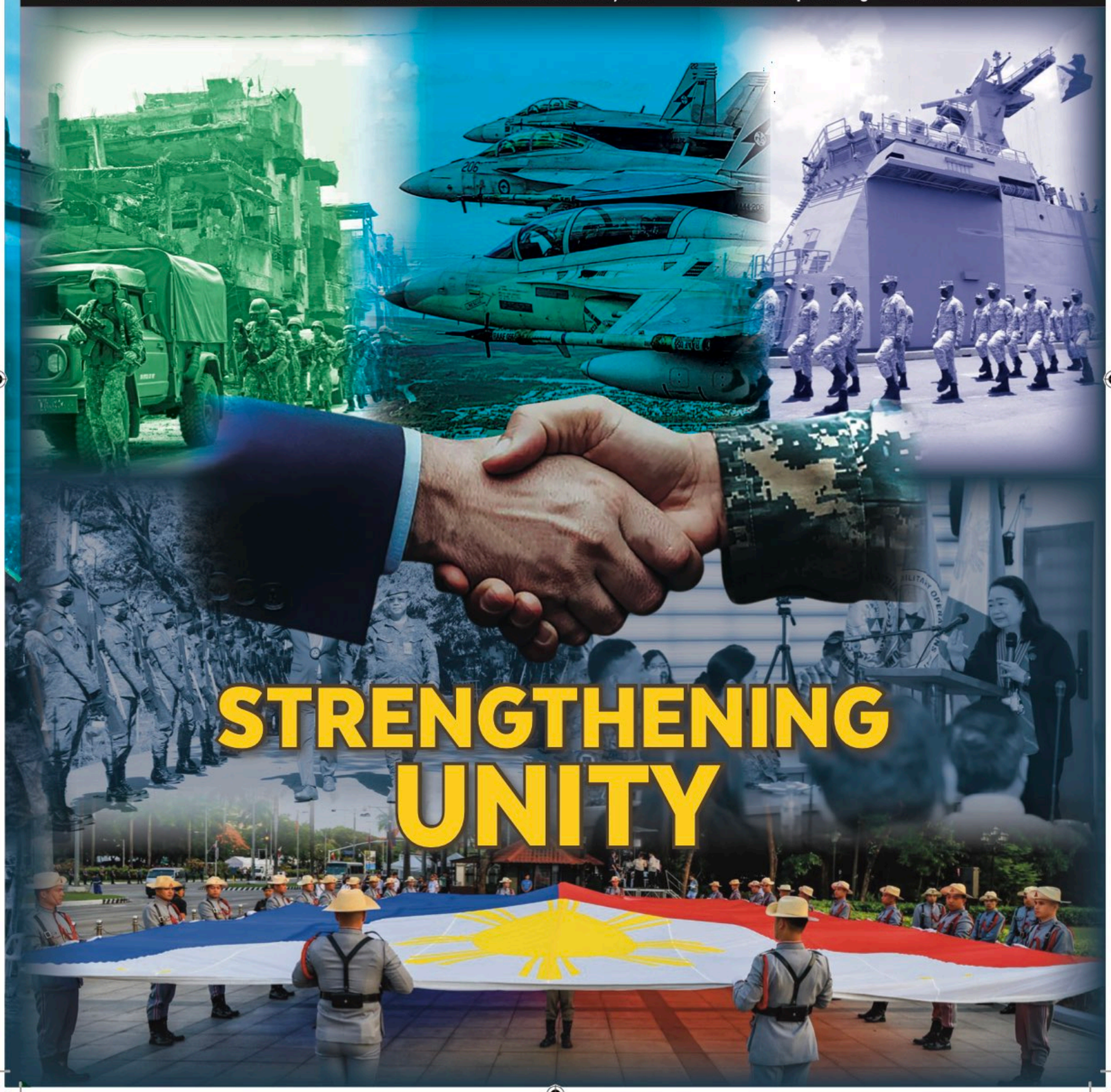
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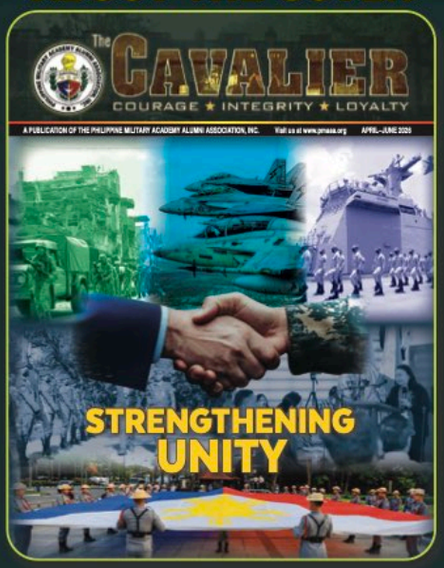
COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

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STRENGTHENING UNITY

ABOUT THE COVER



"Strengthening Unity" reflects more than fellowship; it is a reaffirmation of purpose. It speaks of Cavaliers standing together in support of one another, reinforcing collaboration across chapters, and sustaining the spirit of brotherhood that has long defined the Long Gray Line. It is unity expressed in action—through mentorship, shared leadership, collective service, and a common resolve to uphold the prestige of the Philippine Military Academy.

This issue celebrates that enduring bond. It honors the past, strengthens the present, and looks toward a future where Cavaliers remain united—not only in identity, but in action and vision for the country.

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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 views and opinions expressed in articles and contributions within Cavalier Magazine are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance or endorsement of the PMAAAI. The Association disclaims any responsibility for the content provided by individual contributors.*

Readers are encouraged to form their own opinions based on the information presented and are advised to consider diverse perspectives.

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The Editor-in-Chief, The Cavalier
PMAAA Center for Leadership Excellence
Lawton Ave, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Email address: cavalier.magazine@pmaaa.org



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV RICARDO A DAVID, JR '77

Unity, Comradeship and Moral Governance within the PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

Unity is not merely an aspiration of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI); it is the very soul of the organization. For generations of Cavaliers - the proud graduates of the Academy - unity has meant rising above individual class years, regional affiliations, and divergent career paths to stand as one comradeship forged in the crucible of Fort Del Pilar. It is the silent but unbreakable covenant that transforms a collection of accomplished officers into a singular force for national service. Without unity, the distinguished accomplishments of members become scattered lights; with unity, they become an enduring flame. Thus, the continuing vitality of PMAAAI depends fundamentally on its ability to preserve unity—deepening the bonds of fellowship, harmonizing diversity of experience, and sustaining a shared commitment to the Republic across every generation of Cavaliers.

The continuing vitality of the PMAAAI depends not only on the distinguished accomplishments of its members but, more fundamentally, on its ability to preserve unity, deepen the bond of *esprit de corps*, and sustain a common commitment to national service across generations of Cavaliers. PMAAAI is not merely an alumni association formed for fellowship or ceremonial gatherings; it is a lifelong fraternity forged through shared hardship, discipline, sacrifice, and devotion to country. The Academy experience created bonds that transcend class years, military branches, professional paths, and geographic boundaries. Those bonds remain the moral and institutional foundation upon which PMAAAI stands today—best expressed through the intertwined principles of Comradeship, Honor, and Service. Without honor, comradeship loses credibility; without service, it loses meaning. Together, they define the character of the Association and explain why the Cavalier spirit endures across decades.

The Semantic and Philosophical Essence of Cavalier Comradeship

The term "*comradeship*" encompasses a broad spectrum of relational dynamics that define the internal culture of the PMAAAI. While traditional vocabulary has often used familial terms, the modern organizational context demands a more progressive language reflecting the professional, ethical, and multi-faceted nature of these relationships. Comradeship implies a shared mission and mutual reliance that is both emotional and functional. In a military context, this is often refined into "*esprit de corps*," which suggests a profound consciousness of and pride in belonging to a particular group.

The identity of the "*Cavalier*" is central to this dynamic. As graduates of the country's premier military institution, Cavaliers are recognized not just by their rank, but by their adherence to a distinct set of values and a shared history. The transition toward a comprehensive model of professional comradeship involves adopting terms that better reflect the Academy's mission. Camaraderie refers to the ease of friendship and trust between peers, while *esprit de corps* refers to the collective pride and morale of the entire institution. These semantic choices reflect a deeper philosophical shift. Comradeship is not merely about affinity; it is about "singleness of purpose" and "like-mindedness" in the pursuit of national objectives. This shared sense of belonging creates an "unbreakable bond" that bridges the years between disparate classes.

The Moral Trinity: Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty

At the heart of this comradeship stand the enduring virtues taught by the Philippine Military Academy itself: Courage, Loyalty, and Integrity. These are not merely ceremonial mottos recited during cadet days; they are the enduring moral pillars that shape the life of every Cavalier. Courage enables members to confront adversity, defend truth, and lead with conviction even in difficult times. In the military context, courage is exemplified by the physical bravery of alumni such as Captain Arturo Ortiz (Class of 1979) and Lieutenant Bartolome Bacarro (Class of 1988), both recipients of the Medal of Valor for gallantry beyond the call of duty.

However, the PMAAAI also emphasizes moral courage - the willingness to stand firm on values even when threatened. Loyalty binds Cavaliers not only to one another but, more importantly, to the Constitution and the ideals of honorable service. Integrity ensures that leadership remains anchored on honesty even when

no recognition is sought. Together, Courage, Loyalty, and Integrity provide the ethical foundation that sustains unity within PMAAAI. While the test of courage occurs in times of danger, integrity is measured in positions of power when "nobody is looking." They remind every Cavalier that true fellowship is not built merely on shared memories, but on shared character.

The Long Gray Line: Intergenerational Continuity

As the organization expands, the challenge of maintaining unity grows more complex. Strong class identities emerge among graduates who endured the same cadet life, yet these must always be harmonized by a higher identity—the "Long Gray Line." This concept symbolizes the unbroken continuum of all graduates and cadets, reflecting the unique ties that bind every Cavalier to all who have come before and all who will follow.

The 2026 Alumni Homecoming highlighted this breadth, with over 1,741 Cavaliers in attendance, ranging from the eldest attendee, Cav Filoteo Arevalo (Class of 1956), at 92 years old, to the youngest, Cav Alexis Mison (Class of 2025). This spectrum of age represents the "*yearly renewal*" of the Academy's tradition. PMAAAI becomes stronger when these generations work together in mutual respect and mentorship. Senior Cavaliers provide wisdom and institutional memory, while younger members contribute innovation and new perspectives necessary for future relevance. The theme of "Fostering Unity and Excellence" reinforces that despite the decades that separate them, the bond of the Corps unites all Cavaliers equally.

Leadership Beyond the Uniform

Cavaliers have served the nation not only within the Armed Forces but also in government, diplomacy, and business. Notable examples include former Defense Secretary, Cavalier Renato S de Villa '57 as well as Cav Marciano A Paynor Jr '71 and the late Cav Cesar P Pobre '52. This diversification is not a weakness; rather, it reflects the richness of the Cavalier fellowship. The principle of "*Leaders in Fellowship, United in Service*" recognizes that leadership within the PMA tradition is inseparable from responsibility. True leadership is not measured by rank alone but by the willingness to place national interests above personal ambition.

To support this transition, PMAAAI must strengthen structures that promote inclusion and institutional cohesion. The relationship between the national organization and regional chapters must be based upon coordinated unity rather than excessive centralization. While a centralized structure ensures consistency in policies, a decentralized approach allows regional chapters, such as the Philippine Air Force (PAF) Chapter, to respond quickly to local conditions. This chapter-level engagement keeps Cavaliers "*on the move*" connected to election activities and member services while reflecting enduring values.

Institutional Governance and Social Responsibility

Trust is the lifeblood of unity. Members are more likely to support organizational initiatives when they perceive fairness and integrity in leadership. Transparency and accountability are therefore essential instruments for preserving institutional cohesion. This commitment to governance extends to the association's social responsibility programs, including disaster relief, scholarship programs, and civic outreach. For example, the PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) raises and administers funds for the education of dependents of deceased and disabled members of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), reflecting the organization's enduring commitment to community service and mutual support. Shared service initiatives such as these remain among the most practical and meaningful ways of strengthening unity within the organization. Disaster response activities and national development initiatives reinforce the understanding that PMAAAI exists to serve purposes greater than personal gain. The conferment of the "Cavalier Awards" annually recognizes those who have excelled in fields ranging from command and administration to private enterprise and special operations, proving that the Cavaliers' mission of service continues long after they leave the active ranks. Comradeship deepens most profoundly when Cavaliers work side by side in the service of others, guided always by courage in adversity and integrity in action.

Conclusion: The Architecture of an Enduring Fellowship

Ultimately, the future strength of PMAAAI will not depend solely on organizational structures. Its enduring vitality will arise from the collective commitment of its members to uphold the ideals learned within the Academy: honor, discipline, service, and integrity. Classes may differ, and generations may bring varying perspectives, but all remain united by a common mission. The true spirit of the Association is best understood through its integrated ideals: Serving the Nation, Strengthening the Comradeship; Bound by the Corps, Committed to the Nation; and Leaders in Fellowship, United in Service.

These are not merely slogans. They are enduring principles capable of guiding PMAAAI toward its vision of becoming a "*world-class military academy*" and a "*source of national pride*"! Anchored upon the timeless virtues of Courage, Loyalty, and Integrity, the comradeship of the Philippine Military Academy remains a vital vanguard for the defense of the Republic and the service of the Filipino people. Every Cavalier, whether a newly commissioned lieutenant or a retired general, carries forward this legacy - a legacy defined not by a singular class, but by a shared commitment to the nation.

Yes, it is with this spirit of unity and service that we are challenged - to rise above differences, strengthen our bonds, and work together for the welfare of our fellow Cavaliers, the Association, and the nation we have sworn to serve.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97

The Legacy We Carry Forward

As the new PMAAAI Board of Directors assumes their current designations, with its set of demanding responsibilities and accountabilities, it begs the question: *"How do graduates of the Philippine Military Academy want to be remembered by future generations?"* My answer: not merely as soldiers, but as stewards of unity, guardians of service, and keepers of the nation's memory. Not simply as officers who marched in formation or wore ranks on their shoulders, but as people who lived with purpose - anchored in unity, defined by service, and guided by the lessons of the past.

They aspire to be known as individuals who stood firm when division threatened to weaken the country - men and women who chose solidarity over self-interest. In a time when differences can easily fracture communities, their legacy is one of bringing people together, reminding Filipinos that shared purpose is stronger than personal gain. Hence, their legacy is not just in victories won, but in the quiet strength of bringing people together under one flag, one mission, and one shared destiny.

Service lies at the heart of their identity. PMA graduates do not seek recognition for power, but for sacrifice. They hope to be remembered as those who placed the welfare of the nation above comfort, who answered the call in moments of uncertainty, and who led not just with authority, but with integrity and compassion.

Equally important is their respect for history. They understand that the present is shaped by the struggles and triumphs of the past. By honoring those who came before them, they ensure that lessons are not forgotten and that courage continues to inspire future generations.

Ultimately, PMA graduates would want to be remembered not for who they were in rank, but for what they stood for: unity that binds, service that uplifts, and remembrance that keeps the spirit of the nation alive. If future generations can look back and say that these values endured because of them, then their mission - both in life and beyond - has truly been fulfilled.



PMAAAI Board of Directors Conducts Formal Calls to Key National Leaders and Institutions

As part of its continuing efforts to strengthen institutional partnerships and reaffirm its commitment to service, leadership, and nation-building, the newly installed leadership of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), led by Chairman and CEO **CAV Ricardo A. David Jr. '77**, conducted a series of formal calls on key leaders from the defense, security, and public sectors during the second quarter of 2026. These engagements provided opportunities to present the Association's priorities and initiatives while reinforcing longstanding ties with organizations that share PMAAAI's commitment to professionalism, unity, and national development.

Official Visit to the Commanding General, Philippine Army

On 23 March 2026, the PMAAAI Board of Directors paid a courtesy call on **LT GEN Antonio G. Nafarrete '90**, Commanding General, Philippine Army, at Headquarters Philippine Army, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.



The visit served as an opportunity for the Association's new leadership to formally introduce itself and present its ongoing programs, initiatives, and priorities in support of the military community. The engagement underscored PMAAAI's continuing commitment to strengthening its partnership with the Philippine Army and contributing to initiatives that promote excellence in service, leadership, and nation-building. It likewise reaffirmed the shared dedication of both organizations to fostering unity and cooperation in pursuit of their common goals.

Strengthening Partnership with PAGCOR

On 08 April 2026, PMAAAI officials led by Chairman and CEO **CAV Ricardo A. David Jr. '77** paid a courtesy call on **Mr. Alejandro H. Tengco**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), at the PAGCOR Office, MET Live Building, Pasay City.



During the meeting, the PMAAAI leadership conveyed its appreciation for PAGCOR's valuable support and contributions to the successful completion of the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence. Discussions also explored opportunities for sustained collaboration in support of programs promoting leadership development, institutional excellence, and nation-building. The engagement highlighted the significance of partnerships that advance initiatives benefiting future leaders and strengthening public service.

Courtesy Visit to the Chief of Staff, AFP

The PMAAAI Board of Directors paid a courtesy call on **GEN Romeo S. Brawner Jr. '89,** Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, on 19 May 2026.

Led by Chairman and CEO **CAV Ricardo A. David Jr. '77**, the delegation expressed the Association's appreciation for the opportunity to engage with AFP leadership and reaffirmed PMAAAI's steadfast support for the Armed Forces. The Association briefed the Chief of Staff on its current programs and major activities aimed at strengthening camaraderie, professional development, and the welfare of Cavaliers and their families.

Discussions focused on mentorship, professionalism, preserving PMA traditions and values, and sustaining strong linkages between active-duty and retired Cavaliers. Both parties emphasized opportunities for enhanced collaboration in leadership development, veterans' welfare, community service initiatives, and efforts that promote unity and fellowship among PMA alumni across generations.

In his remarks, Gen Brawner recognized PMAAAI's ongoing efforts to foster unity and camaraderie among Cavaliers. The engagement concluded with a renewed commitment to



strengthening the Corps' enduring legacy of service, leadership, professionalism, and patriotism.

Courtesy Call on the Secretary of National Defense

On 25 May 2026, the PMAAAI Board of Directors paid a courtesy call on **Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr.** at Camp Aguinaldo to reaffirm its solidarity with and support for the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Association expressed appreciation for the Secretary's leadership in advancing national defense, professionalism, and institutional stability within the AFP. PMAAAI likewise reiterated its commitment to promoting unity among Cavaliers, supporting military retirees and veterans, preserving PMA traditions and values, and contributing to nation-building initiatives.



The discussions emphasized the importance of unity, professionalism, constitutional loyalty, and political neutrality within both the PMA Brotherhood and the Armed Forces. The courtesy call concluded with PMAAAI's reaffirmation of support for a credible, modern, and resilient national defense posture in service of the Filipino people.

Courtesy Visit to the Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard

On 09 June 2026, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO **CAV Ricardo A. David Jr. '77**, together with members of the Board of Directors, paid a courtesy call on **ADM Ronnie Gil L. Gavan '93**, Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard.



The engagement focused on areas of cooperation, leadership development, and support for national security initiatives. Both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to professionalism, patriotism, and dedicated service to the Filipino people.

Taken together, these formal calls reflected PMAAAI's proactive engagement with key leaders and institutions that play vital roles in national defense, public service, and leadership development. While each visit carried its own distinct significance—from reinforcing ties with the Armed Forces and the Philippine Coast Guard to recognizing valuable partnerships with organizations such as PAGCOR—they all underscored the Association's enduring commitment to strengthening the PMA Brotherhood, promoting excellence in leadership, and contributing meaningfully to nation-building. Through these engagements, PMAAAI reaffirmed its role as a steadfast partner in advancing the values of service, professionalism, unity, and patriotism that define the Corps of Cadets and its alumni.





CHAIRMAN'S GUIDANCE
AY 2026–2027

• CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), under the leadership of Chairman and CEO Cav Ricardo A. David Jr. '77, has set forth its guiding direction for Academic Year 2026–2027 anchored on the theme:
"Consolidating Gains, Strengthening Unity, Sustaining Service."

The Chairman's Guidance emphasizes the continued advancement of PMAAAI through unity, principled leadership, institutional sustainability, and sustained commitment to service. It seeks to build upon the Association's accomplishments while fostering stronger engagement among Cavaliers across classes, chapters, and generations.

At the heart of the guidance are the enduring values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty—principles that continue to define the PMA tradition and inspire members in both public service and civilian life.



"Together, let us preserve our gains, strengthen our unity, and sustain our service to the Academy and our Nation."

CAV RICARDO A. DAVID JR. '77
Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI

To realize these objectives, PMAAAI identified key strategic priorities for the year, including strengthening unity and alumni engagement, ensuring excellence in flagship programs, promoting institutional sustainability and good governance, optimizing PMAAAI-CLE initiatives, and expanding membership participation through broader outreach and digital engagement.

The guidance likewise outlines major activities and events for the year, including the Cavalier Award Search, Cavaliers' Cup, Game of the Cavaliers, Christmas Fellowship, Family Sportsfest, Annual General Membership Meeting, and the PMA Alumni Homecoming. These activities are intended to strengthen camaraderie, promote active participation, and reinforce lifelong commitment to the Academy and the Association.

Chairman David likewise underscored the importance of transparent communication, political neutrality, fiscal responsibility, and regulatory compliance as essential pillars in ensuring the Association's continued credibility, accountability, and operational effectiveness.

Ultimately, the Chairman's Guidance calls upon all Cavaliers to preserve the gains achieved by the Association, strengthen unity within the brotherhood, and sustain meaningful service to the Academy and

"Consolidating Gains, Strengthening Unity, Sustaining Service"

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

COURAGE
We face challenges with valor.

INTEGRITY
We do what is right, always.

LOYALTY
We remain faithful to our duty and each other.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- STRENGTHENING UNITY AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
- EXCELLENCE IN FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS
- INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
- STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF PMAAAI-CLE
- EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

KEY ACTIVITIES & MAJOR EVENTS AY 2026–2027

CAVALIER AWARD SEARCH	CAVALIERS' CUP	GAME OF THE CAVALIERS	CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP	FAMILY SPORTSFEST	ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	PMA ALUMNI HOMECOMING
MAR – DEC 2026	JUNE – AUG 2026	11 – 14 NOV 2026	DECEMBER 2026	16 JANUARY 2027	23 JANUARY 2027	20 FEBRUARY 2027

TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION
Regular updates and open communication with members and stakeholders.

POLITICAL NEUTRALITY
We remain strictly non-partisan and focused on the well-being of our members and support for the Academy.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
Prudent stewardship and accountability in the use of Association resources.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
Full compliance with all statutory requirements and continuous improvement of systems.

Together, let us preserve our gains, strengthen our unity, and sustain our service to the Academy and our Nation.

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY



Executive Director's REPORT

CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85

FROM GUIDANCE TO ACTION: Advancing the PMAAAI Vision for Association Year 2026-2027

As we embark on Association Year 2026–2027, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) enters a new chapter guided by a clear direction and a shared commitment to excellence. Under the theme "Consolidating Gains, Strengthening Unity, Sustaining Service," the Association intends to transform guidance into action by implementing programs, initiatives, and operational priorities that are aligned with approved timelines, quality outputs, and the enduring values that define every PMA graduate—Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.



STRENGTHENING UNITY AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

One of the primary areas of focus this year is the strengthening of unity and alumni engagement. Across all classes and chapters, we intend to encourage broader participation and deeper involvement in Association activities. Through enhanced communication, chapter outreach, family-centered programs, and collaborative initiatives, we seek to foster stronger connections among our members and reinforce the spirit of camaraderie that has always distinguished the PMA alumni community.

Our objective is simple yet significant: to ensure that every member feels connected to the Association and recognizes the value of active participation in advancing our collective goals.

The Chairman's Guidance for AY 2026–2027 provides the framework that will support the Board of Directors in its deliberations and decision-making while aligning the efforts of officers, committees, chapters, and members toward common institutional objectives. More importantly, it provides a common direction that will enable the entire Association to move forward with unity of purpose and clarity of vision.

As Executive Director, I view this guidance as a call to action. It challenges us not only to maintain the momentum of previous accomplishments but also to build upon them through disciplined execution, effective collaboration, and a renewed focus on service to our members and the PMA community.

> ***"The success of PMAAAI is built upon the collective efforts of its officers, committees, chapters, and members working together toward a common purpose."***

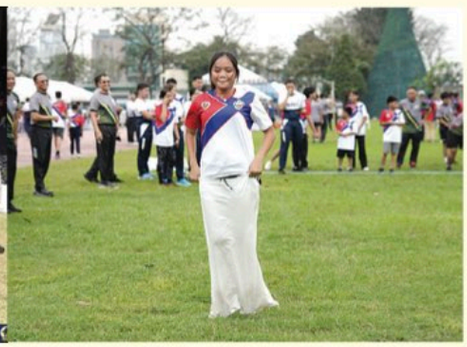
In support of excellence in flagship programs, the Association intends to execute its major activities according to approved schedules and operational priorities while ensuring accountability, professionalism, and quality outcomes.

These flagship activities include the:

- Cavalier Award Search
- Cavaliers' Cup
- Game of the Cavaliers
- Christmas Fellowship
- Family Sportsfest
- Annual General Membership Meeting
- PMA Alumni Homecoming

These programs are more than annual events. They are opportunities to strengthen fellowship, celebrate achievements, promote institutional pride, and preserve traditions that continue to unite generations of PMA alumni.





INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Beyond our flagship programs, the Association remains committed to strengthening institutional sustainability and good governance. In accordance with the Chairman's Guidance, we intend to continue promoting transparent communication, fiscal responsibility, regulatory compliance, and sound organizational management.

Committees and offices are encouraged to operate within approved budgets while maintaining accountability and professionalism in the performance of their respective functions. Through disciplined stewardship of resources and adherence to governance standards, we aim to strengthen the credibility and long-term sustainability of the Association.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE PMAAAI CLE

Another important priority is the continued development of the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence (CLE). The Center remains a strategic asset that supports leadership development, organizational learning, and meaningful engagement among members.

As we look toward the future, the CLE is envisioned to become an enduring institution that contributes to the continuing professional growth of PMA alumni while promoting leadership excellence rooted in the values of our Alma Mater.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND EFFECTIVENESS

Recognizing the importance of continuous improvement, the Association also intends to institutionalize mechanisms for evaluation, documentation, and performance assessment. Lessons learned from previous activities will guide future initiatives and contribute to more effective planning and execution.

Continuous learning and improvement are essential if we are to sustain our gains and remain responsive to the evolving needs of our members and stakeholders.

UNITY OF PURPOSE, COLLLECTIVE SUCCESS

Ultimately, the success of Association Year 2026–2027 will depend on the collective commitment of every officer, Board member, committee chairperson, chapter president, and member.

While decisions and actions remain vested in the Board acting as a collegial body, the active participation and support of the entire PMA alumni community remain indispensable in advancing the mission and vision of PMAAAI.

As we pursue the goals and priorities outlined in the Chairman's Guidance, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to our enduring values. Through disciplined execution, meaningful collaboration, and unwavering dedication to service, we shall continue to strengthen our Association, uphold the proud legacy of the Philippine Military Academy, and inspire future generations of leaders.





SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90

Solidarity in Service: Strengthening Unity

Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City — Unity is a time tested principle that has long been proven essential in the accomplishment of great feats. In nature, ants, though individually small and weak, are capable of building vast and complex colonies. In society, what enables communities to flourish and prevents them from descending into chaos is the government, composed of individuals with different personalities, faith, and disciplines. In organizations, people work together to maintain continuity and efficiency of operations. Through these systems, tasks are accomplished, innovations are made and challenges are overcome. And across these systems, a common truth is readily seen, that strength lies not in individual capability, but in collective effort driven by a shared purpose.

The same truth is mirrored in military service, that unity is the force multiplier that turns plans into mission success. This has been proven time and again and today is no different. We, at the Philippine Military Academy have achieved great success and seen plans and concepts turn into real, practical, and effective outcomes.

The second quarter is a period of steady progress for the Philippine Military Academy. We have created the foundation to the road leading to a world-class academy and the journey is a continuous effort to improve and maintain that foundation through infrastructure development, academic advancement, international engagement, and community outreach. These activities are our conscious effort to ensure that the Academy remains responsive, relevant, and committed to producing highly motivated and competent military officers.

The Philippine Military Academy continues to modernize by undertaking key developments in facilities and infrastructure. The inauguration of the PMA Rappelling Tower is a step forward to realistic and progressive training. With this, cadets strengthen not only their technical skills but also hone confidence and composure.

While the Academy is committed to developing facilities that support cadet training, it also recognizes that strength not only comes from modern training facilities. Therefore, in fulfillment of the PMA Growth Plan, the Barrio Barracks was demolished to



PMA Superintendent CAV CAESAR BERNARD VALENCIA (center) joins the top 10 graduating cadets of "Talang Dangal" Class of 2026 for a photo opportunity at the PMA campus in Fort Del Pilar in Baguio City. The class is a well-rounded group of young military professionals who were equipped with both traditional and modern warfare skills. (PNA photo by Liza Agoot)

pave the way for its redevelopment into a modern facility capable of accommodating a greater number of cadets and providing improved living conditions aligned with the training environment.

The academic highlights of this quarter further demonstrate our comprehensive approach to developing cadet competence by integrating operational readiness, leadership formation, and global awareness.

At the center of this is the conduct of the Joint Field Training Exercises (JFTX) 2026. Beginning with Command Post Exercises, cadets refined their skills in planning, coordination, and mission analysis. During Execution, cadets operated in a complex training environment with the activation of the Multi-Domain Task Unit, integrating cyber, drone, electronic, and information warfare capabilities. Through joint ground, air, and naval scenarios, they strengthened coordination, situational awareness, and decision-making under pressure. More importantly, this year's JFTX reinforced a critical lesson: that no unit succeeds alone, and that mission accomplishment depends on unity of effort.

Complementing the JFTX was the Immersion Program conducted in Palawan, which provided a comprehensive training experience to cadets by exposing them to real-world operational environments and understanding terrain and maritime dynamics and appreciating the strategic importance of our archipelagic defense. By bridging theory and practice, these activities ensure that cadets receive training grounded in real-world conditions.

PMA also continues to value the importance of continuing education among its faculty. As a step toward strengthening the institutional understanding and application of International Humanitarian Law, the Headquarters Academic Group invited key resource speakers from the International Committee of the Red Cross to conduct a four-day seminar on International Humanitarian Law, during which core IHL principles, means and methods of warfare, and rules of engagement were discussed with HAG faculty as well as tactical personnel.

PMA's commitment to global engagement was likewise evident through the Foreign Academy Exchange Program with the United States Military Academy, participation in the Sandhurst International Military Skills Competition, and involvement in International Cadet Week 2026 at the Korea Military Academy. These engagements expanded cadets' perspectives, strengthened their adaptability, and reinforced their ability to operate in multinational settings. Participation in the Ayala Young Leaders Congress further enriched their development by exposing them to civilian leadership perspectives, emphasizing that effective leadership requires the ability to unite people across sectors in pursuit of national objectives.

The Academy's connection with the community remains equally strong. PMA was awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the City of Baguio for its implementation of the *Libreng Sakay* Program during the oil crisis. This initiative provided free transportation to the public and demonstrated compassion, unity, and civic responsibility in action. Through this initiative, the burden on the people of Baguio, brought about by the surge in oil prices and the resulting public utility vehicle strikes, was eased.

The same spirit of service was evident during immersion of the First Class Cadets, PMA *Talang Dangal* Class of 2026, in Pag-asa Island, Kalayaan, Palawan where cadets conducted outreach activities by distributing essential goods, engaging with the local community, and delivering messages of service and hope. These experiences deepen their understanding that military leadership is not only about defense, but also about connection, empathy, and commitment to the Filipino people, wherever they may be.

In anticipation of the closing of the Academic year, the Philippine Military Academy conducted a series of activities in recognition of the leadership and academic excellence demonstrated by the graduating batch, PMA *Talang Dangal* Class of 2026. Starting with the conduct of *Kapihan* sa PMA 2026, this activity featured the top performing cadets who excelled in overall cadet performance covering academics and military leadership.

The Academy also conducted the Awarding Ceremony for Course Excellence to give recognition to cadets who made it to the Commandant's List, Dean's List and other leadership recognitions.

The Academy is proud to have produced 207 graduates composed of 142 male and 65 female cadets. Among the graduates, 76 will join the Philippine Army, 62 to the Philippine Air Force, and 69 to the Philippine Navy.

As the Academy looks ahead, it remains committed to sustaining its modernization through future programs and initiative. Continued infrastructure development, integration of emerging technologies, and expansion of partnerships will ensure that PMA remains responsive to the demands of an evolving security environment. These efforts are anchored on a clear objective: to develop officers who are capable, adaptable, and prepared to lead in complex and dynamic conditions.

