share to the world his inner artistic talent on canvas. Some of his paintings will be featured in our future issues, upon his consent, of course.

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Below is one of his artistic renditions in year 2010 which he bequeathed for the class thru Mistah Larry Mendoza. See captions.

During the class breakfast on 11 Nov 2011 at the Manila Polo Club, it was decided to donate the painting to Larry Mendoza in appreciation for PMA Class 1969 and its members - to be displayed at the main lobby of Estrella de Mendoza. At the back of Dan's painting has this inscription: "Hallelujah 2010 Acrylic on Canvas 36" x 48". From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the Name of the Lord is to be praised. Psalm 113.3".



Fun fellowship over with visiting Mistah Jimmy delos Santos and lovely wife, Lulu, over lunch at Maggiano's Little Italy, Memorial City, Houston, TX. Jimmy and Lulu were on their regular annual visit to Houston to reunite and bond with their daughter, Grace, and with her family.



Our New Orleans, Louisiana adventure with Jimmy and Ding Mauricio ('71): What a great morning in New Orleans. Beignets for breakfast. --- Emy Reventar FB posting July 2021.



Houston Ayers celebrating December birthdays for Emy Reventar and Ding Mauricio. Also merrymaking for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Feast Buffet at N. Fry Road in Katy, Texas, purportedly the largest buffet offering in Houston - featuring American, Chinese, Mexican and Asian dishes, from sushi to salads, and sashimi to desserts. Our large group of 12 was easily sat on one long table, for an evening of memories and stories of bygone days. L to R: Stan and Lolita David ('71); Dan and Emy Reventar ('69); Jimmy and Ding Mauricio ('70); Rudy and Puri Eco ('66); Ed Jonson ('70); Josie and Robert Laciste ('71); and displaying his PMA sweatshirt - Jake Caruncho ('67).

Their Adventures and Travels ...



On most recent vacation of the "barangay" to Cancun, Mexico. Left to right: Lily, Gabby, Tez, Iris and Toby, Dan and Emy, Yoko, Aya, Kelly and Kai, Kody, Angela, Nat, Karsten and Kaitlyn.



According to Author John Steinbeck, "Positano is a dream place that isn't quite real when you're there and becomes beckoningly real after you're gone." Dan and Emy couldn't agree more. Positano is a cliffside village in southern Italy's Amalfi Coast, a known holiday destination with pebble beachfront and steep, narrow streets lined with boutiques and cafes.



Exploring the pretty little town of Kennebunkport.



Lean on me, Tower of Pisa.



Among giant Sequoia trees



Giant bust of Mougin's famous resident, Pablo Picasso, welcomes visitors to the village. Mougin is a commune in the Alpes-Maritimes, South France.



With Mistah Jake and Sarla Duller of Chino Hills, California.





CLASS ACTIVITIES:

The following were the important events and special occasions in December 2022 and earlier months of 2023 that gave Magitings and mas Magitings plenty of chances for congregation and bonding:

1. Dec. 11, 2022 - MAGITING CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party was held at the PNGC clubhouse that was attended by a big number of Magitings and mas Magitings as it was the first opportunity to gather safely anew after easing of the dangers of COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed. The program included a prayer, singing by some with pleasant voices but spoiled by some "brave" mistahs, the remarks of RADM Edgardo Israel as the outgoing Class President and the acceptance remarks by MGEN Marciano Ilagan as the new President. Among the many sources of happiness, MGEN Ilagan emphasized in his short talk the two virtues of Generosity and Forgiveness as profound sources.

Like in previous Christmases, bantering and "kumustahan" took longer period capped by the exchange of gifts and giving to all attendees of goodies generously provided by Governor Jun and Mrs. Alma Ebdane, Sec Roy Cimat, Congressman and Atty. Romeo Acop, and PCol and Atty Teddy and Mrs. Beth Delarmente. The pack from the Delarmentes included a red-colored umbrella from their daughter, Dr. Doray Councilor of District 1 of the Quezon City.

2. Feb. 17, 2023 - INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF THE PMA BEACON

The blessing and Inauguration of the PMA Beacon was held on February 18, 2023. This was before the Alumni Homecoming. The beacon stands majestically on west side of the Parade Ground. All Magitings and Mas Magitings proudly attended the rite. The Guest of Honor was Honorable Cavalier Benjie Magalong, mayor of Baguio City. PMA Superintendent LT Gen Rowen S. Tolentino witnessed the affair. Special

guest Cav Charlie Tanega '62 was likewise present. Class President Cav Mar Ilagan assisted the good mayor in unveiling the beacon marker that bore the names of Class '70. The class expresses its endless gratitude of Magiting Jorge Consunji for his engineering firm.

3. Feb. 18, 2023 - ALUMNI HOMECOMING

The class to Baguio was full of fun on two buses that were provided by Magiting Bert Lina. The homecoming was well attended with the proper class uniform. It was a proud homecoming in the advent of the PMA beacon. After the homecoming parade, the class held its customary picnic among the alumni. That night the class took its dinner at the President Ramos Room at the Baguio Country Club. After breakfast the following morning everyone rode off to Manila.

4. FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH BDAY PARTY AND MEETING OF MAS MAGITINGS

a. Jan. 4, 2023 – With Alma Ebdane and Beth Delarmente as celebrators, the attendees had fine dining and good fellowship at the Kamameshi Restaurant in Greenhills with Gov. Jun Ebdane and many Magitings in attendance.

b. March 1, 2023 – Bday lunch and meeting at Vikings SM Aura for celebrators

Remy Gojo, Ludy Garcia and Nena Tagayuna and attended by a big number of mas Magitings.

c. Apr. 5, 2023 - With Bday celebrators Hermie Santiago, Len Ligot and Zayda Francisco, the lunch and meeting by mas Magitings took a longer time as it was attended by several Magiting golfers after a round of golf at PNGC.

5. OTHER BDAY CELEBRATIONS

a. ULY'S BDAY GOLF TOURNAMENT – March 29, 2023

Magiting Class 70 held a golf fellowship and dinner with raffle prizes courtesy of Atty. Ulysses Sevilla, one of the most active honorary members of Class 70. It was the occasion of his 64th birthday and that of NBI Deputy Director Jojo Yap held at the PN Golf Club. The fellowship games teed-off at 11:30 a.m. and regrouped at the Adm Octavio Hall for refreshments, dinner, singing, toasting and raffle. All attendees were given unique commemorative shirts making the celebration a very organized and homogenous group. Atty Sevilla's friends from the Justice Department, NBI, Bureau of Internal Revenue, political notables of Pasay and Marikina cities and Cavaliers from some classes attended the well-packed dining hall.

Golf prize winners were Ronel Abarra as Lowest Gross Champion and Sec Roy Cimat as Lowest Net Champion. Also



Honorable Cav Benjie Magalong unveiling the PMA Beacon marker assisted by Cav Mar Ilagan Magiting class president.

champions for Classes A, B, and C and their runners up as well as golfers making the Longest Drive, Most Accurate Drive, Longest Putt, and Nearest to the Pin were recognized and given prizes.

Star singers from the group were Tony Ilagan, Uy Sevilla and Carlo Carloman. Deo Macalma spiced the occasion with his "bubwit" witticisms. Overall, the gathering made way for bonding between officials from government agencies and private sector.

b. April 21, 2023 – BERT LINA'S BDAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Mistah Bert Lina celebrated his 75th birthday on April 21, 2023. For the last 30 years, Bert has been sharing his special day with close friends and associates by hosting a Golf Fellowship Tournament that has traditionally been hailed as the ADL Cup. The 30th ADL Cup was held at the Canlubang Golf Course. The Magiting '70 golfers joined more than 100 well wishers with Bert leading the flights on a ceremonial tee-off at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Showing once again their competitiveness not only in the raffle but in the game as well, Magiting golfer Eloy Garcia won the Class "C" champion trophy and three Magiting golfers won major prizes. We certainly look forward to the 31st ADL Cup next year and many more years to come.

6. March 14-16, 2023 - PLEASURE AND LEISURE TRIP TO POTIPOT RESORT OF PGEN AND GOVERNOR JUN AND WIFE ALMA EBDANE

The very beautiful, elegant and attentive Mrs. Alma Ebdane was on hand to welcome the group who travelled from Manila on March 14 on board the well maintained and fully air-conditioned



Magitings in their tailored jackets proudly marching on the hallowed parade ground of PMA.



At Canlubang during the birthday golf treat of Magiting Bert Lina. Standing L-R: Nesty Carolina, Bert Lina, Jack Ligot, Boots de Veyra. Seated, clockwise: Eloy Garcia, Nesty Santillan, Bert Tagayuna, Primo Esguerra, Vic Signey, Ed Israel and Ed Aglipay '71.



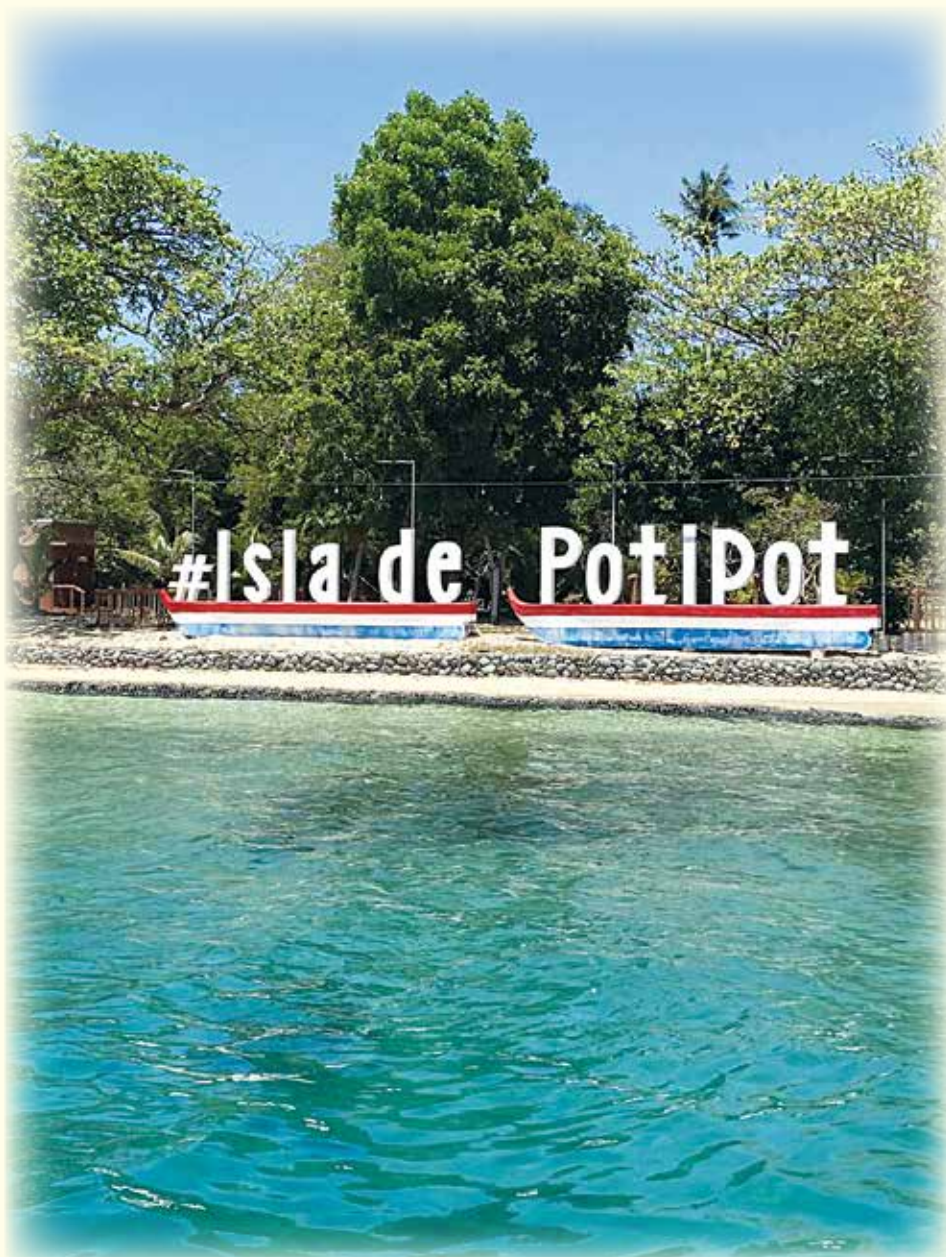
The Magiting Golf Squad. The low handicappers are not in the picture.



At Potipot Restaurant, from L-R: Clyde Fernandez, Rody Castro, Gov. Jun Ebdane, Jack Ligot, Sonny Atienza, Mar Ilagan and Danny Sta. Clara.



In front of cottages in Potipot, from L-R: Danny Sta Clara, Rod and Tess Castro, Len Ligot, Mar and Baby Ilagan, Alma Ebdane, Zayda Francisco, Nancy Lorenzo, Susan Fernandez, Emy De Veyra, Jessie Israel, Alice Parayno, Clyde Fernandez, Malou Visperas, Tess and Sonny Atienza and Jac Ligot.



coaster bus provided by the very generous Mistah Bert Lina. After the delicious lunch at the JAHRO Resto and Bar, (JAHRO - Acronym for Jun, Alma, Hera, Randy, Board Member of the Provincial Board, and Omar, the Mayor of Botolan Municipality), the group was immediately led to their respective rooms at the same two floor hotel-like building complete with air conditioning and private toilets and baths.

That afternoon, most of the mas Magitings enjoyed their beach walking for almost two kilometers though having some worries about sun burns. In the morning of Feb. 20, all guests were transported to the picturesque Isla De Potipot on board three speedboats for only less than ten minutes travel. Except for those with some impairments, everybody enjoyed swimming and wading at the very clean and knee-deep or waist-deep sea water and made use of the individually separated cottages for bathing and attire changing. Just like the other meals served, the beach goers had nutritious and delectable lunch at JAHRO with unlimited offerings of sweet and delicious Zambales mangoes. In the morning of Feb. 21, the seventeen Magitings and mas Magitings left for Manila with feeling of joy and contentment but with hesitancy as they would surely miss the comforts and pleasures available at the resort. And to add to the happy moments and wonderful experience, all the vacationers were handed several "pabaons" from the gracious resort owners.

We deeply appreciate though not at all surprised at how Gov Jun has transformed and developed and still developing the healthful island resort, knowing fully well about his achievements, his sterling qualities as a leader and a masterful planner. From the bottom of our hearts, we say THANK YOU and GODSPEED to Gov. Jun and Mrs. Alma Ebdane.

Tony Ilagan Birthday Golf Treat

A birthday golf treat organized by celebrator Magiting Tony Ilagan Deputy Regional Director, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Quezon City was attended by Magiting golfers, Class '82 and friends from NBI, BIR as well as masons. Music was provided by professional singers and a band of ladies. The celebration was capped by raffle prizes, good food and drinks. Specially designed golf t-shirts were distributed to all attendees.