At the heart of these efforts lies a principle both simple and enduring. That if unity can produce strength in the smallest of creatures, then all the more it can it do so within an institution like the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

With this mindset instilled in the cadets, when they learn to place mission above self, to trust one another, and to act as one, then they are capable of achieving far more than what any individual effort could accomplish. This is the power of unity- steady, deliberate and directed toward a common goal.

This is the unity that the Philippine Military Academy continues to build- unity that ensures its graduates are prepared not only to lead, but to lead as one.



Baron's Dissemination

IAN HAROLD D HUBILLA
Cdt F/Cpt 1Cl, CCAFP
Regimental Commander

Strengthening Unity Through the PMA Cadet Experience

From the perspective of PMA cadets, unity is not merely an abstract value written on paper. It is something we feel in the earliest hours of the morning, in the regimented schedule we follow, and in the way we depend on one another to get through each day. From reveille to taps, cadet life reminds us that we are never only responsible for ourselves. Every formation, every inspection, every class, and every military training activity teaches us that strength is built not by one person alone, but by a group moving with the same purpose.

One of the clearest examples of unity in cadet life is the way we prepare for morning mess formations. Before the day even begins, cadets help one another ensure that bunks are properly fixed, rooms are orderly, uniforms are properly ironed, shoes are polished, hair is in order, and overall bearing is up to military standards. These may seem like small things, but they reflect a larger truth: unity begins in the small details. When a mistah reminds another to fix a button, adjust a cap, or check a uniform, that act is not just a correction—it is support. It is a sign that we care about each other's standards and success.

Unity is also built during moments of shared struggle. There are days when academic requirements pile up, physical exhaustion is heavy, and time feels too short for everything we need to accomplish. In those moments, cadets often rely on one another by sharing notes, reviewing lessons together, and encouraging classmates who are falling behind. A cadet who stays up late helping a classmate understand a lesson, or who motivates a *mistah* to keep going after a difficult drill, contributes to the unity of the class. These experiences teach us that true teamwork is not only seen in formation, but also in the quiet, unseen acts of assistance that happen after the day's hard work.

Training days also show us the meaning of unity in a very direct way. During drills, road runs, and physical enhancement programs, one cadet's pace affects the entire group. If one member loses focus, the entire group feels it. If one member pushes through with determination, the rest are encouraged to do the same. We learn quickly that no one finishes alone. The chant of encouragement, the synchronized pacing, and the shared exhaustion after a hard task all become reminders that cadet life is collective by nature. We not only train ourselves; we train together.

Saturday inspections are also practical tests of unity in cadet life. Throughout the week, we balance academics, military training, and countless compliances and responsibilities. Yet as Saturday approaches, attention shifts to one shared goal: preparing the barracks to meet the required standard. This is where unity becomes concrete. Rooms are cleaned not just for compliance, but for collective pride. Floors are scrubbed and shined, bunks are properly fixed and ironed, shoe and locker displays are aligned with precision, swords and rifles are cleaned to perfection, and every detail is checked repeatedly—not because one person is responsible, but because everyone is. What makes barracks inspection a true test of unity is that one cadet's lapse can affect the entire squad or company. A single missed detail—a misaligned item, an unclean area—can reflect on the entire company. Because of this, cadets learn to look beyond their own spaces. We remind each other, double-check each other's work, and step in when someone is struggling to meet the standard. It is common to see cadets helping fix a *mistah's* area, offering corrections, or staying a little longer to ensure no one is left behind. This is unity in action—shared responsibility driven by shared consequences.

There are also moments when unity is tested by pressure, fatigue, misunderstandings, and personal differences. In a cadet environment, it is easy to become frustrated when stress is high or when standards are not met. Yet these are the very moments when unity matters most. A strong class does not allow small disagreements to weaken its bond. Instead, it learns to correct with respect, to listen with patience, and to continue working toward the same goal. Unity does not mean that everyone always agrees. It means that even when we differ, we remain committed to one mission, one standard, and one purpose. This strengthens the bond of Mistahs.

Another important lesson from cadet life is that unity is strengthened through shared sacrifice. We all know the feeling of missing family events, giving up personal comfort, or enduring a difficult schedule in the name of duty. These sacrifices are easier to bear when we see others making the same effort. Knowing that the person beside us is also tired, also challenged, and also trying to push forward creates a bond that is deeper than friendship alone. It becomes camaraderie forged through discipline and shared experience.

As cadets, we are being shaped into future officers who must lead people of different backgrounds, personalities, and abilities. That future begins here in the confined walls of the Academy, in the way we treat our fellow cadets who stand beside us today. If we learn to build trust in our superiors, peers, and subordinates, we will be better prepared to lead units with confidence and integrity. If we learn to support one another now, we will better understand how to inspire cooperation later. The habits we form in the Academy become the habits we carry into service.

In the end, strengthening unity is about more than surviving cadet life. It is about becoming the kind of officers who can stand together in any situation. It is about the cadet who helps another rise after failure, the *mistah* who shares the burden of a difficult task, and the company that moves forward despite exhaustion because no one wants to leave another behind. These are the moments that define us. These are the experiences that give unity its real meaning.

For us cadets, unity is not only a value to uphold. It is a way of life. It is in our formations, our trainings, our studies, our corrections, our sacrifices, and our victories. Through these daily experiences, we learn that our greatest strength is not found in just one individual, but in the bond. We build as one class, as one company, as one Cadet Corps, and as future officers of the nation with the same values.

Strengthening unity is our daily discipline, our shared burden, our enduring strength—it is our way of life through the PMA cadet experience.





Unveiling of the Class Crest for PMA "*TALANG DANGAL*" Class of 2026

The Philippine Military Academy conducted the Unveiling of the Class Crest Ceremony for the PMA "*Talang Dangal*" Class of 2026 together with CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97, President of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc., at the Long Gray Line on 11 May 2026.

The ceremony symbolized the graduating class' identity forged through years of discipline, sacrifice, perseverance, and shared experiences inside the Academy. During the activity, Cav Manalang III also led the graduating cadets in the Oath to the Long Gray Line, formally welcoming them closer to the brotherhood and sisterhood of PMA alumni.

With only days remaining before their commissioning as Second Lieutenants and Ensigns of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the class crest stands as a symbol of their commitment to lead, serve, and defend the nation with honor and integrity.













PMA *"TALANG DANGAL"* CLASS OF 2026
Joins the Ranks of PMA Alumni

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City - The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) formally welcomed the members of Philippine Military Academy Class 2026 into the ranks of the PMA alumni community during the commencement and membership oath-taking ceremonies held on 16 May 2026 at the Philippine Military Academy, Fort General Gregorio H. del Pilar, Baguio City.

A total of 207 graduating cadets took their oath as members of the PMAAAI before CAV RICARDO A DAVID, JR '77, Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI.

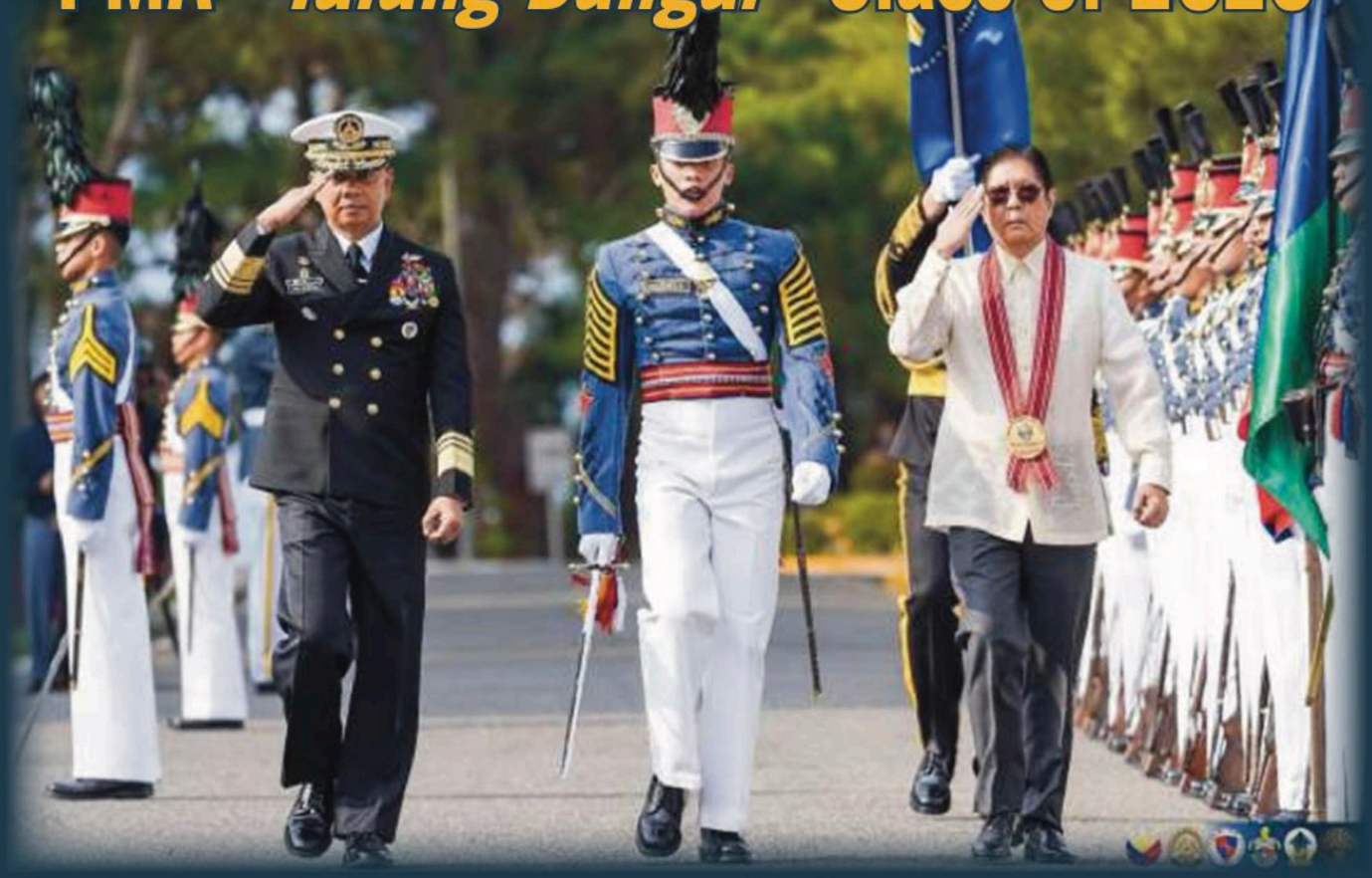
The ceremony was highlighted by the presence of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., who served as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the commencement exercises.

The members of PMA Class 2026 *"Talang Dangal"* proudly marched in formation and formally joined the community of PMA alumni committed to leadership, honor, patriotism, and service.

The occasion marked another significant milestone in the continuing tradition of excellence and dedication upheld by the Philippine Military Academy graduates.



PMA *"Talang Dangal"* Class of 2026



Graduating cadets of the PMA "Talang Dangal" Class of 2026 during commencement exercises at Borromeo Field in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, on May 16, 2026.

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City — A total of 207 members of the Philippine Military Academy "*Talang Dangal*" Class of 2026 were commissioned as junior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on May 16 by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The graduating class comprises 65 female cadets and 142 male cadets, many of them from the Cordilleras (23), Calabarzon (19), Metro Manila (18), Bicol (18), and Central Visayas (16). The PMA says 76 of them are joining the Army, 69 are becoming Navy personnel, while 62 will be part of the Air Force.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged the graduating cadets not to remain silent in the face of wrongdoing. Marcos made the remark before formally commissioning the 207 graduates as junior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the PMA graduation rites.

This year's *Talang Dangal* Class was also recognized as the first batch of cadets to undergo digital warfare training at the country's premier military academy. PMA Superintendent Vice Admiral Caesar Bernard Valencia told Pres Marcos that the graduating cadets had been trained to prevail in a "*multi-threat, multi-domain, and technical environment.*"

This year's class valedictorian is Cadet First Class (1CL) Christine Kaye Demisana Librada from Batangas Province. She received the Presidential Saber, the Philippine Army Saber, and the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) Award. Her other honors include the Information Technology Plaque and the Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award.

Coming in second is Cadet 1CL Mark John Vincent Catacutan of Zamboanga del Sur. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and earned the Vice Presidential Saber and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) Saber. His extensive list of honors includes the General Antonio Luna Award, the Spanish Armed Forces Award, and several academic plaques for management, natural sciences, humanities, and the Pelagio Cruz Plaque.

The third and fourth spots were taken by Cadet 1CL Thomas Edgar Isla Sepulchre from Pampanga and Cadet 1CL Ian Harold Durana Hubilla from Sorsogon respectively. Sepulchre was awarded the Secretary of National Defense Saber, while Hubilla received the Chief of Staff Saber.

The remaining top graduates are Cadet 1CL Maeg Adriene Pajarillo Bermudez, who placed 5th, and Cadet 1CL Cherry Mae Panag Geco, who placed 6th. Cadet 1CL Elixa Anya Lumbang Hernandez is 7th, earning the Philippine Navy Saber and an Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award.

Cadet 1CL Catherine Liesha Beloa De Chavez placed 8th and received the Chief Justice Saber. Cadet 1CL Cedric Cyril Guingguing Polizon ranked 9th with Cum Laude honors, followed by Cadet 1CL Mark Clement Dequinto Centina in 10th place.

The Wonder Years

COURAGE INTEGRITY LOYALTY

RETIREES SECTION

PMARAI Holds Annual General Meeting, Elects New Officers



The PMA Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) successfully conducted its Annual General Membership Meeting and election of officers for Association Year 2026–2027 on 09 January 2026 at Alano Hall, PN Golf Club.

The gathering brought together members of the association to discuss key organizational matters and reaffirm their shared commitment to camaraderie and service. A highlight of the event was the orderly conduct of elections, resulting in the selection of a new set of officers who will steer the association for the coming year.

The activity underscored PMARAI's continued role in fostering unity among Philippine Military Academy retirees while sustaining its programs and initiatives.



CAV RICARDO A DAVID, JR '77	Senior Member
CAV ROMEO C PRESTOZA '78	Chairman
CAV RAMON C LIWAG '79	President
CAV EDMUND C TAN '80	Vice President
CAV DOMINGO TUTAAN JR '81	Secretary
CAV JOB NOLAN D ANTONIO '82	Treasurer
CAV MARCELINO J LLORCA JR '83	Corporate Auditor
CAV RAFAEL G MARIANO '84	Junior Member
CAV NARCISO A VINGSON, JR '85	Junior Member
CAV ARNOLD F FERNANDEZ '86	Junior Member
CAV ELIEZER R GALAM '87	Junior Member

Leading with Strength and Purpose: PAF Female Cavaliers Celebrate Women's Month





In a heartfelt celebration of National Women's Month last March, the PAF Female Cavaliers gathered in an inspiring event that championed leadership, resilience, and the evolving role of women in military service. Carrying the theme "*Leading with Strength and Purpose," the activity* served as a meaningful reminder that today's women in uniform are not only protectors of the skies, but also leaders, mentors, and agents of change.

The event commenced with the roll call of PAF Female Cavaliers, followed by a warm meet-and-greet that immediately set the tone for camaraderie and sisterhood among female personnel from different units and assignments. The formal program opened with a welcome remarks from Cavalier Cynthia Forteza-Guinto '09, PMAAAI-PAF Chairperson for Female Affairs Committee, who emphasized the importance of empowering women within the organization and creating spaces where female personnel can grow, lead, and inspire. Her message highlighted the continuing commitment of the Female Cavaliers in fostering unity and professional development among women in the Philippine Air Force.

One of the highlights of the event was the series of insightful talks delivered by distinguished female officers from the tactical, operational, and senior leadership levels. Discussions focused on operational leadership, service excellence, and the realities of balancing military duty with personal growth. This was also wrapped by an inspirational talk by the most senior PAF Female Cavalier and Vice-Chairperson of the PMAAAI-PAF Chapter, Cav Ma. Consuelo Nunag-Castillo '97. Through honest conversations and shared experiences, the speakers inspired attendees to embrace challenges with confidence and courage. The atmosphere became even more engaging during the open forum and fellowship sessions, where participants exchanged







stories, lessons learned, and words of encouragement. More than a formal gathering, the activity became a safe space for women in uniform to connect beyond ranks and assignments-united by shared experiences, sacrifices, and aspirations.

Another memorable moment of the celebration was the inspirational message delivered by the Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, Cavalier Arthur M Cordura '90, whose words reinforced the indispensable role of women in strengthening the organization and advancing mission accomplishment. The message underscored that leadership is not defined by gender, but by integrity, competence, and dedication to service.

As the event concluded with the awarding of certificates, tokens, raffle draws, and fellowship activities, the spirit of solidarity among the Female Cavaliers became even more evident. Laughter filled the venue, friendships were strengthened, and every participant left with renewed pride in being part of a community of empowered military women.

This year's Women's Month celebration was not just another activity but a recognition for all the women who strive to work excellently, lovingly, and with utmost dedication. The PAF Female Cavaliers once again proved that women are not merely part of the mission; they are helping lead it forward. In every command, every mission, and every challenge, the Female Cavaliers continue to embody what it truly means to lead with strength and purpose.







BEYOND COMMAND: CAVALIER BORJA '92

The Warrior, Scholar, and Strategist

• LTJG JANICAH D RARIZA PCG

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association - Philippine Coast Guard Chapter proudly honors CAVALIER TEOTIMO R BORJA JR, a distinguished member of the Philippine Military Academy *"Tanglaw-Diwa"* Class of 1992 from Alpha Company, as he embarks on his final journey in uniform. With an impressive 38-year career dedicated to service and excellence, Cavalier Borja has been a guiding light in military and Coast Guard community since he began his journey as a cadet in 1988. His unwavering commitment to duty and leadership has left an indelible mark on his peers and the institutions he has served.

Cavalier Borja received final honors at the Philippine Military Academy on May 30, 2026, celebrating a legacy defined by integrity, honor, and distinction. His contributions to the Philippine Coast Guard will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

He concluded his active service as the Commander of the Coast Guard Civil Relations Service, the unit responsible for community relations in support of the Coast Guard's mission. Prior to this assignment, he served as Deputy Commander of the Marine Environmental Protection Command. He also served as Director of the Project Management Office, overseeing foreign-funded projects of the Philippine Coast Guard, including the acquisition of vessels from France and Japan.

Throughout his distinguished career, he held several key leadership positions, including Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Operations; Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Plans, Programs, and International Affairs; Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff for Intelligence, Security and Law Enforcement; and Commander of the Coast Guard Intelligence Force.

Following his graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1992, Cavalier Borja continued his pursuit of professional excellence by earning a Master of Science in Maritime Affairs from







the World Maritime University in 2005. He is likewise a graduate of the Advanced Security Cooperation Course at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, the Law Enforcement in Asia and the Middle East Course in Japan, and the National Development Course in Taiwan.

From an early age, Cavalier Borja distinguished himself through academic excellence and discipline. A product of both public and private education, he graduated salutatorian from Tanauan I Central School and ranked fourth in his graduating class at Divine Word University of Tacloban. He initially pursued a degree in Civil Engineering before answering a higher calling to serve the nation through the Philippine Military Academy, where he graduated and was commissioned in 1992.

His first four years in uniform were spent at sea, serving aboard vessels of what was then the Philippine Coast Guard under the Philippine Navy. From Mess Officer to Acting Commanding Officer between 1993 and 1997, he gained invaluable operational experience while strengthening his professional foundation through continuous training. During this period, he completed several career development courses, including the Station Commander Course, Coast Guard Command and Staff Course, and Naval Intelligence Officer Course.

In December 1997, his career transitioned to shore-based leadership when he was assigned to the Coast Guard Intelligence Force as Field Station Commander in Palawan. This marked the beginning of a series of intelligence and command assignments in strategically significant areas, including Davao and Zamboanga. He likewise served as Station Commander in Ozamiz and Tacloban, demonstrating exceptional versatility in both operational and territorial command.

As his expertise deepened through extensive training in maritime safety, security, and environmental protection, the

Philippine Coast Guard entrusted him with increasingly critical leadership roles. In 2007, he served as Central Staff for Maritime Safety Services and as Head of the Vessel Safety Division, contributing significantly to the enhancement of the country's maritime regulatory and safety systems.

Beyond operational command, Cavalier Borja distinguished himself as an educator and mentor. Assigned to the Coast Guard Education, and Training Command (CGETC) in 2005, he served as Course Director for both the Coast Guard Officers Course and the Coast Guard Maritime Safety Administration Course. He later assumed key leadership roles as Commander of the Headquarters Support Command and Logistics Officer of CGETC. He further expanded his influence as a lecturer, resource speaker, and Director of the Coast Guard Intelligence and Security Training Facility, helping shape the next generation of Coast Guard leaders.

His long and exemplary service has been recognized through numerous awards and decorations, including four Distinguished Service Medals, two Outstanding Achievement Medals, four Superior Achievement Medals, the Bronze Cross Medal, and several other commendations that reflect a career defined by excellence, dedication, and honor.

A native of Tanauan, Leyte, Cavalier Borja is married to the former Jasmin M. Udtuhan, with whom he has two children, Ensign Timothy Laurence Borja PCG and Loi Janelle Borja.

Cavalier Borja left behind more than a distinguished record of service. He capped his career with a legacy of principled leadership, unwavering dedication, and steadfast commitment to the nation. His career stood as a lasting testament to honor in service, excellence in command, and devotion beyond duty.













PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI)
BULLETIN

PETFI Stronger @50

• **Cav Edgardo D Tamayo '80 AFP** Ret MBA MNSA
President

This year marks the Golden 50th Foundation Anniversary of PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI). Since its establishment, PETFI provides and still continue to provide financial assistance in the form of stipends for the education of dependents of deceased and disabled alumni of PMA who are members in good standing of PMAAAI and PETFI.

In any organization, association, club and the like, the start seems to be the most challenging if not easy. Its creation is subject to organizational difficulties including logistical shortcomings at its inception. Just like any organization, PETFI may have experienced birth pains or some sort of in its humble beginnings. This predicament, if any, however did not dampen PETFI's spirit to establish yet continue to reach out and demonstrate its social responsibility for its stakeholders.

Many believe that the test of importance of this Foundation rests on the evaluation of its beneficiaries and other stakeholders, put on a macro-level- it is the PETFI's RELEVANCE.

At PETFI, our primary consideration is to serve its mandate to the effect that the dependents of PMA Alumni who rendered great honor, prestige and fought and died in the service of country and people must be financially supported for their education in the pursuit of a better future.

The PETFI, as a caring and a proactive Foundation under the able leadership of Chairman Cav Magtanggol B Gatdula and Scholarship Committee former Chairman Cav Jose C Lalisan Jr together with the incumbent Chairman Cav Virgilio De Guzman initiated the increase of stipends for scholars as indicated:

Scholars for SY 2025-2026

College:	15 scholars
High School:	17 scholars
Elementary:	9 scholars
Total:	41 scholars





PETFI Chairman, Cav Magtanggol B Gatdula '76



PETFI President, Cav Edgardo D Tamayo '80

Annual Stipend (per scholar)
College: P42,000.00
High School: P30,000.00
Elementary: P24,000.00

It is worthy to note that in December 2025, aside from the regular stipends, PETFI Board approved the increase in the special scholarship incentive to scholars who perform with academic excellence as indicated;

Category	Current Incentive	New Incentive
College Graduate (within the prescribed course duration)	₱5,000	₱10,000
Summa Cum Laude	₱15,000	₱20,000
Magna Cum Laude	₱10,000	₱15,000
Cum Laude	₱5,000	₱10,000
Grade 6 & Grade 12 Graduates		
*with Highest Honor (Grade 6 & Grade 12)	₱5,000	₱10,000
*with Honor/High Honor (Grade 6 & Grade 12l)	₱3,000	₱5,000

Moreover, Christmas cash gifts were given to scholars in time for the holiday season.

PETFI shall continue to be RELEVANT as we join hands with benefactors/stakeholders in supporting the program's scholar-beneficiaries.





Stay Updated: PMA Foundation, Inc. Highlights

On 26 March 2026, the PMAFI Induction of Officers and Trustees was held, with ATTY MELVIN A MATIBAG, NBI Director. He donated to the Foundation for the establishment of his Endowment Fund.





On the same day, FORMER MAYOR DEMOCRITO "ALJUN" DIAMANTE, an adopted member of PMA Class 1988, who is best known for serving as the long-time mayor of Tuburan, Cebu, also donated to the Foundation for the establishment of his Endowment Fund.



On 13 April 2026, the PMA Foundation, Inc. received the donation from LTGEN. ARTHUR CORDURA PAF, Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, for the establishment of his Endowment Fund.





On 18 April 2026, Trustee Manuel Mariano '82 celebrated his 86th Birthday in Tiaong, Quezon. The PMA Foundation, Inc. was the designated recipient of his birthday gifts.







On 26 May 2026, the PMA Foundation, Inc. proudly hosted its very first Invitational Golf Tournament — a milestone event that brought together supporters, friends, and golf enthusiasts in the spirit of camaraderie and charity. Beyond the fairways and greens, the tournament served as a meaningful opportunity to strengthen bonds and advance the Foundation's mission of service.

















The PMAFI Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to the following friends of the Foundation, whose donations strengthen our initiatives and sustain our commitment to service:



ATTY MELVIN A MATIBAG
Silver Category
PMA Endowment Fund



HON. DEMOCRITO "ALJUN" DIAMANTE
Bronze Category
PMA Endowment Fund



LTGEN. ARTHUR CORDURA '90 PAF
Bronze Category
PMA Endowment Fund



CAV DEMOSTHENES C DOPLAYNA '82
Trustee, PMAFI
Membership Committee Chair
- Gave initial donation for Professorial Chair Fund;
- Donor of the PMA Endowment Fund



YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES



From Command to Combat: Decisive Leadership and Action on the Battlefield

***CPT MICHAEL J REGALARIO** is a proud member of PMA "MABALASIK" Class of 2019. His story shows that success is not achieved overnight but through deliberate foresight and preparation. He took care of the essentials enabling his unit to perform well; then, led his men from the front. His exemplary leadership enabled his unit to achieve tactical success that highly contributed to operational and strategic – operational objectives of the AFP's Campaign Plan. He truly brought credit to our Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy.*

– Cav Ralph de Mesa '97
President, PMAAA - Army Cavaliers Chapter Inc.

Command in Action

I assumed command of Alpha Company, 84th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army on 21 May 2024 with a clear understanding that command is not merely about directing operations—it is about building a force that is disciplined, combat-ready, and trusted by the people it protects.

From day one, we sustained a high operational tempo under Internal Security Operations. We conducted brigade-directed and battalion-initiated missions, executed company-level operations, and maintained continuous small-unit patrols aimed at locating, fixing, and neutralizing Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) elements within our Area of Operations in Nueva Ecija.

Through sustained and deliberate operations, our company was able to facilitate the declaration of Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) in all 11 municipalities under our area of operations. This marked a significant milestone in weakening insurgent influence and restoring stability across affected communities.

Alongside combat operations, we recognized a fundamental truth of counterinsurgency: the fight is ultimately won among the people. We strengthened civil-military operations in close coordination with

local government units, delivering essential services to geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities. The unit facilitated the conduct of Medical and Dental Civic Action Programs, supported Brigada Eskwela initiatives, and implemented withdrawal-of-support activities that significantly weakened the enemy's mass base and reduced their influence at the grassroots level. A key initiative was the sustainment of the Bagong Pag-asa Farmers Association in Licab, Nueva Ecija, under a Civil-Military Operations (PsyOps) Project. This initiative went beyond livelihood assistance - it reinforced community resilience, restored public confidence, and effectively denied the CTG opportunities for re-infiltration, recruitment, and regeneration of influence.

I also ensured that my unit remained combat-ready at all times through continuous training and professional development. Personnel were sent to career and specialization courses, while in-unit training programs and major exercises were conducted to enhance individual and collective proficiency. We successfully participated in CATEX Katihan CY 2025, EX-ALON CY 2025, and AJEX DAGITPA 09-25. We also actively participated in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response operations, reinforcing our dual role as soldiers and servants of the people.

Internally, I treated troop welfare as a decisive enabler of combat effectiveness. We facilitated timely recommendations for promotions, recognized meritorious performance through commendations, and strengthened administrative systems to reinforce discipline, cohesion, and unit identity. Improvements in logistics, facilities, and living conditions were likewise prioritized to ensure that every soldier remained ready, motivated, and mission-focused. A cared-for unit fights with greater resolve, endures greater hardship, and performs with greater consistency. All these efforts were directed toward one purpose—to prepare the unit for decisive engagement when the moment comes.

That moment came on 26 June 2024 in Pantabangan.

The Battle of Pantabangan

"In combat, decisions are made in seconds—but their consequences define lives, missions, and nations."

On 26 June 2024, my platoon was conducting combat clearing operations in Barangay Marikit, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija. The terrain was unforgiving - rolling hills, open spaces, and sparse vegetation that offered little cover. It was the kind of ground where a single mistake could cost lives.

Then the call came.

Updated intelligence confirmed the presence of Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) elements within our area of operations.

By midday, we were mounted on a military vehicle and redeployed. Two kilometers from the enemy's reported location, we dismounted and received a rapid but precise briefing from the Tactical Command Post and intelligence operatives. The situation was clear:



we were closing in on a significant enemy force.

Reinforcements arrived - two additional platoons from our unit. Time was critical. We conducted a hasty plan focused on speed, coordination, and decisive action.

I volunteered my platoon to lead the assault.

The plan was simple but high-risk: my platoon would fix and engage the enemy head-on, while the two supporting platoons established blocking positions along the western flank - the enemy's most likely withdrawal route.

Before advancing, we seized the high ground.

From that vantage point, I studied the terrain through binoculars and a sniper optic. The battlefield revealed itself - routes, cover, and dead space. I positioned one fire team as an overwatch element tasked to observe, report, and control the fight from above.

Then we moved.

The approach was slow and deliberate. The terrain worked against us - minimal cover, high visibility. Every step had to be calculated. Every movement controlled.

At 100 meters, we heard it - the unmistakable sound of wood being chopped.

The enemy was close.

We advanced further.

At 50 meters, then 40, I deployed my troops into a skirmish line. Weapons ready. Eyes forward. Breathing steady.

Over the radio, I confirmed with the blocking forces: enemy presence confirmed.

Moments later, two-armed CTG members emerged from the tree line, both carrying M16 rifles. They moved unknowingly toward our position.

Then - contact.

The silence was shattered with gunfire.

We immediately gained fire superiority, pinning down the two





armed combatants. The rest of the enemy attempted to withdraw west ward - straight into the blocking positions of our supporting platoons.

The plan was working.

Thirty minutes into the engagement, the enemy attempted to probe back toward our position, firing sporadically. I made a decision - hold fire. Stay concealed.

We let them believe we were gone.

From the high ground, my overwatch team reported the enemy's movement: unable to break through the west and north, and with the south terrain too steep, they shifted east.

That was our moment.

I ordered a pursuit.

Leaving one fire team to secure the initial engagement site, I led a squad forward - fast, aggressive, determined. We maneuvered across spurs and open ground, racing to cut off the enemy's escape.

Then we saw it - a civilian house.

Civilians were in a state of panic, calling for help. The armed CTG members were running toward them.

The situation changed instantly.

This was no longer just a combat operation. It was a race to protect lives.

I made the call: engage before the enemy could reach the civilians.

We opened fire.

Another intense firefight erupted. Rounds cracked across the open terrain as we pressed the attack. Under sustained pressure, the enemy broke - some fled, others abandoned their weapons, equipment, and even their wounded.

Then, silence.

I ordered a ceasefire.

We moved with urgency. One fire team cleared and secured the house, ensuring the safety of the civilians. Fear turned to relief as they realized they were no longer in danger.

With the remaining fire team, I initiated a final assault on the enemy's last position.

The terrain was treacherous - tall cogon grass, limited visibility, every step uncertain. We advanced slowly and deliberately.

Then I saw him.

An armed enemy combatant, lying prone.

For a brief moment, our eyes met.

Then both of us fired.

After a short but violent exchange, the resistance ended.

We cleared the area.

The results were decisive.

At the pursuit site: five enemy neutralized, nine high-powered firearms recovered.

At the initial engagement site: two enemy neutralized, one firearm seized.

Across the entire operation, in coordination with the supporting platoons, we recorded 10 enemy combatants neutralized, 14 high-powered firearms recovered, and multiple war materiel seized.

Among the casualties were high-value targets, including Hilario Guiuo @Berting, Acting Secretary of Komiteng Rehiyon Gitnang Luzon (KRGL), and Harold Sarenas Meñosa @Luzon, CO, Pltn Silangan-Gitnang Luzon, along with two other key CTG leaders.

The impact was strategic.

The operation led to the dismantling of Komiteng Rehiyon Gitnang Luzon (KRGL) and contributed directly to the declaration of Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) in Nueva Ecija.

But beyond the numbers, beyond the objectives achieved, one truth stood above all:

Lives were saved.

In the heat of battle, amidst gunfire and uncertainty, the mission remained clear—not just to defeat the enemy, but to protect the people.

That day in Pantabangan was not just a victory in combat.

It was a reminder of what it truly means to lead, to serve, and to fight—not for glory, but for the safety and peace of the nation.





Vignettes of Elder CAVALIERS



How to Beat the "Affluenza" Virus

• Cav Manuel B Mariano '62

Mga Cavaliers,

During our Academy days, we were deeply shaped by the daily mantra of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty. These were not merely words recited in formation; they were values etched into our character through years of discipline, sacrifice, and shared hardship. From the first day of cadetship until our graduation from our beloved Alma Mater, we lived and breathed this motto, allowing it to guide our decisions and define our sense of honor and duty.

However, it is both sobering and concerning that, for some, these noble ideals seem to fade soon after leaving the Academy, gradually replaced by what can be described as the "Affluenza" virus. But what exactly is this "Affluenza"?

The Affluenza virus is perhaps the most dangerous of all not because it attacks the body, but because it threatens to erode the soul. It subtly shifts our priorities, leading us away from service and honor toward self-centered pursuits. This virus idolizes five fleeting and superficial aspects of life, summarized by the acronym PALMS:

P – Possessions: The relentless pursuit of material things.

A – Achievements: Recognition and accolades sought primarily for personal glory.

L – Looks: Excessive concern with physical appearance and external validation.

M – Money: The accumulation of wealth as the ultimate measure of success.

S – Status: Social rank and prestige used to define self-worth.

The Affluenza virus injects within us a constant desire to acquire more and to compare ourselves with others. Yet, it is never satisfied. The more we gain, the more we crave. If we insist on building our lives solely around these PALMS, we must recognize that they are inherently fleeting anchored in temporary and unstable foundations. As a result, insecurity, dissatisfaction, and a sense of emptiness often become our constant companions.

Building a Lasting Foundation

Instead of succumbing to these transient pursuits, we, as Cavaliers, are called to establish a long-term foundation for a meaningful and fulfilling life one that reflects the very values instilled in us during our formative years. Such a foundation may be built upon the following enduring principles:

1. **Service to Others and Nation-Building**
   Let us dedicate ourselves to helping others help themselves and to becoming responsible, compassionate citizens. True success lies not in what we accumulate, but in the positive impact we make in the lives of others and in the progress of our nation.

2. **Honoring Our Sacrifices and Continuous Self-Development**
   We endured years of rigorous training and personal sacrifice to become individuals capable of leadership and service. Let us honor these sacrifices by continuing to grow, striving to become better versions of ourselves, and living lives worthy of the trust bestowed upon us.

3. **Lifelong Growth in Love, Wisdom, and Courage**
   The journey does not end at graduation. Instead, it marks the beginning of a lifelong process of learning and transformation. By nurturing love, seeking wisdom, and exercising courage in the face of adversity, we become more fully who we are meant to be, overcoming life's obstacles with resilience and grace.

The True Measure of Achievement

It is important to recognize that these principles service, personal growth, and moral courage are, in themselves, the greatest achievements one can attain. Unlike the elements of PALMS, they are enduring and deeply fulfilling. When we live according to these values, we experience a sense of purpose, inner peace, and genuine joy.

If we are able to embody these ideals, we can confidently say that we have attained not merely success, but the fullness of life marked by meaning, honor, and lasting happiness.

Closing

Let us, therefore, remain steadfast in the virtues instilled in us by our Alma Mater. May we continue to be guided by Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, resisting the temptations of the "Affluenza" virus and dedicating ourselves to a life of service and purpose.

God bless our beloved country, the Philippines. *Mabuhay ang mga Cavalier!*

Brat Talks: Stories, Reflections, and Tributes by Sons and Daughters of Cavaliers

(To every son and daughter who understands the unique journey of being a Cavalier's child: Cavalier Magazine proudly opens its pages for "Brat Talks." This is your exclusive platform to share personal reflections, poignant stories, and heartfelt tributes to your Cavalier parents.)

THE LEGACY WE INHERITED:
Honoring Our Fathers, Our Heroes

• **Mr. Marvin Antonio,** a PMA Class '66 Brat

Welcome Speech delivered during the Tribute Dinner hosted by the Sons and Daughters of PMA Class of 1966 in celebration of their Diamond Jubilee last February 21, 2026 at the Newtown Plaza Hotel, Baguio City.



Mr. Marvin Antonio delivers his Welcome Remarks during the Tribute Dinner hosted by the sons and daughters of PMA Class of 1966.

Good evening, everyone.

To our most honored guests—the distinguished members of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1966, our Diamond Jubilarians—good evening, sirs!

To the spouses, widows, and your loved ones...

To our special guests and friends...

And of course, to our fellow sons and daughters—the proudly self-named Brats—welcome!

Tonight is not just a dinner. It feels like coming home. It feels like a reunion of stories, generations, and shared moments. And it feels like a tribute borne from gratitude and love—expressed not only in the words spoken here, but in the effort, the unity, and the memories that brought us all together.

And as we gather here this evening, it's impossible not to reflect on the journey that brought these men to this moment. During and after their military service, whether in the private or public sector, they continued to live the values they learned at the Academy.

Sixty years ago, the men we honor tonight marched out of the gates of the Philippine Military Academy as young officers - disciplined, idealistic, and maybe a little unsure of what the future would demand of them. What followed were decades defined by duty, honor, service, and personal sacrifice for the country. They faced long nights, tough assignments, dangerous missions, and moments of uncertainty that history books may summarize in a few lines... but their families carry for a lifetime. Through it all, they lived up to the PMA's core values of **Courage**, **Integrity**, and **Loyalty**—not as slogans, but as daily commitments. **Courage** in the face of danger, **Integrity** in the choices no one else would ever see, and **Loyalty** to their mistahs, their families, and the nation they swore to protect.

And yet, even the strongest men do not walk their journey alone. Because, let's be honest, none of that would have been possible without the women who stood beside them.

The wives of PMA Class of 1966 were the quiet strength behind every deployment, every transfer, every homecoming, and every moment of uncertainty. They held families together, raised children through constant change, and carried the emotional weight of service with grace and resilience. They lived the Academy's values just as deeply—showing **Courage** in every goodbye, **Integrity** in every sacrifice made without recognition, and **Loyalty** not only to their husbands, but to the entire family of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Without them, the PMA class of 1966 could not have served as gallantly as they did. Their love and endurance made duty possible.

And what truly sets PMA Class of 1966 apart is not only how they served the nation, but how they stood by one another. Through triumphs and trials, this class remained united. When a mistah faced loss, the class stood with the family. When one struggled, others stepped in -not out of the obligation, but out of brotherhood. And that loyalty extended to the wives, children, and families, especially in moments of grief and hardship.

To us, their sons and daughters - **the Brats!** - you showed us what real brotherhood looks like. Not just in mottos, but in the way you lived your lives. You taught us that no one is ever left behind, and that service doesn't end when the uniform is taken off.





Growing up as Brats meant learning early that duty sometimes came before birthdays, that goodbyes were part of life, and that *"I'll be back soon"* could mean many different things. But it also meant growing up surrounded by a bigger family - a community of *mistahs* and wives who looked after one another's children as their own.

And yes, we learned discipline early. Some of us learned it... very early.

But beyond the rules and the structure, you taught us values that shaped who we are today - **Courage** in the challenges we face, **Integrity** in the choices we make, **Loyalty** to family and community, and a deep respect for duty, honor, service, and sacrifice for the country. These were not just Academy words to you; they became the foundation of our upbringing.

Our family is a living testament to these very noble virtues of Class '66. When my father, Captain Mario B Antonio of the Philippine Navy met an unfortunate vehicular accident in the mid 80s which denied him the opportunity to pursue his lifetime duty to provide for his beloved family, my dad's honorable Mistahs and their wives unwaveringly supported my mother, who was earning the meager wage of a noble teacher. I vividly remember at a very young age, my mother would tell us that if not for Class '66, life would have been much harder and we should be grateful to God, for He has blessed your dad with classmates who still look after him and his family so dearly. So, when bratmate Sir Edwin had this brilliant idea of letting me welcome everyone here tonight, I hesitated because I was thinking, am I worthy enough to stand here? I am not a brat of a General or a part of the military service. I am a mere civilian, but I set these personal insecurities aside because honoring my dad and the rest of Class '66 tonight takes precedence. In behalf of my dad and the rest of the Antonio family, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to you tonight as we joyfully celebrate this once in a lifetime event.

Tonight, we also pause to remember those who are no longer with us. We honor your classmates who have gone ahead, and the wives and loved ones who stood beside you through the years. Their absence is felt, but their presence remains—in our stories, in our memories, and in the unbroken bond of this class. They will always be part of the PMA Class of 1966!

This evening was organized by your sons and daughters **(or your Brats!)**, not because it was easy, but because it mattered. And honestly, coordinating Brats across families, continents, and different time zones is already a leadership exercise worthy of PMA training.

Some worked behind the scenes, some handled logistics, some chased confirmations, and some worried about details no one else would ever notice. But we all came together with one purpose: to





honor you, and to give back - just a little - to the people who gave us so much.

Everything you see tonight - the gathering of families and friends, the warmth in the room, the sense of home - is the result of shared gratitude and deep respect. This dinner is our way of saying thank you for lives lived in service, for families strengthened by sacrifice, and for a brotherhood - and sisterhood - that never wavered.

This Diamond Jubilee is not just a milestone. It is proof that a life lived with **Courage**, **Integrity, Loyalty,** and **Sacrifice** echoes across generations.

So tonight, we invite you to relax, reconnect, laugh, remember, and celebrate. This evening is for stories, for fellowship, for family—and it is a tribute to your journey, your sacrifices, your unbreakable brotherhood. Above all, it is a celebration of you, the gallant men of the PMA Class of 1966!

On behalf of all your sons and daughters, welcome to this tribute dinner.

Sirs, this night is for you.

Maraming salamat po. Mabuhay ang Class '66!



Life Guards: Saving Lives

The Life Guards is one of the two oldest regiments of the British Army under the Household Cavalry. This unit protects the King and his household. To date, it upholds the safety, practices and time-honoured traditions of the British Royalty. This section is created to highlight the need of protecting and the safeguarding of the soul of every uniformed man and woman serving the country.

DORCAS: A Woman Disciple

"Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (when translated to Greek, is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. "
(Acts 9:36)

The Context

Joppa is a bustling, interconnected community of cultures, a melting pot of traditions and diverse races. Tabitha, her Hebrew name, manifests her roots, and Dorcas, her Greek name, shows her knowledge and capacity to understand cultures, making an impact in a community where she is not a native.

Dorcas sewed clothes for people in Joppa. Joppa's outfit of the day (OOTD) was made with her trademark: her brand protected people during winter and gave them comfort in the heat. She was worn by every person walking in the streets of Joppa. It was not only her business name; she is also respected, loved, and experienced through her deeds. Her clothes were an extension of her kindness, and compassion. She made clothes not only for income but also to bring people dignity.

Her house has an upper room, indicating her higher social status and financial leverage than most common citizens of Joppa. She lived comfortably but radiated humility and selflessness.

Reflect: You are surely in a better position than someone else!

Respond: How can you be an extension of kindness and charity?

The Challenge

One unfortunate day, Dorcas got sick and died. Her financial leverage did not save her from illness and death.

Like all of us, the realities of life will one day beset us: we are not permanent. No matter how good we take care of our physical bodies, year after year, they deteriorate. We are only here temporarily. Remembrance of family members may stay in our hearts, but we will one day say goodbye to them. Careers, positions, and titles will be mere memories after retirement. Friendships may not be sustained. Wealth will fall short. Our life is momentary, fleeting, just passing.

Reflect: The reality is: *Life is so short!*

Respond: How do you want to be remembered when you are gone?

The Covenant

"Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, in Greek, is called Dorcas)."

In the New Testament account, only Tabitha, a woman, was specifically mentioned as a *disciple*. It was only in this instance where the feminine word for disciple was used. Though many women were mentioned as followers and supporters of Jesus Christ, Dorcas was one of a kind! She was a woman disciple, abounding in continuing kindness and charity.

It is only when a person enters into a covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ that abounding and continuing deeds of kindness and charity are made possible. Apart from Christ, a continuing life of compassion is impossible.

Reflect: God desires that you enter into a covenant with Him!

Respond: Are you willing to be HIS disciple?

The Consequence

A Loving Presence

"And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room... When the apostle Peter arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them." (Acts 9:37, 39)

Dorcas' demise brought together all the people she had touched. As it was a Jewish custom to wash the dead's body in preparation for burial, many immediately came to do this. Grieving for her, women brought clothes and tunics she had made for them as they wept and consoled each other.

A Loving Response

"Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, Do not delay in coming to us." (Acts 9:38)

Joppa's citizens, hearing that Peter was near town — this Peter, they heard, was performing miracles — took steps and asked two men to bring the case of Tabitha to Peter's attention.

A Loving Rescue

"But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive." (Acts 9:40-41)

Peter did not hesitate. Directed by the Holy Spirit, he did what he had to do — raise Tabitha from death.

Peter's words were simple: *"Tabitha, arise"*. It did not take a pompous display of ministerial authority for Peter; he even asked everyone to leave before he prayed. His intimate, obscure deliverance of Tabitha's life needed no flashy cameras and antics. Coming to Tabitha's rescue is propelled by his intimate relationship with the One who truly restores life—— and grants Life Everlasting!

A Living Testimony

"It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord." (Acts 9:42)

The restoration of Dorcas' life needed no press release. People witnessed it, they personally experienced it. It was not a highlight of Peter's work nor a tribute to Dorcas' deeds but a proclamation of the Truth that God can bring the dead to life!

The Sovereign God and Saviour of the world can transform a dead life to life overflowing.

He who, Himself, is LIFE grants Life Everlasting to all who takes His hand and becomes His disciple.

Reflect: The work of God in rescuing and transforming lives continues!

Respond: Would you want to be rescued from death and be made alive again?

Many women may have done many noble things, but it is God who empowers them all.

Woman, are you fighting for what truly brings Life?

Your friend,
ike '93

CG RADM EUSTACIO NIMROD P ENRIQUEZ JR (Ret)
Coastguardians' Christian Lighthouse Community





The Coast Guard Ecumenical Chaplain Service (CGECS), through the Office of Evangelical Affairs, conducted a Values Formation and Spiritual Enhancement Session with the topic, "Honoring Mothers: A Mother's Day Special."





PMA Class of 1977: A Generation in Service to the Nation (1973–2013)

"A Generation Forged in Crisis, Defined by Reform"

• Cav Ricardo A David Jr '77

On April 1, 1973, 182 cadets entered the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) during unprecedented times. The nation was under upheaval due to the escalation of the Communist insurgency and the iron fist of Martial Law. As a result, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the cornerstone of the nation's security and governance, was heavily tested in this tumultuous period.

Upon graduation in 1977, the class dispersed across the AFP's branches of service:

- 42 went to the Philippine Army (key to counterinsurgency campaigns)
- 39 to the Philippine Constabulary [later absorbed into the Philippine National Police (PNP)]
- 21 to the Philippine Navy/Coast Guard (pivotal in maritime sovereignty)
- 20 to the Philippine Air Force (critical for modernization)
- 2 re-appointed later to the Corps of Professors (shaping future leaders)

Over the next four decades, the members of PMA Class 1977 would emerge among the leaders at the forefront of the AFP's transformation. They navigated various tides of time such as the struggles of the dictatorship, the transition to democracy, and the dawn of asymmetric warfare. In the meantime, the AFP became a self-reliant, regionally integrated military, which is vastly different from its past as an institution heavily dependent on the support of international superpowers.

From their baptisms of fire in the late 70s, to the 1980 insurgencies, to their ascent to command roles, and then to the 2010's maritime standoffs, Class '77 officers embodied the AFP's transformative journey.

I. Martial Law and the Crucible of Conflict (1973 – 1986)

As junior officers, the Class confronted the dual demands of counterinsurgency and nation-building. Having been deployed to hot spots like Mindanao and Northern Luzon, they were tasked to operate against the NPA's guerrilla warfare and the MNLF's separatist rebellion — while administering civil-military projects in contested areas.

Key Dynamics:

- The AFP as Governance Extension: Martial Law blurred civil-military lines, requiring officers to function as administrators, mediators, and combat leaders.
- Lessons in Asymmetric Warfare: Early exposure to insurgent tactics (ambuscades, propaganda) shaped later doctrinal innovations.
- Ethical Dilemmas: While certain classmates regrettably grappled with human rights allegations, others became advocates for institutional accountability.



II. EDSA and the Test of Loyalty (1986–1991)

By 1986, Class '77 officers were mid-grade leaders (Captains/Majors) thrust into the chaos of regime collapse and coup attempts. Their responses revealed the AFP's fracturing — and its eventual reckoning with professionalism.

Pivotal Roles:

- Restoring Chain of Command: Class officers helped stabilize units during the 1986-1989 coup series as they resisted factionalism.
- PNP Transition: Those in the Philippine Constabulary eventually became architects of the reformed PNP.
- Doctrinal Shifts: The post-EDSA Revolution era saw early calls for human rights- centric operations — a precursor to Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) Bayanihan.

III. The Self-Reliance Era: U.S. Bases Withdrawal and SRDP (1992–2000)

The 1991 Senate rejection of the U.S. bases treaty extension, forced the AFP into its most consequential strategic pivot since independence. Class '77 officers, now Colonels and Navy Captains, drove the Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) and modernization. Legacy Achievements:

- AFP Modernization Act (1995): Class members assisted and designed procurement frameworks to replace withdrawn U.S. capabilities.
- ASEAN Security Integration: They championed regional exercises and maritime patrols since they anticipated future China tensions.
- Doctrinal Overhaul: There was a shift from conventional to hybrid warfare due to non - traditional threats of terrorism, piracy, and cyber-attacks.



"Losing Subic was a shock — but it forced us to grow. By 2000, we were no longer tenants in our own defense." — Adm. Wilfredo D Tamayo (Ret.), former Coast Guard Commandant

IV. Command in the Age of Terror (2001–2010)

As Generals and Flag Officers, the class spearheaded the AFP's post-9/11 counterterrorism campaign while balancing human rights and alliance politics. Operational Milestones:

- Abu Sayyaf Decimation: Joint operations in Basilan/Sulu neutralized 70% of ASG leadership by 2007.
- PNP Reform: Gen Raul Bacalzo (PNP Chief) institutionalized community policing and anti-corruption measures.
- Humanitarian Focus: Disaster response (e.g., Typhoon Ondoy) became a core AFP mission.

IV. Mentors and Stewards in the Era of Modernization (2010–2013)

By the early 2010s, members of PMA Class of 1977 had fully assumed the mantle of institutional leadership within the AFP. At a time when the nation introduced new defense priorities and reasserted sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea, the Class stood at the vanguard. It organized efforts in modernization, professionalism, and transformative governance.

Several classmates rose to pivotal positions under the administrations of Presidents Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Benigno Aquino III. These years notably saw the continuation of the Revised AFP Modernization Program and the advancement of internal peace initiatives. However, the class had to continue confronting external threats and evolving geopolitical realities.

Upon assumption, AFP Chief of Staff General David led the AFP's IPSP 'Bayanihan,' a 6-year, people-centered campaign launched in 2010 to defeat threats and win the peace through a whole-of-nation approach.

- Prioritized the morale, welfare, and physical fitness of AFP personnel, as he ensured swift support for combat casualties and their families.
- Promoted the responsible use of AFP resources. He enforced austerity, curbed wasteful spending, and discontinued costly, outdated traditions. Thus, he ensured that every peso served its purpose.
- Committed eight peacekeeping operations to countries (e.g., Liberia and Haiti) and global hotspots (e.g., Golan Heights). In 2010, the AFP made significant gains in internal security operations against insurgent groups. The strength of the CPP-NPA-NDF was reduced; 71% of its guerrilla fronts dismantled and over 1,100 members neutralized. Operations against the MILF aligned with peace efforts, which resulted in fewer clashes and a 46% drop in atrocities.

Meanwhile, the ASG remained at 340 members, however, it was confined to a few areas. Its attacks, including kidnappings and bombings, and were reduced by 30%. Key leaders from all groups were neutralized, without them, the operational capabilities of said organizations were weakened.

Key AFP Leaders from PMA Class of 1977:

- **Gen Ricardo A David Jr** – He became the Chief of Staff, AFP in 2010, the highest position in the Philippine military. Prior to this, he served with distinction as Commander, Northern Luzon Command (2009); Commander, 4ID, PA; Commander, ASCOM, Deputy J1; and Chief, AFP Command Center. His elevation to Chief of Staff, AFP marked the culmination of a career rooted in operational excellence and strategic leadership.
- **LtGen Nestor Z Ochoa** – He was the Commander of the AFP Command Center in 2008 and later of NADESCOM in 2009. He played a central role in coordinating national development efforts. His brief but crucial tenure as Acting Chief of Staff, AFP, reflected the confidence reposed in his steady hand during times of transition.
- **LtGen Raymundo B Ferrer** – He led both the Eastern Mindanao and Western Mindanao Commands, where he oversaw key counterinsurgency and peacebuilding operations. A proponent of constitutional military professionalism, Ferrer was respected for pairing decisive field command with institutional reform.
- **LtGen Jaime B Buenaflor** – A champion of civil-military cooperation, he headed the AFP's Civil-Military Operations and subsequently commanded NADESCOM. His leadership helped advance development support in conflict-affected and underserved areas.
- **VAdm Mario A Catacutan** – He assumed the duties of Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (J4) in 2010 and was later appointed as AFP Inspector General. His efforts were instrumental in improving accountability and logistical efficiency under the AFP modernization framework.
- **RAdm Danilo M Cortez** – Appointed as Acting Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy in 2010, he steered the Navy during a pivotal period marked by renewed emphasis on territorial defense and maritime domain awareness.
- **BGen Fermin R de Leon Jr** – As Dean of the Corps of Professors, AFP at the Philippine Military Academy, he contributed to the intellectual and ethical formation of generations of future AFP officers. He reinforced the Academy's core mission of *"Leadership Excellence."*

Conclusion: Legacy of Leadership and Mentorship

During a period of profound transition and transformation, the leadership of PMA Class of 1977 stood as a guiding force by bridging tradition with reform. These officers were not only commanders in the field, but also mentors and institution-builders; they left behind a legacy grounded in integrity, professionalism, and foresight.

As stewards of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' institutional memory and values, the MASIKAPs helped shape a military that could adapt to democratic governance, address national and regional threats and deliver humanitarian missions. Their influence ensured that the next generation would inherit a stronger, smarter, and more principled AFP.

What We Carried In, What We Carried Out: A Cavalier's Burden

• Cav Hermie G Colina '80

Over the years, I've found myself looking back at the Academy, not just as the place where we were formed, but as something more nuanced.

There is a tendency to think of it as where everything began, where we were shaped, disciplined, and prepared for leadership. And in many ways, that is true. The Academy compresses time, pressure, and expectation into something that leaves a mark on every cadet who passes through it.

But I've come to see it a little differently.

The Academy does not start with a blank slate.

We did not enter as empty vessels waiting to be filled. We arrived already carrying something, values, habits, beliefs, shaped long before the gates of Fort Del Pilar ever closed behind us. Family, upbringing, early choices, even small decisions we made as young men, those were already there. Quiet, but present.

Inside the Academy, we all went through what I often describe as the "Sponge Principle."

We were squeezed. Hard.

By regulations, traditions, discipline, the daily grind that tested not just our physical limits but our patience, our judgment, sometimes even our sense of self. Everyone was subjected to the same pressure. The same system. The same expectations.

But here is what I have come to realize.

A sponge under pressure does not create something new. It reveals what is already inside.

Pressure reveals, it does not create.

Some absorb things deeply. They internalize the values, not just the rules. They carry forward discipline not because they are told to, but because it has become part of who they are. Others comply, they perform, they endure, but what is taken in does not always settle. It stays near the surface.

At the time, it is not always obvious. Inside the Academy, we all look the same in many ways. Same haircut, same uniform, same standards being enforced. The system works, and it works well.

But the real test does not happen inside.

It happens after.

After graduation, the structure loosens. The constant supervision fades. The environment changes. There is more freedom, more access, more influence. Decisions are no longer checked at every step. The uniform remains, but the pressure is different.

And this is where the divergence begins.

Some continue to hold the line, even when no one is watching. Others, slowly or sometimes suddenly, drift. Not always dramatically, not always in ways that are immediately visible, but enough to matter.

Over time, the question comes up, especially when we see fellow graduates falter.

Why?

It is easy to point to the environment. The system. The temptations that come with position, authority, or access. And yes, those are real. They test anyone.

But I have come to believe the answer goes deeper.

Discipline imposed from the outside can only go so far. It can guide behavior, enforce standards, shape habits. But it cannot fully replace values that were never firmly established to begin with.

When the pressure of the Academy is removed, what remains is not the system, but the individual.

And what carries that individual forward is what he brought in from the start.

This is not a criticism of the Academy. Far from it. The Academy does what it is designed to do, and it does it exceptionally well. It molds, sharpens, prepares. It takes what is there and refines it under pressure.

But it cannot manufacture depth where there is none.

And perhaps that is something we do not talk about enough.

Because leadership today is no longer just about command presence or operational competence. It is about judgment in situations that are not always clear, decisions that are not always visible, and accountability that often comes long before any crisis makes it obvious.

The challenges today are different. Less visible, more complex, sometimes embedded in systems, processes, and decisions that do not look like "security" in the traditional sense. But they carry consequences just the same.

And in those moments, there are no formations, no inspections, no immediate corrections.

Only the individual.

Only what remains after the pressure is gone.

That, I think, is the real burden of a Cavalier.

Not just what we were trained to do, but what we choose to do when the structure is no longer there to guide us. Not just how we performed inside the Academy, but how we carry those values forward, consistently, quietly, over time.

In the end, the Academy shapes us, yes.

But it is what we carried in, and what we chose to carry out, that defines us.

And that is a responsibility we carry long after the uniform is no longer enough.

Recto Bank Development

• Cav Raul B Leyritana '79

The recent closure of the Strait of Hormuz amid the escalating conflict in the Middle East has prompted President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to revisit the stalled negotiation with China on the possible joint development of gas resources in Recto Bank. The move underscores Philippines' vulnerability as a net energy importer, heavily dependent on supplies from the Middle East.



The renewed talks, however, offer no assurance or certainty of success. Thus, we should temper our expectations. Just like in the previous negotiations, sovereignty remains the central and most contentious issue. It is an enduring challenge that has consistently proven difficult for both sides to resolve.

If the joint development with China fails, the Philippines must move forward on its own to undertake the gas project, without delay. Recto Bank is too important to be left idle especially as global energy markets remain uncertain. As this gas project takes shape, it can be pursued either through government-led financing in partnership with some foreign firms or through a consortium of Filipino investors backed by sovereign guarantees to attract investors and secure financing.

Bringing in partners from countries such as United States, Japan, Singapore, India, and even Russia is both important and strategically vital. They will not only provide technical know-how and financial strength, it will also elevate the project into a multilateral concern, helping to deter unnecessary interference while strengthening both its economic and geopolitical significance.

There are regional precedents that support this bold approach. Other ASEAN countries, such as Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia have shown that the energy exploration can proceed within their exclusive economic zones (EEZ) with strong foreign partners, despite disputes with China on overlapping maritime claims.

Recto Bank holds significant promise. With an estimated 3.5 – 5.0 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of recoverable gas, Recto Bank can generate between US$25-40 billion over 20-25 years of operation, effectively reinforcing the declining output of the Malampaya Gas Field. More importantly, it can strengthen Philippines' energy security for decades while contributing substantially to economic growth.

To ensure timely execution, the Philippines should aim to formally launch the Recto Bank project within the next 2-3 years, ideally by 2028-2029. This timeline would allow for the completion of feasibility studies, securing of financing, formation of strategic partnerships, and resolution of regulatory requirements.

Beyond this gas project, Philippines must diversify its energy mix away from the volatile Middle East. This includes carefully preparing for the introduction of nuclear power, strictly for peaceful and commercial purposes, alongside the continued expansion of renewable energy sources such as hydropower, wind, geothermal, solar, and biomass.

In the end, the development of Recto Bank is more than an energy project. It is a test of our national resolve and our ability to uphold and protect our sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea, with or without the support of allies and like-minded partners. How we pursue this consequential undertaking will reflect our unity, determination, and shared commitment as a nation.

PHILIPPINES: A Maritime Nation

• Cav Jose Renan C Suarez '82

An archipelago entirely surrounded by water, shaped and sustained by the sea with a sea-faring people

CONFIGURATION AND LOCATION

The Philippines is a Southeast Asian archipelago of 7,641 islands covering a land area of 300,000 sq kms. It has a coastline of 36,289 kms (fifth longest in the world) and an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) covering 2,263,816 square kilometers (km²). It is located between 116° 40', and 126° 34' E longitude and 4° 40' and 21° 10' N latitude and surrounded by the Philippine Sea to the east, the West Philippine Sea (WPS)/ South China Sea (SCS) to the west, the Luzon Strait to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. The Philippine coastal zone covers about 11,000 km² of land and 267,000 km² of coastal waters. About 60 percent of the population and 70 percent of 1,525 municipalities are located in the coastal zone. Out of 1,500 municipalities and 117 cities in the country, 832 (55.47%) and 57 (48.72%), respectively, are situated along the coast. Its seas cover 2.2 million km² and its coastline stretches over 18,000 kms.

The West Philippine Sea within the country's EEZ, covers 3, 370,000 km² of ocean. This sea is where one-third (1/3) of world maritime trade ($5.3 T worth of goods) transits and is home to significant fishing, mineral and hydrocarbon resources. It produces 12% of the world's fish catch and is estimated to contain 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The Philippines is also one of six (6) countries in the Coral Triangle, the center of world marine bio-diversity. The Triangle encompasses 10,360,000 km² and is home to 76% of the world's coral species, 30% of the planet's coral reefs and 37% of reef fish species. It is the habitat and spawning ground for many diverse marine creatures and organisms.

The Philippines is a maritime gateway to Southeast Asia. With its location, the country is strategically in the middle of a major international maritime seaway, huge hydrocarbon and mineral deposits and a rich bio-diversity area. Based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), it has sovereign rights over resource-rich marine areas with extensive fishery stocks and mineral and hydrocarbon deposits. Its seas serve as a major source of sustenance, livelihood and economic advantage for the country. Maritime transport is an important industry that carries goods all over the country. The ports and harbors are trade and industrial hubs.

THE SEA AND MARITIME INDUSTRY

The sea provides livelihood and natural resources to 1.9 million registered small-scale fishers and their families who rely on the waters for food and income. 85% of them are coastal fishers who catch nearly 50% of the country's total fish catch. With fish being the most consumed animal protein (40 kg per capita) in the country, it is vital to ensure its supply. However, the fishing industry is plagued by overfishing, destruction of habitats, illegal fishing, siltation and pollution, post-harvest losses and poor marketing. Dealing with these problems can sustain livelihoods and economic capacity.

The Philippines has a robust maritime industry that supports the country's tourism, fishing, and transport industries. The country's shipping industry is crucial to its development, as it delivers goods and transports people across the islands. The maritime industry in the Philippines contributed 3.9% to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022. This sector is made up of the ocean-based industries, which include shipping and seafarers' remittances.

In 2021, the fisheries sector's contribution to the gross domestic product of the country was 1.52% at current and constant prices, respectively. In that year, each Filipino consumed an average of 34.28 kg/year of fish and fishery products comprising 23.34 kg of fresh fish, 2.86 kg of dried fish, 3.89 kg of processed fish, 2.88 kg of crustaceans and mollusks, and 1.31 kg of others. More than 14,000 coastal communities in the Philippines depend on marine resources for their livelihood. It is also significant that over 25% of the world's 1.6 million maritime professionals are Filipino.

BLUE ECONOMY

According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth,



improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem." European Commission defines it as "All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts.

Under the Changwon Declaration of 2012 signed by 10 East Asian countries (including RP), a blue economy is a practical ocean-based economic model using green infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of protecting oceans and coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to sustainable development.

The potential of the blue economy in the Philippines is great as it has a vast and richly diverse coastal and marine environment. This can be a driver of economic growth if the use and governance of marine resources is done in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

The blue economy supports and can support the two-thirds of the population living in coastal municipalities. At least 2 million people are directly dependent for their livelihoods on coastal resources, and more than $350 million is contributed to the national economy by ocean-based activities in 2021.