JOSE C LALISAN JR
President
ARTHUR G BALMaceda
Secretary

February 2023 Homecoming Activities

Members of the Matatag bugo-bugos and their ladies went up to the City of Pines to grace the PMA Homecoming activities. Booked in different hotels, those

who went up attended the Alumni General Assembly at the Baguio Convention Center and at the PMA Alumni Parade and Awarding of the Cavaliers Awards and the PMA Heroes Award. Mistah Dick de Leon received his third Cavalier Award for Government Service while Mistah Greg Honasan received the Heroes Award for his effort as DICT Secretary, being a member of the National Anti-Covid Committee, during the epidemic period. Some mistahs were able to play also at the Pine Wood Golf Course where mistah Dong Tabamo made

a Hole-in-One at the par 3, hole number 9 of the course. The awarding of said golf play was done at the Baguio Country Club. Those who attended the Baguio affair were Egay and Mawie, Rollie and Malou, Rey V and Fim, Rey R and Gie, Joey and Celia, Oca and Jing, Sec Greg and Jane, Nelson and Chit, Rey Poca, Teody, Dong, Jun Fabric, Tex Balmaceda, Bing Alano, Twiggy, Rex, Dan and Rose Perico, Rochee Domingo, Miles Millena (who was in town coming in from Australia), DA Domingo, and Houy Tabanda.



Golf Fellowships, "Me" Times, and Tid Bits

The Hampaslupa '71 had made history in their improved games this quarter. HL '71 won against classes '70, '72, and '74. This could have been attributed to their weekly practices plus "pustahan" in the fairways of the Veterans, Villamor, Camp Aguinaldo, Navy, Beverly, and Canlubang. Class '72 is challenging the class again this coming Corp of '70s golf fellowship on

May 15th at the Navy Golf Course. There is also a planned Corp of '68 this coming June at the Veterans Golf Course and a coordination with classes '68, '69, 70, and players of the Hampaslupa'71 to prepare for the fellowship was done. Of course, the HL'71 team will be led by its Prexy Rey Acop and is composed of stalwarts Rex Piad, Egay Aglipay, Rey Rivera, Rey Velasco, Rey Alcasid, Jerry Albano, Joey Lalisan, Teody Viduya, Jerry Albano, Twiggy Zubia,

Marte Chioco, Ed Matillano, Oca Martinez, Dick de Leon, Nelson Eslao, Huoy Tabanda, and Dong Tabamo.

The Hampaslupa '71 also organized a golf fellowship for Doy Francisco who made a short visit coming in from Toronto, Canada this February, during the birthday of Teody last February 2, and the despedida on 27 March for Bing Alano who will go to the US to do "apostolic" work.

The Matatag ladies had their "me" time last 28 February at the Kalayaan Park



and some Matatags, who acted as drivers, were invited. The “me” time is usually scheduled by the ladies on quarterly basis for the birthday celebrators or to welcome mistahs and wives coming from abroad. Celebrators for this “me” time were Celia Lalisan, Gie Rivera, Lyn Molato, Rose Resplandor, Jo Galvez, and Tet Chioco. Those who graced the occasion were Greg and Jane, Beng Ibo, Rey V and Fim, Dan and Rose Perico, Rochee, Dong and Lulu, Joey, Rex and Jane, Rollie and Malou, Bay and Vicky Seron, and Jerry and Verna Albano. As usual, there were songs and dances presented by the ladies while the “drivers” were eagerly listening to Dong Tabamo who was explaining and demonstrating his swing that resulted to his first hole-in-one feat. Wow!

By the way, there will be a second quarter fellowship to be hosted by the birthday celebrants to be held on 04 June 2023 possibly at the Valle Verde IV. Further details will be announced later.

Celia and I had our “me” time with mistah Miles and Lucy Millena and Mistah Ruben and Diding Gange in Sydney,

Australia for a week from 16 to 23 April 2023. It was a productive visit considering the harbor tour and sight-seeing of the iconic Opera House and trips to the malls, the side trips to Bondi and Manly Beaches, the courtesy call to our Philippine Ambassador to Australia, Ambassador Hellen De La Vega in Canberra, the tour of the Australian Parliament and the War Memorial, and the tour of the Park of international churches, visit to the St Mary Cathedral plus a 9-hole golf game in one of the golf courses there.

Our congratulations to mistah Soc Brazil for having visited and toured the greatest number of countries so far. According to the email report of mistah Aris delos Reyes, Soc had visited 102 countries already.

Let us also congratulate mistah Rollie Garcia for his successful motor ride of more than 2,000 kilometers from Cebu to Mindanao and back tagging along with him his Mas Matatag Malou this month of April. Prior to this, he had recorded thousands of Kilometer rides in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Not even mistah

master rider Tiboe Fusilero could match Rollie’s feat. To Rollie, let us drink to that!

On the controversial MUP Pension Reform, true to form, our class experts Aris, Marte, Vic B, Sen Ping, and Rollie Malinis had expressed their opinions on the matter and the class recommendations were published in socmed already. A copy of the MUP Pension Reform suggestions is published here in this Cavalier Issue.

Farewell to Mistah Virtus Gil and Perla Zubia

Our condolences to Lita and the bereaved Gil family for the passing of our late mistah Virtus last 20 March 2023. Likewise, our deepest sympathies to mistah Twiggy and the bereaved Zubia family for the passing of their beloved Perla last 25 March 2023. May their souls rest in peace.

Quote for this issue

True contentment is measured not by how much we have, but rather by how much we enjoy what we have. Author unknown//JCL//1 May 2023



ARTURO C ALABANZA
President
CELSO G DE CASTRO
Secretary

Hello all.

It’s my pleasure to report the summary of Class activities for months of February to April 2023 for your pleasant and enjoyable reading. The brief monthly summary of specific events are as follows:

The Class was represented during the 2022 Homecoming by a token group composed of Vic and Boots Carag, Art and Carol Alabanza, Egay and Mila Paguio, Bing and Yoly Valencia, Jun and Mely Espino, Orly and Melba Buenaventura, Celso and Fe De Castro, Manong Ben, Willy Mejia and Rey Jucutan. They attended the Annual General Membership meeting at Baguio Convention Center last 17 Feb, then had a simple dinner and fellowship with MAS at Microtel. One of the highlights during the alumni parade was the awarding of the prestigious PMAAAI Lifetime Achievement Award to Mistah Jun Espino in recognition of his outstanding contributions to PMA and PMAAAI, as public servant, illustrious PNP officer, impressive performance in local



governance, humanitarian endeavors and his accomplishment as a lawmaker. The award was presented by President Bongbong Marcos, GOHAS.

The passing of our beloved Mistah, Eric Aurelio last 7 Feb was a big blow on our morale. We will remember him forever as

a dedicated and courageous officer, man of conviction; whose integrity, loyalty and courage is beyond reproach. Above all, he is a loving husband to Marivic and a caring Dad to his wonderful children. Rest in Peace Mistah Eric, we know you are now resting peacefully in heaven surrounded by “bed of roses.”



The new Board of Officers met last 09 March at PNGC presided by our new Prexy, Mistah Alabanza. The new Board of Directors introduced by the Secretary are: Art Alabanza (Chairman/President), Julius Yarcia (Vice President), Bing Valencia (Treasurer), Celso De Castro (Secretary), Jun Espino, Manny Teodosio, Monying Dizon, Pepe Vidad, Orly Buenaventura, Manding Naval, Egay Paguio, Celo Navarro and Rey Ochosa. Outgoing Prexy Orly Buenaventura, in his remarks, thanked the Directors for their unwavering support all the way. He then requested the Class Treasurer to brief the Board on the status and disposition of Class fund. In his response, Prez Art congratulated the outgoing Prexy, Mistah OG for the job well done. For the Class program of activities, Prez Art proposed the holding

of social activities (Breakfast Forum) monthly to be sponsored by birthday celebrators. Voluntary contributions from non-celebrators will be highly appreciated. The first forum was scheduled on 11 March at PNGC. Other agenda such as projected statement of sources and uses of fund to include financial control were also discussed during the meeting. (Note: Due to limited space, the minutes of the meeting will be posted in our VGCs).

Last 16 March, the PMAAAI PAF Chapter presented the Golden Jubilarian Award to Masigasig Flyboys in recognition of their significant achievements and distinguished services as outstanding Air Cavaliers, as seen in various capacities: whether as reliable military professionals or as responsible citizens of the Republic; for they have lived up to the Academy's

motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, principles upheld by its alumni for the past 50 years. Art Alabanza, Queeck Ebuen, Vic Carag and Celso De Castro personally received the awards. Unfortunately, other Flyboys were not around to receive the awards for various personal reasons. No other than LtGen Stephen P Parreno, Commanding General, PAF as Guest of Honor and Speaker presented the awards. (Incidentally, Gen Parreno was my former cadet when I was the Commandant). From the Masigasig Flyboys, we express our appreciation and thanks to Air Force leadership for the awards and warm reception accorded to us.

The first Breakfast Forum, a brainchild of Prez Art was held last 21 April from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at PNGC with a thanksgiving

mass officiated by Fr Renee from the Navy. After mass, the birthday and anniversary celebrators were blessed by the priest followed by the simple breakfast courtesy of the celebrators who contributed P31,000 collectively. To start the program later, Mas Carol Alabanza, Chairperson of Ladies Working Group, delivered her short opening remarks. Then the celebrators were called to the mini stage and were given a 24" by 36" blow-up Class pictures taken at the stairs of PMA Chapel, followed by blowing of candles and singing of birthday songs by the audience. The MAS celebrators were gifted with personalized jumbo cadet bears crafted by Carol. Widows in attendance were also given class pictures including Manong Ben and Mulong Narcida.

The first recipients of Masigasig Golden Service Awards were Bing / Yoly Valencia and Celso/Fe De Castro for their supreme sacrifices and meritorious years of service to the Class. A Plaque of Recognition was also presented to Orly Buenaventura for his leadership and invaluable services to the Class as President for CY 2021-2022.

In his remarks, Prez Art emphasized Class unity and renewed participation in all Class activities. He enjoined everybody to look forward to our remaining days as we continue to enjoy the blessings from the Lord. Lastly, he announced the schedules of incoming social activities as decided by the Class as follows: June (Camp Aguinaldo), August (PNGC), October (Camp Aguinaldo) and December Xmas Party at PNGC. Dates and venues to be announced later.

The first Breakfast Forum was an outstanding success with 43 Mistahs/Mas in attendance. We congratulate and thank our energetic President and members of Ladies Working Group headed by its Chair, Carol, for the splendid job. Kudos also to Egay and Mila Paguio for preparing the improvised altar and bringing a choir that made the Eucharistic celebration livelier; to MB for the delicious ham and tasty pandesal and to Ludy, our permanent and able emcee and bingo game organizer. Thanks also to the management and staff of PVB for info drive and a donation of delicious and crispy lechon. Rock Tor was responsible for their presence. Many thanks also to all celebrators and kind Mistah/Mas for their cash donations. Most importantly, we thank the Lord for bringing us together in the celebration of our first Breakfast Forum. God bless and stay safe and healthy.





GABRIEL B HABACON
President
DENNIS A SANCHEZ
Secretary

Our class prepared for the golden anniversary reunion one year in advance. VQ created a working committee which will help him in the successful celebration of this momentous event. George was in charge of hotel bookings, Christie for transportation, Sammy for the men's attire while Boy R and Tiks were tasked for the publication of the Golden Sword.

We went up to Baguio several times in order to insure that we will have a firm contract with two hotels, the Lafayette and the Baguio Country Club for our billeting for this momentous event.

(This is taken from the write up of Tiks Besas about our GA celeb for the GS). On the early morning of February 17, 2023, the convoy commander, Christie, convoy marshal, led three PMA buses to perry maagaps and their dependents from Manila to Baguio. One bus departed from the HPA grandstand and rendezvoused with the other two buses with Ed S as the bus commander at the PMA Center at Camp Aguinaldo. Upon arrival of the bus from HPA, a rearrangement of seating assignments was made to make it easy for passengers to check in their respective hotels. Those going to Lafayette took the Ft Bonifacio bus and the rest who were billeted at the Country Club took the other two buses.

Upon arrival at their hotels, they were greeted by a reception group composed of several Mas Maagaps. The rest of the afternoon and evening were spent by each on their leisure, as the big day awaits the next morning.

Saturday, Feb 18, 2023: our big day. An early breakfast at our respective hotels was served in order for us to be at the PMA grandstand by 7:30 a.m. Everyone was spic and span, sporting their black suit and khaki pants for the Maagaps and black and gold trimmed attire for the Mas Maagaps. Our dependents and guests were perked up as well, when we arrived at the vicinity of the grandstand. It was a blast as we exchanged pleasantries with upperclassmen and underclassmen whom we met. This was a very special homecoming as it was the first time since the COVID-19 lockdown that the PMA was opened to the public with less stringent requirements.

It was not quite a long wait compared to previous homecomings as the guest of honor and speaker, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. arrived shortly escorted by our own Ambassador VQ. The CCAFP as usual exhibited precision skills in parade and ceremonies. The highlight for us came with the donning of the Golden Medallions on the Golden Jubilarians by our spouses, followed by the trooping of the line. The Maagaps came in full force and were applauded and loudly cheered by the lower classes when we passed their staging areas along the trooping route. That was really an exhilarating feeling, what with our age and physical condition.

A sumptuous lunch followed with dependents and guests. To honor our departed mistahs, a video presentation produced by Tiks in collaboration with Tony B and the working group was shown. Although the intent of the video was to remember happy moments with our

beloved, most of the audience were teary eyed after the presentation, tears of joy. This was followed by the presentation of Plaques of Remembrance, a token of appreciation for the service of our fallen comrades and a solemn vow that they will not be forgotten. VQ and George presented the plaques to the widows and orphans of our departed Mistahs, who were greatly moved by this gesture.

Culminating our Big Day was a dinner dance at the Lafayette ballroom. With their black suits and evening gowns, the Maagaps and Mas Maagaps looked like stars parading for Oscar awards. It was an awesome sight to behold, with a well prepared ballroom decorated by roses all around and smartly dressed people moving up and down. Before the dinner started, VQ opened the activity with his remarks followed by Alan who explained the significance of the "Empty Table" set at the center stage for our fallen comrades





who can only join us in spirit. Dinner and dancing followed. Music was provided by a popular band in the City of Pines. They had prearranged repertoire of oldies but goodies developed by Bong H that was very well suited to the taste of the audience. Adding spice to the moment was the fabulous duet of Bob A and Janet. They belted old times favorites. Hot darn were served aplenty. The 'singles' led by Tina Geslani, Belle Dimabuyo, Joy Sacdalan, and the rest of the gang with Des Datu taking center stage, crashed the dance floor. The night continued with George leading a group dance that led to the line dancing spectacle initiated by Bob A as lead dancer. It was a night to remember, with the audience wanting for more after the band stopped playing.

A number of Maagaps and Mas Maagaps attended mass at the Cadet Chapel at Fort Del Pilar with the cadets led by VQ that Sunday morning, 19 Feb, completing the three day celebration of Maagap Golden anniversary in Baguio. (This is the Maagap Class of 1973 Golden Jubilee Celebration written by Tiks Besas for our Golden Sword).

On 25 March 1973, we graduated from the Philippine Military Academy. We had a very sumptuous lunch at the SND Mess of the AFPCOC to celebrate 50 years after finishing our studies at the PMA last 26 March 2023. We gave Tito his Gold Medallion since he was not with us in Baguio. Judith donned his medallion. Sid was also given by the class a plaque of recognition for the high government positions he had after retirement. Lastly, VQ was recognized for leading the class towards our Golden anniversary. Mayeth was also given a gift. We are looking forward for more of our fellowship activities.



AVELINO I RAZON, JR
President
WILFREDO V GARCIA
Secretary

The Road to 2024: The Homestretch

In July 2021 the class started preparations for the Golden Jubilee year of PMA Marangal Class 1974 in 2024.

"It is the journey of a lifetime."

Today, we have rounded the final turn and are running flat out into the homestretch.

It has been an exciting journey and promises to be more exciting as Homecoming 2024 approaches.

Foremost was the attempt to create a special Golden Jubilee edition of The Sword. We called this the Golden Sword Project. First step was to contact not only each member (including associate and honorary members) but also the relatives of the departed mistahs. The idea was to give each member two pages of the Golden Sword for them to put in pictures, quotes and anything and everything that will cement their legacy for their posterity. A chapter was also dedicated to pictures thru the years, of members and of the class. Another chapter was for articles and reminiscences from members.

Today The Golden Sword of PMA Marangal Class 1974 has been put to bed and in the process of printing.

Another major project is the viewdeck that the class will donate to the PMA. This will be the Marangals' concrete manifestation (pun intended) of their gratitude to the PMA for making them who they are today. The viewdeck is now complete structurally and work on the finishing has started. With God's grace, we pray that all of us can be together for our Homecoming 2024 boodle fight on this viewdeck.

These two major projects required funds to undertake and complete and that had been the main pre-occupation of the class since before the pandemic. The class completed several fund-raising projects that included golf tournaments and contributions from members.



Even early on, these projects have already provided dividends to the class. There was renewed class awareness and cooperation. Everybody helped in preparing each other's two-page spread. After all, many are not tech-savvy in terms of photo-editing and layouting. With the help of each other, we hurdled this challenge.

On April 01, 2023, the Marangals will have a re-enactment of the day they first met each other while riding the bus from Camp Aguinaldo to Fort Del Pilar. They even invited a few DI's from the Philippine Marines to complete the re-enactment.

Indeed, the road to 2024 had been challenging and full of surprises. Thankfully, the surprises have been pleasant and uplifting. We still have a year to go and our efforts are now geared towards making sure that our homecoming attire will still fit us in February 2024. Now that is really a challenge!

Class 1974 April 1, 2023 Trip To PMA

1. Members of PMA Marangal Class of 1974 commemorated their 53rd Anniversary of their reception as first year cadets of the PMA on April 1, 2023, Saturday at the Philippine Military Academy, Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City. It was supposed to have been done last April 1, 2020 (50 years) but due to the COVID -19 pandemic lockdown, it was not pushed through. They were joined by seven (7) Philippine Marine Corps Drill Instructors and PMA cadets.

April 1, 2023

0530H – Assembly, photo ops and loading of buses at grandstand Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

0600H – Departure of two Victory Liner buses for PMA, Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City.

0600H – Arrival at Melchor Hall, formation by four platoons/reception with seven PMAR DIs. Photo ops with Melchor Hall as background. Presentation of tokens to the seven Philippine Marines DIs.

1100H – Formation by four platoons/reception with "former upperclassmen." Photo ops at the road in between Melchor Hall and Regis Hall with Regis Hall as background.

1130H – Proceeded to Erosion Control by bus, formation by four platoons/reception with seven PMA cadets. Photo ops at Borromeo Field with "Courage, Integrity, Loyalty" as background and presentation of tokens to the cadets.

1200H – Proceeded by foot to inspect view deck project.

1230H – Lunch at Longayban Hall.

1430H – Departure for Manila by bus.

1830H – Arrival at the grandstand
Camp Aguinaldo.

2. Organizing Committee:

President – Sonny Razon
Secretary – Willy Garcia
Treasurer – Gene Cedo
Director of Ceremonies – Bong Franco
Bus Coordinator – Ernie Belen
PMA Coordinator – Ace Tolentino
View Deck Coordinator – Benny Cabrieto
Former Upperclass Coordinator – Ricky Dela Paz
Associate/Honorary Members Coordinator – Nick Manalo
Phil Marines Coordinator – Boy Miranda
Catering Coordinator – Danny Abinoja
Alfa Platoon Marcher – Lito Gamit
Bravo Platoon Marcher – Jun Esperon
Charlie Platoon Marcher – Sonny Razon
Delta Platoon Marcher – Willy Garcia
Photographer/Videographer – Vernon Verutiao

3. Participants:

Alfa

1. Lito Gamit
2. Nick Radovan
3. Caloy Carlos
4. Boie Seville
5. Danny Bocobo
6. Manny Geslani
7. Bert Sylim
8. Rudy Obaniana

Bravo

1. Jun Esperon
2. Larry Doria
3. Manny Carta
4. Lito Gutierrez
5. Boy Bernal
6. Juanito Samuya

Charlie

1. Sonny Razon
2. Ernie Belen
3. Benny Cabrieto
4. Rogie Calunsag
5. Gene 'Totuy' Cedo
6. Roland Rodriguez
7. Bobby Bayona
8. Reuben Crisologo
9. Ace Tolentino

Delta

1. Willy Garcia
2. Sonny Tolentino
3. Jun Lopez
4. Danny Abinoja
5. Nick Manalo
6. Ramby Ramboanga



Former Upperclassmen

1. Ricky Dela Paz
2. Ajie Gutierrez
3. Elbon Noble
4. Jonard Junio
5. Romy Tolentino
6. Vic Natividad

4. Marangal Ladies Present:

1. Cecille Razon
2. Laine Seville

3. Irene Obaniana
4. Annie Carta
5. Malu Gutierrez
6. Nellie Calunsag
7. Bong Cedo
8. Sim Abinoja
9. Mitz Dela Paz
10. Judy Gutierrez
11. Chato Bernal
12. Boots Doria



RAUL S GONZALES
President
DANTE T FERRER
Secretary

PMA Makabayan Class 75 Homecoming 2023 Activities – Raul S Gonzales asked the Class to make the PMA Alumni Homecoming 2023 celebration as an opportunity to observe and have the “feel” of the nooks and crannies of being the golden jubilarians come Homecoming 2025. Responding to the call, some 11 steadfast and enduring Makabayans trekked to Baguio City to participate in the annual traditional activities. Led by class president Raul S. Gonzales, the others included Noe A. Wong, German B. Doria, Merito A. Quijano, Juanito C. Samuya, Reynaldo P Ansay, Willie A. Palugod, Arsenio R. Arugay, Walter S. Villagonzalo, Ernesto D. Boac, and Charlemagne S. Alejandrino. There was no ‘organized movement’ so to speak, the Makabayans went up to



The Annual General Membership Meeting held at the Baguio City Convention Center on February 17, 2023.

Baguio City on individual basis, and merely assembled during the Annual General Membership Meeting at the Baguio City General Convention Center on February 17, 2023 and during the Homecoming Parade at the PMA parade grounds in Fort Gregorio del Pilar on February 18, 2023. At the opening session of the General Membership Meeting, our class prexy, Raul S. Gonzales, led the recitation of the Cavaliers' Pledge. Our class was not so lucky regarding the raffle draw. In fact, only mistah Benny Brizuela won a prize – a mountain bike. Congratulations mistah Benny; and for the ones who were very expectant, better luck next time. After the parade, a lunch was hosted by Pete and Angie Cadungog at the Bonuan Restaurant in Baguio City. Thereafter, everyone was on his own.

Walter S Villagonzalo: Cavalier Awardee 2023 – Congratulations to our mistah, Walter S Villagonzalo who garnered one the coveted Cavalier Award this year bringing to a total of 11 *Makabayans* having a spot in the "Hall of Fame" of Cavalier Awardees. Other Makabayan awardees are Armando L Cunanan 1987, Cesar L Carranza 1987, Art N Gosingan 1987, Ronald D Roderos 1995, Ernesto D Boac 2000, Charlemagne S Alejandrino 2000, Raul D Heredia 2001, Noe A Wong 2007, Geary L Barias 2009, and Fernando L. Mesa 2019.



Walter S Villagonzalo receiving his Cavalier Award from His Excellency Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during the PMA Alumni Homecoming Parade in Ft. Del Pilar, Baguio City.



Alumni Parade: Left to right, Walter Villagonzalo, Arsenio Arugay, Raul Gonzales, Willie Palugod, Reynaldo Ansay, Juanito Samuya, Merito Quijano, and German Doria.



Family members of the Makabayans resting after the parade under the cool shade of the pine trees.

Walter S Villagonzalo earned the 2023 Cavalier Award in the Special Field as Community Volunteer and Social Entrepreneur, an offshoot to his being conferred the Presidential Award for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas dubbed as ***Pamana ng Pilipino Award***. This award is bestowed to Filipino living overseas who exemplifies the talent and industry of the Filipino, and have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession. Among the advocacies of Walter S. Villagonzalo,

which earned him top honors, is helping the migrants settle in the community. He was named Citizen of the Year in the City of Wyndham where he urged the migrants to be effective members of the community, to integrate themselves, contribute and build a better place for the future generation. His outstanding contribution in the community was recognized by the local executives and this includes providing accommodation and support to asylum seekers and motivating new migrants to use their skills to start small business thereby creating more local jobs.

Upon arrival from Australia, Walter Villagonzalo paid a courtesy visit to the Commission on Overseas Filipinos where he was received by CFO Secretary Romulo V. Arugay. During the visit, Walter Villagonzalo recounted his journey as a Filipino migrant in Australia and how volunteerism has helped him achieve a sense of belongingness in his host community. He also shared his past and current undertakings, as well as his plans and ideas for the welfare of overseas Filipino and other migrant communities in Australia. Walter Villagonzalo was accompanied by his wife Mari Liza Villagonzalo, mistah Arsenio Arugay, Mr. Ricky Torres, and Mr. Johnny Penaflor of Megaworld.

Carry on the good work, mistah Walter. You've got a long way to go!

PMA Class 75 President is PMARAI Chairman – Raul S Gonzales assumed the chairmanship of the PMARAI from Cav Danny A Abinoja '74 who in turn became the Chairman, PMAAAI for CY 2023-2024.

The PMARAI is a SEC registered non-stock, non-profit organization composed of all regular and associate members of the PMAAAI, who have retired from or have otherwise ceased to be in the active service of the AFP, PNP, and PCG. It is one of the Chapters of the PMAAAI whose main purpose is to promote the general welfare of the members, support the ideals of the Academy and PMAAAI, and to contribute to the national development. In his inaugural message, Raul S Gonzales enjoined the members to continue the journey of being Cavaliers beyond our military and law enforcement services:

Golf Matters. The Makabayan Golf Team hosted the first quarter 2023 golf tournament of the Corps of Classes 74567 held at the Villamor Golf Course on March 15, 2023. The tournament is a quarterly game played by golfers from the PMA classes of 74, 75, 76 and 77 and each tournament is sponsored consecutively by a particular class. About 60 players participated in the tournament. PMA Class 77 emerged as the champion followed by PMA Class 74. Our class settled for modest third. However, despite the unsuccessful showing, still praises to our golf team who brought honors and prestige to the Class by hosting tournament. After all, it is not the winning that counts, but the love for the game itself that matters.

The members of the PMA Class 75 team who played during the tournament were Jeff Sodusta (Team Manager),



Walter S Villagonzalo paid a visit to the Office of the Commission on Overseas Filipinos.



PMARAI in a meeting presided by Chairman Raul S Gonzales (Photo credit - PMARAI)



Some of the players of the Corps of Classes 74567 1st Quarter Golf Tournament held at the Villamor Golf Club, March 15, 2023. Maka-bayan Class 75 players are 3rd from left-most, Chito Blanco, 9th from left, Jeff Sodusta, 2nd from right, Noe Wong.

Raul Gonzales, Noe Wong, Willie Palugod, Cardozo Luna, Pete Magno, Nap Cachuela, Rey Ansay, Ernie Boac, Chito Blanco, Doming Manuel, and Ruel Hiterosa.

Congratulations to our seasoned and dependable mistah Noe Wong who, true to form, bested other septuagenarian golfers by garnering the championship slot of the Division I (70 years old and older) category of the PMAAAI/PMARAI 1st Invitational Golf Fellowship at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course on April 18, 2023. Now, nobody cannot repudiate Rey Ansay's quip that the former ambassador is *maasim pa sa* golf. Cheers!!

Class Officers' Meeting – President Raul S Gonzales invited the officers and their ladies to an informal meeting at the Paradise Dynasty Restaurant located at

The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City on March 31, 2023. The occasion served also as a send-off lunch for mistah Reynaldo Ansay and wife, Carol, who would be returning to the US after a brief vacation in the Philippines. The lunch was hosted by no less than the class president, Raul Gonzales. Present during the meeting were Raul Gonzales, Noe Wong, Pete Cadungog, Willie Palugod, Ernie Boac, Dante Ferrer, Arsenio Arugay, and Reynaldo Ansay. The ladies were also in attendance led by Ollie Gonzales, Len Wong, Angie Cadungog, Inday Palugod, Lilly Ferrer, Alma Arugay, Carol Ansay, and Tess Logronio. They presented the materials for the *Barong Tagalog* for the officers to choose from. It has been decided during the meeting that for the men, it will be business suit and *Barong Tagalog*. The color of the suit will have a shade of beige or light brown, while

the Barong Tagalog will be made of *piña* with *caladro* design.

Welcome Lunch - A simple welcome lunch for US-based visiting Mistah Benjie and Nancy Gonzales by Prez Raul G represented by mistah Amb. Noe Wong at the PN Golf Club and Resto, Apr 16, 2023. Mistah Benjie took the opportunity to hand over a \$3,000 check to mistah Amb. Noe Wong as his contribution to the forthcoming Golden Anniversary of our Class in 2025, PMA Fort Del Pilar, Baguio city. Other mistahs present were Pete Cadungog, Mandy Cunanan, Arsenio Arugay, and Ernie Boac. Makabayan ladies present were Alma Arugay, Beth Magno, Nancy Gonzales, and Bebe Cunanan. Thanks also to mistah Adm. Pet Magno for hosting this event. Everybody enjoyed the company and the delectable food. Cheers! Dtf/22/04/2023



PMA 75 Golf Team: Lunch after a practice round at the Villamor Golf Course and planning session for the hosting of the Corps of Classes74567 tournament.



Class Officers meeting at the Paradise Dynasty restaurant, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.



Makabayan ladies, l-r: Inday Palugod, Ollie Gonzalez, Angie Cadungog, Tess Logronio, Lilly Ferrer, Len Wong, Carol Ansay, and Alma Arugay. Paradise Palace Restaurant, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.



Lunch welcoming mistah Benjie Gonzales and wife Nancy at the PN Golf Club and Restaurant. Ladies on the picture, l-r, Alma Arugay, Beth Magno, Nancy Gonzales, and Bebe Cunanan.



MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA
President
LUIZO C TICMAN
Secretary

PMA Homecoming 2023

Homecoming Brunch @ Alarcio Farm

The Magilas Class of '76 had their sumptuous "brunch" at Mistah Boying Alarcio's Farm with grandeur setting in Laoac, Pangasinan as a fitting prelude to Magilas Class '76's Annual Homecoming. The farm was meticulously adorned with beautiful decorations to the delight of Magilas and the Mas-Magilas ladies.

The aroma of freshly brewed coffee and delectable breakfast dishes comprised of Mas-Magilas Sally's specialties, filled the air. As they dug into the plates of delicious dishes, the Magigilas at a certain point, while savoring the specialties of Magilas Lady Sally "almost forgot the names of their respective spouses."

The formalities started with a short and crisp Opening Remarks from Secretary Louie Ticman, followed by the acknowledgment of members, spouses, and families.

The breakfast was not just a chance to enjoy delicious food and reconnect with Mistahs but also an opportunity to pay tribute to members who had passed away. A moment of silence was observed as we remembered those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.



As the breakfast came to an end, Pres Tanggol Gatdula delivered his inspirational message and announcements with regard to the PMA Homecoming activities.

The Magigilas with their respective ladies and families left with grateful hearts for Mistah Boying and Sally Alarcio's 5-star accommodation and matching sumptuous "brunch."