According to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), the development of the Philippine blue economy must address and balance the competing economic interests of a wide range of users and stakeholders of the ocean and marine resources, in an equitable and inclusive manner. A clear national strategy and enabling policies, research and innovation, information and communication and digital technologies, a skilled workforce, adequate infrastructure and sustainable financing are required to drive and enable development.

DOMESTIC CONCERNS

Sustainable development requires the conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment, combatting pollution and dealing with climate change. The development of adequate maritime infrastructures is a must to support trade, commerce and tourism, respond to disasters, render humanitarian assistance, explore for/exploit resources in the exclusive economic zone and secure the maritime domain from intrusion and illegal activities. Programs to capacitate government and the private sector are necessary to spur action and forge cooperation, collaboration and complementarity.

Preventing post-harvest losses to eliminate waste, increase income and reduce market retail prices can be institutionalized. To get the catch to market, the infrastructure for processing, transport and storage facilities could be built up and maintained. The marketing ecosystem to bring the fish to consumers needs to be optimized to obtain the best prices for both the fishermen and the vendors at the same time. Getting the fish catch to the market quickly in good quality must be assured. Ensuring equitable benefits for all in the chain of production, delivery and sale is necessary

Coastal resource management (CRM) involving local governments is a critical area of concern as the principal actors and the directly affected communities must be brought or come together. Crafting sustainable solutions suited to the peculiarities of a particular area is vital to the long-term solution of many local problems. Species, habitats and ecosystems have to be protected through designation and creation of protected areas, reserves and temporary no fishing/harvesting zones.

Work for the declaration of world heritage sites like that of Tubattaha National Park (Reef) in Palawan need to be pursued for various important marine areas. Local efforts can make planting mangrove nationwide to both provide habitat for marine organisms and be buffers against adverse coastal conditions and weather disturbances. Maintaining marine ecosystems and creating areas that promote maritime patrimony fosters public cooperation and involvement to safeguard the rich marine diversity and fishery resources. Building inclusivity and creating shared experiences can generate collective action.

For marine pollution, information and education programs can be implemented to make people stop environmentally damaging attitudes and practices and elicit their support in preventing marine pollution. Proper waste disposal, recycling, clean-ups and elimination of harmful practices campaigns can be rolled out. Methods to prevent marine pollution and restore healthy seas can be highlighted as well. Pollution from shipping, commercial marine enterprises and industrial activities can be addressed proactively with adequate deterrence against violators and serious repercussions for violations. Oil and industrial pollution must be controlled. The impact of maritime accidents and disasters have to be reduced.

Good waste management policies need to be set, the right practices consistently followed and needed infrastructures built. Individuals can be made aware of their part in the problem and made responsible for their actions. Everyone must be made pollution-averse. Significantly, it has been reported that plastic waste already makes up 80% of all marine pollution with another 8 -10 million metric tons added yearly. By 2050, the fish in the sea will likely be outweighed by plastic. The Philippines is the number 1 source of ocean plastic pollution contributing 356,371 metric tons of the material yearly, more than twice that of the next largest polluter. Much could be done to greatly reduce the Philippine contribution to the problem and remove the dubious distinction.

Dealing with pollution and pollutants also combats the growing problems that climate change brings. By working together in protecting the environment and promoting climate change mitigation practices, the effects of severe weather, increasing water levels and other natural disturbances can be dealt with better. The Philippines has to bear with the calamitous effects of about 15 typhoons (five or six hitting land) a year, each leaving its own trail of death and destruction. Tidal and storm surges, floods and destructive winds and waves create havoc to exposed coastal communities. Severe torrential monsoon rains can also spawn massive flooding, crop loss and family dislocation. Droughts impact agriculture with crops lost or yields reduced.

ROAD AHEAD

The Philippine marine areas remain very underexplored. The government has very limited capabilities to map its seabed and find submarine resources. It can do better in the search for hydrocarbon accumulations and exploit proven reserves. Despite having an energy-hungry economy, there were only an average of 3 wells drilled during the 2013-18 period. The Sulu Sea Basin whose potential is 109 million barrels of oil equivalent (MMboe) and the East Palawan Basin with 166 MMboe had not been exploited since these 2002 estimates. Access to technologies that address its deficiencies and requirements in the mentioned areas can push development. Furthermore, having foreign companies bid for petroleum service contracts (PSCs) can expand government choices for companies to partner with.

Work with local communities creates a big impact on the people. Bringing significant benefits to the grassroots gains the needed validation for programs and garner more support from key stakeholders for both countries' joint efforts and programs. The local governments that manage municipal waters can be capacitated to deal with their maritime stakeholders' concerns. Notably, for subsistence fishermen, having sustainable sources of livelihood is a life-or-death matter. Augmenting their catch profoundly affects their lives. On policy, responsive regulations can be instituted and better management practices that do not disenfranchise anyone can be introduced. Keeping the necessary balance between human activities and nature must be emphasized.

Roles (local, national and international) are identified and regulations are formulated. Lines of authority are established and the tasks of agencies, groups, leaders and all participants are threshed out. Each part is clarified and relationships are defined. The linkages are forged making sure that there is effective cooperation and coordination among the concerned actors. Networks are established, streamlined and strengthened with each part complementing the others. Appropriate clearances are acquired and authority obtained to perform duties and undertake the activities.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Maritime linkages, cooperation and collaboration promote international understanding, strengthen regional stability and enhance Southeast Asian cohesion and collegiality. Capacitating the country to face its challenges and pushing its development go together. The Philippines has to seek mutually beneficial programs that bring substantial returns by effecting and cultivating collaboration and cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) counterparts and like-minded maritime states.

The country can work with other maritime nations in crafting and adopting effective solutions to bring fish populations up to sustainable levels while preventing fishermen from catching more than the fish populations can regenerate. Marine habitats must be maintained and protected to allow fish stocks to recover. Land use and waste disposal can be regulated to prevent siltation of coasts and sensitive marine areas. Methods to stop pollution and clean up polluted areas can be shared and instituted to prevent damage to habitats, harm sea creatures and undermine human health.

For marine pollution, information and education programs can be implemented to make people stop environmentally damaging attitudes and practices and elicit their support in preventing marine pollution. Proper waste disposal, recycling, clean-ups and elimination of harmful practices campaigns can be rolled out. Methods to prevent marine pollution and restore healthy seas can be highlighted as well. Pollution from shipping, commercial marine enterprises and industrial activities can be addressed proactively with adequate deterrence against violations and serious repercussions for violators. Oil and industrial pollution must be controlled. Similar initiatives to curb or prevent the impact of maritime accidents and disasters can be pursued.

Foreign technology and industrial knowhow can be harnessed. The Philippines can benefit a great deal from the experience and advancements achieved by neighbors and other maritime states. Maritime domain awareness, surveillance and protection of marine habitats and the capture of renewable energy can be improved. Existing infrastructure for fishery, port operations and navigational aids can be upgraded. The country can very much gain from foreign capabilities for marine scientific research, resource exploration, seabed mapping, weather

monitoring and ocean clean-up. Joint scientific researches for fishery enhancement, sustainment of fish catch and habitat preservation can likewise be advanced.

SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Combined efforts in monitoring the maritime domain to enhance security and prevent illegal activities can be instituted. The means to keep intruders, poachers and illegal fishers and unwanted persons out and stopping activities that negatively impact marine areas can be improved. Nations with advanced capabilities can definitely provide valuable support to raise Philippine surveillance capabilities. The country can greatly benefit from ocean-associated space, marine mining, telecommunications and high-speed surface ships (for maritime law enforcement and search and rescue) technology.

The country has to address the contentious claims on the WPS/SCS. It has to deal with this major international concern in addition to its UNCLOS and domestic maritime obligations. It is pressed to protect its maritime domain while fulfilling the responsibilities of its stewardship of its marine areas. It must defend its interests and protect the part of the world's maritime commons it covers. Continuous surveillance and regular patrols must be maintained to safeguard the Philippine maritime domain even as it underscores the peaceful settlement of disputes and supports a rules-based world order.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) establishes a legal order for the seas and oceans which will facilitate international communication, and will promote the peaceful uses of the seas and oceans, and the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment. The codification and progressive development of the Law will contribute to the strengthening of peace, security and cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights and will promote the economic and social advancement of all the peoples of the world.

In advocating rules-based regime, the country promotes peaceful co-existence with neighbors. In dogged pursuit of its sovereignty and maritime interests, it adheres to international laws notwithstanding aggressive actions against it. It files protests to its counterparts and to international agencies for its grievances. It even refrains from the use of force or violence against foreign aggression on its personnel and vessels in its own EEZ. Significantly, it seeks international support and had uses media campaigns against Chinese violations/aggression in the WPS as the latter has been aggressive with its harassment of Philippine government vessels and fishermen.

DIPLOMACY/COOPERATION

International cooperation that brings about mutual benefits to each nation is something to be sought after, established and strengthened over time thereby creating ever greater benefits to the parties.

Putting tension-provoking WPS/SCS claims aside, mutually beneficial partnerships with archipelagic, coastal and maritime states can be pursued for greater benefit and confidence-building. Cooperating and collaborating with these states would mutually augment capacities in many fields and help discover new approaches to common and even peculiar problems. Sharing best practices and doing joint activities foster greater understanding and increase collaboration in maritime affairs.

Working together for individual and mutual advancement and development creates more and better opportunities for relationship-building and improvement of individual capacities and growth. Additionally, mechanisms for providing and receiving valuable assistance particularly in times of crises and disasters can be built, embedded and enhanced. Partnering would other states facilitates the exchange of reciprocal humanitarian and disaster assistance. Other notable endeavors that undeniably benefit any country can be continuously explored.

Notwithstanding the increased tensions in the WPS/SCS, cooperation and collaboration among countries can focus on food security, economic development and environmental protection/conservation. Specifically, these could be achieved by working together to protect fishery resources, reduce marine pollution, fight plastic waste, harness ocean renewable energy, combat climate change, explore and exploit seabed resources and conduct ocean research and surveillance. Collaboratively educating maritime stakeholders and capacitating coastal communities to enrich livelihoods and protect the maritime domain can be institutionalized.

In the maritime Pacific region, promoting understanding and heightening cooperation are essential to bring about peace, stability and progress in this dynamic zone. Partnerships and associations among countries can enhance stability, bolster security, defuse tensions, facilitate progress, protect the environment, increase resilience to climate change and institutionalize productive interactions. Diplomacy in the maritime field can spur good maritime governance and offers opportunities for stronger relations. Addressing common concerns and enhancing mutual security and development can be ramped up and expedited. Maritime diplomacy is a driving force to foster bonds between and among the maritime states of the Indo-Pacific.

CONCLUSION/WAY FORWARD

Propagating maritime awareness in the country and among all sectors produces strategies and synergies that harness the maritime nature of the Philippine archipelago to advance national progress and enhance national security. Being cognizant of the importance of the maritime characteristics of the country allows government to establish national interests completely and makes national plans comprehensive. Building on its maritime peculiarities and uniqueness, the Philippines can realize its development and security goals better. A robust maritime sector translates to greater economic gains and better livelihoods for those who depend on the sea for sustenance.

Building good relations with other countries that are linked by the sea promotes shared values and common agendas and harmonizes the pursuit of national and international interests. Cooperation on ensuring the rule of law at sea, combatting climate change and preserving the maritime environment stand to benefit not only some, but all countries. Working to prevent or settle disputes peacefully creates a stable regional order. Collaborating, sharing best practices and exchanging newly developed technologies promotes goodwill and builds international harmony. The maritime environment and connection builds bridges and fulfills individual national aspirations.

The Philippines is a ***BLUE NATION*** that must fully embrace its maritime environment and build a strong maritime identity. It can move forward stronger and faster by harnessing the gifts that its maritime nature endows it. The consideration and importance given to maritime matters will give more than commensurate returns that can very well improve national well-being, economy, security and development. International harmony and cooperation in maritime affairs assure order and strengthens peace.

Some Thoughts for the DEVELOPMENT of a SOVEREIGN NAVAL VESSEL SRDP Program (Part 1 of 2 Parts)

• CAV JAMES C YLANAN '83

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." – Dwight D. Eisenhower

I. The Significance of an SRDP Program

National security encompasses three primary components: physical security, economic security, and national values. However, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) modernization plans revolve around the procurement of defense equipment exclusively from foreign suppliers. This approach overlooks the potential negative impact on economic security and national values. When these two primary components are considered, the overall gains of these acquisitions to national security become questionable.

Physical Security: Foreign-sourced defense equipment are meticulously designed to cater to the distinctive requirements and operational experiences of foreign armed forces within the unique defense environments of their respective countries. These countries are not usually archipelagos, nor are they located in the tropical zone, nor are they even poor. It is highly likely that their equipment may not be optimally suited for the unique defense conditions of the Philippine Archipelago.

In the sport of golf, ordinary golfers typically utilize standard clubs, whereas more serious golfers customize their clubs to suit their specific needs, including lie and shaft length, to enhance their performance. Armed forces equipped with foreign-sourced weapons is comparable to a golfer with a golf set that comprises clubs each with settings tailored to different players. Defending against adversaries utilizing homogenously designed equipment would likely result in a decisive defeat.

Furthermore, the nation's physical security is compromised if foreign suppliers' support is withdrawn for any reason. In such a scenario, the armed forces would be unable to sustain their operations.

Economic Security: The acquisition of defense equipment from foreign suppliers hinders the nation's pursuit of economic growth in favor of the economic development of the country of origin. This predicament is further compounded by the nation's relative poverty and a steadily widening trade deficit that has persisted for several decades.

According to the World Bank, the deficit has reached an unprecedented level of USD60 Billion in 2023. When a nation imports more than it exports, there is an upward pressure on the currency, causing it to depreciate. Thus, the more defense equipment are sourced from foreign suppliers the more pressure for the Philippine peso to depreciate. The more the peso depreciates, the more foreign defense equipment becomes expensive. The more the defense equipment becomes expensive, the harder for the nation to maintain, much more, modernize its armed forces. Therefore, it is not simple to benchmark defense spending as a percent of GDP between countries. The economic burden of spending, for example, 2% of GDP on defense for a country with a high negative trade imbalance is significantly heavier compared to a country with a strong positive balance.

The role of the economy in national security cannot be overstated. In an article published in The Journal of Strategic Studies in 2010 by Michael Beckley of Columbia University, Beckley identified a consistent pattern in numerous battles and wars between 1898 and 1987. States with higher levels of economic development consistently outfought less developed opponents. Military effectiveness is a fundamental aspect of military power, but it is primarily a consequence of economic development rather than political and social factors. Notably, economically advanced nations possess greater capabilities in generating highly skilled military units and in producing, maintaining, and modernizing sophisticated military equipment. Consequently, military effectiveness cannot be acquired through defense spending alone; it must be cultivated through development.

China's military might was only made possible by its economic and technological growth. As they embarked on their military buildup, they ensured that the economy was not sacrificed in favor of military strength. In 1982, China became the sole provider of naval platforms for itself. Subsequently, in 2007, China's National Congress broadened this policy to encompass the entirety of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) declared that if a country failed to establish an independent and powerful system for military industrial development and the army did not operate under an independent military equipment and logistics service system, then the country's army could not be considered strong, and its military power could not be further enhanced. For the United States, it is not merely a policy statement. They enacted a law, 10 US Code Section 8679, that prohibits U.S. naval warships from being built outside the United States.

During the Cold War, the United States defeated the Soviet Union in the economic front, not through direct physical warfare. The Americans strategically induced the Soviets to spend excessively on defense, exceeding their financial capabilities. This

contributed significantly to the Soviet Union's economic collapse and eventual demise, despite their ability to manufacture and even export their defense equipment.

Currently, China employs a similar strategy to gain influence over countries it seeks to control. However, China has added more power to this approach. As part of its gray zone tactics, China also engages in unfair trade practices to further undermine the economies of its adversaries. Our country is particularly vulnerable to these attacks. Even our agricultural sector is targeted, posing a threat not only to our economic security but also to our food security. It is widely known that in collusion with unscrupulous government officials, cheap Chinese goods flood the market, causing significant harm to local producers.

Consequently, the Western world has responded and is now engaging in a counter-effort. A growing trend towards economic protectionism is emerging. Our nation needs to adopt a similar approach to reduce its economic dependence on China.

In the ongoing Battle for the West Philippine Sea, our nation faces a clear and imminent threat. It is undeniable that economic considerations play a significant role in China's actions. For China, projecting power into the "first island chain" is not simply for regional hegemony. It is for economic and strategic control of trade and resource access. They have already effectively denied our fishermen unobstructed access to the traditional, rich fishing grounds of the area in favor of their own fishermen. It is noteworthy that they have also made efforts to access the carbon deposits as well.

Although the Philippines currently receives support and assistance from foreign nations such as Japan, Australia, and certain European countries in the ongoing dispute over the West Philippine Sea, this support is not solely focused on upholding the principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Rather, it is primarily a response to China's potential threat to their own economic security. This also explains the hesitation of most ASEAN members to support our cause, as our dispute with China poses no threat to their respective economies. In fact, aligning with the Philippines could even be detrimental to their economy.

Relying solely on foreign suppliers for its defense procurement simultaneously undermines the Philippine economy, which inadvertently benefits China. Despite the apparent economic peril, the acquisition of foreign-sourced equipment is growing. While efforts to develop a sovereign self-reliant defense industry are not given the attention it truly deserve.

National Values: National values are essential for the growth and development of any country. They hold significant importance as they foster unity, stability, and a shared identity within a nation. They serve as guiding principles for individual behavior and social interactions, directing them towards positive objectives such as honesty, cooperation, and diligence. These virtues are fundamental for national development and effective governance. By fostering a shared sense of purpose and pride, these values contribute to the development of responsible citizens and contribute to a more peaceful and harmonious society.

However, it is important to recognize that not all values are equally advantageous. While certain positive values contribute to social cohesion, guide national development, and foster a shared identity, there are also negative values that give the opposite effect and hinder nation-building. It can be surmised that certain negative values were deeply ingrained in the Filipino psyche by our former colonial rulers as a strategy to perpetuate their control over the nation.

At the forefront of these negative values is colonial mentality. This mindset instilled the misconception that our culture is inferior to our former colonizers, thereby eroding our sense of patriotism. Consequently, most Filipinos tend to favor foreign standards, leading to a loss of cultural identity, feelings of inferiority, negative self-image, and a decline in patriotism. Furthermore, this mindset also hinders our ability to explore our own products, thereby impeding our pursuit of economic prosperity. After eight decades of independence, colonial mentality persists and continues to influence our financial decisions. Instead of supporting local industries, the majority of individuals tend to favor the purchase of imported goods. This practice undermines our trade balance, thereby effectively hindering economic prosperity.

An offshoot to colonial mentality mindset is the "gaya-gaya" attitude of imitating or emulating other cultures and practices. Consequently, due to the perception that one's own culture is inferior, the natural inclination is to imitate or copy other cultures, particularly in the domains of fashion, language, and general lifestyle, not to mention defense. This tendency hinders local innovation, as individuals are inclined to replicate existing successful business models or cultural trends rather than developing novel ones. It is worth recalling that David defeated Goliath not by imitating Goliath's fighting style. David defeated Goliath by innovative original thinking that even his fellow soldiers were unable to conceive. Innovation is crucial in overcoming a superior force. The "gaya-gaya" mindset impedes innovative thinking.

Over-reliance on foreign-supplied defense equipment serves as a clear illustration of the detrimental consequences of these negative values. Moreover, sustained over-reliance further exacerbates these negative values into some sort of a death spiral.

Deeply ingrained in the psyche of the majority of Filipinos, overcoming this challenge would be a formidable undertaking. Unless we break free from these negative mindsets, we will be perpetually trapped in self-defeating values that were instilled during our colonial past. Our struggle for independence must continue. We must liberate our hearts and minds against these destructive values.

Conclusion. National security necessitates strong armed forces as a safeguard against potential conflicts. Nevertheless, sustaining armed forces entails substantial financial expenditures for any nation. These resources can be especially prohibitive for nations grappling with economic difficulties. Consequently, the absence of economic prosperity renders the development of a strong and credible armed forces an unattainable objective. Therefore, it can be posited that economic security may even hold greater significance than physical security. During periods of peace, there may be instances where physical security can be temporarily compromised in favor of economic security, as was the case in Germany. However, it is imperative to recognize that improving physical security without regard to economic security and national values could be harmful to national security.

A strong economy is fundamental for the development, maintenance, and continuous modernization of armed forces. At the same time, a strong and positive national values is crucial for fostering economic growth. A self-reliant defense industry not only contributes to economic growth but also reinforces positive national values, creating a virtuous cycle that propels economic progress.

Conversely, the absence of a self-reliant defense industry would substantially hinder a nation's ability to develop and

maintain a strong and credible armed forces. Armed forces that materially bolster themselves without a self-reliant defense industry impedes economic growth and prosperity for the populace it is sworn to protect. Furthermore, it perpetuates detrimental national values that erode pride and patriotism, thereby hindering national development further. As the economy weakens, the nation's capacity to sustain a strong and credible armed forces progressively diminishes. Consequently, the realization of a reliable and credible armed forces appears to be an elusive aspiration.

To be a credible force, developing a self-reliant defense industry is not an option; it is a necessity.

II. Defining Self-Reliance

By definition, self-reliance refers to the ability to independently fulfill one's needs and endeavors, rather than relying on external sources. Consequently, under Republic Act 12024, domestically manufacturing equipment sourced from foreign suppliers does not qualify as a project under the SRDP Program. This is because it merely creates jobs, which may only be temporary, and enables the foreign supplier to reduce labor costs, which may or may not result in a lower price for weapons or equipment. Additionally, it does not truly embody self-reliance; rather, it merely induces a false impression of self-sufficiency. RA 12024 is specifically designed not only for domestic production but also for the sovereign production of defense equipment. Sovereign production of defense equipment not only creates long-term jobs, but also ensures the country's domestic capability to manufacture defense equipment, even if foreign suppliers were to withdraw their support.

III. The Obstacles to the Establishment of a Philippine Self-Reliant Defense Industry Program

The development of a Philippine Self-Reliant Defense Industry presents significant challenges. It can be posited that self-defeating national values are the primary reason why the Philippines has fallen behind its neighbors in economic prosperity and the development of a self-reliant defense industry. However, the following are more specific reasons:

Non-industrialized nation status. The Philippines currently lacks the defining characteristics of an industrialized nation. The limited industrialization that transpired during the mid-1970s to the early 1990s has gradually declined over the years due to various factors. These factors indicate that the prevailing business environment and government practices may not be conducive to fostering industrial development. Moreover, the development of a self-reliant defense industry is a multifaceted endeavor that encompasses multiple interrelated industries and sub-industries. Each of which employs distinct technologies and scientific disciplines for diverse environments. If the Philippines encounters challenges in achieving self-sufficiency even in a fundamental industry such as rice production, the development of a self-reliant defense industry will present a substantially greater challenge.

Unresponsive Procurement Practices. Another challenge is the prevailing procurement practices that originated since the establishment of the AFP. By the conclusion of World War II, the United States held a substantial surplus of defense equipment. Given that the Philippines was a former colony, it was advantageous for the United States to transfer some of this equipment to the AFP through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) system of procurement. US defense contractors initiate these transfers from funds derived from the US budget as compensation for the use of US Bases in the Philippines. These defense contractors offer about to be, if not already obsolete, retired or scheduled to be retired equipment to the AFP. The AFP, in turn, determines ways to utilize these equipment within the context of the Philippine defense environment. This system effectively granted the United States the ability to control what equipment the AFP should and should not possess, compromising the country's sovereignty and interests. As a result, the AFP was prevented from acquiring the modern weapons that it actually required. This practice persisted for several decades and became customary and deeply ingrained.

Today, even after the World War II surplus equipment have already vanished and the US no longer provide funds due to the closure of their bases in the Philippines, this practice continues unabated, with different foreign nations now assuming the role once exclusively held by the United States. Instead of US surplus defense equipment, the end user seeks defense equipment available in the global market. Usually, foreign suppliers directly offer these equipment just like US defense contractors did during the FMS era. From these options, specifications are derived, forming the basis for acquisition. However, without a defense industry to speak of, there are no Filipino enterprises that possess the product by which the end user can base their procurement plans on.

Consequently, this method not only precludes Filipino enterprises from participating in the AFP modernization plans but also hinders the AFP's transition from an equipment-centric approach to a more operationally responsive, need-based approach for defense equipment acquisitions. Israel serves as an exemplar of this approach. The country designs and manufactures its own distinctive defense equipment. For externally sourced equipment, they undergo extensive modifications which they perform themselves. The absence of a self-reliant defense industry prevents the AFP from adapting this world's best practice.

Incongruent Budgeting Process. As the Vietnam War neared its conclusion, President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. expressed concern that the United States might not only withdraw from Vietnam but also from the entire region, including the Philippines. In response, Presidential Decree No. 415 (PD415) was promulgated into law. PD415 played a crucial role in enabling the AFP to begin the process of adopting a need-based approach for the procurement of defense equipment. Nevertheless, the United States refrained from withdrawing from the region, and funding for the FMS program continued. Consequently, the Philippine government became accustomed to this arrangement, leading to the customary practice of allocating a minimal budget for defense equipment acquisitions. Although this practice is gradually being rectified, budgeting remains intermittent and incongruent with the nature of defense equipment procurement. In response, the suppliers' credit scheme was adopted to address the incongruity with the budgeting system.

Despite these challenges, the country has no alternative but to overcome them and establish a Self-Reliant Sovereign Defense Industry. As previously mentioned, an SRDP Program is not an option but a necessity. While RA12024 may not be as robust and straightforward to implement as 10 U.S.C. Section 8679, it represents a substantial initial step in overcoming the challenges. The success or failure of establishing a Self-Reliant Defense Industry now hinges on the AFP's ability to effectively implement the law and realize its aspiration of becoming a truly self-reliant and credible military force.

"Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makararatingsa patutunguhan." – Jose Rizal

IV. Lessons Learned from Previous SRDP Program Project Experiences

The AFP have a long history of SRDP Program Project initiatives to learn from. Some of these initiaves undertaken over the years are:

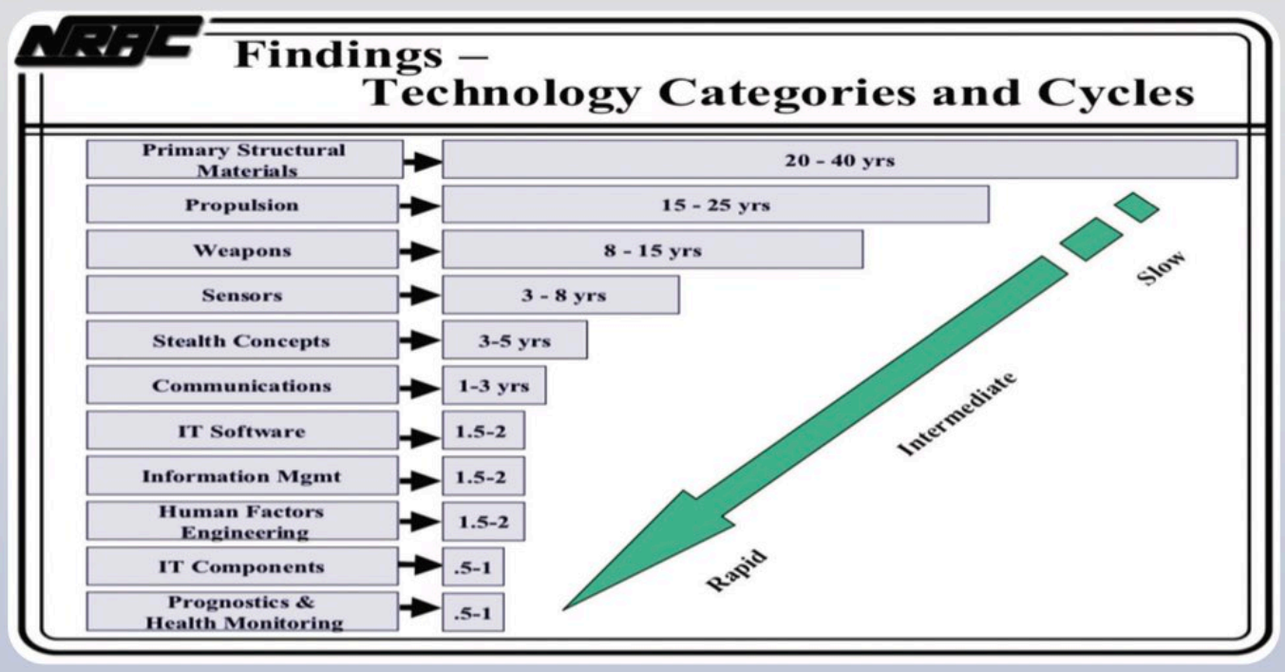
- Q-Boats, Vosper Thornycroft/Government Marine Railways & Repair Shops: 1938-1941
- Project Sta Barbara, Philippine Navy: 1972-?
- SIAI-Marchetti SF206, PADC/SIAI-Marchetti: 1973-1993
- Hover Craft, Philippine Navy: 1974
- PCF: Mk II, Philippine Navy: 1974
- PCF: Mk III, Philippine Navy: 1974
- Elisco Tool Manufacturing Co. Colt M-16A1, Colt/Elisco Tool Manufacturing Co.: 1974-1986
- Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander, PADC/Britten-Norman 1975-1995
- M-1777 Delta Mini Cruiser, Delta Motors Corporation: 1975-1983
- 91-ft PCF, Philippine Navy: 1976
- Floating Clinic, Philippine Navy: 1976
- Vetronix URC-187, Vetronix/Southcom SC130: Mid 70's to 90's
- MBB Bo 105, PADC/Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm: 1977-1997
- 45 ft Speedboat, Philippine Navy: 1978
- 46 ft PCFS, Philippine Navy: 1979
- Kagitingan Class, Philippine Navy/W. Muller Shipyard: 1979-1982
- 14m High Speed Fiberglass Boat, Marcelo Fiberglass Corp.: 1980's
- Jungle Boots, Goodfit/McRae Footwear: 1980's -90's
- Aguinaldo Class, Philippine Navy: 1984-1998
- LCVP, Philippine Navy: 1985
- Whaleboat, Philippine Navy: 1985
  Defiant 300, PADC/Gold Wings Aviation: 1987
- SIAI-Marchetti S.211, PADC/SIAI-Marchetti: 1989-1991
- Andrada Class, Trinity-Equitable SY/AG&P: 1990-2000
- GKN Simba, GKN - 1993-1997
- RPX-100A, PADC: 1998
- Multipurpose Attack Craft, Propmech/Lung Teh Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.: 2009-
- SIAI-Marchetti SF206, Aermacchi/Aerotech Industries Philippines Inc.: 2011
- Tagbanua Class: 2011

The following are the lessons that can be gleaned from studying the various past SRDP Program Project initiatives:

SRDP Program Structure. Given the vastness of the Defense Industry, it is virtually impossible to formulate a single complex and comprehensive program. Even the most self-reliant armed forces in the world do not possess a comprehensive SRDP program to achieve self-reliance. In China, it is merely a policy statement from the CCP for the military to be self-reliant. For the United States, it is a law that prohibits naval vessels from being sourced outside of the country. PD415 itself did not have a specific program; instead, it simply seeks to develop projects from proponents for the domestic manufacturing of defense equipment. A Self-Reliance Program is structured on a project-by-project basis.

Another rationale for the impracticality of formulating a complex and comprehensive SRDP Program is the varying rates of obsolescence for different equipment categories (Refer to Figure 1.), and the increasingly diminishing frequency of innovation cycles (Refer to Figure 2.). Formulating a complex and comprehensive program will hinder the AFP's ability to quickly exploit new and emerging technologies for its modernization.

Even if feasible, the complexity of formulating one comprehensive and complex SRDP program would necessitate



The Six Waves of Innovation

First Wave	Second Wave	Third Wave	Fourth Wave	Fifth Wave	Sixth Wave
Water Power Textiles Iron	Steam Rail Steel	Electricity Chemicals Internal-Combustion Engine	Petrochemicals Electronics Aviation	Digital Network Software New Media	Digitization (AI, IoT, AV, Robots & Drones) Clean Tech
60 years	55 years	50 years	40 years	30 years	25 years

Source: Edelsen Institute, Detlef Reis

Figure 2.

an exceptionally protracted period. Such programs would hinder innovation and be inherently susceptible to obsolescence before they can even be fully implemented. Without innovation, it would be impossible to overcome a significantly superior force.