Homecoming Dinner @ Parkview Hotel

In the evening of the same day, the class dined in the Hotel Function Room at Parkview Hotel, where they stayed.

The evening program began with a roll call by Mistah Louie Ticman, followed by Mistah Mayor Pol Bataoil's inspirational message. Pres Tanggol Gatdula delivered his closing message followed by his announcement of Alumni homecoming activities.

As the evening came to an end, class dinner had been a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and "more than brothers Mistahs" and celebrate and share experiences and accomplishments the past year(s).

Alumni Homecoming Events @ PMA Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City

As the PMA Magilas Class '76 arrived at the PMA grounds, they were greeted with warm embraces or brotherly quips from fellow alumni. The Magigilas wore LNB Magilas Barong, series of 2023 uniform, sponsored by Mistah Mayor Pol Bataoil of Lingayen, Pangasinan.

The whole morning was filled with various activities, with His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr as the Guest of Honor and Speaker, including among others the presentation of awards to Outstanding Cavaliers of the year.

The Magilas Class of '76 walked through the cold breeze at PMA ground to the Magilas Visitors' Center for a "simple but extravagant" lunch.

The highlight of the Homecoming coincided with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the PMA and the Magilas Class '76 Association, Inc regarding the upkeep and proper use of the Magilas Visitors' Center. The signing was between Mistah TANGGOL GATDULA and PMA Superintendent LTGen ROWEN S TOLENTINO.

The PMA Homecoming is not just a celebration of the graduates' achievements but also a reminder of their duty and responsibility to serve their country. As they left the academy, they carried with them the PMA's values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty knowing that they are not just graduates of a





prestigious institution, but also defenders of the nation's sovereignty.

The PMA 2023 Homecoming was indeed a memorable and inspiring event, a testament to the academy's enduring legacy and the unwavering commitment of its graduates to serve their country with excellence and integrity.

MAGILAS Annual General Assembly

The PMA Magilas Annual General Assembly was held on March 10, 2023 at the AGFO Center. Secretary Mistah Louie Ticman delivered the opening remarks followed by the acknowledgement of class officers and members present.

In the Annual President's Report, Pres Tanggol Gatdula presented updates on the Magilas' finances, and operations among other salient subject matters such as: Board

meetings, inauguration of the Magilas Office, "Magilas Benevolent Givers" for the needy members, and class donation to the AGFO Center. The President's report is hereunder presented in details.

Annual President's Report

Ratification of BOT Resolutions

1. The new PMA Magilas Class '76 Association, Inc. Office at Unit C, No.6 20th Avenue, Barangay San Roque, District 3 Quezon City is through the benevolence of the Young Family. The use of the office is at no cost to the Association.

2. The following are designated as official Class activities:

a). Any day of March, that may be agreed upon, is the Annual General Membership meeting as provided for

under the Constitution and By-laws of the Association

b). Mid-Year Fellowship (summer outing)

c). September Outdoor golf fellowship fund raising

d). December Christmas Party

e). PMA Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City

f). Other activities in between the above-mentioned day or days as may be agreed upon by the majority of the members

3. Designating the specific day-dates for the following activities:

a). Board meetings shall be held every 3rd Friday of the month

b). Annual general assembly meetings shall be held every 3rd Friday of March

c). PMA Magilas '76 Christmas Party shall be held every first Sunday of December

Finance:

The current Board of Trustees (2022-2024) has managed to keep the PMA MAGILAS CLASS '76 ASSOCIATION finances "healthy and sound."

Operations:

The Magilas '76 Board of Trustees 2022-2024 providently used available resources to support the projects and activities of the class on the following:

1. Oath-taking and Board Meeting at Green Meadows

The Oath-taking was held on February 18, 2022 at Green Meadows Clubhouse, Quezon City.

2. Inauguration of the new Magilas Office

The blessing of newly minted Magilas office was held on April 22, 2022, deeply harmonizing and revitalizing the space, allowing the area to become a springboard for positive beginnings and productivity.

3. MBG and other Assistance for members

The Association continued to grant P50,000 in Bereavement Assistance for deceased Mistah and P20,000 medical assistance to the Mistahs who were hospitalized due to illness. This is aside from the individual voluntary pledges of the Magilas.

4. Class Donation to AGFO Center

Donation of CANON printer and 65-inch Samsung Smart television to the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) on May 20, 2022.



5. **PMA 74567 Golf fellowship**

Conducted a fund-raiser 74567 Golf Tournament for charitable causes on September 19, 2022 held at Philippine Navy Golf Course.

6. **AGFO Election**

On November 25, 2022, election of AGFO President and other Officers was conducted at AGFO Center wherein Vice Admiral Emilio Marayag Jr was re-elected for a 2nd term.

7. **Burial of Mistah Ariel Zerrudo**

Attended the wake of Brig. Gen. and Dr. Ariel A. Zerrudo on March 26, 2022.

8. **Fellowship in Lingayen**

The class had a visit to Lingayen Pangasinan on June 30, 2022 where Pol Bataoil tendered a lunch, followed by a tour of Lingayen and dinner at the beachfront of Pook Marcela. On July 1, the class attended Mayor Pol Bataoil's inauguration ceremony at the Lingayen Plaza.

9. **Christmas Party (2022)**

Magilas Christmas party was held on December 4, 2022 at Green Meadows Clubhouse.

10. **Meeting with PMA Superintendent re: MOA with PMA**

A meeting was held on January 26, 2023 at Army Golf Course with LtGen Rowen S Tolentino PA, PMA Superintendent, and representatives from Class Magilas with regard to the MOA on the proposed maintenance of Magilas visitor center.

11. **Mistah Sandy Javier's Birthday**

The board celebrated the gift of life of Sandy Javier held on January 27, 2023 at San Lorenzo Village, Makati.

12. **Laoac Brunch and Venus Dinner**

The Magilas attended the PMA Alumni Homecoming starting with Brunch feast @ Alarcio's Farm in Laoac, and dinner recap @ Venus Parkview Hotel Function Room on Feb 17, 2023.

13. **Alumni Homecoming**

On February 18, 2023, the Magilas Class participated in the PMA Alumni Homecoming Parade held at PMA Borromeo Field. Likewise, on the same date, a MOA signing was held at Magilas Visitors' Center between PMA and Class Magilas with regard to the maintenance of the visitors' center.

14. **Golf fellowship at Manila Golf (Wilson Young)**

On March 2, 2023, the class held a Golf Tournament at Manila Golf Club, which was attended by eight club members/sponsors, each of whom received a Magilas ballcap, umbrella, and a towel as mementos from the class.

Way Forward

Creation of Magilas Golden Anniversary Coffee Table Book

Magilas Visitors' Center Rehabilitation
Medical equipment for Diabetic Clinic at V-Luna

VMMC Ward Rehabilitation



RIC A DAVID JR
Pangulo
VIXI ABAT
Kalihim

MILESPOST, April 1, 1973

We reported in Ft. Del Pilar.

We were welcomed with a rowdy **"RECEPTION"**.



- the command, followed by shouts of enlivened cadets rushing towards us.

- the ensuing dizzying 'rambol' in Borromeo Field.

we were confused.

shouting, panting, running, jumping, falling, rolling.



that first haircut,
that first cold bath,
that first evening taps,
that first morning reveille,
in **LOAKAN**.

from then on,
we drilled for *incorporation*.
and we braced for *recognition*.

1973 ⌚ 2023

Now, we are

'sexa' and 'septua'



GOLDEN PLEBOS



The sounds of bugle calls are now echoes of 50 years past.

PMA CI '77 Golden Plebos Nite socials, April 1, 2023

PA O'Club, Kuta Bonifacio, Taguig

INVOCATION

MASIKAPS' PRAYER*

[adopted fm the Cavaliers' Prayer, and re-composed to the retired Masikaps' life]

*credit to mistah Fermin de Leon Jr., former President, NDCP



HEAVENLY FATHER,

We fervently praise and worship you,
As you provide guidance to us MASIKAPS,
our spouses, and our families, after
retirement from active service;

And as we continue to live the rest of
our days.

Grant us the courage...

- To be true to our convictions, in accordance
with your word and your perfect will;

- To find strength to know when we are
weak, for you said that it is when we are
weak that we are strong, for your power
works best in our weakness;

- To do our remaining duties to God,
family, country, and people; even against
overwhelming odds, and

- To trail the difficult but right path, if
necessary, rather than to stray on popular,
easier, yet unrighteous ways.

Bestow us with integrity to be true to
our word,

To remember, nurture, and live in our
remaining day-to-day lives the creed of our
Alma Mater;

And to uphold the highest moral and
ethical standards of the profession we
have chosen and served for decades.

Strengthen us to maintain our loyalty
to our country, our family, and most of all,
to you, oh God.

Guide us through your Spirit,
That we will remain true and
steadfast to our ideals and values, as
lifetime members and families of the PMA
MASIKAP Class of 1977;

All of these we ask in faith, through
your Most Holy Name, the Name Above All
Names. Amen 🙏

ALUMNI HOMECOMING, February 2023

Mistahs Fidel Cimat, Spade Espadero,
Miles "Matik" Milla, and Sunny Peguiras
ably represent the 'Masikap' Class 🙏

TSIKENKLAB and other class socials.

The frolics continue.

Salamat, mistahs, for hosting. Much
appreciated.

Butch Supapo moderates wine cheers
in Makati.

SPORTS

Kudos and mabuhay to Masikap '77
golfers 🙏!

The champions in the "Corps of
74567" 1st Qtr '23 (March) golfest 🙏



NEGOSYO

Mistah (Engr) Wilson Tan is special guest in DZRH radio program "Negosyo ATBP" (Angat Negosyo sa Turismo!) Wilson advocates "Likha Kawayan".

OBIT

Class offers condolence
- to Alex Taguinod on the demise of his spouse.
- to Bob Ribay on the demise of his mother.
- to Ned Goseco on the demise of his mother.

Memories are kept;
to cherish, not to forget.



FELIPE HB BUENA JR
Chairman/President
GABRIEL F GOMEZ
Secretary
HO SUN YEE
Asst. Secretary

7 Feb Tue - It was a sudden and sad occasion when our dear Mistah PGen Louie Palmera went home to the Lord. Both Lorna and Louie were planning to attend our 45th Homecoming in Baguio. It was so appropriate that the necrological service was held on Valentine's Day 14 Feb where the love that Louie had for the family, his Mistahs, the Police community and friends was evident in the eulogies shared. The family and class finally bade the final farewell to Louie the next day at Libingan ng mga Bayani.

To celebrate our 45th Homecoming, golfers kicked off with a game at Pinewoods on the 17th Feb. After the

parade at PMA, we adjourned to Mistah Gay and Rommel Gomez's excellent Happy Tummy Restaurant @ Loakan for a sumptuous lunch. We returned later for the class dinner and Class AGM where the new set of Board of Trustees were elected with Pipes Buena as the new Chairman and President of the Class. The trustees elected are:

1. Chairman and President – Felipe Buena
2. Vice-President- Victor Martir
3. Secretary – Gabriel Gomez
4. Treasurer – Ernest Villareal
5. Auditor – George Piano
6. Business Manager - Arthur Tabaquero
7. PRO – Marlon Villaralvo
8. Asst Secretary – Ho Sun Yee
9. Asst Treasurer – Joshue Gaverza
10. Immediate Past Chairman - Oscar Rabena
11. Immediate Past President – Rodolfo Magtibay

2 Mar Thu - Our class had the privilege to have the Honorable Gloria Macapagal-

Arroyo (GMA), Deputy Speaker House of Representatives and Former President of the Rep of the Phil as our Guest of Honour to induct the new set of Board of Trustees for year 2023-2024 at the Wack Wack West Grill, courtesy of former Sec of Energy Mistah Al Cusi. Mistah Ernest V gave a heartwarming account of how he got acquainted with GMA at the fellowship.

We also presented to GMA the Class Resolution 23-04 APPROVING THE UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT OF MAKATARUNGAN 1978 ASSOCIATION, INC. TO HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 780 entitled "A Resolution In Defense of Former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, against investigation and/or prosecution by the International Criminal Court."

We had jamon Iberico Bellota and lechon, big prawns and really taba na crabs, nice buffet and Maja Blanca and "binignit" for dessert but the best of all was the camaraderie and friendship that showed up in big bundles.

GMA was very appreciative and happily joined each table for hellos and pics - so many selfies with her.

2 Apr – At the first Quarterly Golf Tournament of VAGC, our class team comprising Oca Rabena, Rolly Detabali, Ruy Magtibay, Efren Tedor and Ho Sun

Yee took home the Div IV Championship Trophy with a total of 116 points.

11 Apr Tue - We held our Annual Remembrance Day in honor of our

departed Mistahs on 11 Apr at Bulwagan, LBMB. More than 40 were present and recently widowed Mistah Lorna Palmera gave the response on behalf of all widows at the event.



78 Ladies and Gentlemen in Baguio.



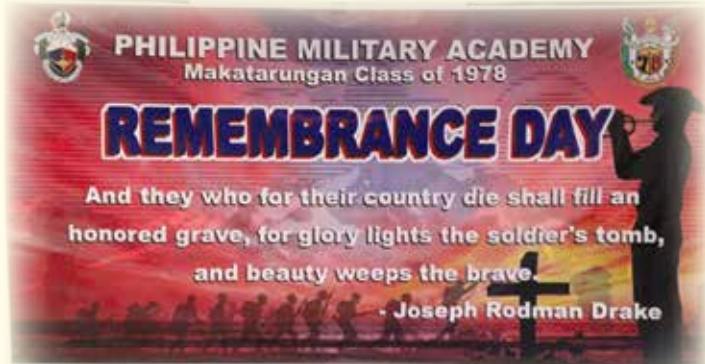
Class 78 March Pass at 45th Anniversary, Baguio.



At Wake of PGen Louie Palmera



2 Mar – 2023 Class 78 Board of Trustees Induction by GMA.



Remembrance Day 11 Apr at LNMB



IRINEO C ESPINO
President
EDWIN I CORVERA
Secretary

MATAPAT 79 TROOPS BACK TO PMA FOR THE 2023 ALUMNI HOMECOMING

The love month of February harks once more to the proud sons and daughters of PMA to go back home. Led by Pres Ariel Querubin, the 17 MATAPAT Cavaliers proudly representing their service branch smartly and snappily marched on the hallowed grounds of Borromeo Fields to the deafening cheers of their hubbies. Watching the Cadet Corps in their splendid uniform marching in cadence brings back nostalgic memories to the visiting Cavaliers like us. The 44 years that elapsed since graduation did not diminish a bit the memories of triumphs, challenges, dangers and fears. It showed in the never ending "bolahan" to the amusement of our hubbies.

After partaking of sumptuous lunch at the Matapat Picnic Grounds, we headed to the mountain hideaway in Alphaland Mountain Lodges of Ariel and Pong. There we once more indulged in endless storytelling and boodling never mind the calories and bulging waistlines. Bay Madison and Emily Honoridez represented our overseas classmates.

HAPPY HOMECOMING, PMA "MATAPAT" CLASS 1979!

PMA MATAPAT CLASS 1979 ANNIVERSARY AND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Class held its 44th Anniversary and Annual General Assembly on 25 February 2023 at the residence of Class Pres Ariel in



Quezon City. Power couple Ariel and Pong, our gracious hosts, warmly welcomed the 47 MATAPAT gentlemen and ladies to their lovely home.

The affair started with the General Assembly presided by Pres Ariel. It was a Hybrid meeting with 11 other Mistahs, from across the Pacific and Down Under in attendance. Pres Ariel, who ably steered the Class during the pandemic years, was visibly happy with the Class attendance. He proudly reported that Class affairs were managed well and our coffers were in the Blue. Pres Ariel also reported the Exec Board created the COMELEC composed of Edwin Corvera as Chairman with Tony Villarete, Rex Recomono and Vicsie Felix as members to plan for and govern the Class Election of Officers. Earlier, Pres Ariel, Sec Tattu Sanchez, and Treas Raul Leyritana announced that they are giving way to other members of the Class to serve as

officers. The COMELEC proposed the conduct of an Electronic Election so that everybody wherever they maybe can participate. The Electronic Election process actually started earlier with submission of Nominees to the Executive Board composed of the Pres, 1st VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. Matapat Dino Juan served as IT Consultant. After the President's report, Secretary Tattu Sanchez presented the 12 Board resolutions which were subsequently ratified.

Thereafter, Pres Ariel turned over the Class affair to the COMELEC for the conduct of election. With all nominees being confirmed, the much anticipated election was conducted. Within minutes after the voting, COMELEC Chair Edwin with Tony Villarete, Rex Recomono and Vicsie Felix announced the official results of the Electronic Election, as follows:

President: Irineo "Boy" Espino
1st VP: Leocadio SC "Leo" Santiago, Jr
Secretary: Edwin "Curve" Corvera
Treasurer: Rolando "Rolly" Tenefrancia
Historian: Leocadio SC "Leo" Santiago, Jr

Thereafter, Outgoing Pres Ariel administered the Oath of Office to the new Exec Board members.

While the gentlemen were having their meeting, the Ladies were likewise having their own and decided that the wives of Class officers will be the officers PMA CLASS 79 LADIES to facilitate easy coordination.

The twin activity concluded with the partaking of sumptuous dinner complete with ladies wine, hot darn and free flowing coffee. To complete the night, Ariel and Pong raffled off many prizes and gave away tokens to the delight of everyone. All of us went home happy and contented.





**TO OUTGOING PRES ARIEL,
CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE JOB WELL
DONE!**

**CONGRATULATIONS, TOO, PRES BOY
ESPINO AND THE NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEMBERS!**

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY AND 2024 ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Pres Boy Espino and the Executive Board immediately huddled down to work. Several Committees were formed to work on the preparations. He suggested that we consider the holding of Preliminary activities to commemorate our 45th Anniversary. The program and activities will include the following:

- Breakfast at PMA
- Reception of the Class and family
- Open House
- Parade and Review
- Lunch with the Cadets

It was agreed that the date will be on 25 or 26 November 2023. This will be presented

for comments/recommendations before proceeding with the detailed plan. If there is a consensus by the Class, Pres Boy will coordinate these Class activities with the SUPT, PMA.

For the 45th anniversary and 2024 alumni homecoming, following were discussed:

Program: Sec Edwin presented the proposed program for consideration

Breakfast (light) for those arriving at PMA early

Alumni Parade

Lunch at PMA 79 Park

Class dinner (With PBBM if possible)

Class uniform:

ROYAL BLUE SUIT

TRUBENIZED POLO, WHITE

RICH BLUE TIE

CLASS POCKET SEAL

BLACK SHOES

WHITE HAT WITH CLASS 79 SEAL

SUNGLASSES (Optional)

The Ladies will decide on their attire.

Billeting: Pres Boy announced that majority of the Class have already booked in Baguio Country Club. He urged the Class thru VPs/BOS Pres to settle the advance payment required by BCC.

Transportation: Paloy Mapalo assured the availability of aircon buses to ferry the Class and family to Baguio City and back to Manila on the appointed dates. He needs only the actual number of those availing of the bus transport.

Fundraising: Golf will be the main fundraising effort. Pres Boy designated Rolly Anonuevo as Chairman of Golf Committee with Paloy Mapalo, Tattu Sanchez and Tete Villarete as members.

Amendment of the Class Constitution and Bylaws: Pres Boy announced the creation of Ad hoc Committee on Revision of Constitution and Bylaws and appointed Rene David as Chair who was given a free hand to select his members. Sam Pagdilao and Mark Supnet will serve as Advisers.

Pres Boy also announced the composition of the various Standing Committees:



COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP – Rene David as Chairman

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE and FINANCE – Rolly Tenefrancia as Chairman. Paloy Mapalo, Tattu Sanchez and Tete Villarete are Members.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIALS – Sec Edwin as Chairman with Paloy Mapalo (PA rep), Tattu Sanchez (PAF rep) and Mon Liwag (PN rep) as Members.

These committees will complete their membership, prepare respective plans and funding requirements for EB approval.

CLASS UPDATE

Congratulations, Matapat Essel Soriano on your election as President of the Association of Military Christian Fellowship! ACMF is a community of Christian Fellowships in 150 nations. *“All one in Christ Jesus”* is its Motto.

Happy to meet Matapat Ernix Aradanas and Ric Butalid who prefer to dwell in the South.

We welcome Bay Madison and Emily Honoridez as well as Maning and Navie Voloria on their brief visit to Manila!

Matapat Rey and Malou Lanada are still gallivanting around the USA.

Congratulations to our new Dr. Tibong Inductivo, DPA! That's Doctor of Public Administration, folks not what you think. Tibong also bagged the Best Paper of the Year Award!

Edwin and Yolly just came back from the City of Gentle People- Dumaguete where they were warmly welcomed and escorted around by Alex and Becca Cabales.

Till the next updates, mga Mistah.



LAURO CATALINO G DELA CRUZ
President
EDMUND C TAN
Secretary

All roads lead to Rome.” Indeed, a hundred roads also led to Bonifacio Global City. On 26 March 2023, thirty-nine Mistahs found their way to Shangri-La The Fort Manila for a lunch fellowship hosted by the First Quarter 2023 Mapitagan birthday boys.

“Para maiba naman ang ambiance,” Nick Bartolome quipped as he and the other celebrators welcomed all to the Canton Road at the Third Level, West Wing of the posh five-star hotel in the heart of Bonifacio Global City.

The Mapitagans were treated to a sumptuous lunch with authentic Cantonese and Huaiyang cuisine. Oohs and aahs filled the spacious Peking Room as they had their fill of the rich assortment of regional specialties and signature fare with ivory chopsticks, fine cutlery, and delicate china. It was a bash, an epicurean delight.

Out of the thirty-three first quarter celebrators, twelve made it in flesh and played host to the well-wishers. As in the past fellowships, Pastor Benjardie Mantele delivered the prayer. Lunch lasted until three o'clock in the afternoon as the *‘walang katapusang bolahan’* went on and on.

During the impromptu meeting after lunch, it was agreed that the Mapitagan birthday fellowship party will henceforth be held every two months instead of quarterly. Nicky Bart immediately informed Prez Larry dela Cruz, who was not present at that time, to request for his approval to which the latter readily obliged.

The next fellowship to be hosted by April-May birthday boys is therefore tentatively scheduled on the end of May.



The attendees of the Birthday Fellowship hosted by the First Quarter Celebrators on 26 March 2023 at the Peking Room of Canton Road Restaurant inside BGC Shangrila.



The “Dirty Dozen” Birthday Celebrators who hosted the First Quarter Birthday Fellowship at BGC Shangrila. From left to right: Tony Baraquiel, Mai Mendoza, Noel Coballes, Doc Frank Gali, Nick Bartolome, Onell Llano, Danny Saberón, PB George Regis, Nene Delos Reyes, Bong De Asis, Bogs Abogado and Herbert Yambing.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. There is a time for everything and a season for every activity. Most of our Mistahs now are in that stage of celebrating Golden Jubilee anniversaries with their high school classmates. In 50 years, the young boys are now senior citizens and retired. In 50 years, they found a compelling reason to catch up with their classmates of a previous time, another version of Mistahs in a manner of speaking. Such memorable occasions offer unforgettable moments to rekindle friendships with familiar names with unfamiliar faces.

There are talks now circulating that we the Mapitagans will celebrate our 50th anniversary celebration as plebes. Perhaps in a vain glorious attempt to find out if we still have grit and reenact those days when we rotted and cursed upperclassmen, especially those in Bravo Company! *Meron Reception with the Cadet Corps at mag-stay at matulog daw tayo sa 01 April 2026* with plebes (members of Class of 2030 – the year of our Golden Jubilee hosting) for three days.

Bruce Ringstad, our American classmate, showed interest in coming. He is now online in our FB messenger group "PMA 1980." He wrote, *"It's nice reconnecting with you guys! After I left the PMA I finished out my enlistment in the U.S. Army and then went to college at the University of Oklahoma. I received a commission into the U.S. Air Force and retired 17 years later in 1999. I then went back to work with the U.S. Air Force as a government civilian employee and retired again this past August 2022. I now live in the Panhandle of Florida near Pensacola. I married my wife while I was in college, and we are still going strong 44 years later! I have two boys and four grand children ranging in ages 12 to 22 years old. Life's been good to my family and me, and I am looking forward to a relaxing retirement in sunny Florida. Hope it has been good to you too!"*

We hope the plan to re-enact our Reception Day as Plebes on our 50th year anniversary in 2026 will push through given we have three years to plan and organize for this very memorable event in our life. Then four years later, in 2030, the 50th year anniversary of our graduation. These are once-in-a-lifetime events we should not fail to celebrate. These two are unforgettable and memorable events and in a way we as a Class should commemorate, for they were pivotal moments in our lives. As officers, we pursued a career in the service of our country and people, hurdling the challenges and rigors of a military life. We should never forget . . .



Reception Day on 01 April 1976 that we shall re-enact on 01 April 2026!



Our American Mistah, Bruce Ringstad, taken from his FB Profile picture.



Bruce with wife May and their eldest grandson Caleb. (Courtesy of FB)

Three outstanding Mapitagans once more gained honors for the Class, a testimonial to our pledge "Mapitagans serving for a cause." Ige Rodriguez was elected to another term as Director of PETFI along with Gil M, while our Class Sec Edmund Tan was elected to a three-year term to sit in the board of AGFO Foundation, Inc.

Again, in closing, we proudly acknowledge another first-time "Lolo" of the Class, this time it is Del Lorenzo, who became one after all these years with the birth of River Xin Lorenzo only last 13 March 2023. Big Congrats, Mistah Del and Mamer! We are sure you both are looking forward to your "Apostolic" mission in the days to come. *Ang swerte ni River...*



Lolo Del Lorenzo with his first newborn grandson, River Xin Lorenzo, just a few days after being born on 13 March 2023.



The year for the Class Dimalupig started with a sad note with the untimely passing of our beloved Mistah Wency Pascual due to a freak accident last January 24, 2023. While we all know that the road ahead is shorter for all of us than the road we have passed, we just could not get used to a Mistah going ahead of us to the afterlife. His parting brings to 29 Dimalupigs who have found their resting place in the Great Beyond. Wency was given a solemn farewell with the singing of "Strong Hearts" and "Now is the Hour" (A Maori Farewell Song) by the Mistahs present for the send-off. The songs were accompanied by the somber yet melodious and mellow strain of the guitar played by the Class's Country Star, Pat Hernandez. There and then, Pat was voted to be the last to go so that every member of the class would like to have a piece of his music to bring along.

Only 12 members of the class attended the Alumni Homecoming. We all know for sure, however, that the hearts and minds of those who could not attend are with the group in the hallowed ground of the Borromeo Field. The upsurge in attendance however is expected at the class's Golden Jubilee Celebration eight years hence. This is what everyone seems to be looking forward to.

On a happier note, the Dimalupig Class had a get-together party to celebrate the birthdays of its members who were born in the first quarter of the year last March 26, 2023, at the Navy Golf Clubhouse. The Manlulupigs, who have taken over the Dimalupigs' decision-making jobs, decided that the get-together, be a dance party. As always, the get-together included never-ending stories and the laughter that has been said and done over and over through the years. It allowed all of us to shake and tone our otherwise idle joints and stiff muscles. Thirty-six members, some of who also brought the Manlulupigs with them, attended. The celebration is on top of little gatherings of Mistah here and there whenever the opportunity arises.

This period also saw the election of new Class Officers. Omeq Poquiz has been elected as the new Class President. He will be replacing Alan Luga whose incumbency as President provided an

indelible legacy to the Class among which is the unprecedented publication of the Class's 40th Anniversary Sword. He has kept the class tightly knit throughout the pandemic lockdown by keeping everybody informed of the prevailing conditions and sharing lessons from those who contracted the virus. Omeq incidentally, is a distinguished member of the Board of Directors of the PMA Retirees Association (PMARAI). His dual roles put the class in a position to be significantly involved in the affairs of PMAAA. Boy Domingo is retained as the Class Treasurer for his consistent and efficient management and care of the Class Fund. Joel Supan was appointed to be the Class Secretary. He will be replacing Oca Lopez. Joel Supan was appointed for his writings for the Cavalier Magazine. His latest article, "The Security Profession: The Fifth Service for Cavaliers," was adjudged the Best Feature Article for the period 2022-2023 for its originality and relevance

to the Cavaliers and the country. The Class is looking forward to the new Class Officers' continuance of dedication to the work of keeping the class together and caring for each other which their predecessors have started.

Members of the class with their talents, conferred professions, personal abilities, and skills, continue to stay relevant and productive to their respective families, communities, society, and the country. As of the last count, 85 of its members are still gainfully occupied by holding relevant positions in various organizations. There are 12 Dimalupigs holding leadership positions in various Government Agencies; 18 are holding executive positions in different large private corporations; 14 are practicing their respective professions most of whom are Lawyers, 16 are self-made entrepreneurs providing services, goods, and employment; 17 are into farming



The 12 Dimalupig Class members who came for the 2023 Alumni Homecoming Parade.



The Dimalupigs during the Get-together on March 26, 2023.

providing food; and three are ministers of the faith feeding souls. The rest of the class members, seem to enjoy their retirement by providing guidance for parenthood to their children and being heroes and models to their grandchildren. These are aside from being dutiful drivers, bodyguards to the Manlupigs, and habitués of the golf courses providing livelihood to the pros, caddies, gardeners, club waiters, stray ball gatherers, better golfers, and UGs. The others are enjoying their peaceful lonesomeness and contentment which could be the best way to enjoy retirement.

After all, maintaining relevance is what all Cavaliers should do after hanging their uniforms. We are all hoping that all would be in their best health and fitness for them to keep enjoying the camaraderie and fellowship they have and share.



The Dimalupigs Birthday Celebrants in the 1st Quarter. Nick Dolojan, Oca Lopez, Butch Cabanban, Bong Amon, Bernie Mabbagu, Rolly Cerezo, Benny De Leon, Manolo Bada, Ben Barik Latag, and Art Vidad.



The Manlupigs present at the 1st Quarter Get-together on March 26, 2023, to celebrate the birthday boys of the 1st Quarter. Everyone has gone Classic.



TED E CARRANZA
President
VINCE G MAGARO
Secretary

The Sinagtala Class '86 has a new set of officers for CY 2023-2025 and they are as follows: Ted Carranza - President; Ludy Dela Paz - Vice-President; Vince Magaro - Secretary; Noli Romana - Treasurer; Dan Rodelas - Auditor; Johnny Gulla - Business Manager; Alex Gopico - PA representative; Cris Tumanda - PAF representative; Art Biyo - PN representative; and Page Pagente

- BIRC representative. They formally assumed duties and responsibilities during the induction ceremony held last March 7, 2023 at the Sinagtala Pavilion, Camp Aguinaldo Golf Clubhouse with our *mistah*, Senator Ronald M Dela Rosa, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs presiding the event.