The Challenges with the Reverse Engineering Approach. Reverse engineering attempts during the PD415 regime emerged from the limitations of the FMS defense procurement system. The PN required more PCFs than what the FMS procurement system could provide. Disregarding potential copyright infringement to address this problem, the PN attempted to manufacture its own PCF through reverse engineering. However, this endeavor was unsuccessful due to the limitations of the fabrication technology available at the Naval Shipyard. The PCFs were constructed out of aluminum alloy, but the Naval Shipyard can only work on vessels out of steel. Fabricating the hull and superstructure with steel seriously degraded the performance of the PCF, leading to the project's premature termination. While reverse engineering may seem like a quick and straightforward method to achieve self-reliance, the PCF SRDP Program Project demonstrated that this approach is more complicated and harder than it may seem.

During World War II, the American tried to copy the German fuel containers. Although it might look very simple enough, it turned out that a lot of thought came into the design more than the Allies can imagine. Some minuscule but crucial details in the design were left out in favor of manufacturing short cuts. This mistake contributed to severe allied fuel loses.

In the context of the accelerating pace of obsolescence, if the AFP were to initiate a reverse engineering SRDP Program Project, chances are the equipment would be already obsolete by the time the project is completed. It would be prudent to exercise caution and refrain from reverse engineering obsolete, even nearly obsolete, equipment. However, considering irrelevance of the FMS procurement system and the AFP's expanding government budget allocations for defense equipment, this approach has become redundant.

The Challenges with the Production Rights Agreement Approach: The Production Rights Agreement (PRA) approach can effectively mitigate the challenges associated with reverse engineering. Notable examples of successful projects employing the PRA approach include the Vetronix URC-187, Elisco Tool Manufacturing Co.'s Colt M-16A1, Goodfit McRae's Jungle Boots, Kagitingan Class, Andrada Class, PADC Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander, and even the Q-boats. Although the approach eliminates the risks and the time and effort required to develop the equipment, enabling immediate construction, it has one significant limitation. The technology is restricted to manufacturing and the exclusive rights to produce the equipment. Once the agreement concludes, the rights also expire. Without these rights, production ceases unless a new product is introduced to the production line.

In a PRA, the copyright to the design or product technology remains with the principal. The technology that is transferred is merely the rights to produce and acquisition of production technology. During the attempt to reverse engineer the PCFs, the PN recognized the necessity of developing the technology to build aluminum vessels. This challenge was addressed through the Kagitingan Class Project. The program stipulated that the initial two vessels would be constructed in Germany, while the remaining four would be built at the Naval Shipyard. The first locally built example resulted in a distorted hull, attributed to a failure to follow the required welding sequence during the fabrication of the hull, PG-103. With assistance from the German contractor, this error was rectified with the subsequent vessel, PG-104. Thus, the Naval Shipyard was able to acquire the technology to fabricate patrol vessels out of aluminum.

Regrettably, the vessels encountered performance issues, leading to the cancellation of the construction of the remaining two vessels after the completion of PG-104 in 1983. By the time the Andrada Class project began in 1989, the Naval Shipyard has lost the capability to fabricate aluminum patrol boats. It took seventeen examples out of the planned 35 vessels before domestic production was able to start. However, the project was prematurely terminated only after five vessels. Sad to say that the shipyard chosen to domestically build the last remaining vessels was an American-owned and controlled company. Nevertheless this shipyard also ceased the production of aluminum patrol crafts after the project was cancelled.

(To be continued next issue)

HUMOR IN UNIFORM

THE CAMOUFLAGED SOLDIER



BEYOND FORGETTING

PMA WEEKEND LEAVES

Weekend leave was a privilege in effect in the past years. This was a favor approved by higher authorities after a thorough study of its merits and faults. Pursuant to para 112 Sec. XIV of the AFPR-PMA, first classmen may go out on leave once a month; second classmen, twice an academic term; and third classmen, once a term. The plebes were the only ones deprived of this most sought privilege. These leaves were, however, afforded only to deserving cadets:

a) He must have an average grade of 2.2 in every subject; on a 3.0-maximum grading scale (or 83.805% in the 100 scales);
b) He must have at least P20.00 in his checking account;
c) He must not be serving any form of punishment; and
d) He must not be deficient in conduct. It was also provided that only 10% of all members of each company can avail of the said privilege to prevent an excessive number of cadets going on leave. Deserving cadets like the Best Cadet Awardees each month and the winners in the Corps Library Contests were also granted such privileges.



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

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

CLASS CALL

MANUEL B MARIANO
President
RAYMUNDO L LOGAN
Secretary

Cav Manny Mariano's 86th Birthday Celebration

Cavalier Manny Mariano celebrated his 86th birthday on April 18, at the family's farm in Tiaong, Quezon. Despite the distance and the summer heat, close family and friends gathered to mark the special occasion.

The celebration began with a priest's blessing for the celebrator, along with a blessing of the farm's new additions. In the spirit of giving, Cavalier Manny took the opportunity to encourage family and friends to extend their generosity in support of the Philippine Military Academy Foundation, Inc. (PMAFI), particularly its efforts to advance the education of PMA instructors.

The festivities continued from lunchtime through the evening, featuring lively entertainment, music, and a band performance. Guests enjoyed dancing and fellowship, bringing the celebration to a joyful and memorable close.













CLEMENTE P MARIANO
President
WINSTON G ARPON
Secretary

OH! PROUD AND BOLD THEY STILL STAND

Clemente P Mariano
President
Winston A G Arpon
Secretary

o Jorge Agcaoili * Winston Arpon * Santiago Diño * Renato Garcia o Clemente Mariano * Leonardo Odoño * Rolando Pabellano * Ernesto Padilla o Salvador Peran * Reynaldo Reyes * James Valeros * Ismael Villareal o

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Matibay
The Few
The Durables



BIRTH
- Apr: 9/1980 - ***Jim Vandevoort***; 21/1935 - ***Buddy Peran;*** 30/1942 – ***Sophie Diño***
- May: 21/1946 - ***Sandy Reyes;*** 22/1976 - ***Nida Garcia***
- June: 20/1941 - ***Rolly Pabellano***; 26/1941 - ***Rene Garcia***

WEDDING
- May: 18/2012 - ***Rene and Nida Garcia***; 24/1965 - ***Arfs and Iday Arpon***

OTHERS

May: 1/1960 – Incorporation Day of the PMA Class of 1964 at Borromeo Field, Fort del Pilar. *("First of May,1960" written later by **Arfs**, in remembrance of that milestone. An adaptation of a popular song by The Bee Gees in 1969).*

23/2003 – Class adopted 'brother' ***Jim Vandevoort*** graduated from the US Naval Academy Class of 2003

28/1964 – ***Mike Santos*** died in a vehicular accident, the first casualty of the class, barely a couple of months after graduation day.



Last Taps. Played on Valentine's Day when Class salutatorian ***Santiago "Santy" Bunoan*** passed away at 84 years of age, almost 24 years from the day the Last Taps for Class valedictorian and Baron ***Manuel "Valong" Arevalo*** passed away on October 4, 2002. With the passing of ***Santy,*** the 35-member Class of 1964 was down to 12, as shown above in the header of this Class Call—The Few, The Durable *(Ang Matibay).*





Through the coordination by the Class President ***Clemente "Clem" Mariano,*** the Philippine Navy through the Naval Forces Southern Luzon in Legazpi City rendered appropriate military honors to the retired Navy Commander who chose early retirement on December 15, 1980.





(left photo) His grieving wife, ***Nida,*** says she will always have bitter-sweet memories of this day, as her first meeting with ***Santy*** was on Valentine's Day of 1995 following his purchase of an agricultural land in Aroroy, Masbate. Nida was with the Office of the Municipal Assessor of the local government unit. She received his proposal on Valentine's Day a year later, and the single girl would get married to the eligible widower in 1999, and for the next 27 years, living together at their beautiful home by the sea. It was in the impressive Guest House of this residence where ***Garic Garcia*** and ***Arfs Arpon*** stayed during their visit and treated to the generosity of the couple in happier times.

Class Reunion



(right photo) 62 in 26. That's 62 years in 2026. Specifically, last March 21, as usual, we gathered at our venue of choice, Vikings Six of the 12 attended, as shown in the picture clockwise: ***Rey Reyes, Garic Garcia, Arfs Arpon, Clem Mariano;*** and sitting down, ***Jorge Agcaoili and Billy Villareal.*** Not a bad attendance, especially

First of May, 1960

We felt so small
'midst pine trees oh so tall
The first of May
Our first at P-M-A.

Don't ask us now
But we survived somehow
Harassed and pressured
"Tackled" all the way.

The Baguio chill and the anxiety
Ninety-five boys to men transformed that day.

And thus was writ
May 1st, nineteen-sixty
A page engraved
in our history.

(chorus)
So we recall
each moment of that day
forever etched in our memory.
Class 64 still proudly standing tall
to celebrate that first of May.

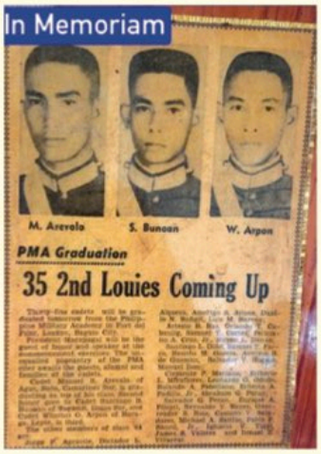
We felt so small
'midst pine trees oh so tall
do do do do do do do do do do..
Don't ask us now
But we survived somehow

Harassed and pressured
"Tackled" all the way.....
Mmm...mmm...mmm...mmm. ..mmm

#####

(An Adaptation of the Bee Gee's "First of May"

In Memoriam



with the presence OAOs – Sandy Reyes and Beth Villareal, and widows ***Emmet de Guzman, Lina Pilapil, Grace Cortez*** and ***Ellen de la Cruz.*** Another reunion, same venue, May 14.



Reunion Impromptu

Lunch at the official residence of the CSAFP turned out to be an impromptu reunion of the Matibays, with ***Jimmy Valeros*** and ***Rey Reyes*** in attendance along with their OAOs, ***Glo*** and ***Sandy*** as well as ***Ellen***, widow of ***Terry de la Cruz***. CSAFP General ***Romeo Brawner*** is the husband of ***Melody***, daughter of ***Jimmy*** and ***Glo; Melody***, joining the Matibays in an impromptu photo op.



C6-4567/BTTS Regular Tuesday Breakfast Forum

Class 64 (C6-4) is one of the four PMA classes that organized themselves into an informal organization, C6-4567; the other three—the Mulawins (C6-5), Class 66 (C6-6), and the Dimasupils (C6-7). They have a weekly RTBF- Regular Tuesday Breakfast Forum at Dulcinea, Serendra. The breakfast on May 5 was an exception, the RTBF was held instead at the Sunpower Café rooftop of Estacio Hotel in Taguig City. A breakfast with the Kampilan Group to co-celebrate the birthday of ***Raul Urgello,*** C6-6, and a moving force of the Kampilan Group. ***Billy Villareal,*** C6-4, was in attendance for the first time breaking bread with his fellow BTTSers, that's what they call themselves, after their adopted motto from the Academy - BTTS, Back To The Slope.







Class President in France

Not a case of wanderlust, ***Clem*** avers, just another occasional trip to Paris, France for the Pilgrimage to Lourdes towards mid-May. *"Following tradition,"* he avers further, *"a return visit to the iconic Trevi fountain"*. He didn't say but Class Call is certain he had enough left in his pocket he had at least three coins to drop in the fountain. Your guess is as good as mine if he stuck to one or all of three traditional wishes of coin tossers—return to the city; find love; marry an Italian.

Ah, the joy and pleasure of home away from home, in France and Italy.

o Mardi Gras 2026



Talking about pleasure, ***Tagoy*** and ***Sofie Diño*** have it in spades, given their active social life in Illinois state, evidenced by the photos of such occasions throughout the year that the couple shares with the class. The most recent, a Mardi Gras 2026 photo, where they entertained and regaled the party-goers with their *pasa doble*, one of several in their repertoire.

Diamond Jubilee



Two years after the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Class '64 at PMA, ***Rey Reyes*** attended a similar jubilee, closer to home this time at PAF Hq. The PAF Flying School Alumni Association honored the PAFFS Class of 1966 of which ***Rey*** was a member.

But of course, he was together with his perennial partner for any and all allocation, the ever-active ***Sandy***.

Congratulations

To ***Vanessa***, OAO of Bro ***Jim Vandevoort*** for her promotion to Commodore, PCGA.

+Alqueza, Dictador
+Arevalo, Manuel Antonio
+Ariosa, Amerigo
+Bangit, Danilo
+Bas, Asterio B
+Bunoan, Santiago Jr
+Cabanlig, Orlando
+Cortez, Samuel
+Cruz, Feliciano Jr
+Danao, Ruben
+Farre, Samuel
+Hocson, Salvador
+Ison, Manuel
+Miraflores, Eriberto
+Paray, Abraham C
+Pilapil, Enrique
+Ruiz, Guerreador
+Saludares, Casiano
+Santos, Michael
+Sencil, Pablo
+Tiqui, Ignacio



@waga C64-02

MIGUEL A LEONARDO
President
EVERLINO P NARTATEZ
Secretary

GREETINGS FROM THE PMA MULAWIN CLASS OF 1965!

May we all continue to have the gift of faith, the blessings of hope and the peace of His love this summer and always.

In the Q1 2026 issue of *The Cavalier Magazine* we reported the death of two distinguished Mulawins, MAJ GEN ALFONSO TAN DELOS SANTOS (PAF) and PLT GENERAL ANDRES M SUPERABLE (PNP). In this Q2 2026 issue in the month of May have brought again sadness and deep mourning for the death on May 1, 2026 of Mulawinette ANICIA VERON ORTIZ widow of our late classmate and dear friend CAPT ANTONIO O ORTIZ who perished in a 1972 heli crash somewhere in Isabela together with another classmate, then the co-pilot of the rotary wing aircraft, 1LT FERDINAND S LLAPITAN. So with extreme sadness, we the Mulawin Class Family extends its sincerest condolences and sympathy to the children of Tony and Annie – SANDER, JESSICA and JUN and TONYBOY (+) who died three years ahead of Annie. As always, on occasions like this, our class was represented by Mulawinette CELIA T BULAN during the Farewell rites and Funeral Mass for Annie held in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.



On the occasion of our 61st Graduation Anniversary, the PMA Mulawin Class of 1965 continued with its traditional Special Mass Offering for our deceased Mulawins and Mulawinettes last March 28, 2026 at St Ignatius Cathedral, GHQ CGEA, QC. There were only a few who attended but this should not discourage us from continuing with the symbolic tradition of our love and care and memory of our loved ones who have gone ahead of us all. After the mass, some of us proceeded to the CGEA Golf Clubhouse for the previously announced KKB lunch which turned out not really a KKB as two generous ladies, Mulawinettes Lita Marcelo and Lynn Nartatez volunteered to take care of the cost of the sumptuous food consumed while Jess Candelario and Roger Gadoy Bergado volunteered to answer for







Attending Baby Duque's 80th Birthday at Athena in Tagaytay.



80th birthday celebration at Athena Bag of Beans in Tagaytay.

all the drinks (two buckets of SMB Pale Pilsen). And wanting not to be left out, Jomari Solquillo insisted of giving the FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,000.00) he had been insisting to give as the Class donation for the special mass offering which has already been advanced for to the Cathedral Office by Class Sec Berlie Nartatez. And so sa KKB na yon meron na sobrang Php5T + to be part of our future KKB's. So sa mga susunod na Mulawin KKB's hope to see more attendees. BTW the attendees during our first KKB get-together were Mulawins Rolly Cauton, Berlie Tates Nartatez, Ofring Marcelo, Jomari Solquillo, Jess Candelario, Roger Gadoy Bergado, Mulawinettes: Lita Marcelo, Lynn Nartatez, Boots Candelario, Gloria Bergado, and Junior Mulawinettes Melissa Mora and Angela Toling.



MANUEL P ESPEJO
President
FREDELINO S BAUTISTA
Secretary

PAMBUNGAD

Pagkatapos ipagdiwang ng Klase ang kanyang Diamond Jubilee ng pagtatapos sa PMA noong 1966, ang nasa isipan ng marami sa atin: "Anong susunod?" Kaya naman, may tumingin sa cell phone at naghanap ng listahan ng mga anibersaryo sa Google. Ang mga nasa listahan: 65th Anniversary – Blue Sapphire/Crown Diamond; 70th Anniversary – Platinum; 75th Anniversary – Diamond/Gold at 80th Anniversary – Oak. Mukhang malayung-malayo. Baka may higit na malapit.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ayon sa nasusulat, ang ika-61, na taon ay parte pa rin ng Diamond Anniversary, nguni't maaari rin tawaging Plane Tree Anniversary. Kaya naman, ang malayong tanaw ng Klase ay ang mga gagawin bilang paghahanda sa 2027, ngunit kailangan may pagkakaabalahan sa malapit na hinaharap.

And our first thing was to recognize the efforts of those who contributed in any way during the planning and participation in the 60th Diamond Anniversary of graduation of Class 1966 that started in 2024. One of the things undertaken was to recognize the sixty-sixers ladies and "brats" who were in the thick of the preparations and implementation. And what we saw, especially those in the Core Group, warmed our hearts.

To start with – the recognition of those who were in the thick of it. The occasion came – in the celebration of the birthday of Class President for life, Noli Espejo, on 15 April at his residence in Cavalry Hills, East Rembo, Taguig. The noise of the occasion, usual when mistahs and their ladies get together, did not deter the attainment of the bigger purpose – recognition and plans for the future, namely: 61st anniversary of graduation, class activities to maintain the class spirit, and more importantly, the joy of being together as one big family.

The members of the core group, and the ladies who attended the core group meetings, braved the traffic going to Divisoria to buy give-aways, etc., were given mini plaques prepared by Edd





Noli Espejo's birthday celebration, highlighted by a very big birthday cake, seldom seen in birthday celebrations.

Santos. Louie Fernandez who hosted lunch for many meetings and other occasions, played a major role in the crystalling of plans, during these gatherings. Likewise, recognized was Cav Ed Elona '03, MA7 PMA who on many weekends joined core group meetings to take note of Class requests ICOW anniversary celebrations. During the Alumni Parade proper, he was there, providing assistance to the Class delegation, also during the much looked forward to by the young ones, and a few young once – lunch with the cadets.



AND THE BALL STARTED ROLLING

Immediately, during the birthday lunch of Noli Espejo, the ladies and the brats, hatched a scheme of going out of town, to reconnoiter nearby places where a Class outing could be held. Not surprisingly, quite a number volunteered to join and they also succeeded in buying



Inspired by the Padre Pio town in Sto Tomas, Batangas (background), the ladies and the brats are all smiles – ready for the next event.



Lunch at a local restaurant serving Filipino food.

local delicacies, and making reservations for a two-day out of town absence from the humdrum of NCR.

SEE YOU AGAIN, TONY AND DORIS; CONRI

Among those who now live in the US, only couple Tony and Doris, and solo Conri Bruce, came to the Philippines to join the Class '66 Diamond Anniversary of graduation. Arriving early enough, Tony and Doris were able to interact with the rest, since they have a house in Cavalry Hills Village, East Rembo, Taguig. They were also there in Baguio City for the homecoming activities, the parade especially, evening program and lunch with the cadets on a Sunday.

All too soon, it was back to the US for the three of them. Fortunately, there was a time for Tony Romero to be hosted for lunch on 29 April 2026 at the famous Morton's Steakhouse at Bonifacio Global City. Eight of the Class attended the despedida lunch, again with Louie Fernandez as host. As for Conri, the Class learned that he had left; no chance for a back-to-US lunch.



Send-off lunch for Tony Romero (center), surrounded by eight mistahs.

THE KAMPILAN STORY

Surely, everyone, history wise, is familiar with KAMPILAN, a bolo made popular by Muslim inhabitants in Mindanao. But to Mistah Raul Urgello, Kampilan is an organization of retired soldiers and surviving spouses of veterans, officially known as Kampilan Peacekeepers Association, Inc.. He is at present the President and CEO. Its primary objective is to enhance the morale and welfare of the members, notably, increases in pension and improvements in medical care.

On Tuesday, 5 May 2026, Raul celebrated his birthday with a breakfast at the Sunpower Café, Equator Bldg, Bayani Road, Taguig. In attendance were mostly Kampilan members, with some BTTS (Back to the Slope) members, all belonging to Classes 64-67. During the occasion, Raul spoke lengthily, as honoree, where he revealed his ability to speak, crack jokes and his quick recall of names, places and incidents.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

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

May – Rey Gopilan (29), Buddy Perez (26), Tony Romero (03), Raul Urgello (05).

June – Rec Sarmiento (27), Elsie Rivera (09), Dee Cagurangan (13), Agie Bantolo (23).

Maligayang araw ng pagsilang. Nawa, bigyan pa kayo ng Panginoon ng marami pang mga araw at taon.





BTTS members join the Kampilan for a souvenir photo: Raul Urugello is the one with the blue cap.

MARIANO R SANTIAGO
President
ROSAURO V SIBAL
Secretary

As always, we did not stop the inertia of the New Year 2026 celebration - what with the insistence of mistahs Jun Avenido, Bobby Lastimoso and Joseph Young to host our January breakfast forum in the name of the following Dimasupil and Tagasupil birthday celebrators: Myrna Espinosa (1), Hedy Duenas (2), Bobby Lastimoso (4), Lita De Guzman (5), Queenie Enriquez (6), Cora Tomas (9), Edsel Salvana (14), Warlie Sadiarin (16), Joseph Young (16), Myrna Cordero (20), Ernest Escaler (23), and Jun Avenido (24) at a restaurant in Mandaluyong City.

We were supposed to have a lunch forum at NIU on March 19, 2026, not just to celebrate the birthdays of Ernie Dionisio (3), Myrna Andaya (5), Lou Ibanez (11), and Linz Gabuna (26) in February, and those of Lea Vallejera (5), Ching Aguana (8), Josie Dela Cruz (12), Nic Parena (20), Jun Ibay (21), Benny Ventura (21), Rody Duterte (28), Mely Gatmaitan (30), and Manny Dalipe (31), but to mark our 59th graduation anniversary as well. It has to be cancelled though when Ronnie Ibay suffered a mild stroke. We are glad to hear that she is on her path to recovery. Meanwhile, I was told that our should-be "hostage" would instead host the forum in May 2026.

Meanwhile, some Tagasupils: Agnes A, Alice A, Aying P, Beth S, Linz G and Merle O, spent five days in Iloilo with Lulu L, just before the Holy Week going around shopping and visiting Ed L's final resting place.

It was followed by the Dimasupil lunch fellowship that was held at NIU Podium last April 2026, hosted by Alice Averilla (9), 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). Some Dimasupil 3s were also invited and were present.

Unfortunately, the celebration was tainted with sadness because another Dimasupil, Mistah Sisenando "Perot" Garcia Perez, Jr. passed on April 28 reducing us further to just 38 out of the original 85 graduates. Bobby L and Spine E represented the Class the following day in the arrival honors for the urn bearing Perot's ashes at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB). Mistah Louie S and May flew all the way from Palawan to be at the LNMB earlier at 4 p.m. but were not able to wait for the necrological service later in the evening of May 1. Mistah Jun Abe D, Manny D, Bernie P and Mar S delivered the eulogies and extended the condolences of the Class to Perot's family: Lulu, Jenn and Mike. Same condolences were extended to Perot's siblings. Later mistah Jun A assisted Mar S in giving the Class financial assistance to the family in the presence of Joe A, Aging A, Dionix D, Rudy G, Spine E and Jun I; and Alice A, Aying P, Beth S, Cora D, and Myrna E. Most of them also attended the burial on May 2 at the Heritage Park.

On May 9, 2026 the Class held a Golf Tournament jointly organized with One Movement, Inc. at Pradera Golf Course in Lubao, Pampanga to raise funds for our two organizations. Bobby L is the





Members of PMA Dimasupil Cl67 during the Necrological services for our departed RADM Sesinando Perez at LNMB Chapel.

tournament chairman who did a yeoman's job for the sake of our class. Abe D joined the tournament, while on hand to give support were Dionix D, Mar S, and Sergs A. Manny D and Jun I did not make it, but were in constant touch.

Our special thanks go to Cav Ricardo David '77, Chairman of the PMAAAI and Cav Boy Vingson '85, Executive Director, for joining the tournament. The same goes to Cav Orly Pestaño '77, Chairman of the Council of PMA Class Presidents, for helping sell a big chunk of the golf tickets.

Missing and wanted: Archie Balboa, Moises Boquiren, Bay Gabison, Walter Briones and Ching Ballecer!





Necrological Service Speakers: Bernie Patinio, Manny Dalipe, Abe Din, Joe Andaya and Pres Mar Santiago.







Dimasupil Lunch Fellowship for April 2026 at NIU, Podium.

MELCHOR P ROSALES
President
WILFREDO G NUQUI
Secretary

1. Our Class observed its 58th graduation anniversary on March 24, 2026 at Alba Restaurant, Pasig. Present were nine CMs namely Bobby, Hector, Nori, Rudy, Oscar Mel, Volts, Willy and Sony. The 14 cheerful ladies who attended were Puring S, Peewee T, Tess P, Candy A, Gigi C, Millette R, Tita P, Rhodie G, Julie R, Hilda F, and Cecille C. Mel read the prayer "*The Empty Chair*" in memory of our departed 33 CMs out of the 56 members and three departed honorary members. Our prayer for them concluded with *"This empty chair will hold the place for those who cannot show their faces. We honor you forever more, the friends, classmates and ladies we adore."*



PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting, 24 Jan 2026.

2. Mel received our Class 68 banner which has been paraded with by Class members for several years at the PMA, Baguio City. It shall be replaced with a new one by the PMA secretariat. Our veteran banner was proudly raised by Volts and Nori during our Class graduation anniversary picture. Mel shared some ideas, preparations and expectations by PMA authorities on our plans for February 2028.

3. During the Class officers' meeting in April 2026, Sony Penilla was nominated and subsequently acclaimed by the Class to complete our six-member team.



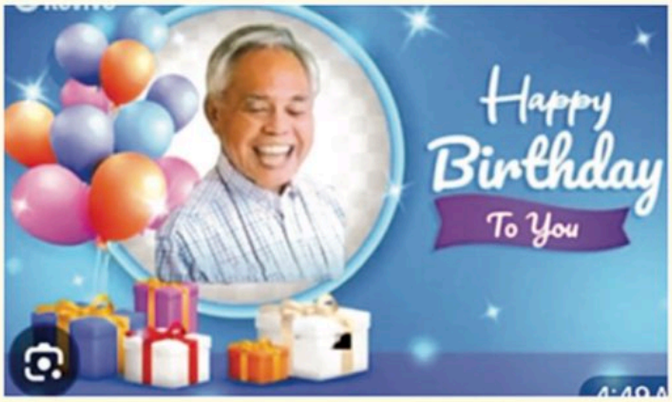




JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JESUS B DULLER
Secretary

Summer Birthday Greetings to our Suaviter celebrants in the Second Quarter 2026:

JimmyD – 2 Apr, SmokeyC - 11Apr, +RichardS – 14 Apr, JessR – 19 Apr, OliveR – 20 Apr, +VicT - 26 Apr, LilyG – 2 May, +GusA (Kayong) – 5 May, LuzL - 8 May, +EdM - 12 Jun, Marilyn Sua – 18 Jun, +FerdieL – 18 Jun, IndayB - 21 Jun. *Compliments from Bingbo's vault file, thank you!*



Our Prexy Jimmy's Birthday Celebration at Luna Hall, PAOC held on 08 April 2026 in lieu of the actual birth date of 02 April which falls during the Holy Week.





Links to Suaviters' posted articles or video(s): *food for thoughts, amusements or laughter. Simply copy & paste in a browser to view, listen, read and be entertained. Have fun.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NNy289k6Oc&t=9s

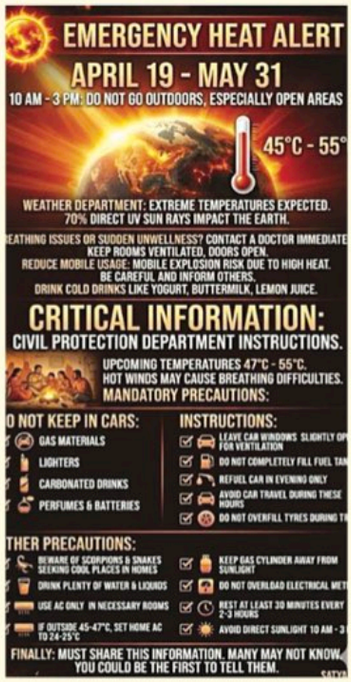
https://mb.com.ph/2026/04/20/how-past-cgpas-built-a-modern-army

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/VbdXG9VYlfQ

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/RebcjWS6ots

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/HaS2pP8MEis

https://www.pmo.gov.sg/newsroom/pm-lawrence-wong-on-the-situation-in-the-middle-east-apr-2026/



I don't know who wrote this piece, but, it's worth reading

Every minute... someone leaves this world.
Not only the old.
Not only the sick.
Not only the weak.
Someone. Somewhere.
Age has nothing to do with it.
Life does not always send a warning.
The truth is... we are all standing in a line.
A line we did not choose.
A line we cannot see the end of.
And the strange thing is... most of us don't even realize we are in it.

We wake up every morning thinking we have time.
Time to hate.
Time to fight.
Time to compete.
Time to prove we are better than someone else.
But the line is moving.
Quietly. Patiently. Relentlessly.
And every day... someone steps out of it.
We never know how many people are ahead of us.
We never know when our name will be called.
We cannot move to the back of the line.
We cannot step out of it.
We cannot pause it.
And no amount of money, power, fame, or connections can halt its progress.

So while we are still standing here... while our turn has not yet come...
Let us make peace.
Let us forgive.
Let us stop carrying the heavy bags of anger and hatred.
Let us do good.
Not tomorrow.
Not when it is convenient.
But now.
Let us tell the truth, even when lies seem easier.
Let us be honest, even when honesty comes at a cost.
Let us show kindness to people who may never be able to repay us.
Because one day — whether we like it or not — we will leave this world.
That is the one appointment no human being can cancel.
So what is the point of holding a grudge against someone who could leave tomorrow... or you could leave before them?

What is the point of destroying someone's life, sending a brother to prison, or plotting revenge... when neither of you truly controls tomorrow?
Why boast about money... when money has never stopped death?
Why boast about status... when titles disappear the moment life leaves the body?
Why deceive yourself with power and connections... when countless powerful people stood in this same line before you and still had to leave?
Why fight your own brother over land... when the earth itself will one day cover both of you?
Look around the world.
People fighting. Families breaking. Communities divided.
All for things that cannot follow us beyond the grave.
Evil often grows from ignorance.
Pride is the costume of foolishness.
Selfishness is the poverty of the soul.
And betrayal... betrayal is the language of weakness.
But kindness... kindness is strength.
Compassion is wisdom.
And humanity is the greatest legacy a person can leave behind.
At the end of life, nobody asks how much money you had in your bank account.
They ask how many lives you touched.
They remember whether your presence brought peace... or pain.
Whether you lifted others up... or pushed them down.
Whether you built bridges... or burned them.

So while we are still alive...
While our hearts are still beating...
While our feet are still moving in this mysterious line called life...
Let us do good.
Let us love more.
Let us forgive faster.
Let us help those who cannot help themselves.
Let us use the little time we have... not only to build our lives...
But to uplift humanity.
Because when our turn finally comes...
And we step out of this line...
The only thing that will remain...
Is the good we did for others?
May the Lord guide our hearts to what is right, forgive our shortcomings, fill our lives with sincere goodness, and grant us a beautiful ending when our time comes.

This is a heartfelt message and I know that you will feel it as well.
It's a food for thought for the wise. Shalom!

LOOK! WHO'S GOT THE AWARD!



Last April 25, during the PAF Flying School Homecoming at Fernando Air Base, Mistah Benjie received the Golden Aviator Award from AFP Chief of Staff Gen Romeo S Brawner Jr, for outstanding achievement in Command and Leadership (similar to the PMA Lifetime Award).

The Suaviters are so proud of you, Mistah Benjie.
Congratulations!



The hosts and former CGs with Ladies led by past and present ladies: Sue Morales, Julie Cordura and Meg Defensor.



Please note that I am flanked by Gens. Omet Brawner and Nelson Morales, the only 2 officers in the AFP who secretly know all the songs of the Sounds of 69 as they were with us when we were practicing at the GHQ.

CG, PAF Art Cordura will soon fine tune his vocal cords. -Benjie D.

Way to go, Benjie! Congratulations! Keep on flying high. -Willie Wong.

Congrats, BD! -Joey Syjuco.

Well done, Mistah Benjie. -Jus Manlongat.

Keep on shining, Toto Benjie! Congratulations! -Jake D.

Congrats Mistah Benjie and Meg. Looking hale and healthy .

SEE WHO ARE ON THE GO!