While all class members from the AFP, PNP, and PCG have retired, two mistahs remain in the service. Kudos to Ismael "Mhy" Magtoto who got promoted to Colonel in the United States Air Force and Roseller "Ellery" Tiongson, a Major in the United States Army, who received a distinctive honor from the Commanding General of Honduran Army for leading numerous medical detachments in

preventing sickness among Honduran people and improving their quality of water. Notably, two former air force pilots, Cris Cabangbang, and Johnny Gulla, continue to conquer the skies. Cris flies commercial flights for Cebu Pacific while Johnny works as a corporate pilot for San Miguel Corporation. Two others, Arleen Tatel and Willy Rigor, share their knowledge, skills, and experience as flight simulator instructors for Airbus A320 and Airbus A330, respectively, both with Alpha Aviation Group (AAG) based in Clark, Pampanga.

Golf fellowship hosted by the Sinagtala Early Messers Golf Club (SEMGC) continues to be held quarterly and is often participated in by golf



Oathtaking of new class officers of PMA Sinagtala Class 1986 with Senator Ronald M Dela Rosa on March 7, 2023 at Sinagtala Pavilion, Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club.

enthusiasts in the class. Through this, they get the chance to hone their skills to help them win in tournament as Ted Carranza had achieved when he bagged the Individual Championship trophy in Seniors 2 category during the Camp John Hay Corporate Cup held last March 21-23, 2023 in Camp John Hay Golf Club, Baguio City. Undoubtedly, golf is a good sport of choice for people regardless of age as it helps promote an active and healthy lifestyle to keep them in good shape, both physically and mentally. Also, it serves as a venue for interaction that sustains the

camaraderie and friendship especially among mistahs. These are useful both for those who chose to enjoy a quiet life after retirement and others who opted to pursue a second career, in coping with the boredom of daily grind, which in some cases are sedentary in nature.

It is worthy to note that the class was able to create and publish the Sinagtala 86 Coffee Table Book. It is an important milestone for the class as it chronicles the individual achievements of regular and associate members alike, in their respective fields or professions.



This project was a tedious undertaking that entailed significant time, effort, and resources to accomplish. There were some issues that emerged along the way like format, allotted page/space for each individual, unmet set timeline, among others. Nevertheless, it is truly fulfilling and satisfying to see the fruition of the countless hardships and sacrifices of personal comfort that accompanied everyone involved in this project.

At the august hall of the Senate, mistah Senator "Bato" or "Dorouy" as he is fondly called by classmates, friends, and others close to him, proves his mettle as a lawmaker and a public servant. Full of enthusiasm and zealotry, he advocates for the enactment into law of four priority bills namely: *Anti-Illegal Drugs, Welfare of Law Enforcement Personnel, Strengthening of Crime Prevention Capabilities, and Anti-Insurgency and Foreign Threat Preparedness*, all geared towards promoting peace and order and enhancing our national security. In particular, he is passionately pushing for the approval of the proposed bill for the revival of the mandatory Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in college. It clearly sends a strong message that the youths need to have a deep sense of patriotism and love of country. If passed into law, this would help to develop a robust reserve force and multiplier who can be called upon in times of conflicts or national emergencies including disasters and calamities.

The class invested in a group life insurance for all the regular and adopted associate members. This is a prudent initiative undertaken by the class to provide financial security to respective families of members by way of death benefits granted to the former. Life insurance is important as it cushions the impact of devastating financial losses if an insured member prematurely dies. This is being renewed upon maturity so as to ensure continuity of insurance coverage for all class members.

Lastly, some members of the class organized the PMA '86 Bible Study and Prayer Fellowship. This is a non-denominational group whose members gather for a weekly bible study and fellowship, albeit held virtually, to praise and worship the Lord Jesus Christ. We are indeed blessed because there is still freedom to pursue activities that promote spiritual growth and being endowed with long life, all because of the grace of our creator.



Sinagtalans celebrate the class 37th graduation anniversary with a fellowship lunch last March 22, 2023 at Fresh International Buffet in Solaria, Parañaque City.



Some of the Sinagtala golfers pose for a souvenir photo during a golf game.



Ted Carranza receives a trophy as Individual Champion in Seniors 2 Category of Camp John Hay Corporate Cup last March 21-23, 2023 in Baguio City.



ERNESTO C TORRES, JR
President
ADONIS R BAJAO
Class Historian

TTrue to our avowed mission to serve in a distinct and unique "Makatao" manner, most of the members of our class have already reached the pinnacle of our respective careers in the Police, Army, Air Force, Navy and the Coast Guard.

While some leading lights of the class have peaked to occupy the highest positions in the different major services, others have already transitioned to the

more colorful phase of life after retirement.

Here are the different paths that we have trailblazed so far in various fields:

FOR THE POLICE GROUP:

The PNP Group will only have one remaining active member in the service - PLTGEN RHODEL SERMONIA, the Deputy Chief PNP for Administration by June 2023. PMGEN VALERIANO T DE LEON, the Director for Information Communication Technology Management retired just recently, last May 7, 2023. Val has maximized his farewell visits/sentimental journey to his previous units of assignments these past few days.

In a proud moment for all MAKATAOs, the 28th Chief of the Philippine National Police, our Mistah, PGEN RODOLFO S

AZURIN JR bowed out from the service last April 24, 2023 after completing more than 38 years of active military and police service. His memorable retirement ceremony was presided by no less than the President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. It was attended by most of the MAKATAOs who were exceedingly proud of his achievements as the Country's Top COP. Last April 20, PMGEN JESUS D. CAMBAY JR, also went on compulsory retirement as The Director for Comptrollership, after serving the nation for almost four decades as well.

Recently, Retirees Chiqui Malayo, Bart Bustamante and Rex Dela Rosa were elected as members of the Board of Trustees of



the Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund, Inc. (PSMBFI). Even beyond their retirement, they have rebounded to serve other public servants who have sacrificed a lot for flag and people. Chiqui was even elected as the President of the PSMBFI. In a more surprising turn of events, MARIO D SINOCRUZ has finally resurfaced after two long decades of hibernation to rejoin his former PC SAF RANGERS. He is still upbeat and healthy as he mingled and celebrated with other mistahs during the retirement of C, PNP.

Meanwhile, other members of the Police Group are enjoying in their farms, businesses and other worthwhile pursuits like Ed Paras, Erwin Robles, Manuel Chu and Hammy Geonzon. There is time indeed for everything and it is just about our



predestined moment to enjoy the fruits of our labor with our loved ones!

FOR THE ARMY GROUP:

As of 31 March 2023, ten (10) Army Makataos are still in the active service led by the CGPA, LTGEN ROMEO S BRAWNER JR. Others who continue to serve include: Rowen Tolentino, the Superintendent, PMA; Greg T Almerol, Commander, EASTMINCOM; Efren P Baluyot Commander, SOLCOM; William Gonzales the Inspector General, AFP; Marvin Licudine, Commander, AFPETDC; Camilo Ligayo, Commander, 8ID; Don Bajao, Commander, 9ID; and Leomar Doctolero, who is deployed in 11ID. Recently retired from the active service were Jun Torres last 26 Jan, Wibo Mamawag last 23 March and George Lalaquil last 23 April. In our perpetual drive to be of societal relevance, about 16 Army Makataos have accepted transition jobs, either in the private or in the government sector lately. Jun Torres and Nono Plaza accepted the directorship of NTF-ELCAC and NICA-BARMM, respectively. Others were Juvymax Uy, Ramil Bitong, Ariel Felicidadario, Manuel Sequitin, Nick Suemith, Mao Licudine, Nicolas Pongos, Ace Esmeralda, Ricardo Bayhon, Kiram Grajo, Ramon Tampil, Rolly Rulloda, Leo Ramoran and Rodolfo Batang. Enjoying retirement to the fullest are Lincoln Tagle, Alex Luna, Mike Taningco, Dan Barotilla, Wibo Mamawag, Joshua Santiago, Joey Narciso, John Oberio, Eman Magpayo, Kiko Baldazo, Roger Migote and Lowell Tan. Thriving while enjoying overseas are Alan Borlasa, Bayani Fernandez, Ricky Carlos, Joji Raymundo, Jess Rosete and Rizaleo Asuncion. They have contributed in no small measure to our local events though.

The Army group is actively supporting activities of the Class, the latest of which was the attendance in the last PMA 2023 Alumni Homecoming. It was truly overwhelming as the CGPA and Superintendent, PMA led the way for the Army group.

In our humble MAKATAO way, most of the remaining active members of the Army group are excelling in their respective fields and are looking forward to further fortifying corner stones in nation-building. Nonetheless, retirement also looms on the horizon and points forward a definitive shift to a more challenging future.

FOR THE AIR FORCE GROUP:

All the members of the MAKATAO 89 Air Force Group have already retired from the

service with LTGEN CONNOR ANTHONY D. CANLAS SR., immediate past Commanding General of the PAF, taking his final bow last 20 Dec 2022. However, this does not prevent the Air Force Group members from flexing their muscles and still be of importance to others. Cav Canlas has just been elected as one of the members of the Board of Directors in the Air Cavalier Credit Cooperative (ACCC). Cav Nesty Rayos is currently very active in his new position as the DBM (Driver and Bodyguard ni Misis) after retiring last 07 Nov 2022. However, he is still being tapped as a lecturer and instructor for the PNP Air Unit Upgrading Project. Cav Toto Dela Pena is expectedly pre-occupied with the various tasks at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation. Cav Leo Peralta is likewise active with SunLife Insurance Company as a part-time financial advisor. He is also the current Chairman of the Multi-Sector Advisory Board (MSAB) of the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and PAF Human Resource Center (PAFHRC). Cav Larry Tianchon is very passionate in gardening and conducting scientific research and experimentation to improve his gardening techniques. However, he is also being tapped as a lecturer and instructor for the upgrading of the PNP Air Unit. Cav Cris Marquez is still an active member of their Homeowners' Association in Lipa City, Batangas, as one of the members of the Board of Directors. He also assists in the upgrading of the PNP Air Unit, and was recently invited to be a member of their Multi-Sector Advisory Board. Cav Paul Mendoza is still an expat pilot, working in Hong Kong for almost five years now. Being an Airbus A330/A350 Captain of HKC Air Cargo Carrier Ltd., Paul still flies regularly on their short and long-haul flight destinations servicing Asia, the USA and Europe. Cav Lito Villanueva has also joined the elite group of the DBMs after his retirement last 03 Oct 2022. He is now sun burnt after roaming their vast tracts of land in Ibaan, Batangas. He just came home from a wonderful trip to Japan. Cav Aldrick Dela Torre too is happily savoring family life with his loving family in Cabanatuan City. Cav Caloy Cristobal is still in General Aviation, flying the ACH130 T2 Helicopter. However, he regularly visits his farm in his home province in Isabela, and employs modern farming methods for better yields. Cav Jerry Cabe is concentrating firmly on his flight schedules with the Gulf Helicopters Company, and is currently stationed in Doha, Qatar. Cav Joey Acedera is likewise running here and there with the Securiforce Security Services being the

President of the Company. He also manages the AcreedA Enterprises as its President. Finally, our new member, Cav Tony Lambino, a former member of the famous "Smokey Mountain" Group, was incorporated into the PMA MAKATAO 89 last 30 December 2022. He is currently the Managing Director for Strategic Communication of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

FOR THE NAVY GROUP:

There are four (4) Makataos who continue to sail the seas. First, VADM TORIBIO "JUN" D ADACI Jr, PN Flag Officer-In-Command (FOIC), who is firmly occupied with the daily grind of the Philippine Navy (no holidays) that he missed the retirement activities of our mistahs, but keeps sending tangible support whenever needed. Second, VADM ALBERTO "ABET" B CARLOS PN, Commander, Western Command (WESCOM) who has dedicated himself to maintaining the peace and security of the West Philippine Sea that he converted the PAGASA (KIG) into a tourist vacation spot... just make your reservation in the Air BNB. Third, LTGEN CHARLTON SEAN "CHUNKS" M GAERLAN PN(M), The Deputy Chief of Staff AFP (TDCSAFP), who recently assumed his new post. He replaced the Acting TDCSAFP LTGEN WILLIAM "NADONG" GONZALES PA, who assumed the post after the retirement of VADM ROMMEL ANTHONY "CHAPPY" SD REYES PN(Ret). The new TDCS is not sure if he still has time to ride his 750cc GS BMW bike. And fourth, COMMO JOHN R GARAÑA PN, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Financial Management, AFP (AJ10), has maintained his status as a top caliber golfer while analyzing and solving the AFP's financial maze on the greens.

Still fanning the flame of his love for the country is USEC ARIEL "MACULZ" R CACULITAN (Feb 2022) who is now the Undersecretary in the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Military and Police Affairs. Though tightly glued to his office work, the week is not complete without riding his BMW GS 1250 with his two sons-buddies. He had bequeathed his 883cc Harley Davidson to them initially, but eventually bought them another BMW for more joy rides. Additionally, joining the "Pensionados" is ROMMEL ANTHONY "CHAPPY" SD REYES (March 2023) who is currently sorting out his voluminous awards, trophies, plaques, memorabilia, etc. in his new palace somewhere in Cavite. He continues to attend what he has started, the rounds of golf among mistahs every Wednesday at CGEA Golf Club.

Other retired mistahs who are now enjoying their new-found freedom are as follows: RAUL "CALDAG" CALDEZ (Dec 2022), currently building his new home inside a golf course in Cavite. Sooner or later, he will transfer his reloader (machine) in order to maintain his status as the "fastest gun alive" of the 89er Marines while he rides his 650cc V-strom Suzuki bike at the same time. NICHOLS "NICK" A. DRIZ (Oct 2022) has settled somewhere in Parañaque and spends his time accounting all of his parent's properties for future inheritance using his James Bond skill. Surely, he will be busy confronting the informal settlers in their property in Cavite, his last AOR. EDUARDO "FABRICS" FABRICANTE (Oct 2022) is temporarily staying somewhere in Marikina as he regularly attends the Hampas Lupa weekly golf practices to enjoy his hiatus. Don't miss his narratives regarding pension, medical benefits, veterans' affairs and the matrix that tracks promotion and retirements in our viber group (in case you are experiencing some senior moments). JOSE DORVIN "LEGS" LEGASPI (Jul 2022) is seemingly excited in solving household matters and looking forward to installing solar power in his newly-built house in Quezon City. From time to time, he attends the Hampas Lupa golfers' practices in his brand-new White Toyota Cross. RUBEN "CANDEL" CANDELARIO (Jun 2022) is temporarily residing in Muntinlupa as he has been reporting daily at the DENR to support USEC Toto these past months. He is happily anticipating his receivables either in "butcherize" or in "voucherize" form. FERDINAN "REI" B PICAR (Apr 2022) is temporarily settling somewhere in Cainta, Rizal. He is very much consumed with his computer games (unlimited time/ truly retired) as he enjoys watching NETFLIX, Prime Movies, YouTube Premium and Disney with the help of Alexa, Siri, Bixby and Google. REGINALD "REGGIE" RAPANAN (Dec 2021) has built his house in between holes of the golf course somewhere in Cavite while waiting for his official appointment from the Office of Transportation Security, Department of Transportation (DOTr). Bring your own UG (umbrella girl) when you visit him or as you pass by hole nr. 19. EUGENIO "ENYONG" HERNANDEZ (Dec 2021) is still with the San Miguel Group of Companies as Security Consultant of the San Miguel Global Power where he travels every day from his residence in Tanza, Cavite. Thirty-five years of government service

is very short for this sturdy marine. JOSE WILLIAM "AGASI" ISAGA (Oct 2021) has settled in Bohol where he enjoys the beauty of the mountains and the pristine beaches of the place. He also performs his weekend farming and duty as DBM (Driver at Bodyguard ni Mrs). NESTOR "MARS" MARCELINO (Jul 2021) resides in Bulacan doing his duty as DSWD (Driver Security ni Wifey and Daughters), spending most of his time attending church activities, creating content for his new found vlogging hobby and joining an organization - the Eagles. ANGEL "BUTCH" LOBATON (2019) is spending most of his time counting all of his yachts in Subic, Zambales as he manages operational activities of Watercraft Ventures Corporation. FERDINAND "BOSS VELAY" VELASCO (2019) is in Bacoar, Cavite with his family and quite consumed with his business, golf games, and bike runs. He is fond of riding big bikes (expressway legal) where the Honda Rebel 500 still remains in his inventory. We have heard that he is willing to donate some for class raffles. ARTEMIO "TIMMY" AURELIO is a Consultant of a Security Agency. He is very much attached to his work that his son (improved version), a Naval officer, usually represents him in many class activities.

For our Mistahs abroad:

BONG ABELLERA is in UK as Senior Software Engineer in a Finance Company; REY BARACA is in New Jersey, USA working at SYMRISE (FLAVORS); MAENG CLIMACO is in New York, USA taking care of sick people; NONON SUNIGA is in California Bay Area, City of Sunnyvale, USA; ORBILLE PIOL is in Adelaide, South Australia and very much available to guide mistahs whenever they are lost in the Land Down Under.

For our honorary members:

DEXTER HAROLD E EMPERADOR practices law as he also organizes the regular golf practices of the Makatao's Hampas Lupa Group; CAMILO F BALUTAN is now the Regional Director of NICA Cordillera coming from NICA 9; FRANCISCO OGABUDAO JR is in Alfonso, Cavite enjoying his retirement with his flourishing store business; JOHN G LUMICAO is currently connected with the County of Santa Cruz, California, USA's Department of Public Works as a Traffic Engineer; RANDYLL FERNANDEZ is savoring his retirement from the US Navy and Federal Government in Oxnard, California, USA; RONALDO MENDOZA was recently appointed by the Consul General Elmer G. Cato as the Head

of Safety and Security Committee of all Philippine events, especially during the celebration of Independence day in June. He is also the point of reference for some active/retired military service men who are arriving in or passing through Milan, and likewise with Military/PNP attaché based in Madrid, Spain; RAUL CORTEZ is a practicing lawyer and manages his own law firm. He is very active in the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group as the Chairman of their Advisory Group and currently handles lectures on cybersecurity and technology in general; BRIX P NABUNAT is with PAGCOR-Casino Tagaytay as a Security Officer; VIRGILIO J MARCELO (U.S. ARMY) is based in California, USA and shuttles frequently between the US and the Philippines every now and then (we don't know why).

In pious remembrance of our dearly departed, we pray for all our mistahs who have gone ahead of us to rejoin our Creator:

For the PNP -

- Pecto Sagun
- Allan Flores
- Dominic Cabalza (adopted)
- Juny Leuterio (adopted)

For the Army -

- Nonoy Zuniga
- Nonoy Luna
- Dodong Baliota
- Benjie Enriquez
- Julius Refran
- Chito Corpus
- Bagnus Gaerlan
- Danny Olay
- Alan Cordova
- Emil De Leon
- Odie Cabillan (adopted)

For the Air Force -

- Glenn Bihag
- Ferdz Macasaet

For the Navy -

- Teody Teodoro
- Jun Unson

We fervently pray for the families they left behind and for all of us who continue to traverse the perilous paths of our noble service to God, country and the Filipino people.

Mapasa-atin lahat nawa ang pagmamahal at pagpapala ng Poong Maykapal na may likha ng langit at lupa, at siyang nagtatakda ng ating tadhana at ng lahat ng mga nangyayari sa buong sansinukob.





DENNIS GODFREY F GAMMAD
President
CRISOSTOMO S BAS JR
Secretary

Welcome New Class Officers (2023-2025)

Let us welcome this publication as our first Class Call since the election of the new set of Class officers for the next 2-year term (2023-2025) with Dennis Godfrey Gammad as our President, Joel Nacnac as VP and Auditor, Roger Ulanday as Treasurer, Benjie Hao as PRO and PA Representative, Bai Bas as Secretary, Ralph Mamaug as PAF Representative, Ric Petrola as PN Representative and Oliver Enmodias as PNP Representative.

Thirteen resolutions were passed under the leadership of Dennis that were decided on: the budget for the 2025 PMA Alumni Homecoming; to build up the Class fund through various fund-raising projects; to provide incentives for members and service branches for their active participation in these projects; to legitimize the Class structure and make transparent the utilization of Class fund; and to strengthen the bond among mistahs through Class activities.

Major Class Activity

We had success with our first major class activity — A Memorial for the Fallen Heroes of PMA 90 — on April 1, 2023 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. This is a



There are 31 mistahs and 23 spouses and brats in attendance to the program at the Pylon of the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

revival of the annual commemoration of our departed mistahs (16 of them). The preparation of the venue and the execution of the program was impressive. It started with a special mass at the Pylon and followed by visit to individual graves of our fallen mistahs, lunch, singing of the Alma Mater song, and handing out tokens to end the event. It was a pleasant and fulfilling day for everyone to go home happy and proud of how we honored our fallen mistahs.

We acknowledge and give our thanks to Benjie Hao along with his CMOR team

for the preparation and execution of the program; Roger Ulanday along with his ASCOM team for the venue, lunch and for all site services; Steve Crespillo for sponsoring the event, and Raul Villanueva for the delicious lechon.

Another bonding activity will be the Summer Family Outing on 20 May 2023 at the Riviera Sports Clubhouse in Silang, Cavite. We are organizing the following fun games: (a) couples' golf game; (b) basketball; (c) family water polo-volleyball, and; (d) badminton doubles. More details will be posted on the next Class Call.



There are six burial sites that were visited with each rendered with the sounding of taps.



The most sought after sports among active and retired Mistahs is golf. Forty-four (44) golfers attended the latest Game of Cavaliers.

The first Major Class Project is underway, the BIGKISLAHI Golf Tournament 2023 on 30 May 2023 at Canlubang Golf and Country Club (North Course), Calamba City, Laguna. This is in line with PDennis plans for PMA Homecoming 2025. The success of this project is entirely dependent on the contribution of each mistahs by generating or soliciting for sponsors (Major, Minor or Special), donors for raffle prizes, and the sale of golf tickets. The Chairman for this project is Toods Detoyato; while, Benjie Hao is the focal person for solicitation letters. Members of the support team will be Army mistahs.

Active 90 Mistahs

About thirty-five percent (35%) of mistahs are still in the active service. Leading in the area commands are LTGENs/PLTGEN Benedict Arevalo (CENTCOM), Roy Galido (WESMINCOM), Fernyl Buca (NOLCOM) and Pipoy Natividad (APC-Northern Luzon). Designated as DIVCOMs are MGENs Tony Nafarrete (1ID), Bert Capulong (2ID), Poker Cuerpo (4ID), Audrey Pasia (5ID) and Andrew Costelo (7ID).

At GHQ we have LTGEN Art Cordura as VCSAFP with Joint Staffs MGENs Bong Viray (J7), Noel Beleran (J8), Joel Nacnac (J9), Lando Nerona (J10); alongside MGEN Mandy Teofilo (OCSAFP), COL Rodyer

Dela Peña (DEPTIA), and nearby is Dennis Gammad (DIR NICA-NCR).

In high positions and commands in various services are RADMs Toinks Valencia (VCPN) and Rene David (CPF); MGENs/PMGENs Steve Crespillo (VCPA), Romulo Manuel (COMARESCOM), Dong Palafox (COMARMORDIV), Ula Ulanday (COMASCOM), Rex Bergante (COMTRADOC), Rommel Tello (IGPA), Chito Rojas (CPMC), Epoy Cuison (NAVRESCOM), Jonas Lumawag (TNIG), Arf Musico (COMACC) and Teejay Talja (COMAFRC), Eli Cruz (DIRDIDM), Ronie Olay (DIRLOG), Ritchie Posadas (DIRNPTI), Ato Bisnar (OCPNP) and Oliver Enmodias (DIRR&D). With our BGENs/PBGENs Flynn Dongbo (DEPDIRLOG), Rocky Binag (WCTOWNOL), Leo Guinid (COMBCT) and Benjie Hao (COMCMOR).

In the field as ADCs are BGENs Randy Sinocruz (1ID), Joven Gonzales (6ID), Buddy Abawag (9ID) and Bong Villareal (2ID); as Brigade Commanders are BGENs Jinx Enginco and Doming Gobway, while COLs George Domingo as ADC RRA 2ID and Greg Docil assigned VISCOM.

Mistahs in the Business, Industry or Retired

Long inactive and working as commercial airline Captains are Roy

Agarrado, Jawie Calderon, Alex Espinosa, Jojo Llemos, Chito Mayuga, Simong Rosimo, Anto Santos, Boni Sales, Forms Formantes and George Alvarez. Others opt to migrate and stay in other countries, like in the US are Bob Ruaro, Jel Valbuena, Alex Flores, Robert Guarina, Bonie Bonavente, Noel Vinoya (RN), Arnold Silva (UNNY) and Noel Biyo (family business); in Canada are Rainier Delas Llagas (RN) and Roland Garin, and in NZ is Alex Nagrampa, Switzerland is Rogie Reario and in France is Simon Fernan (INTERPOL).

Opting for early retirement ended up in various positions in private or public like AMB Bruce Concepcion (OSETC), Otik Ortiz (AIROPNS UNPKM), Bong Oliva (CAAP Consultant), Noel Lontoc (MARELCO Board), Bernard Valmonte (in mining), Jason Mailay (businessman) and Bai Bas (discipleship). Others are Chiefs of Security/Managers like Danny Aquino, Ariel Lagaurdia, Bunny Cabanayan, Santee Cababasay, Omots Crisostomo, Thad Salazar and Edwin Celzo; are later joined by retiring Mistahs like COL Danny Palma, PBGEN Marlon Madrid and BGEN Raul Villanueva (PAGCOR Chief Security).

As average retirement ages came closer, so goes the retirement of COLs/PCOL Willie Villahermosa, Teody Toribio,

Noel Detoyato (now VPOPNS Yulo GOC), Roger Percol (farmer), Alex Bravo, Ernie Cruz, Cris Calulot and Bobby Mesa. Then the retirements of RADMs Tony Palces, Danilo Fuentes, Norman Reyes and MGENs/PMGENs/VADMs Oca Endona, Ed Arevalo (Columnist Manila Times), Glen Cruz, Boyet Amano, Noli Mempin, Lawrence Mina, Nickson Muksan, Alex Sintin, Eden Ugale, and BGens/PBGens/COMMO Bong Artuz, Noel Baluyan, Ralph Mamauag, Benjie Batara, Marlo Guloy (DDGO, NSA), Russel Pompa, Robert Velasco, Fajie Fajardo, Roland Anduyan, Roland Miranda, Pacs Munoz, Renz Ortilla, Jong Ramos, Benjie Villasis, Ronnie Ylagan. Also the retirements of COLs/PCOLs Gengen Hidalgo, Ric Petrola and Mitch Filart, and PLTCOL Oscar Buenaobra and Ronald Olarte.

We have been looking for information on some mistahs, as of this writing – Lito Albino, Verbo Cabus, George Frogoso, John Lavetoria, Bernard Lagmay and Anton Pineda – hoping that we can get connected with them soon.



Our six finalists were awarded as Division Champion (Toods Detoyato, Noel Beleran, Rommel Tello, Fernyl Buca, Teloy Bergante and Chito Rojas).



RONIE D PETINGLAY
President
ULYSSES S MARQUEZ
Secretary

After 30 years of leaving the portals of our beloved Alma Mater, the PMA a prestigious military institution, the MAALAB Class of 1993 were together again during the three-day PMA Alumni Homecoming. The celebration was held last 17-19 February 2023. The MAALABs, being the senior host class, made this memorable rendezvous a resounding success. This could be attributed to the notable number of Alumni attendees after years of the pandemic that disrupted the normalcy of our usual activities. Despite busy schedules or even coming from overseas, mistahs had their hands-off to their scheduled activities only to join this momentous and exciting event. The Alumni Homecoming was graced by His Excellency, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr, Commander-in-Chief of the AFP as the Guest of Honor and Speaker and the Alumni's families.

This favorable opportunity of meeting mistahs was made very colorful with some activities undertaken, a sumptuous deliciously cooked dinner was served

during the class dinner. It was a nice chance for Alumni to display their gallant military uniform as now officers especially mistahs who were catapulted to higher ranks in their respective fields or had brought honor to the class where due recognition was given them. It was a time for sharing personal updates, experiences and renewal of cadet's practice of "bolahizing."

The anniversary celebration, however was not all joy. There was grief remembering our fallen mistahs: Cris Sulit, Philip Pestaño, Cristobal Julian Perez, Cesar Bactad, Jacinto Bala, Ronaldo Cauilan, Juanito De Vera, Daniel Inri Gayosa, Christopher Leron, Ronaldo Macalintal, Rommel John Mendoza, Jovenal Sarmiento, Glenn Villanueva, Allan Tero and Paul Bronson Ciano. To show our love, MAALAB Class visited and blessed their graves at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. It was followed by a breakfast fellowship with the fallen mistahs' relatives last 26 March 2023. This particular activity was spearheaded by our dynamic Class President BGEN TOTO PETINGLAY with

some of our mistahs. Leaving Libingan ng mga Bayani, we being sports minded, proceeded at the beautiful Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base Golf Course for a round of golf to make the celebration complete. This was followed by another "fill-in the stomach." Another lucrative fellowship dinner with MAALAB spouses was served at the Iron and Chef Restaurant.

During the 30th year anniversary, some of the MAALABs from the AFP and Coast Guard with their rounded personalities properly developed and provided by their Alma Mater had earned a share from the constellation of stars. They were granted promotional appointment for work well done (mission well accomplished) by the Commander-in-Chief. These shoulder star rank decorated Officers are now designated to key positions. Some also are already occupying key positions awaiting endorsement for their promotion. The entire class is pleased to congratulate those who had earned their well-deserved promotion. Likewise, PMA wishes them to reach the pedestal of success.