Now at Gyeo - hbokgung Palace



Japanese Sakura Beauty

LET'S NOT FORGET THE OTHER APRIL SUAVITER CELEBRANTS!

...at the class favorite Italian Restaurant, Paul Boulangerie et Patisserie in BGC on April 30th.



L-R: Benjie, Joey, Rene, Nonoy, Cleo, Jus, Willie, Jimmy and Cris.



With the ladies in the background.



The street view of the PLACE.





Here's an AI fantastic photo rendition of the living Suaviters from Mistah Willie Wong's Art Gallery.
Thanks, Mistah Willie, for sharing your digital mastery!

Can you recognize yourself? What do you think about Mistah Willie's talent?
You may post your honest feedback in our Viber chatgroup.

ERNESTO G CAROLINA
President
ROBERTO G NUQUI
Secretary

MAGITING MILESTONES IN REVIEW

The AFP Welcomes the Magitings

On March 22, 1970 Magiting Class '70 added 20 fresh lieutenants to the Philippine Army exactly on its 74th Founding Anniversary. The Philippine Air Force gained 18 new airmen. The Philippine Navy acquired 10 youthful seadogs. The Philippine Constabulary proudly hailed its 17 newly polished lawmen. After four years, the 65-strong class of 1970 was off the walls of the Academy and into the legendary field of tribulation, fortune, and fun.

The Army group converged at the Philippine Army School Center, Fort Bonifacio to attend the Company Officers Course and then to become the first PMA class to undergo Ranger Training with the Army Special Forces at Fort Magsaysay. It was like being in Loakan again with instructors from Classes 66, 67 and 68. Magiting Lieutenants were assigned to various PA units: In the 4th Infantry Division, Cagayan de Oro were Julian Antolin, Rodolfo Garcia, Glenn Rabonza, Dionisio Santiago, Arsenio Tecson(†) and Gaudencio Torres(†) were absorbed by the infantry battalions. Meanwhile, Pedro Atienza, Rufo de Veyra and Antonio Chang(†) joined the Artillery Battalion. Boots de Veyra earned a Master's degree in Business Management at the Asian Institute of Management in 1974.

Roy Cimatu, Julius Javier, Serafin Marquez and Godofredo Olores were added to the 3rd Infantry Brigade in Cebu City. Jacinto Ligot(†), and Eduardo Visperas(†) joined the 2nd Infantry Brigade in Tanay, Rizal. Headquarters Philippine Army took Adriano Ballesteros(†) and Ernesto Carolina. Later on, Godo Olores was designated as an Aide to General Fidel V. Ramos and Nesty Carolina was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division in Mindanao.

In the 1st Infantry 'Tabak' Division at Fort Magsaysay, the Special Forces gained Eduardo Jonson while USMA Rolando Floria(†) went to the 1st Engineer Combat Battalion. Roderico Castro was picked by the 1st Armored Cavalry Troop.

Magiting aviators were awarded Aeronautical Badges by the Philippine Air

Force Flying School (PAFFS) at Fernando Air Base, Lipa City. In 1971, Second Lieutenants Carmelo Madrid, Alfonso Suemith, Nestor Santillan and Guillermo Lorenzo(†) trained in the C-47. Danilo Sta. Clara, Marius dela Peña(†) and Fiorello Adriano(†) checked out in the U-17. Felipe Gaerlan(†), Noli Dalugdug(†) and Bienvenido David (†) were supposed to train on jets at Basa Air Base but were ordered to fly the U-6 Beaver to augment Mindanao operations. The UH-1H was a recent addition to the PAF in the 70's and so were Ernie del Rosario, Edgar Calvo(†) and Felipe Villanueva(†). Marciano Ilagan, Mario Gomez, Apolonio Ugale(†) and Angelito



Hernandez(†) remained at the PAFFS as Instructor Pilots. Edmundo Castellanes Sr. acquired the coveted Academic Board Star "For academic excellence, having obtained 98% of the proportional points for the school year 1969-1970". Ed Castellanes and Boots de Veyra earned their Master's degree in Business Management together at the Asian Institute of Management in 1974. Meanwhile, Felipe Villafranca (USAFA) was assigned to Headquarters PAF.

Army men Eduardo Jonson and Roderico Castro were owned by the Army but were loaned to the PAF to undertake Undergraduate Pilot Training at the PAFFS in 1972. They became Instructor Pilots for two years. They were conceived to form the essential nucleus of the Army Aviation Battalion. Caged Army flyers Jonsie and Rody were released only after they worked out a GHQ Order to attend a course at the Strategic Intelligence Training School (SITS) and subsequently returned to the Army.

Ten Magiting Ensigns finished the Naval Officers Qualification Course at Cavite Naval Base, Sangley Point. Thereafter they were assigned to various Patrol Ships (PS) and Landing Transports (LT). These sea dogs were moored as follows: Manuel Reyes was picked for RPS Aklan (AR 67 Repair Ship), Ed Israel boarded BRP Rizal (PS 69 Corvette), Marcelo Garcia sailed on BRP Negros Occidental (PS 29 Corvette), Guillermo Parayno Jr(†) took on BRP Zamboanga del Sur (LT 86), Robert Garcia(†) enjoyed on the Datu Kalantiao (PS 76 Destroyer Escort), Fernando Francisco(†) lodged on BRP Conrado Yap (PS 30 Corvette) and Edgardo Perez(†) rocked on BRP Cotabato del Sur (LT 87), Romelino Gojo rode the waves on RPS Cebu (PS 28 Corvette) and Augusto Sera Jose(†) embarked on BRP Quezon (PS 70 Destroyer Escort). Romy Gojo and SJ Sera Jose(†) joined the Philippine Marines a year later. Oscar Jaime Mauricio Jimmy was berthed on LT 85. He was the first Magiting to earn a Master's degree in Business Management at AIM in 1973.

Before its transition to Philippine National Police, the Philippine Constabulary (PC) acquired a sizeable number of 17 aspiring lawmen. All Magiting Second Lieutenants finished the mandatory PC Officers Course and the Basic Airborne Officers Course at Fort Magsaysay. In the 60's, the Philippine Constabulary was structured into four Zones. The following Second Lieutenants were welcomed as follows: The 1st PC Zone in Camp Olivas, Pampanga acquired, Alfredo Daluyaya(†), Dominador Resos(†) and Teodoro Delarmente. The 2nd PC Zone in Canlubang took Romeo Acop(†) and Clyde Fernandez. The 3rd PC Zone in Cagayan de Oro received Cesar Garcia Jr and Cesar Alvarez, and the 4th PC Zone in Davao kept Ramsey Ocampo, Victor Signey, Rex Baquiran(†) and Rogelio Castro(†). The Presidential Security Command took Irwin Ver, Edgar Galvante, Agapito Heredia(†) and Rodovaldo Maluyo(†),



and while Hermogenes Ebdane Jr stayed at Camp Crame. Miguel Coronel(†) acquired the coveted Academic Board Star "For academic excellence, having obtained 98% of the proportional points for the school year 1969-1970". He was assigned to the 1st PC Zone.

Debut into the Crucible of Fire

In 1971, a reinforced composite battalion was urgently dispatched to Maguindanao del Norte to quell the first secessionist attempt launched by Buldon Mayor Bangon Aratuc. An armored unit of four M113 Armored Personnel Carriers led by 2nd Lt Roderico Castro from the 1st Armored Cavalry Troop, 1st Inf 'Tabak' Division arrived in Buldon on board a Navy LST. Other crispy Magiting Lieutenants who reported were Roy Cimatu and Julius Javier from the 3rd Inf Div plus Dionisio Santiago, Julian Antolin and Arsenio Tecson(†) from the 4th Inf Div.

Six spruced up Magitings were attached to Task Force Pagkakaisa under the command of Colonel Cesar Batilo(†). He was an ROTC Corps Commander of Mapua Institute of Technology, a pioneer of the Philippine Special Forces, and a counterinsurgency veteran.

The first major encounter between government forces and 2,000 rebels occurred in Barangay Garigayan. After an intense 10-day campaign, Aratuc was finally cornered in the town proper and was forced to capitulate with his men. Reports say 33 MILF fighters and 17 AFP soldiers were killed in the skirmish. The conflict was settled with a peace pact and rehabilitation aid in the Buldon Ceasefire Agreement. This mode of settlement became a model for succeeding resolutions. It was a fiery reunion for the young Army Magitings in the now so-called Battle of Buldon.

Synopsis of Battle of Buldon



Rebels dug defensive foxholes to deter the advancing government forces. However, the M113 APCs fired at these fortifications with cal. 50 MGs and crushed a few rebels to death along its path. One APC was however damaged by a landmine. The first three days of combat were the most intense with constant ambuscades. Overwhelmed, the rebels were soon compelled to make a futile last stand in the town. The Buldon rebellion, failure as it was, set the stage for a protracted and complex politico-military challenge to the AFP well into the 2000s. Paramilitary Muslim groups 'Blackshirts' and 'Barracudas' factions contested land claims against the Christian Ilagas. The 'Blackshirts' and 'Barracudas' were a direct response to the Ilagas, a vigilante group supported by some Christian politicians, which launched several attacks and massacres against Muslims in 1970 - 1971. The secession movement scaled up when the MNLF and the Bangsa Moro Army under Nur Misuari peaked in strength in 1972 - 1975.

A Mistah to the Rescue of Another

In October 1972, a Ranger unit under 2nd Lt Julius Javier was sent to Jolo to support Army and Marines operations. His unit was encamped near an army battalion where one Company was under the command of 2nd Lt Roy Cimatu. On their way towards Jolo town, Julius's Ranger team was ambushed a few kilometers from the encampment. Roy hastily responded and successfully extricated the wounded Julius. Tragically, a Ranger officer and a number of men were killed. Several days later, Roy attended an intelligence briefing conducted by a certain 'Lt. Jakosalem', who turned to be Mistah 2nd Lt Serafin Marquez.

The Perilous Skies and Magiting Airmen



In 1975, two UH-1H Huey helicopters were dispatched to Danag, Jolo to re-supply ground troops with ammunition, C-rations, water and medicines. The lead Huey was piloted by 1st Lt Ernesto del Rosario with co-pilot 2nd Lt Rodrigo Luis '73. The mission would take four sorties. On their last sortie, Ernie lost contact with ground troops as he was approaching the makeshift landing zone. He assumed there was a change in communication frequency as a security precaution.

Ernie unsuspectingly performed his landing procedure until his Huey was suddenly peppered with enemy fire. Ernie promptly advised the other helicopter following him to abort landing and provide covering fire. He judiciously landed his Huey in a precarious concealed spot and stayed there for two minutes that seemed to last eternally. The crew unloaded the cargo like the dickens. Ernie's Huey soon received more hits as it took off from the area through the hail of dangerous fire. Miraculously he made a breakaway from the ensuing firefight.

However, the ordeal was not over yet. Approaching Jolo airport the turbine engine quit. Professional instincts took over as Ernie performed the most perfect autorotation of his life. It would be an understated double jeopardy to say he safely landed the disabled and perforated Huey.

1st Lt Ernesto del Rosario was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Star but it was downgraded to a Gold Cross. Although this award eluded him, he did not pursue its recommendation since he believed it was self-serving and better left to the responsibility of the unit commander. Nonetheless, Ernie's colleagues in the Wing fully knew of his courageous and decisive airmanship during that near-death mission. He was honored with the PMAAAI Cavalier Award for Air Operations which was presented during the PMA Alumni Homecoming in 1976.

1st Lts Edgar Calvo(†) and Felipe Villanueva(†) experienced the same peril in one form or the other. One will understand why Magiting chopper pilots revered the Huey like a Mistah.



The raucous but venerable C-47 was the workhorse of the '70s, untiringly airlifting cargo, troops, medical evacuation and sundry humanitarian missions. Not long after, it was fitted with four portside cal. 50 Machine guns. The airplane must fly at a safe altitude in a perfectly banked 360° turn to concentrate fire at a ground target. By the early 70s, new aviators 2nd Lts Guillermo Lorenzo(†), Nestor Santillan, Alfonso Suemith and Carmelo Madrid have checked out on the cacophonous C-47. These were the missions they typically performed.



Alone and unafraid U-17 and U-6 Beaver fliers became self-directed airmen often flying without co-pilots. 2nd Lts Bang Adriano(†) and Marius dela Peña(†) enjoyed relative freedom in their missions often taking a few Mistahs for impromptu flying lessons in Cagayan de Oro. 2Lts Bienvenido David Jr(†), Felipe Gaerlan(†) and Noli Dalugdug(†) should have trained as fighter pilots at Basa Air Base, however, more U-6 pilots were needed for Mindanao operations.



Not to be outdone, the U-17 was fitted with eight underwing rockets and others were armed with a single portside cal .30 MG. Bang did a sortie with the rocket-armed U-17 in Jolo. Meanwhile, the Beaver was armed with a single portside cal. 50 MG and carried grenades delicately nestled in empty Nescafe glass bottles to be thrown overboard. Noli flew one such grenade laden U-6 never to be found after taking-off from Sibutu on February 24, 1974.

A Magiting Envoy to the Middle East



The 30th Chief of Staff, AFP General Roy A. Cimatu was appointed as a Special Envoy to the Middle East with the rank of Ambassador by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in September 2002 to lead the Middle East Preparedness Team. She issued Executive Order No. 551 to create a dedicated Task Force on the Repatriation of OFWs to coordinate efforts between the DFA, OWWA, and international organizations. His primary mission was to ensure the safety and welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) during the escalating tensions of the Iraq War. President Benigno Aquino III(†) reappointed him in 2010 and Roy continued in that role until June 30, 2011. For the third time, President Rodrigo Duterte renewed Roy's designation into the same capacity in October 2016 until May 8, 2017, and thereafter became the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) until 2022.

Ambassador Roy Cimatu began his role when Angelo de la Cruz was abducted near Fallujah, Iraq in July 2004 by Iraqi insurgents while Angelo was working as a truck driver for a Saudi Arabian company subcontracted by U.S. military forces. The militants demanded that the Philippine government withdraw its 51-person humanitarian and peacekeeping contingent from Iraq earlier than scheduled. They threatened to behead dela Cruz if the government did not comply. After the troops were withdrawn, dela Cruz was released on July 20, 2004. Roy's expansive AOR was the Middle East countries namely, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Oman and Turkey. His mission in these countries was a multifaceted set of challenges that involved the lives of 11,000 to 17,500 Filipinos in Lebanon and around 30,000 in Israel who primarily worked as caregivers. The following account is just one illustration of Roy's many tapestried tasks amid uncertainty and danger that he had to orchestrate in many countries, of many cultures in many conflicts.

The mammoth task of gathering, rescuing and transporting displaced OFWs in the current Iran war brings to fore the feats of Magiting Ambassador Roy Cimatu 20 years ago in the Middle East. In his capacity as Special Presidential Envoy to the Middle East, Ambassador Roy Cimatu played the lead role in the evacuation and rescue of OFWs. He steered the Middle East Preparedness Team that executed contingency plans for mass evacuations. Ambassador Cimatu's mission to save lives has no template to guide his actions. He relied on his constructive skills on logistical coordination, diplomatic negotiations and disregard of personal safety to ensure the security of thousands of Filipinos caught in the conflict. Hastily, he established a logistics base and designated assembly points near the Syrian border to facilitate the movement of Filipinos out of the conflict zone. Roy conducted high-level representations with foreign governments including Israel to secure safe passage for Filipino convoys after critical infrastructure such as bridges, roads and airports were bombed.



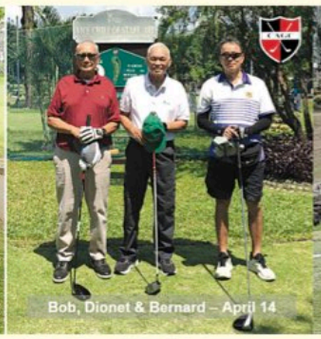
The operation was a massive logistical puzzle involving land, sea, and air routes to bypass the Israeli blockade of Lebanese ports. Many Filipinos were evacuated on buses from Beirut to Syria across perilous coastal land routes. Before it was deemed too dangerous, over 2,600 workers were moved via this route in the early weeks of the conflict. Once in Damascus, repatriates were flown to Manila on chartered flights, assisted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported with resources from the Philippine government.

Running against time, Ambassador Cimatu painstakingly coordinated with local religious institutions in Lebanon such as Catholic churches and monasteries to provide immediate refuge for OFWs who had fled their places of employment or were stranded in Southern Lebanon. He maintained a "hotline" with on-site crisis managers and presided over teleconferences with top Philippine officials to provide real-time updates on the status of OFWs in the region.

Roy's extensive experience as a former AFP Chief of Staff and his long-standing tenure as a Special Envoy under


Eloy, Egay, Vic & Primo - Feb 27, 2026


Egay, Eloy, Bob & Vic - March 6, 2026

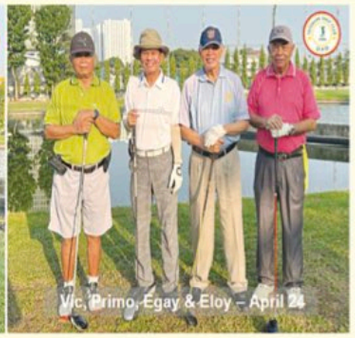

Bob, Dionet & Bernard – April 14


Nesty with Cavs Jimmy de los Santos & Ike Begonia '69 & Jeff Sodusta '75 - March 18


Bob, Roy & Nesty – March 20


Glenn, Nesty, Bob, Roy - March 25


Egay, Eloy, Primo & Vic – April 17


Vic, Primo, Egay & Eloy – April 24

multiple administrations made him the government's primary "troubleshooter" for OFW crises in the Middle East. The Philippine government was able to repatriate approximately 10,000 Filipinos from Lebanon during the Israel-Hezbollah war.

Unsung great deeds and quiet audacity, Roy is a soldier's soldier in and out of the battlefield. In the end, Roy had formulated a mission framework for succeeding special envoys who would be tasked to save OFWs in future conflicts. Every Magiting takes pride of Ambassador Roy Cimatu in his disregard for personal safety and devotion to patriotic duty under three presidential transitions.

<u>How the PETFI was Organized</u>

In the 70's when the AFP became intensely engaged in two war fronts against the Communist movement all over the country and the Muslim secessionism in the South, many young Cavaliers were getting ambushed or killed in combat, leaving behind a wife with young kids. Hence during the PMAAAI Annual General Meeting in 1977, the entire membership voted to provide scholarship assistance to these families. In order to raise a seed fund, President Cavalier Fortunato Abat(†) called on the classes to make a pledge of contribution. Magiting Class President Captain Irwin Ver was unfortunately unable to attend owing his mission in Sweden to arrange an ammunition project under the SRDP.

It was a dilemma when Class 70 was called for its pledge. The Class had no bank account and the Class President was on mission. Nonetheless, Navy Lt SG Jimmy Mauricio sparked with a Eureka moment. Knowing that nine or ten Magitings held various master's degrees in Management, Economics and Math, he made a unique pledge for Class 70 to set up, manage and administer the educational fund for free. Cavalier Abat quipped "Approved" without hesitation.

Irwin was the first Chairman of PETFI while Captain Boots de Veyra was the Head of Special Projects. During one alumni meeting in the old Fort Bonifacio, Boots toyed with 'Pet Fund' which formally unfurled as the PMAAAI Educational Trust Fund, Inc. The core challenge was how to collect the class pledges and how to increase the capital of PETFI. Chairman Irwin exhorted class presidents to collect their respective pledges. Boots led the process of sponsoring the movie premiere of "New York, New York", the gross receipts of which were added to the PETFI treasury.

As it happened, Captain Irwin Ver was the S2/3 of the Presidential Guards Battalion. He knew that President Ferdinand Marcos (PFM) would now and then donate his annual salary to a chosen advocacy. Irwin attempted to request PFM to make a contribution to


Ernie, Vic, Bob, Boots, Nesty, Eloy, Glenn and Ed - March 30

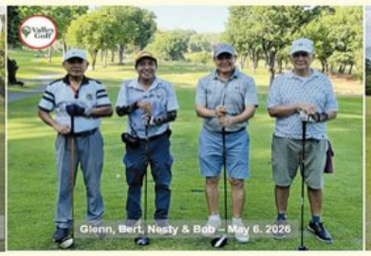

Vic, Nesty, Ernie, Roy, Eloy, Primo, Glenn & Egay - March 13, 2026


Magiting '70, Matatag 71, Masigasig '72 & Maagap '73 - March 30


Fellowship Lunch After Golf with Teddy & Beth Delarmente - March 13, 2026


Bob, Nesty, Roy, Glenn & Bernard – May 1


Dionet, Aizik Nuqui, Bernard & Bob – April 28


Glenn, Bert, Nesty & Bob – May 6, 2026


Justice Mario Lopez, MGen Glenn Rabonza, Atty Bert Tagayuna, Lt Gen Nesty Carolina – May 9, 2026

the infant corporation. With a rehearsed dialogue, well-chosen time and a selected place Irwin waited for PFM to walk by his favorite Balete tree in the Palace to recite his piece. He says his job was made easier since the President was a soldier himself and deeply understood the logic of PETFI. PFM donated his P130,000 salary for one year. Magiting Class 70 thanked the late President, and all the classes who helped PETFI become a worthwhile undertaking. This was one among other feats that made Magitings call themselves "The Thinking Class."

TIME MARCHES ON

Dr. Philip Acop Wins the Antipolo Special Election

"Dok Bong", eldest son of former representatives Magiting Romeo Macusi Acop(†) and Mas Magiting Dra. Resureccion Marrera Acop(†) won the special election in March 2026 to fill the vacant seat of the Second Congressional District of Antipolo. Philip had served as a member of the Antipolo City Council from the same district from 2013 to 2022. Thanks again to Mistah Romy's support to the class and congratulations to "Dok Bong" for continuing the distinguished legacies of his eminent parents.

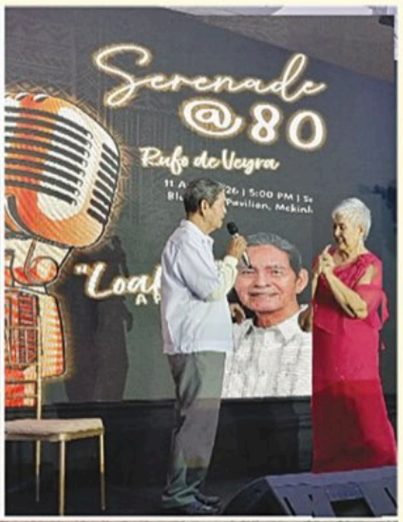
Never Forgotten Magitings

Never will we forget when their last taps were sung. We recall the company of our fallen Mistahs like it was only yesterday. Their memorial days are a celebration of Magiting kinship. For the second quarter of 2026 in the order of their fallout from the Long Gray Line they are; Otek Tecson(†) June 10, 2012, Emilio Yap(†) April 7, 2014, Roilo Golez(†) June 11, 2018, Bong David Jr(†) May 26, 2020, Apoy Chang(†) May 22, 2021, Willy Lorenzo(†) June 7, 2021, Edgar Calvo(†) April 21, 2022, Jack Ligot(†) June 4, 2024 and Bang Adriano(†) April 13, 2025. May our Almighty ever keep these valiant men in His bosom.

Magiting Fellowships and Birthdays

The first monthly fellowship meeting for the second quarter of 2026 of Mas Magitings was held on March 5, 2026 at Luk Yuen, Glorietta, and to celebrate the birthdays of Remy Gojo on March 5th, Nona Tagayuna on March 8th and Ludy Garcia on March 9th.











Boots de Veyra's 80th Birthday, Blue Leaf Pavillion, McKinley Hill, April 11, 2026

Onward, Mas Magitings who will celebrate birthdays in the second quarter of 2026 are; In April they will be Len Ligot on April 13th Annie Heredia on April 16th, Monang Santiago on April 19th, Ning Cimatu(†) on April 20th , Neneng Daluyaya(†) on April 29th and Zaida Francisco on April 25th. In May they will be Winnie Coronel on May 4th, Josie Calvo and Dina Gaerlan on May 22nd, Emy de Veyra on May 25th and Bendie Castellanes on May 28th. In June they will be; Leonor Castro on June 9th, Tess dela Peña, Pipao Madrid, Amy Suemith all on June 10th and Bobot Sera Jose(†) on June 25th.

Likewise, Magitings who will celebrate birthdays in the second quarter of 2026 are; for April they are Clyde Fernandez on April 1st, Boots Hernandez(†) and Ceferino Dacanay on April 4th, Dionet Santiago on April 8th, Boots de Veyra on April 11th, Bert Lina(†) on April 22nd, Willy Parayno(†) on April 26th, Fred Daluyaya(†) on April 29th and Jimmy Mauricio on April 30th. In May they will be Tony Ilagan on May 4th, Mike Coronel(†) on April 8th, Pipes Gaerlan(†) on April 12th, Jun Antolin on April 22nd, Santi Santillan on May 14th and Bobby Garcia(†) on May 28th. For June they will be Dodong Resos(†) on June 8th and Rex Baquiran(†) on June 13th.

On April 11th, Boots de Veyra celebrated his Camelot themed 80th birthday at the Blue Leaf Pavilion at McKinley Hill with more than a hundred friends of eclectic interests. Boots and Cavalier Mel Rosales '68 delighted everyone with their combined tenor-baritone timbres in a hilarious parody of Camelot with the setting of idyllic Loakan. King Arthur was spoofed by the Supe while Lancelot was impersonated by Boots who became a vicarious knight for a night.



FILVETS Chairman Reynaldo Velasco administers the oaths of new members of the Board of Trustees namely, former PVAO Administrator Magiting Nesty Carolina, Cavaliers Jun Calderon '76, Geo Kintanar '85 and Mr. Delfin Wenceslao Jr.



Dr. Philip Conrad Marrero Acop was sworn to office on March 16, 2026 as the newly elected Representative of the 2nd District of Antipolo. Philip was a former Antipolo City Councilman. He is the eldest son of Honorable Magiting Romeo M. Acop (†) and Honorable M. Cion Acop (†).



Topnotchers 1-2-3-4 order in the Psy War Course in Fort Bragg, North Carolina duplicating their feat when they topped the Special Forces Warfare Course early this year. (October 21, 1960 -- The Manila Times)



Bob Nuqui @ PAF Officer School – April 23



Nesty, Gohms & JB @ Mann Hann, Stop Over BGC – March 4th



Standing: Marcher Godo, Glenn, Tex, Garrick CP, Al, Ernie & Nesty. Seated: Roy, Dacky, Julius, Rudy, Markot, JB & Toti Tan, March 14th



Mas Magitings' First Wednesday Fellowship, March 4, 2026

Cavaliers and guests alike merrily appreciated the lyrical inference to Camelot with the equally idealistic Loakan milieu. So poetic, so creative, so Boots.

"♫ In short, there's simply not
A more congenial spot
For happily-ever-aftering
Than here in Loakan (Camelot)♫"

On the stage, Boots sang the Hawaiian Wedding Song while his OAO Emy danced her hula version. Magitings Roy Cimatu, Glenn Rabonza, Bob Nuqui, Nesty & Au Carolina, Ernie & Cecile, Julius & Tessie Javier, Mads & Pipo Madrid, Ed & Jessie Israel, Mar & Baby Ilagan, Len Ligot, Zaida Francisco, Malou Visperas, Dina Gaerlan, Nona Tagayuna and Alice Parayno joined the celebration.

After a golf game on March 13th, Teddy and Beth Delarmente arranged a fellowship lunch at Geluk Resto on Panay Ave with Vic, Eloy, Primo, Canadian expat Ernie, Boots, Ed, Egay and Glenn.

Self-appointed lunch marcher Godo Olores was able to get the rare Gohms Gomez join Marks, Julius, JB Ramos and Nesty to Mann Hann BGC on March 4th. Godo did it again, this time Garrick CP, Dacky Dacanay, Tex Balmaceda, Canadian Ernie and Toti Tan joined Rudy, Glenn, Al Suemith and Roy at Mann Hann BGC Godo's favorite rendezvous on March 14th.

Retirement Avocations

The Philippines Veterans' Week was celebrated from April 6 to 13, 2026. On its Opening Day a Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the LNMB. This was followed by a Parade and Review in honor of our veterans at the PA Parade Grounds on April 6. We give tribute to our fallen heroes during Araw ng Kagitingan on April 9th and Paggunita sa Capas on April 10th to remember the Bataan Death March in a ceremony at the Capas

National Shrine. Former PVAO Administrator/ USEC Ernesto Carolina is a perennial guest in all these celebrations owing his distinctive long service and enthusiastic participation in veterans affairs even after his retirement.

The VMMC very aptly held an 'Honoring Our Veterans' ceremony during the Veterans' Week in April 2026. Director Peter Paul G. Galvez, his late father also a veteran, invited a number of 'young' veterans as well as the endearing model nonagenarian Major General Joe Magno at the grounds of VMMC and its mini-theater. Nesty Carolina attended the honors as well.

It's back to the future for Nesty Carolina to serve the veterans once more, he received a call from former SND Renato de Villa to encourage him to accept a seat in the Board of Trustees of Filipino War Veterans Foundation Inc (FILVETS). FILVETS Chairman Cavalier Reynaldo Velasco administered the oaths of new Trustees Cavaliers Leonardo Calderon Jr., Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr. and Mr. Delfin Wenceslao Jr.

Bob Nuqui was a guest lecturer for the combined classes of Squadron Officers' Course (SOC) and the Basic Officers' Course (BAFOC) being conducted by the PAF Officer School, Air Education and Training Command at Fernando Air Base. He was requested by Lt Gen Art Cordura, CG, PAF to share his experience on Leadership: A Senior Leader's Perspective on April 23.

Fairway Habitués

Good weather now permits more frequent tournaments. When groups of civilian players hold tournaments at the Veterans Golf Course, Magiting South golfers have to cancel their game. The golf club management is surely aware that veterans have the right to play any time they please. We veterans mostly play only in two flights thus they may be allowed to tee-off with priority without disrupting the tournament. We are certain that the VGC management understands the purpose of a veterans' golf course. Magiting thanks the VGC management for the continuous improvement of the fairways.

Magiting South golfers Vic Signey, Eloy Garcia, Egay Galvante and Primo Esguerra have the greatest number of rounds at VGC. They played on February 27th, March 8th, 13th, 27th and April 17th, 24th. Canadian Ernie del Rosario played with Magiting South on March 13th and joined the fellowship lunch at Geluk Restaurant, Panay Avenue. Meanwhile, Roy Cimatu, Nesty Carolina, Glenn Rabonza and Bob Nuqui played the links of the Army and the Navy on March 25th & 30th, respectively. Earlier, Nesty Carolina played at Riviera during the FVR Memorial on March 18th. Boots de Veyra and Ed Israel regularly play with their PoB (Par or Better) betting buddies at PNGC on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Corps of 70 Golf Fellowship is a proud brainchild of Magiting Clyde Fernandez. Going on for over 10 years, the second quarter friendly games this year were played at PNGC on March 30th. Eight Magitings played with Matatag '71, Masigasig '72, Maagap '73, and guest classes Marangal '74 and Makabayan '75. Revered guests were perennials Cavalier Abraham Din '67 plus Cavaliers Nonoy Carranza and Ike Begonia '69. Magitings Ernie, Vic, Bob, Boots, Nesty, Eloy, Glenn and Ed all won raffle prizes, so did everyone else. Unfortunately, Roy, Dionet, Mar, Egay and Primo had other commitments that morning.

The new 'Lucky Pick' method of adding up four randomly picked scores per class could not dilute the tally of the most proficient class, nonetheless it was still fun. Cav Joey Lalisan announced the third tournament will be sponsored by Matatags in September at the Camp Aguinaldo links. On his way out after his class meeting with San Miguel, Cav Rey Ochosa dearly wished Clyde could join the continuing fellowship. Thanks Rey for your flawless and untiring arrangements.

At the Philippine Navy links Dionet, Bernard, Bob and grandson Aizik played on April 28th while Roy, Nesty, Roy, Glenn, Bob and Bernard played on May 1st. At the Valley Golf & Country Club in Antipolo Mistah Bert Tagayuna treated Nesty, Glenn and Bob to another golf round on May 6th.

Mistah Tony Ilagan held an invitational golf tournament for his birthday at the Vineyard Golf Club in Tanauan on May 9, 2026. Nesty, Uly, Tony, Bert and Glenn played with Tony's more than a hundred friends at the All-Par-Three course. Mistah Alo Murillo was present during the fellowship lunch.



The VMMV Director Peter Paul G. Galvez hosts the ceremony, "Honoring our Heroes" as part of the observance of Veterans Week in April 2026. He is flanked by invited guests, headed by former PVAO Admin Nesty Carolina and the most Senior veteran Maj Gen Joe Magno (seated).


The Wreath Laying Ceremony at LNMB on April 6, 2026 - Opening Day of Veterans Week


Magiting Nesty Carolina leads the Trooping the Line during the Parade & Review in Honor of Veterans, April 6, 2026


Veterans/Retirees of Central Luzon, Commemoration of the Death March at Capas, Tarlac on April 10, 2026





KM Zero Marker, Death March



Meetings and Fellowships

The Matatag Class had gathered at the Philippine Navy Golf Club for the first quarter birthday celebrators last 29 March 2026. The event started with a mass presided by Rev Fr Paul Robles. Since it was a Palm Sunday, participants were requested to bring their palms to be blessed after the mass.

A short meeting of the class chaired by Prexy Joey Lalisan followed. The agenda included the President's Report, Treasurer's Report, and the incoming class election. Prexy Joey stated that he had been the class president for almost five years, and it was about time to relinquish said position to a deserving Mistah. He announced that he will call for a general assembly meeting for such activity in due time. The Mas Matatags also held a separate meeting, details of which remained unknown... ha ha. There is no need for further explanation.

After the meetings, lunch was served, and a blessing was led by Fr Paul. Prexy Joey opened the program with a short welcome remarks, and this was followed by the candle blowing of the birthday celebrators present on the occasion namely: Sen Greg Honasan, Aris delos Reyes, VP Oca Martinez, Bobby Yarisantos, Bob Sacramento, Jo Galvez, and Mas Matatag Prexy Celia Lalisan. Fr Paul gave the celebrators his blessings. Incidentally, the delicious wet chocolate cake was baked by Jinggoy. During the program, some items were raffled off and those who did not win any item were given cash. Thus, everyone was happy particularly the ladies. A game was introduced by MM Prexy Celia called a matching game of colors. Initially, many were reluctant but when it was announced that for every match made by a participant, a 500 peso cash prize will be given, the ladies started lining up to try their luck. The winners were Puring Cruz who won 500 pesos and Ginger Runes, the daughter of our late Mistah Ted Runes, who won three thousand five hundred pesos to the delight of Lulu Runes, the mother.

Those who attended this event were Cagayan Province Gov Egay and Mawie Aglipay, Wency and Puring Cruz, Dong and Lulu Tabamo, Oca and Jinggoy Martinez, Atot and Sara Paredes, Bob and Eden Sacramento, Sen Greg and Jane Honasan, Aris and Nina delos Reyes, Rolly and Malou Garcia, Dan and Arleen Francia, Doy and Baby Francisco. Rochee Domingo, Lita Gil, Jo Galvez, Jennie Domingo, Dan and Aleli Belonia, Tex Balmaceda, Manny Foronda, Rey Velasco, Joey and Celia Lalisan, Verna Albano, Lulu and Ginger Runes, Bobby Yarisantos, Nona Legaspi, and Beng Ibo.

Hampaslupa'71 Golf Activities

The Class'71 golfers aka Hampaslupa'71 had their share of happiness at the different fairways. This summer, due to the fear of heat stroke, some HL'71 members decided to play in the afternoon. They are now known as the "twilight" golfers. The tee off was usually at 2 PM and held at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Courses very convenient to those who live in Quezon City and nearby cities. The so-called "twilight" boys are HL'71 Prexy Rey Acop, Bing Alano (coordinator), Tex Balmaceda, Barok Teody Viduya, Oca Martinez, Dong Tabamo, Twiggy Zubia, Marte Chioco, and Caloy Garcia. They were joined by adopted uppies like Mel Rosales '68, Jimmy delos Santos '69, Nonoy Carranza '69 and PNP retired officers Alex Bellen, Rudy Caisip, and Primo Capulong. The other members chose to play in the early mornings, who were more serious in the game particularly in the small bets in the offing. Those living in the south of Pasig would rather play either at the Navy or Villamor Golf Course. Why? The culprit is the higher cost of fuel. These "southerners" are Rey Alcasid, Dan Belonia, Rolly Garcia, Joey Lalisan, and adopted members Francis Pua and *balikbayan* brother of Rey, Robert Alcasid.

Presentation of the Golden Medallion to the relatives of deceased Mistahs Tony Duran and Ed Mana-ay

Last 20 April 2026, the younger brother of the late Mistah Tony Duran, Miguel, received the Golden Medallion during a Hampaslupa'71 Fellowship at Camp Aguinaldo Clubhouse and witnessed by Ms Sarah D Belleza and Matatags and



First Quarter 2026 Birthday Fellowship.

Mas Matatag present. Likewise, the golden medallion was received by Ms Marilyn Mana-ay-Robles, on behalf of our deceased Mistah Ed. They were also given the book "Brothers" authored by class historian Rolly Malinis. The class appreciates the efforts of Mistah Tex Balmaceda, the class secretary and Chairman of the Sunshine Committee. Tasked to locate our "missing "Mistahs", Tex was able to locate Levi Zamora, late Mistah Peewee Peralta, late Mistah Ralph Flores, Phillip Espejo with the assistance of Mistah Nelson Eslao, among others.

Bing Alano's Birthday Bash

Last 11 May 2026, Bing Alano celebrated his birthday at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course. This was also his thanksgiving offer after his successful recovery from a hip replacement. It was amazing how fast Bing recovered. After a few weeks of therapy, he was already at the fairways enjoying the weather and the fellowship. He sponsored the green fee and the golf carts for those participating. There were two groups of players. The more serious golfers played at 12 noon namely Rey Al, Joey, Teody, Tex, and adopted members Sir Nonoy'69, Francis Pua, and Primo Capulong. Those who played at "twilight" 2 PM were Bing, Poca, Caloy, Marte, Oca, Dong, Twiggy, and adopted members Sir Mel'68 and Sir Jimmy '69. At 5 PM, the party started with the Mas Matatags who attended the celebration. The ladies were Jo Galvez, Jane Honasan, Jennie Domingo, Fim Velasco, Celia Lalisan, Nona Legaspi, Jie Rivera, Eden Sacramento, Jinggoy Martinez, and Bing's special someone, Linda. They were joined by other Mistahs who did not play namely Sen Greg, Rey Velasco, Vic Batac, Dan Belonia, Bob Sacramento, Manny Foronda, and Mel Acosta (official photographer). After the dinner, HL'71 Prexy Rey Acop made his welcome remarks and greetings to all. Bing blew his birthday candle, witnessed by all who sang the birthday song. Emceed by Teody, the singing portion began, of course, by the ladies. Led by notable ballad singer Dra Nona, the other Mas Matatags also belted their favorite songs. Then Teody requested the guests to participate and called on the uppies present. The photos will reveal the singers. Sir Mel'68, Sir Nonoy'69, and Sir Jimmy '69 rendered their respective selection of songs accompanied by a 2-man Band. Prexy Joey jokingly commented, after being recognized by emcee Teody, that



PMA Golden Medallions presented to relatives of deceased mistahs Tony Duran and Ed Mana-ay.



Bing Alano's birthday bash and golf fellowship.

the situation had reversed. That night, the uppies were "ordered" by underclass Teody to entertain the Matatags and guests. In fairness, the three uppies were good singers. With the beers and hot darns a-flowing, and the "bolahizing" unending, the party lasted past 11 PM.

Next Round of Golf Activity and Birthday Celebration

HL'71 Prexy Rey Acop announced that the next golf and fellowship activity will be on 5 June 2026 at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. This will be sponsored by birthday celebrators Rey Velasco, Rey Acop, Twiggy Zubia and Francis Pua. This will be an "all-in "event...meaning *libre ang green fee, caddy fee, cart fee, and dinner.* Ye-Hey!!!

Golf Quotes About Life for this Issue

Life Lessons: Bobby Jones emphasized playing the ball where it lies, while Walther Hagen advised enjoying the journey. Ben Hogan focused on the importance of the next shot, and Tiger Woods noted the potential for constant improvement. Google. //JCL/12 May 2026//







The three Uppies entertaining the Matatags and Mas-Matatags during Bing Alano's birthday event.

LEUVINO B VALENCIA
President
CELSO G DE CASTRO
Secretary

Hello all.

Let me share to you my comments about Iran-USA conflict that started in early 2026 which developed into a prolonged, multidimensional conflict marked by missile and bombs strikes and maritime activities disruptions. For us, the conflict is obvious as it directly relates to our expertise and responsibilities as retired military officers. War emphasizes endurance, conflict escalation and economic leverages as what is happening in the region and Strait of Hormuz.

The Philippines is experiencing the economic brunt of the conflict such as fuel availability and price hike, inflation, public outburst, devaluation of our currency and related social unrest.

We, as retirees, may share our ideas on non-partisan analysis of the conflict particularly on energy and maritime affairs and modern warfare trends. We must integrate lessons from the conflict through more professional military education, resiliency and long-time preparedness amid the uncertain regional instability.

For the time being, we must be prepared for the worse scenario brought about by the Iran - US conflict. Prayers and resilience are the magic words of our survival.

Class Meeting.

The Board of Directors held the first-Class meeting last April 9, 2026, at PNGC presided by the new Class Prexy, Bing Valencia. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

a. Financial report rendered by the Treasurer.

b. Election of Ric Brillantes as Director and Class Treasurer replacing Bing Valencia.

c. Proposed Class social activities to include the incoming Emerald Anniversary in 2027. As approved by the Board, the Class will celebrate this momentous event in a very simple but modest activity.

Other social activities within the year will be determined by the Board in due time.

d. Policy on posting birthday greetings and similar occasions in proper chat groups: The Board created a special Chat Group (Class 72 Official Broadcast) for announcements of birthdays through Mistah Celo Navarro. Greetings shall be posted in Social Bulletin or directly to the personal Viber of the celebrants as the best option.

e. Checklist/folders for financial claims of widows: The ladies volunteered to consolidate the stringent requirements and process of getting pensions of widows from PGMC, AFPSLAI, PSSLAI, PVAO, and other financial institutions. When completed, the requirements for claims will be compiled in

folders for distribution to the ladies. Class Sec to assist the ladies in securing and consolidating the checklists.

f. Other Matters: Family Grand re-union: Art Alabanza proposed the holding of a family grand reunion with our dependents. After a long and fruitful discussion, the Board created a committee to be chaired by Art Alabanza with some ladies as members. The Committee is tasked to organize and come up with viable options for the proposed activity, particularly funding requirements to be presented to the Board for approval.

Respite in Iloilo:

A group of Mistah/Mas; Celo and Beth, Gene and Pilar, Art and Suzette, Monying and Vangie and Dionix visited the beautiful and historic city of Iloilo last 26-29 April.

From Celo's account. *"Our trip/visit to Iloilo has been planned for months even before the Iran – US conflict put the whole world on notice of oil crises. We were not deterred to cancel the visit despite the magnitude of outbreak unfolding in Middle East…tuloy ang viaje."*

Our group did not regret a single second of it; the trip was memorable, worthwhile, rewarding and very informative. Iloilo today is a modern bustling cosmopolitan center with all the major financial and real estate giants at play: Megaworld, Ayala Land, SM Prime Holdings, Robinson Land Corporation and Filinvest Land Estate.

Among its gems are the 1907 Sta Barbara Golf and Country Club (the oldest in the country; river esplanades, ancestral homes, century old churches, local foods, cleanest city, peace and order and no traffic problem, sing song dialect and most important is a disciplined, charming and proud citizenry steep in history. Iloilo today is considered among the best and most livable cities in the world."







Birthday/ Anniversary Greetings:

We extend our birthday greetings to the following Mistah/Mas:

April: Lorna Abu (+), Nap Castro, Marvin Concha (+), Cristy Galang (+), Mila Jucutan, Alyn Lacerna, Egay Paguio, Ressie Reyes, Art Sabado, Johnny Salvana, Bert Tagamolila (+), Gigi Tagamolila (+), Roco Teves, Nina Tor, Mulong Narcida and



Board of Directors meeting at PNGC













Roger Quevedo. **May:** Marivic Aurelio, Amy Brillantes, Lino Caringal, Roger Favis, Lucille Flores, Ed Gador, Cely Nobleza, Nene Paestano, Angelito Santos (+), Gracie Sta Clara. **June:** Efren Abu, Lerma Aguinaldo, En Alino, Eric Aurelio (+), Nerris Batestil, Luis Bismonte (+), Og Buenaventura (+), Tita Catalan (+), Jun Espino, Efren Guerero, Malou Joaquin, Med Pestano (+), Domeng Reyes (+), Raffy Vilches (+), and Yaric Yarcia.

Likewise, we also greet our Mistah and Mas: Celo and Beth Navarro, Bing and Yoly Valencia and Orly and Marido Ambrocio on their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversaries last February, March and May 2026 respectively.

Healing Prayers:

"Almighty God, the source of all health; So, fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make rooms for Your grace to heal our Mistahs/ Mas, and gracefully accept your healing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

Happy reading to all.

Till next Class Call.....Oslec.

AVELINO I RAZON, JR
President
BENIGNO T CABRIETO, JR
Secretary

The biggest class gathering was the traditional quarterly birthday celebration held last March 5, 2026, at the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) Building in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. After the success of the colorful Hawaiian-themed Christmas party last December, the class decided to continue the idea of themed attire. This time, the chosen motif was Cowboy or Western.

During the planning discussions, somebody jokingly suggested that perhaps the theme should be "*Cowboys and Indians*." In his usual quick and dry Charlie-style humor, Class President **Sonny Razon** replied that everyone attending would wear cowboy attire because those who would not show up were the real "*Indians*." The remark immediately drew laughter and pretty much set the tone for the entire evening.

The celebration itself was very well attended by classmates and their spouses. Gatherings like these have become more meaningful over the years. More than just birthday celebrations, they have become opportunities to reconnect with old friends, catch up on each other's lives, and relive memories from a much younger and carefree chapter of our lives.

Everyone gamely embraced the Western theme. Cowboy hats, boots, denim jackets and scarves filled the venue. But more than the costumes, what stood out was the relaxed and happy atmosphere. There was plenty of laughter, storytelling, singing, and the usual exchange of jokes among Mistahs who have known each other for more than five decades.

The first-quarter birthday celebrants who attended included Mistahs **Manny Carta**, **Boy Bernal**, **Ace Tolentino**, **Benny Cabrieto**, **Jun Esperon**, and **Jun Lopez**. Joining them were Marangal lady celebrants **Nurjim Valencia**, **Marilou Crucero**, **Judy Gutierrez**, **Jo Cabrieto**, **Chato Bernal**, and **Becky Aromin**.

The evening ended on a lively note with line dancing participated in by both the Mistahs and the ladies under the guidance of dance instructors. Watching a group of septuagenarians confidently doing line dancing in cowboy attire was something worth seeing. It was simple,

joyful, and a wonderful reminder that growing older does not mean losing the ability to enjoy life.

Away from the social gatherings, another accomplishment by our Class President once again became a favorite topic among the golfers in the group. Barely a month after scoring an eagle earlier this year, **Sonny Razon** managed to do it again last March 8, 2026, this time at Hole No. 18 of the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course, a 423-yard par 5 from the blue tee.

For those unfamiliar with golf, an eagle means finishing a hole two strokes under par. It is something many golfers never achieve even after years of playing. Scoring an eagle on a par 5 requires a combination of distance, precision, and a little bit of luck. What makes the feat even more impressive is that Sonny, like all members of the class, is already in his seventies. It just goes to show that skill and competitive spirit do not disappear with age.

Sadly, the quarter also brought moments of sorrow with the passing of two of our dear Mistahs, **Marcelo "Elee" Santos** and **Wilfredo "Willy" Garcia**.



Mistah **Elee Santos** passed away last March 19, 2026. His remains were interred in his hometown of Lingayen, Pangasinan. The Philippine Air Force provided transportation assistance for those attending the wake, allowing several Mistahs, spouses, and fellow Cavaliers to pay their respects. Among those who attended were former PAF Commanding Generals **Cavalier Joe Reyes '73** and our own Mistah **Ace Tolentino**. Also present were VFP President **Cavalier Romy Alamillo '73**, together with Mistahs **Lito Gutierrez**, **Joe Ongchangco**, **Jun Lopez**, and **Nap Concepcion**. Joining them as well were Pangasinan-based Mistahs **Bert Sylim**, **Manny Geslani**, and **Oca Mariñas**.













Just a few weeks later, the class once again gathered in mourning with the passing of Mistah **Willy Garcia** last April 24, 2026. Necrological services were held on April 27 at The Chapels at Heritage Memorial Park, after which he was interred the following day with full military honors at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

The class and the ladies attended in full force during the wake, necrological services, and interment. Before his illness, Willy remained very active in class activities. As former Class Secretary, he authored many of the Class Call updates that kept everyone informed and connected. He was also an avid golfer who regularly joined tournaments and fellowship games with fellow Mistahs and Cavaliers. More than anything, many will remember him for his steady presence, quiet dedication, and warm camaraderie.

As we move further into 2026, PMA Class 1974 continues to show that the bonds formed inside the Academy remain strong despite the passing of time. The conversations may now include maintenance checkups, golf scores, and grandchildren, but the friendship and brotherhood remain unchanged.

Through celebrations, achievements, laughter, and moments of loss, the Marangal Cavaliers continue to stand by one another — just as they always have.





JEFFREY SODUSTA
President
CHARLIE ALEJANDRINO
Secretary

1st Quarter Makabayan Birthday Celebrants - On March 27, 2026, the class held a fellowship lunch at Heat Restaurant, Shangri-La EDSA (Mandaluyong City), to honor the 2026 first-quarter birthday celebrators. The gathering was coordinated with the venue by the class first lady, Nits Sodusta, together with celebrant Baby Doria and Inday Palugod, wife of celebrant Willy Palugod. Of the 50 Makabayans and Ladies' celebrants, 10 were able to attend; the others have











either passed away or could no longer be reached.

The Gallivanting Makabayans. Despite higher oil prices, many Makabayans continue to travel both locally and abroad. In April 2026, Prez Jeff went to California with his family and reunited with mistahs Andy Hernandez and Pepo Chanco, along with their spouses, and friends.







On April 19, 2026, Noe and Len also flew to Cagayan de Oro to visit classmates from the south - Rico Borromeo, Rudy Petican, Dick Capuyan, and their wives. At the same time, difficult weather conditions and economic challenges led many Makabayans to stay home and care for their grandchildren. Others continued to enjoy golf and other wholesome activities, while some remained busy earning a living.

Mother's Day. Mother's Day is a special occasion devoted to honoring mothers and recognizing their love, sacrifices, and lasting influence on the family. It is a time to express gratitude for the care, guidance, and strength that our mothers and our wives give so generously through the years. Whether as nurturers, teachers, protectors, or quiet sources of inspiration, they hold a unique and irreplaceable place in our lives.

This celebration is not only about giving flowers, cards, or gifts, but more importantly about showing sincere appreciation and affection. It reminds us to pause and acknowledge the countless ways mothers shape our values, support



our dreams, and stand by us in moments of joy and difficulty. Their devotion often goes beyond words, and Mother's Day gives us an opportunity to return even a small measure of that love.

For the Makabayan families, Mother's Day is also a moment of togetherness - a chance to gather, share memories, and celebrate the women who have helped build the home with patience, compassion, and selfless dedication. It is a day filled with warmth, respect, and thanksgiving, not only for mothers with us today, but also for those whose love remains treasured in our hearts and memories.

SILVERIO D ALARCIO, JR
President
FERDINAND S GOLEZ
Secretary



OATH-TAKING OF THE NEW BOT

The oath-taking into office of the MAGILAS Board of Trustees (BOT) for CY 2026–2028 was successfully held on 21 April 2026 at the Social Hall of Royal Maverick Ranch, Rosario, Batangas. The ceremony was formally officiated by Hon. Leonardo M. Javier Jr., Vice Governor of Leyte, with Hon. Lolita Karen Javier, Congresswoman of the 2nd District of Leyte, as Special Guest.

Present during the occasion were Class President Boying Alarcio, Vice President Joey Salvacion, Treasurer Abner Cabalquinto, BOT Members Tony Fontanilla, Vic Boco, and Sammie Narcise, together with Ely de la Paz, Secretariat Jing Ona, and Mrs. Ona.



The oath-taking was conducted in a simple yet meaningful manner, reflecting the strong bond of brotherhood and service that continues to define MAGILAS Class '76.

A delightful late breakfast was graciously hosted by Mistah Sandy Javier and family. This was followed by a guided tour of the impressive Royal Maverick Ranch, with Mistah Sandy personally serving as an engaging and informative tour guide.

The ranch showcased a multi-dimensional development envisioned to become one of the premier ranches and farms in the country. The delegation was particularly impressed by a large room displaying numerous trophies, testimonial photographs, and both local and international recognition earned by the Javier couple through the years.

The ranch is currently undergoing continuous development, with plans already underway for a future resort hotel project—further demonstrating the vision and dedication of the hosts.

During the program proper, Class President Boying Alarcio conveyed the class' sincere appreciation for the generosity, warm hospitality, and gracious welcome extended by the hosts. Vice President Joey Salvacion formally introduced the host and officiating officer.

In response, Mistah Sandy Javier shared an inspiring testimony about his humble beginnings, his interactions with some members of MAGILAS during their early days in Quezon City, and his enduring loyalty and appreciation for MAGILAS Class '76.



After the ceremony and photo opportunities, the entire group enjoyed a sumptuous lunch highlighted by lively conversations, camaraderie, and fellowship among the attendees. Before departure, the BOT and Secretariat expressed their gratitude and requested permission to leave.

As a thoughtful "*pabaon,*" the Javier couple prepared trays of fresh eggs for the attendees, with Congresswoman Karen Javier warmly remarking that the gifts were "*pasalubong sa mga Mrs.*"

VISITATION OF MISTAH NONG IKBALA

"**Finding Nemo**," a special MAGILAS project dedicated to locating and visiting Mistah Nong Ikbala, successfully came to fruition through the assistance and coordination of Mistah Alex Yapching. Representing the class during the visitation were Mistah Joey Salvacion and Mistah Pol Bataoil.





The visit was well organized, with Mistah Alex personally supervising the arrival arrangements and facilitating a day tour in Zamboanga. Despite his difficulty in speaking, Mistah Nong managed to respond to the salute extended by Mistah Joey with all the strength he could muster—an emotional moment that deeply touched everyone present.

The visitation served as a meaningful reminder of the enduring brotherhood, compassion, and commitment of MAGILAS Class '76 in reaching out to fellow Mistahs regardless of time and distance.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TEAM MAGILAS GOLFERS

The Class likewise extends its congratulations and commendation to the Golf Team of Team MAGILAS headed by Mistah Rey Ramirez for winning the Corps of 74567 Golf Tournament Championship for the 1st Quarter.

This reflects a remarkable achievement not only of excellence in sportsmanship and teamwork, but also the competitive spirit, unity, and pride that continue to bring honor to MAGILAS Class '76. Kudos to the entire team for another outstanding accomplishment worthy of emulation.



ORLY PESTANO
President
OGIE DAHAN
Secretary

As previously noted, a concept initiated by Mistah Roy Camagay, that May 1 of each year is set aside to honor all departed members of the Masikap Class of 1977. Coinciding with the global celebration of Labor Day, Masikap Memorial Day event involves visits by Masikap members to the graves of our departed mistahs at the Libingan ng mga Bayani; flowers are offered and candles lit at each grave; followed by a Holy Mass at the Bulwagan and lunch afterward. To date, our class has registered 30 members who have passed on, categorized into 12 Army, eight PC/PNP, five Navy, and five Airforce.

On another note, the Masikap golfers participated in the fundraising of the Diamond jubilarians Class 1967 at the Pradera Golf and Country Club in Pampanga last 9 May 2026.

The Golden Sword Editorial Board is in its final editing stage of their work. Butch S, in tandem with Joonee DL, is hellbent in coming up a well-prepared output, short of perfection! Hopefully, every member notified to comply has already complied with the additional requirements as needed by the Editorial Board.

















ROMEO D LUSTESTICA
President
ARTHUR I TABAQUERO
Secretary
REY ORDONEZ
Asst Secretary

May 2026
Presidential appointment of MGEN Romeo Prestoza

On April 13, 2026, Major General Romeo Prestoza was sworn in by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as Executive Director of Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes as Undersecretary. He was also designated as a Special Envoy and Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau of the country. He is joined by his wife, Lilian and children, Leslie and Romeo Jr. The Makatarungan Class of 1978 is mighty proud of your achievements! Mabuhay ka!




Day of Remembrance 2026

On April 18, 2026, the Makatarungan Class of 1978 held the Day of Remembrance 2026 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB), Taguig to remember their deceased classmates and ladies. The activity featured a grave visitation of the 22 class members buried at LNMB and a symbolic wreath laying for those who are not buried in LNMB. The class celebrated a Holy Mass followed by a brief message on our recent losses namely MGEN Carlix Donila, PMGEN Franklin Alfabeto, PLTGEN Raul Castaneda and PBGEN Darius Tuazon. Finally, the class had a fellowship over lunch at the Bulwagan, LNMB.









Grand Birthdays

On April 17, 2026, celebrant Cav Art Tabaquero (in red) turned 70!



(Above) Joining the celebration, standing from the left are Cav Bernie Perez, Cav Nes Losbanes, Cav Ralph Villanueva, Cav Oca Rabena, Cav Gabby Gomez, Cav Art Tabaquero, Cav Sam Tucay, Cav Ho Sun Yee, Cav Joe Gaverza, Arnel Romero, Cav Paul Mascarinas, Cav Phil Plaza and Cav Gil Maglaque (chopped). To prove they don't have knee problems are from left Cav Rey Ordonez, Cav Romy Lustestica, Cav Efren Tedor, Cav Mario Chan and Cav Rolly Abad.



Standing are celebrant Cav Art Tabaquero, wife Amie and children Armielyn and Artkramer. Seated at front left going clockwise are Olive Ordonez, Virgie Plaza, Tess Mapagu, Baby Perez, Malu Lustestica, Blondie Villanueva, Jocy Rabena, Marivic Tedor and Juliet Losbanes.

PMA Makatarungans and their Ladies, garbed in Great Gatsby theme, celebrated the 70th Birthday of Mrs Marilou Lustestica (in red headdress), wife of Cavalier Romeo Lustestica. Cavalier Bernie Perez and Cavalier Nestor Losbañes won the Best in Costume Award (Male Category) while Mrs Maricar Cabading won the Best in Costume Award (Female Category).



Standing from the left are Cav Mario Chan, Cav Bernie Perez, Cav Ralph Villanueva, Cav Romy Lustestica, Mrs. Malu Lustestica, Cav Efren Tedor, Cav Nes Losbanes, and Cav Phil Plaza.



Standing from left are Stella Martir, Maricar Cabading, Baby Perez, Odette Boquiren, Malu Lustestica, Tess Mapagu, Juliet Losbanes, Blondie Villanueva, Daisy Bangit, Marivic Tedor and Virgie Plaza.

TRISTAN M KISON
President
JOSE TONY E VILLARETE
Secretary

The months past have been marked by purpose, fellowship, and milestones befitting a Class steadily advancing toward its Golden Anniversary in 2029. The spirit of Matapat remains strong—disciplined in governance, united in camaraderie, and steadfast in service.

Homecoming 2026 – A Return to Borromeo Field

On 21 February 2026, a proud contingent of the PMA "Matapat" Class of 1979 returned to the hallowed grounds of Borromeo Field in Baguio City for the annual Homecoming at PMA, Fort del Pilar. Marching in formation at the historic Borromeo Field, clad in their trademark green and khaki suits topped with cowboy hats, the Matapats stood tall among the alumni corps. It was more than a parade—it was a reaffirmation of brotherhood, tradition, and fidelity to the ideals instilled within the Academy walls.

To march once more on Borromeo Field is to remember who we are.







Annual General Assembly – Governance and Vision

On 4 March 2026, the Class convened its Annual General Assembly at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, conducted in hybrid format via Zoom and in-person attendance.

Presided over by Class President **Titan Kison** and assisted by the Executive Committee, the Assembly deliberated with seriousness and foresight. The actions of the Executive Committee, embodied in duly issued Board Resolutions, were presented for ratification. Committee Chairmen for the 2029 Golden Anniversary outlined their respective strategic plans, setting the tone for what promises to be a historic celebration in Baguio City. The Class Treasurer rendered a comprehensive financial report—covering the Class' fiscal standing, program of expenditures for the current year, and projected requirements leading to the Golden Jubilee.

A significant portion of the Assembly was devoted to a thoughtful and substantive discussion on the election of





the Class Representative to the governing bodies of the PMARAI and PMAAAI. By link succession, this representative will assume the Chairmanship of the PMAAAI in 2029, when Matapat becomes the Golden Jubilarians. The gravity of this responsibility was deeply felt by the body.

Matapat Golf Club – Fellowship in Fairways

On 9 March 2026, the Matapat Golf Club held its monthly tournament and fellowship at the Villamor Air Base Golf Club. The day was filled with spirited competition, raffles, awarding of winners, and the familiar exchange of old stories and hearty laughter that only mistahs can share.

Another successful tournament followed on 20 April 2026 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. Under clear sunny skies, participants enjoyed a friendly day on the course capped by fellowship lunch at the clubhouse—proof that camaraderie remains one of our Class' strongest pillars.

The **9 March 2026 Golf Fellowship** held at VABGC saw **Mon Liwag** and **Zaldy Tungala** take the Group "A" Champion and Runner-Up titles, respectively. In Group "B," **Sammy Pagdilao** emerged as Champion, followed by Runner-Up **Steve Castro**. Special awards were also presented to visiting U.S. member **Jigs Hipolito** for Highest Gross and **Danny Garcia** for Highest Net.

In the subsequent fellowship on **20 April 2026** at CAGC, **Frank Manalo** and **Anton Supnet** secured the top spots in Group "A" as Champion and Runner-Up. In Group "B," the honors went to Champion **Tattu Sanchez** and Runner-Up **Sammy Narbuada.**









Special Election for Class Representative

On 19 March 2026, President **Titan Kison** convened a meeting of the Executive Committee to finalize plans for the election of the Class Representative to PMARAI and PMAAAI. In compliance with current PMARAI directives requiring election by the Class, the Executive Committee passed a Board Resolution providing for a transparent and participatory electoral process.



The position to be entrusted carries immense responsibility - not only to the Class but to the entire PMA alumni community. It demands integrity, dedication, accountability, excellence in governance, corporate management experience, and an unblemished record of service. The honor and representation of the Class stand in balance; our choice reflects who we are.

The Class Commission on Elections (COMELEC) was reactivated, chaired by **Rex Recomono,** with **Elmir Dela Cruz, Edwin Corvera,** and **Marlon Garbo** as members.

The nomination period was set for 6–12 April 2026, with online voting via Google Forms conducted from 15–19 April 2026. In a message posted to the Class Viber Group, Chairman **Rex Recomono** expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who participated. Four distinguished Matapats

answered the call: **Mark Supnet, Mon Liwag, Sammy Pagdilao,** and **Tattu Sanchez**. Following a smooth, orderly, and credible process, the COMELEC promptly proclaimed:

Mon Liwag – Principal Class Representative

Anton Supnet – Alternate Class Representative

Bravo Zulu to the elected representatives. Fair winds and following seas as you navigate the course toward 2029 and beyond.

PMA - Oh Hail to Thee!

A Night of Tribute – Ariel Querubin at 70

On 28 March 2026, mistah **Ariel Querubin** celebrated his first year as a septuagenarian in a well-attended gathering at the Acero Hall, Philippine Marines Complex, Fort Bonifacio. Distinguished guests included Senators **Grace Poe, Mark Villar**, and **JV Ejercito**, who delivered heartfelt tributes honoring his service and leadership. Likewise, **Art Ortiz, Ed Oban, Sammy Pagdilao, Alex Pama** and **Titan Kison**, delivered old stories about their cadet and career experiences shared with Ariel. Renowned singer **Marco Sison** serenaded the celebrator and guests, while the PMA Class of 1979 Band played well into the night.

It was a memorable evening - an affirmation of a life lived in courage, commitment, and devotion to country.







A Milestone Appointment – Ed Oban as National Security Adviser

On 15 April 2026, the President of the Republic of the Philippines appointed a distinguished member of the Class, former AFP Chief of Staff, Secretary **Eduardo SL Oban Jr.,** as National Security Adviser. He took his Oath of Office and officially assumed the post on 20 April 2026, succeeding Cav Eduardo Año, who retired due to health reasons.

This appointment marks a significant milestone in the history of the PMA "Matapat" Class of 1979. Ed Oban's designation to this highly sensitive and critical position brings honor not only to himself and his family but to the entire Class.



Further honoring his distinguished career, the Philippine Air Force Flying School Alumni Association, Inc. conferred upon him the Golden Aviator Award on 25 April 2026 during its annual Homecoming at Fernando Air Base. The award recognized his exceptional performance, leadership, and excellence in military and government service.