NAME	DESIGNATION
From the AFP: MGEN FABIAN M PEDREGOSA COMMO ROGER P VIDUYA COMMO SOCRATES M DAZA BGEN RONIE D PETINGLAY	Chief of Air Staff, PAF Assistant Superintendent, PMA Commander, Sealift Amphibious Force, PHLFLT, PN Wing Commander, 580th ACWW, PAF

BGEN ALEXEI C MUSÑGI
 BGEN ROMMEL R CORDOVA
 BGEN FRANCIS ANTHONY M CORONEL
 BGEN LEO A FONTANILLA
 BGEN FEDERICO B ENRIQUEZ
 BGEN AMADO V DELA PAZ
 BGEN PATRICIO RUBEN P AMATA
 COMMO JUARIO C MARAYAG
 COL ULYSSES S MARQUEZ
 COL ELMER B SUDERIO
 COL JOEY A ESCANILLAS
 COL FELIX RONNIE B BABAC
 COL MARION T ANGCAO
 COL CHRISTOPHER C TAMPUS
 COL PETER B BURGONIO
 CAPT EDWARD IKE M DE SAGON
 CAPT DWIGHT STEVEN M DULNOAN
 COL JESUS NELSON B MORALES
 COL RANDY O REMONTE

Commander, JTF-NCR, AFP
 Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, AJ5
 Commander, Army Artillery Regiment, PA
 Wing Commander, 5TH Fighter Wing, PAF
 Wing Commander, 220TH AW, PAF
 Deputy Commander, WESCOM, AFP
 Commander, 1002IBDE, 10ID, PA
 Commander, NAW, PF, PN
 Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, AJ1
 Commander, 102nd IBDE, PA
 Commander, 302nd IBDE, PA
 Commander, 1001IBDE, 10ID, PA
 Commander, 1003IBDE, 10ID, PA
 Commander, 1103rd IBDE, PA
 Commander, Army Intelligence Regiment, PA
 Commander, Offshore Combat Force, PHLFLT, PN
 Commander, NAVSOCOM, PN
 Deputy Commander, Air Logistic Command, PAF
 Commandant UP ROTCU & Dept Head, UP DMST

From the Coast Guard:

CG VADM RONNIE G GAVAN
 CG VADM ALLAN T DELA VEGA
 CG RADM ROY T ECHEVERRIA
 CG RADM CHARLIE Q RANCES
 CG RADM EUSTACIO NIMROD ENRIQUEZ JR
 CG COMMO LUISITO SIBAYAN
 CG COMMO EDGAR T YBANEZ

Deputy Commandant for Administration
 Commander, CGWCEISC
 Commander, MARSLEC
 Commander, CGFLT
 Commander, CGETDC
 Commander, CGDCV
 Deputy Commander, CGWCEISC

.....

Wrapping up everything, we, MAALABs and the AFP/Coast Guard in entirety give our hearty thanks to Supreme Commander, Lord Jesus Christ for his spiritual guidance leading us toward success in our chosen profession, symbolic of the star rank received which we can use with boldness hoping and praying

to be triumphant never defeat in all our battles. To us, turning back has no place, committed to defend our cherished Pearl of Orient Seas when wronged, we are always ready to commit our lives to the point of death for her sake. Only God's mighty hands, however, could save us from meeting waterloo.







ADRIANO SJ DUADICO
President
IVAN R PAPER
Secretary

Following the Footsteps!!!

Looking back 33 years ago, when the Bantay Layans entered the Academy in 1990, we remember the looks in our families' eyes. We see in their worrisome eyes as we feel their apprehensions knowing the difficult and challenging path ahead of us. At the same time, we see the light in their eye beaming with pride knowing their sons are one of the few, the cream of the crop, who made it into the prestigious institution of PMA.

Just like any other PMA classes, the Bantay Layans came from varying parental backgrounds and it is significant to note that couple dozens of us are military Brats... both officer Brats and what our enlisted calls as "anak ng meatcan." Definitely, these Dads are more prouder than any other parents considering their sons (voluntarily or forced) opted to follow their footsteps into the military profession. Military service, as difficult and risky as it is, still remains prestigious to any family in our country. Despite not being financially rewarding, the dedication, discipline and loyalty, to serve our country and protect our sovereignty, motivates not as many as we would expect to answer to this call.

Thus, 29 years, after graduating from the hallowed ground of the academy, the Bantay Layans are very proud of our Brats, idolizing their snappy Dads, who volunteered to join the military service. To date, we have twenty-six (26) 94 Brats who joined the service either thru PMA, and other sources of commissions such as PAOCS, PAFOCS, and NOCC, and even at PCG.

First on the list is **1LT Jaafar Omar PN(M)** of PMA Alab Tala Class of 2018 from Hawk Company. He is the son of BGEN Jun Omar PAF, currently the Chief OLA, AFP. Jaafar joined the Marine Corps.

Also from 2018 but joining the PMA Class of 2019 is **1LT Kim Kenric Gabriel O Agatep**, USAFA. He is the first Class 94 brat graduating from the foreign service school, the US Air Force Academy graduating with academic honors. He is the corrected copy of Col Kim Agatep PAF, the current CAS, PMA.

Joining the Navy from NOCC Class 30-2018 is the son of CAPT Richard David, the Commander of Naval Base Cavite. **LTJG Androbert "Dabong" David PN** is now serving his Junior billet aboard ship at LD 601. From serving aboard ship that his Dad



Giving of gun certificates for the graduating Bantay Laya Class 1994 Brats held last 20 May 2023 at Longayban Hall.

commanded to playing basketball for the Navy team, Dabong Junior is not far behind from the illustrious Naval career of Richard.

Next is **1LT Neil Francis Ventura** who joined the PAF. He is a member of the PMA MABALASIK Class of 2019 from Delta Coy and the son of Col Ace Ventura, a fly boy himself and currently the Deputy Commander, Air Defense Wing. Truly, the apple did not fall far from the tree.

From PMA MASIDLAWIN Class of 2020, a proud Marine Col Armand Custodio, Commander, JSOF2, SOCOM is the father of **2LT Armando Custodio Jr PA**, from Charlie Coy, called Cutitoy by Mistahs, is now an Armor Officer from LAD, PA.

From the PAOCS Class 53-2022 is another brat, **2LT JAIME CLERICO B SABABAN PA**. Jaime is the eldest son of the Ranger Warrior, Col James Sababan PA, the current Asst Commandant of Cadets, PMA.

Another one who joined the air force, literally following the footsteps of his Dad is



2LT Michael Kenneth Brillantes PAF, from PMA MASALIGAN Class of 2021 from Alpha Coy. The proud Dad is Col Brylle Brillantes PAF, the current Deputy Wing Commander TOWCEN.

A graduate of the prestigious MAAP in Bataan, then volunteering to join the Philippine Coast Guard after completing PCG Officer's Course in 2021, is **Ensign Lawrence Batalla PCG**. He is the eldest son of Col Larry Batalla PN(M), the Chief of Marine Corps Staff, PMC. Lawrence is now assigned at CG Fleet serving aboard ship.

Year 2022 is quite historic for PMA Bantay Laya having four brats joining the AFP officer Corps. Our first female Brat joining the service is **Ensign Czarina Henrae P Estoesta PN**, a PMA BAGSIK-DIWA Class of 2022 cavalier, from Bravo Coy. She is the daughter of Col Henry Estoesta, the Command Chief of Staff Air Force Reserved Command. Czarina opted to join the Navy now working at NISF, PN.

Graduating from PAOCS Class 57-2022 are two 94 Brats. **2LT Joshua Darrell I Bañez PA**, the son of Col Darrel Banez, currently a Group Commander at ISAFP.

Also from PAOCS Class 57-2022 is **2LT Theophilus Fontiveros PA**. He is the son of the Cyber Ranger, Col Joey Fontiveros PA, who is now the Deputy of the Army Signal Regiment.

The PAFPCS Class 2022 also produced another Brat of 94 following his Dad at the Air Force. **2LT Xenon Miguel A Gupit PAF** is the son of the proud Bantay Layan, Col Edmund Gupit, the Deputy Wing Commander, TOWSOL.

Among the youngest cavaliers, the Class of PMA MADASIGON 2023 have four (4) Brats of Bantay Layans. **2LT Nicole Aynera PA**, from Bravo COY will be following her dad at the Army. She is the daughter of Col Glenn Aynera, now a student at the US National Defense University.

From the same class of 2023 is another son of the CAS PMA, Col Kim Agatep PAF. Joining the Air Force, as expected, is **2LT Kim Kendrick Agatep PAF**, originally a Cools from Foxtrot Coy like his Dad, but graduated as Golf Gallants.

Another Cools from Foxtrot Company, from Class 2023 is **2LT Hanz Bernard Roldan PA**. He joined the Army, following the footsteps of his idol and Dad, Col Neil Roldan PA, a Foxtrot Cools himself who is currently the Inspector General of SOLCOM.

2LT Alex Gaminde PA, also a graduate of PMA Class 2023 is PMA 94 Brat. She is the daughter of our Mistah former Cadet Epifanio Gaminde IV.

To join us in the Officer Corps in the next year few years are several brats in PMA, at the USMA Westpoint and at USCGA. **Cadet Renzo Almodovar** is on his 2nd year at USMA, the son true Ranger Legend, Col Mon Almodovar PA and **Cadet Ryella Allysa P Flores**, USCGA 2026, daughter of Col Ramon P Flores PA.

In PMA, incoming First Class of Class 2024 are **Cadet Andrei Josh Romero "B" Coy**, son of Col Noel Romero, currently performing duties at OPAMPA, Malacanang, **Cadet Lanz Anthony Ricarze Espino "A" Coy**, the son Col Randy Espino, our current DAFA to Japan and **Cadet Adrein Cezar Catapang Conte "E" Coy**, son of Col Cesar Conte, current Chief of Staff, 4ID, PA. Incoming 2nd Class of Class 2025 are **Cadet 3CL Amir Josefe Rillorta Marcelino**, son of a snappy and accomplished Marine, Col Ferdie Marcelino, current Force Commander of SIF, ISAF. **Cadet Hannah Ranelle Dedoro Agtina "F" Coy**, eldest daughter of Randy Agtina, a retired Army officer and Businessman. Newly graduated plebes for PMA Class 2026, our incoming 3rd Class are siblings, **Cadets 3CL Daniel Luis I Batalla "G" Coy** and **3CL Luke I Batalla "B" Coy**, they



are both sons of Col Larry Batalla; **3CL Jacob Clement Sababan "E" Coy**, another son of Col James Sababan and **Cadet 3CL Lance Zachary Banez**, another son of Col Darell Banez. It seems Larry, James, and Darell are in a race with the greatest number of Brats in the Service.

"If you look at any superior athlete, you will find a strong parental influence. Parents introduce their children to a sport, and then they support them." - Ivan Lendl. Twenty-six Brats entering the service, after 29 years, and more to follow. Definitely tennis superstar Lendl is correct, no other strong influence to these 94 Brats but the parents themselves. We salute our Mistahs for having the guts and unselfishness to let their children follow their footsteps despite the challenges and difficulties that they themselves have gone through. We salute our Brats who bravely followed their dads in their military careers, may they serve safely, in God's grace, for our families, for our people, for our country.

Finally, allow me to acknowledge again the significant feat some of our Mistahs have accomplished, getting the elusive "Star" in the service, in a very competitive and limited environment. Congratulations to Commodore Prudy Patricio PCG, the first Army Commodore in the PCG from Class 1994, the gamble is truly worth it. Congratulations also to BGEN Aldrin Annani PAF as the Commander of 250th Presidential Airlift Wing. To BGEN Alvin Luzon PA, as the SMA to the SND, truly deserving, laying the foundation for higher opportunities. To incoming BGEN Maynard Camarao PA, designated as Cmdr 53rd Engr BDE, PA. Of course, we will not forget the first three star General, of Class 94, Vice Admiral Joseph Coyme, congratulations Mistah. Finally, the first MGEN from the Army, MGEN Pros Rebancos, now the TCE, AFP. Destiny have been written, and its taking its course. The Bantay Layans are truly proud, may the force be with all of you and for the rest our Mistahs. God Bless us all.



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

LAST CALL

PBGEN WENCY T PASCUAL '81

28 May 1958 - 24 January 2023

Cav Pascual passed away due to a freak accident last 24 January 2023. The funeral services were held at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel and Crematory, Quezon City from 25 – 28 January 2023. His body was laid to rest in Manila Memorial Park Sucat, Paranaque on 29 January 2023. He is survived by his wife Baby and daughter Reena Mae.



CPT IAN GERRU C PASINOS 2011

Died on 25 January 2023

Cav Ian Gerru Casiño Pasiños, was among two pilots from the 16th Attack Squadron "Eagle" of the 15th Strike Wing, who were killed when their aircraft crashed into a rice field in Sitio Tabon, Brgy. Del Rosario, Pilar, Bataan on 25 January 2023.

Interment was on 31 January at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.



MGEN ERICSON C AURELIO '72

04 June 1950 - 07 February 2023

Former Commanding General of 5ID, PA, Cav Aurelio passed away on 7 February 2023. Wakes were held on 11 February at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Commonwealth Ave., Q. C. and on 12-13 February at the Libingan ng mga Bayani Mortuary, Taguig City. Interment was on 14 February 2023 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

He is survived by his wife, Maria Victoria Rojo-Aurelio and children Sheila Marie, Eric Johnson, Kathleen Mae and Raisa Lynn.



BGEN ROLANDO Y ESPEJO '63

18 January 1941 - 13 February 2023

Cav Espejo passed away on 13 February 2023. He is survived by his wife Luz and children Jun-jun, Cybelle, Kareena, Roel and Ronan. His last position held in AFP was as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, J4.



BGEN ALVIN FRANCIS A JAVIER '85

09 March 1961 - 14 February 2023

Former Commander of AFPPS, Cav Javier died peacefully on 14 February 2023. Wake was held at Agoncillo Room, Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Paranaque on 15 February and interment on 18 February at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.



MGEN BENJAMIN N LIBARNES '67

14 November 1942 - 18 March 2023

On 18 March 2023, Cav Libarnes passed away in Diliman Doctors Hospital, QC where he was rushed after suffering from a heart attack. His remains were brought to the Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary for the wake on 21-24 March. The necrological service was held at St. Ignatius Cathedral on 23 March. Cremation was done in Arlington Crematorium on 24 March. He left behind his wife Lea with whom he had three children, Harold Benjamin, Antonio Benjamin and Ana Maria Zilfa.



PLTGEN VIRTUS V GIL '71

14 March 1949 - 22 March 2023

Cav Gil died peacefully on 22 March 2023. Wakes were held in Camp Crame Mortuary on 22-25 March and at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani Mortuary on 26-27 March. Interment was held on 28 March at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.



COL NOLI V SANTUA '55

24 July 1929 – 6 April 2023

PMA Class 1955 Historian, Cav Santua joined our Creator on 6 April 2023. Wake was held from 12-16 April at the Alta Tierra Village Church Mortuary, Jaro, Iloilo City and military burial and honors on 17 April at Green Garden Cemetery, Jaro, Iloilo City.



Cav Santua has served as President of the Parish Pastoral Council; Chapter Head of the Couples For Christ; and Head, Special Ministers of Holy Communion.

PBGEN VICTOR S TIANGCO '69

26 April 1944 – 11 April 2023

Cav Tiangco was the latest member of Class 69 to have left and joined our Creator on 11 April 2023. He is survived by his wife Inday and children Dennis and Victor, Jr.



PCOL ANTONIO T SIERRA '68

29 March 1941 - 13 April 2023

Cav Sierra passed away and joined our Creator on April 13, 2023. Wake was held at the Birds of Paradise Eternal Paradise Funeral Chapel, Taytay, Rizal. He was given full military honors before he was finally laid to rest in Cabiao Catholic Cemetery, Nueva Ecija on April 17. He had a very colorful career in the Constabulary and Police. He was an active Rotarian and a source of unselfish assistance to his mistahs in need. He is survived by his wife Ledy, sons Antonio Jr, Ariel Antonio, Antonio Carmelo, Antonio Jayson, and grandchildren.



GEN DIOMEDIO P VILLANUEVA '68

20 May 1946 - 1930 April 2023

Cav Villanueva was called by our Lord on April 30, 2023. He was a CG, PA before serving as Chief of Staff, AFP on 17 Mar 2001 – 18 May 2002. He is married to Erlyn with whom he had three children: Marikit, Jojo and Yumi. Wake was held at the Heritage Park, Taguig City on 1-3 May 2023 and at the GHQ Camp Aguinaldo on 4 May. He was interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 05 May.





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