May his stewardship in safeguarding national security be as distinguished and impactful as his service in the Armed Forces, government, and corporate leadership.

Moving Forward to 2029

As we continue our steady march toward our Golden Anniversary in 2029, may we remain united in purpose, strong in body, wise in judgment, and steadfast in faith.

Under the grace and guidance of the Almighty, may the PMA "Matapat" Class of 1979 continue to lead, serve, and uphold the honor of our alma mater and our beloved country.

Matapat!



CAESAR RONNIE F ORDOYO
President
EDMUND C TAN
Secretary

The Summer Months

For us Mapitagans, the months of April and May always bring a familiar mix of anticipation and nostalgia. They mark the onset of the hottest and driest season of the year—summer in full swing. Families head for the beaches, some escape to cooler destinations, while others make the traditional pilgrimage to Baguio City, whose crisp mountain air and elevation of roughly 1,500 meters offer welcome respite from the sweltering lowland heat.

Yet beyond vacations and summer plans, this season also remains a time for fellowship, laughter, and cherished moments among Mistahs.

Quarterly Birthday Celebrators' Lunch Fellowship

On a bright and warm Friday, 20 March 2026, 24 Mapitagans, together with Honorary Members Jigs Cristales and Billy Braza, gathered at the spacious VIP Room 12 of Gloria Maris in Greenhills for the quarterly birthday fellowship lunch honoring our first quarter (January, February, and March) celebrators.

The celebrators present included:

- **February-born**: Mie Mendoza, Noel Coballes, Nene Delos Reyes, Bogs Abogado, and Willie Campos
- **March-born**: Ted Torralba, Herbert Yambing, Nick Bartolome, and Onell Lleno

Seated comfortably around two large round tables, the group quickly settled into the familiar warmth of Mapitagan camaraderie. At five minutes past noon, Class President Emeritus Nick Bartolome requested Mistah "Reverend" Jardy Mantele to lead the Grace Before Meals and formally open the celebration.

In his distinct gravelly baritone, Rev. Jardy offered prayers for healing, blessings, good health, and happiness for all Mapitagans, their wives, and their families.

By around one o'clock, after everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the senior-friendly nine-course *dimsum* feast, the birthday celebrators gathered around the centerpiece table where an *ube* birthday cake, adorned with candles, awaited them.

Rev. Jardy once again took center stage, leading the traditional Mapitagan Birthday Chant with even greater enthusiasm—his voice now carrying the unmistakable flavor of his signature party favorite, *Bikining Itim*. Laughter and applause filled the room as the celebrators posed for photos and exchanged stories, jokes, and the usual light-hearted *bolahan* that only Mistahs can truly appreciate.



The nine jubilant Mapitagans marking their respective birthdays in the 2nd Quarter of 2026 before the ceremonial intoning of the Mapitagan Birthday Chant and then blowing of candles on the birthday cake. Left to Right: Ted Torralba, Willie Campos, Noel Coballes, Herbert Yambing, Bogs Abogado, Nick Bartolome, Nene delos Reyes, Mie Mendoza, and Onell Lleno.

Over slices of *ube* cake, moderate pours of French red wine, cups of coffee, and endless camaraderie, the afternoon passed quickly. The fellowship finally broke up at around 2:15 p.m., leaving everyone with renewed spirits and grateful hearts.

Still Golfing

As summer progressed, PAG-ASA regularly issued Heat Index advisories warning of dangerous temperatures ranging from 42°C to 51°C in several parts of the country. The warnings highlighted the risks of heat cramps, exhaustion, and possible heat stroke.

Fortunately, golf courses somehow seemed spared from direct mention.

Undeterred by both the heat and advancing age, our Mapitagan golfers continued their weekly rounds - particularly those fortunate enough to



Mapitagan golfers strategizing—and, of course, engaging in the usual bolahizing—moments before teeing off under the early summer morning sun.



Photo taken during the Centennial Celebration of Jose Rizal Institute (JRI) in Orion, Bataan on 11 February 2026, where Mapitagans Armando "Manding" Guzman and Gerry Layug were honored as recipients of the prestigious "Natatanging Rizalian" Award for Military Service. Joining them at center is Cavalier Benjamin Gomez '57, former President of JRI.



Honorary Mistah Atty. Nabil A. Tan takes his oath of office as Deputy Speaker of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament on 29 April 2026 before Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua following his re-election to the post.

live within comfortable driving distance of the military golf courses. Adjustments, of course, had to be made. Tee-off times were moved to sunrise, give or take a few minutes, when the morning air remained tolerable and the golf ball was still visible in flight.

By around ten in the morning, the tropical heat and humidity would begin to assert themselves. But for many of our MGs, golf has become more than just a game. It is exercise, therapy, fellowship, and perhaps even a quiet act of defiance against aging itself.

Back pains, sore knees, stiff hips, aching shoulders, and tired wrists may occasionally demand attention, but the determination to remain active and connected remains stronger still.

More importantly, these weekly gatherings continue to nurture the enduring friendships and social bonds among Mistahs - relationships now widely recognized as among the true foundations of longevity and well-being.

And as always, every round inevitably ends where the best stories are exchanged: at the clubhouse, over coffee, refreshments, and animated recollections of miraculous pars, improbable birdies, and highly questionable mulligans.

Achievements of Mapitagans

Two Mapitagans, Armando "Manding" Guzman and Gerry Layug, brought honor and pride to the Class after being conferred the prestigious "*Natatanging Rizalian*" Award for Military Service during the Centennial Celebration of their high school alma mater, Jose Rizal Institute (JRI) in Orion, Bataan, on 11 February 2026.

Both Manding and Gerry graduated from JRI in 1974 and have shared a remarkable journey together - from grade school classmates, to boardmates in college, and eventually as PMA Mistahs.

Congratulations, Manding and Gerry, on this well-deserved recognition. Your achievements continue to inspire pride among your Mistahs and the entire PMA community. Cheers!

Meanwhile, our Honorary Member, Atty. Nabil A. Tan, was re-elected as Deputy Speaker of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament and formally took his oath of office on 29 April 2026 before Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua following the reorganization of the Bangsamoro Parliament and the election of a new set of Deputy Speakers.

Mistah Nabil has faithfully served as Deputy Speaker since 2019. With this renewed mandate, we pray that he may continue to be guided by wisdom, humility in leadership, and unwavering dedication in serving the Moro people and the Bangsamoro community.

Congratulations and best wishes to you, Deputy Speaker Mistah!

On another front, the Class proudly recognizes the continued leadership and service of three Mapitagans in the PMAAAI Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI). Ed Tamayo and Mike "Ige" Rodriguez were re-elected as Trustees to the PETFI Board on 30 April 2026, with Ed retaining his position as President, while incumbent



Mistahs Bong Cabantac and Ager Ontog, together with their respective spouses Fe Marie and Len, during the birthday dinner celebration of Dra. Len at the Courtyard by Marriott Taipei Downtown, Taiwan.



The two Mapitagan couples—Mistahs Bong Cabantac and Ager Ontog with their respective spouses Fe Marie and Len—pose amid the vibrant flower fields of Zhongshe Flower Market in Taichung, Taiwan, with its iconic Dutch-style windmill as backdrop.



Mapitagan bonding time in Cerritos, California, USA, as longtime US-based Mistahs reunite with visiting Edmund Tan over dinner and fellowship. From left to right: Mike Agudo, Del Lorenzo, Alex de Guzman, Alan Sta. Ana, and Edmund Tan.



The ladies likewise enjoyed their own bonding moment during the fellowship in Cerritos, California. Posing for posterity are, from left to right: Roda Sta. Ana, Nini Tan, Mamer Lorenzo, Ruby Agudo, and Cora de Guzman.

Trustee Gerry Layug was subsequently elected as Vice Chairman during the Board's organizational meeting.

With their professionalism, dedication, and active involvement, we are confident that Ed Tam, Ige and Gerry will continue to uphold the Mapitagan tradition of diligence, dynamism, and committed service—particularly in advancing PETFI's noble mission of supporting the education of deserving children of deceased and disabled Cavaliers.

Carry on, Ed, Ige, and Gerry—and thank you for your continued service.

Bonding of Mapitagans Abroad

Mapitagan camaraderie likewise continued beyond Philippine shores.

Mistahs Bong Cabantac and Ager Ontog, together with their spouses Fe Marie and Len, respectively, enjoyed a memorable "double-date" bonding trip in Taiwan from 24 to 28 April 2026. The group toured various attractions around the island, sampled local delicacies, and most importantly, celebrated the birthday of Dra. Len.

It was truly a joyful and meaningful get-together for the foursome. Hopefully, more Mistahs will find opportunities to bond in similar fashion - whether as foursomes, eightsomes, or even bigger groups - either abroad or within our own beautiful country blessed with countless tourist destinations and places worth exploring together.

Other Mistahs likewise had the opportunity to gather for dinner on 29 April 2026 in California, USA. Edmund and Nini, who were then visiting the US, joined longtime US-based Mistahs Del Lorenzo and Mamer, Alex de Guzman and Cora, Alan Sta. Ana and Roda, and Mike Agudo and Ruby, who drove nearly six hours from Arizona just to be part of the fellowship at Northern Café in Cerritos, California.

As expected, the evening was filled with laughter, recollections of the good old days, and the usual endless stories only Mistahs can truly appreciate. Had it not been for Edmund and Nini's early morning flight back to Manila the following day, the fellowship would likely have continued for several more hours. Hehe

Edmund and Nini were also scheduled to meet Oby Antonio and Chona in Cedarburg, Wisconsin while attending the Celebration of Life of Edmund's late American foster mother during his AFS Exchange Student days. Unfortunately, Oby and Chona had to urgently come to Manila due to the untimely passing of Oby's sister, Elisa Antonio Moog, aged 86, and Chona's father, Amado Ricardo Segismundo, aged 85.

Both were laid to rest in Lipa City on 24 April 2026 and 27 April 2026, respectively.

The Class extends its heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the Antonio and Segismundo families during their time of bereavement. May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace.

On a happier note, we warmly congratulate Mistah Ige and Aleli Rodriguez on the wedding of their daughter, Mia, to David Salvosa, held last 2 May 2026 in Baguio City.

We wish the newlywed couple a blessed and joyful married life as they begin a new chapter together in Spain, where they plan to reside, with Mia being a Spanish citizen.

Cheers to Mia and David, and best wishes for a wonderful journey ahead together!

Memento Mori

The Mapitagans, together with our wives and families, extend our heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the family of our Class President Emeritus Nick Bartolome on the untimely passing of his beloved daughter, Nicar Noemi Bartolome-Ramos, on 3 May 2026 while undergoing treatment in Singapore.

Nicar's remains lay in repose at the Bartolome residence in Pinasling, Gerona, Tarlac from 8 to 12 May 2026. A farewell mass was celebrated on 13 May 2026 at the St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Gerona, after which she was brought to Davao City for another wake at Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes from 13 to 16 May 2026. She was finally laid to rest at Manila Memorial Park in Davao City on 17 May 2026.

During this time of profound grief, we as a class, stand in solidarity with Nick, Noemi, and their family. We pray that they may find strength, comfort, and peace in the love and memories they shared with Nicar.

May her soul now find eternal rest in the loving embrace of our Almighty God, and may perpetual light shine upon her always.

Note: A beautiful and touching tribute to Nicar was written by Mistah Jess Lomeda. For those who wish to read more, please visit his blog through the following link: https://mapitagan.code.blog/2026/05/08/nicar/

Message from the Class President

As we enter the third quarter of the year, we are reminded that time continues

to move swiftly, bringing with it both achievements and life's unexpected challenges. Our Class has once again demonstrated unity, camaraderie, and steadfast support for one another through meaningful gatherings, outreach initiatives, and continued concern for our Mistahs and their families.

We raise our glasses in celebration of the accomplishments of Ed Tamayo and Mike Rodriguez for their election as Chairman and Trustee, respectively, of PETFI. In similar fashion, we likewise acknowledge with pride the continuing service of our Honorary Member and Mistah, Deputy Speaker Nabil A. Tan of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament.

However, it is also with deep sadness that we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Nicar, the beloved and only daughter of our Class President Emeritus Nick and Dr. Noemi Bartolome. Her passing reminds us of the fragility of life and the importance of valuing every precious moment with our loved ones.

May this difficult moment also inspire us, especially in our twilight years, to prioritize our health and well-being. Let us continue praying for our Mistahs facing serious medical conditions and seek Almighty God's guidance, protection, and strength.

Amid today's uncertainties, may we remain hopeful, faithful, and positive in spirit—ever united in the enduring brotherhood of Mapitagan.

May God continue to graciously bless the Mapitagans!



Remembering Nicar Noemi Bartolome-Ramos, whose radiant smile and beautiful spirit will forever remain in the hearts of those who loved her.



A beautiful family portrait of Nicar, Janus and little Cara during the Christmas season of December 2025—a precious snapshot of love, joy, and togetherness that will forever be treasured by family and loved ones.

GREG CATAPANG
President
JOEL JESUS M SUPAN
Secretary

THE JOYS AND THE SORROWS OF THE DIMALUPIG SUMMER

The Joys of Summer

Summer time always bring joy to everyone. Someone wrote and said, *"Summer is a season of unparalleled freedom, warmth, and vibrant energy, marked by long sunny days and the joy of outdoor activities. It is a time for relaxation, cherished memories with family and friends, and simple pleasures like beach trips, picnics, and fresh fruit, making it a highly anticipated season for everyone."* To the Golfers of Dimalupig who are said to be chasing longevity, gather more bragging rights or simply making excuses to avoid house chores, it is a season for golf and more golf. This daily yearning will culminate with the 3rd Dimalupig Golf Tournament after its first two successful tournaments in the past two years. The proceeds of the tournament will provide and sustain the needed funding for the continuing Social Projects of the Class.





Another reason for joy and pride for the Dimalupig is the recent appointment of Cavalier Joel Alvarez as Assistant Secretary for Peace and Order of the Department of Interior and Local Government. His appointment makes him the third Dimalupig to be still in harness by the government to continue serving the Filipinos. The other Dimalupigs who

were featured in this magazine before are Cavalier Charles Calima as Undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways and Cavalier Jojo Reyes as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Transportation. These are testaments to the Class's continued value to the Government long after their retirement from the service.





Cav. Joel Alvarez taking his Oath of Office at DILG



Cav. Jojo Reyes



Cav. Charles Calima

And the Sorrows

The Dimalupigs share the grief of the passing of two of its members. Cavalier Alfred Cayco passed on April 6, 2026 after a massive heart attack. Cav. Cayco retired from the Philippine Air Force and thereafter served as the Municipal Peace and Safety Officer of Taytay, Rizal. Until 2018, Cav. Cayco who is fondly called Alfie by the Class is also known to always have in his pocket a minus-one tape and would sing a ballad or a standard song without being asked twice or at the drop of a hat.

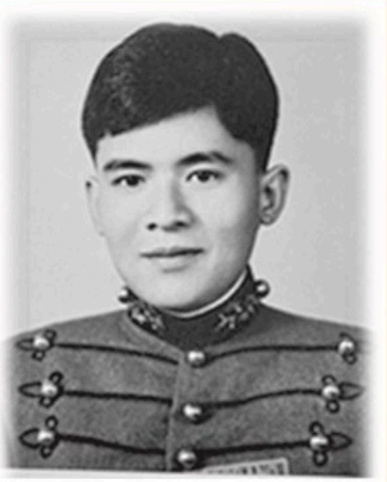






Cav. Alfredo Cayco
1958 - 2026

The Dimalupigs also share the grief of the passing of their plebe Mistah Cadet Audie R. Serrano. Audie has the distinction of being a former member of Classes '78, '79, '80, and '81. In joining Class 1981, he also earned the distinction of being perhaps the only plebe who was the "Mistah ng Corps" without making it through plebehood. Cadet Serrano is the eldest son of Col. Venancio "Boni" Serrano who is the famous Filipino hero of the Korean War where he earned 48 Medals that included Medal of Valor. It is the road where the Main Gate of the Headquarters of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police are located is named after. Audie must have inherited the genes of his father that counted for his perseverance in being a plebe four times in four years. Thus, he is also referred to as "The Forever Plebe."



Cdt. Audie Serrano
1955 - 2026

DIOSDADO B GALLARDO
President
JEROME P PAGARAGAN
Secretary

Homecoming 2026: Return to the Academy

The PMA Sandigan Class of 1982 proudly participated in the 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City, marking another meaningful return to the Academy. The class marched in formation at Borromeo Field, rekindling memories of cadet life and reaffirming the enduring bond of brotherhood among mistahs.

The event was filled with nostalgia, camaraderie, and spirited fellowship, highlighting the strength of relationships built over 44 years since graduation.



The Sandigans marching in cadence across Borromeo Field.



Mistahs gathering before the Alumni Homecoming parade begins.

Class Fellowship and Leadership Transition

During the class fellowship dinner at Hotel Grande, a key leadership transition was formally announced. Diosdado "Dado" Gallardo assumed office as Class President, succeeding Lysander "Sander" Suerte, in accordance with the class rotation policy among service branches.

The evening also featured the induction of new honorary members, further strengthening the Sandigan network:

- Jesus De Lara Motoomull
- Capt Noel S Tacuboy
- Natalio Edquid Ebueng



Oathtaking of new Sandigan honorary members.



Class fellowship dinner at Hotel Grande Baguio.

Board of Trustees First Regular Meeting

On 17 April 2026, the Board of Trustees (BOT) of PSAI convened its first regular meeting at Six Doors Resto, Uptown Mall, BGC, Taguig City.

Chairman/President Gallardo emphasized the Board's mandate to provide direction, ensure sound governance, and safeguard the interests of the Association and its members. He called on all officers and trustees to lead with integrity, professionalism, and unity of purpose.



Oathtaking of Sandigan BOT/Class officers for Association Year 2026 - 2027.



BOT/Class officers first regular meeting on 17 April 2026.

Board of Trustees and Class Officers:

Diosdado B Gallardo – Chairman/ President
Alexander S Lopez – Vice Chairman/ Vice President
Jerome P Pagaragan – Board Secretary
Demosthenes C Doplayna – Treasurer

Trustees:

Rolando G Borja
Danilo S Constantino
Jeffrey F Delgado
Miguel M Laurel
Inocencio M Mayangao
Jesus C Millan
Romeo Santiago O Nebres
Elmer R Soria
Lysander A Suerte
Angelo Gerardo C Valera
Nicanor M Vivar

An oath-taking ceremony was conducted, affirming the officers' commitment to serve with honor, integrity, and dedication.

Standing Committees

To effectively implement programs and activities, the following committees were organized:

1. Communications, Class Information and Membership Committee (CCMC)
   Chair: Jeffrey F Delgado
2. Welfare and Assistance Committee (WAC) Chair: Miguel M Laurel
3. Events and Homecoming Committee (EHC)
   Chair: Danilo S Constantino
4. Finance and Fund-Raising Committee (FFC)
   Chair: Jesus C Millan

Committee chairpersons are currently organizing their respective teams and initiating planning and coordination efforts. We extend recognition to the following *mistahs* who attended the meeting and were subsequently appointed to committees:

- Alex T Tamondong – Member, Communications, Class Information and Membership Committee
- Ismael Lapira – Member, Welfare and Assistance Committee
- Jess Motoomul – Member, Welfare and Assistance Committee

Upcoming Major Activities

Preparations are underway for the 45th Class Anniversary and 2027 Alumni Homecoming, identified as the major event for the upcoming Association year.

A draft calendar of activities for 2026–2027 has been developed, with further planning and coordination to be undertaken by the Board and Standing Committees in the coming months.

Class Updates and Fellowship

The Sandigan spirit of brotherhood remains strong through mutual support and active engagement:

- Under the leadership of Mistah John Bonafos, the PMAAA Cebu Chapter continues its food assistance program that exchanges recyclable plastics for sacks of rice. The initiative, which promotes both food security and environmental responsibility, successfully completed its fourth implementation on 18 March 2026.
- The Sandigan family paid their respects at the wake of Kathleen Tayko, wife of Mistah Elson Tayko, and extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.
- Prayers and support were offered for the recovery of Joyce Cole, daughter of Mistah Paji Pajarito, and Amelie Luga, wife of Mistah Erwin Luga.
- Financial assistance was extended by fellow mistahs to help defray medical expenses.









Alfa



Bravo



Delta with relatives of departed mistahs.



Golf Cl '79 and '82



Golf



Hawk

- Several Company-level fellowship gatherings were held during the period, further strengthening camaraderie.
- To jibe with the Class' 44th Graduation Anniversary, the Sandigan Golfers held its 1st Qtr Golf Tournament and Fellowship at the Veterans Golf Course last 28 March 2026. In lieu of the traditional Inter-Battalion Golf Tournament, the North versus South Golf Tournament was held (i.e., those residing North of vs. those residing South of the Pasig River). It was participated in by 52 Sandigan golfers and civilian friends of the Class. With an average Gross Score of 89.7, the North Team won over the South Team's gross score of 90.5. The 2nd Qtr Golf Tournament and Fellowship is scheduled on 20 June 2026.





Moving Forward

With renewed leadership, organized committees, and active member participation, the PMA Sandigan Class of 1982 continues to strengthen unity, uphold its traditions, and prepare for significant milestones ahead.

Together, we remain committed to service, brotherhood, and excellence.

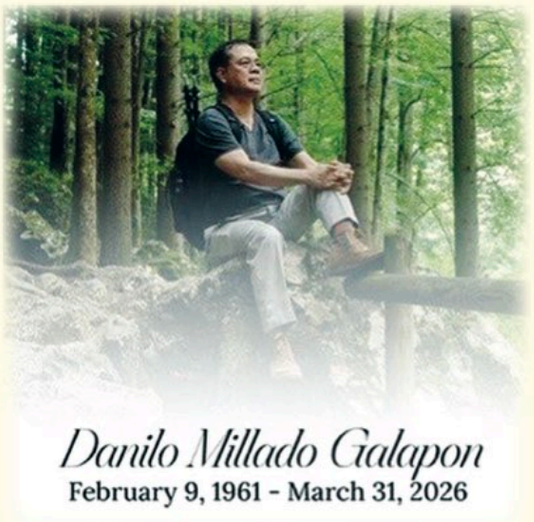
Till next update, mga Mistah!

DANILO M UBALDO
President
JESSE A ALVAREZ
Writer

No one beats a 42-year old! An overly imaginative mind would surely imagine a mature, sexy and charming 42-year old individual, most likely a female specie. But this is not the case for the Maharlikan guys as we celebrate our 42nd Graduation Anniversary in March 2026. We had our last parade as cadets of the CCAFP in the hallowed grounds of Borromeo Field in the morning of March 18, 1984. Indeed, a very memorable day for us graduates, our families, relatives, friends and, of course, some femmes that were eventually left behind.

The Class had a Prayer - Mass Ceremony at Libingan Ng Mga Bayani (LMNB) on March 18, 2026, for continued blessing from the Almighty God to all members of the Maharlikan Family, and eternal peace to our departed members. Maharlikans who were present during the occasion also visited the graves of our departed members whose remains were interred at LNMB. May God grant eternal rest to the following departed Maharlikans: ALFA - **Felix P. Brawner III, Ismael P. Castillo, Rosueto V. Ricaforte;** BRAVO - **Rafael Ramir D. Moya, Alan R. Rojo, Donato T. Castro, Elmer E. Decena, Elmer R. Estilles, Noel L. Patajo;** CHARLIE - **Eduardo L. Collado, Arnel Antonio F. Dorado, Bienvenido B. Leono, Jr., Renato S. Opeña;** DELTA - **Ariel I. Briones, Rene V. Ferenal, Roy P. Fradillada, Casiano C. Monilla, Cenon L. Realubit, Romeo A. Sales III;** ECHO - **Liberato D. Elemos, Rodante J. Guerrero;** FOXTROT - **Conrado J. Santos, Jr., Gerardo P. Sobida, Jr.;** GOLF - **Leocerio A. Barayuga, Jr., Amado A. Bustillos, Joseph S. Lim, David C. Marquez, Lorenzo E. Morgia, Pedro S. Hernandez, Jr.;** HAWK - **Antonio E. Gimeo, Jr., Danilo L. Maligalig, Gregorio L. Saligumba III, Virgilio S. Capati**. A total of 34 Maharlikans.

Our anniversary celebration was capped by Golf Fellowship at Villamor Air Base Golf Club (VABGC) on March 29, 2026. This is the most anticipated activity of anniversary celebration, I guess! Maharlikan golfers of all forms from subdued to outlandish, of different skills level from ala Tiger Woods to "if you cannot play, display!" and tightly guarding, rather watching Maharlikan ladies must have flooded the clubhouse and fairways of VABGC. I would love to join the fellowship game, but I am here living down south. *Nakita ko sana paano ipalo ni Elmer Q ang driver nya sa 120-yard par 3 hole!* Congratulations to the winners! Low Gross - **Joel Pagdilao**, Low Net - **Ernie Lopena**, Masters Category: Champion - **Ron Santos**, 1st Runner-up - **Pat Morales**, 2nd Runner-up - **Steve Tolentino**, Expert Category: Champion **Joel Bagasin**, 1st Runner-up - **Ron Estilles**, 2nd Runner-up - **Gene Cerbo**, Pro Category: Champion - **Reddy Diaz**, 1st Runner-up - **Gilbert Sosa**, 2nd Runner-up - **Chip Verceles**, Special Awards: Nearest to the pin - **Atong San Juan**, Longest putt - **Chip Verceles**.



Danilo Millado Galapon
February 9, 1961 - March 31, 2026

We are saddened by the unexpected departure of **Danny Galapon** who suffered a heart attack while on vacation with family and relatives in Baler, Aurora province. He was the marcher of Class 1984 PC Group. Danny retired optionally from the PNP, and then joined the United Nations (UN). He recently retired from UN in Vienna, Austria. Rest in peace, mistah Danny!

I promised in previous Class call that in the next issue I will feature the new golf converts. In the past, golf has become the favorite sports of retired uniformed personnel. Perhaps, the trend could be explained by the longing for temporary freedom from boredom, from 24/7 domestication at home, and from inactivity! However, the Maharlikan shot makers reported zero addition to the ranks! Maybe, it is either the uninitiated ones have lost interest of the game, or their wives are not enthusiastic to grant them 4-6 hours of temporary liberty. *Pero meron pang pag-asa para makapaglaro ng apoy este sports*! Watch, listen and learn!!!

Some golfers claim that if you are a tennis player it is not hard to make a proper golf swing. Sounds cool. A tennis forehand swing is similar to a golf swing. There is follow through in both swings. As they say, it is like eating peanuts. Now, listen! If you know the game of tennis, badminton and ping-pong,





you are surely in to the newest sensation in ball sports. It's pickleball time! The swing and foot-works are almost the same. It's like eating pickles. For those who are alien to the games I mentioned earlier, pickleball is not like eating pickles, but rather like eating balls! However, there is a consolation, guys. Some players hinted that pickleball is the new hunting ground. Really! Hunting ground for what? I leave that hint to your (wild) imagination. By the way, some Maharlikans are now pickleball players, and most of them are also golf enthusiasts. We have the so-called Pioneers in the game within the Maharlikan circle, namely: **Aaron Fetalvero, Joel Cantos, Dino Diño, Dan Ubaldo, Reddy Diaz, George Avila** and **Gerry Amante**. *Sino kaya sa kanila ang ball eaters*? I am certain that none of them are "hunters"! How about "hunted" one?

On May 21, 2026, the Class will hold the 1st Maharlika Pickleball Invitational Tournament at Cittadella Executive Village Clubhouse, Las Piñas City, in order to raise funds for the Class. I hope Gallant bugs like **Eboy Enriquez, Atong San Juan, Rey Guerrero** and the rest of the gang decide to play pickleball and join the tournament. Yours truly, **Jesse Alvarez**, have already done three sessions of light but perspiring workouts. The pickles are starting to taste good!

The Class is grateful to the following members for their donations: **Ronnie Estilles, Richard Albano, Ding Sevilla, Harold Cabreros, Bernard Dy, Jerry Alfante, Butch Suzara, Steve Tolentino** and **Gani Nerez**. Once again, thank you, guys! *Sana maulit muli.*



Trivia and Humor:

Pedro: *Kumpadre, balita ko ayos daw ang prostate massage dyan sa massage clinic na yan! (sabay turo nito)*

Juan: *Baka nga. Kasi nabanggit din yan ng isang kasama natin na senior citizen na rin.*

Pedro: *Meron kaya silang 20% SC discount sa extra...*

Juan: (*napangiti*) *Meron yata basta 100% sure ka na kaya mo pa!*

Pedro: *Ay ganun ba! Sige magbabayad na lng ako ng buo.*

FERNAN T TRINIDAD
President
TOINKS H VALENCIA
Class Historian

Greetings, Hinirang! I hope everyone is keeping well.

We are living through uncertain times. Globally, the war in the Middle East continues to fuel inflation and economic strain. At home, political tensions - from impeachment issues to ICC debates and the flood control controversy - have added to public unease. Meanwhile, El Niño has brought droughts, with forecasts of stronger typhoons ahead.

Moments like this call for care and clarity. When uncertainty prevails, confusion and anxiety can grow if thoughtful, balanced conversations are missing. Yet uncertainty need not define us. Time and again, we have shown resilience - by staying informed, engaging responsibly, and drawing strength from one another. With calm resolve and shared purpose, we can navigate these challenges and move forward with confidence.

Charity Golf Cup Rescheduled

In light of the prevailing domestic situation related to the Middle East conflict—and to allow more time to strengthen fundraising efforts for the upcoming 40th Graduation Anniversary—the Class Officers have decided to reschedule the 2nd PMA Hinirang '87 Charity Golf Cup from 24 April 2026 to 24 July 2026 (Friday).

The tournament venue remains unchanged: the West Course of Wack Wack Golf & Country Club, Mandaluyong City. The Class likewise reaffirms its full commitment to the House of Somang as the event's beneficiary, in continued support of abandoned elders and children.

This decision was formally approved during the Hinirang Class Officers and Board of Directors Meeting held on 16 April 2026 at Discovery Suites, graciously



hosted by Hin Peter Suchianco. In this line, letters have been sent to sponsors to formally apprise them of the schedule change. The added lead time will also enable more focused and sustained sponsorship efforts, and we look forward to everyone's continued support and active participation.

Toward Our 40th Anniversary

Another key agenda item discussed was the upcoming 40th Graduation Anniversary, scheduled for January 2027. Several variables were identified that continue to affect decisions on the final program of activities, which are expected to be finalized by July 2026. In support of this, it was agreed that a formal invitation letter will be prepared and issued to encourage participation from all who have, at one time, been part of Hinirang.

Major Service Representatives were also reminded to follow up on pledged contributions. Meanwhile, fitting for the class uniform started 27 April 2026. Members are encouraged to stay in touch with their respective representatives to plan ahead for our grand celebration. Let us make our 40th year a meaningful tribute to our shared journey, enduring brotherhood, and lasting legacy.



Army Meeting

In response, the Army Group, headed by Hin Robert A., convened a meeting on 23 April 2026 to discuss the rescheduled Hinirang Charity Golf Cup and to begin preparations for the upcoming 40th Graduation Anniversary. Those in attendance were Hin Fernan, Hin Binsoy, Hin Nongnong, Hin Geps, Hin Jimmy, Hin Bart V., and Hin Eric V., with the surprise presence of Hin Magic adding to the gathering's high spirits.

As usual, the official agenda quickly became a sideshow to the *real* program—the endless, unforgettable stories of



plebehood and cadetship. And, as always, those not in attendance once again found themselves the victim, becoming the favorite subjects of stories told, retold, and embellished—much to everyone's laughter.

Classic Hinirang Tale

One story stood out. We were Second Class then. Tattoo had sounded - the unmistakable bugle call announcing that all cadets must immediately return to their barracks. It was both a reminder and a warning, especially for those who were very, very far from where they were supposed to be.

Enter 2CL Henry Dar - deep in Cadet Combo Practice, enthusiastically playing his instrument as if Tattoo were merely background music. When reality finally hit, it hit hard: his barracks, Mayo, was on the farthest end of the universe.

Panic set in. He dropped everything and took off running.

What followed can only be described as a superhero origin story. Henry transformed into Superman - dashing at full speed, *leaping multiple levels* down the Class '53 Steps in what physics would later consider questionable. He tore through the dark, unlit Capinpin Road, eyes locked on the glowing sanctuary of Mayo Hall's illuminated doors. In his head, the math was clear: *I can make it. I still have time. One last burst.*

The bugle call was nearing its final notes. With unwavering determination, he sprinted, lunged, and—at the exact moment the Tattoo ended - slam!

Straight into the glass door he thought was open.

It was like watching a cartoon script ending with Henry on the floor, eyes bulging and pulsating, and stars swirling over his head.

Moral of the story: You can outrun Tattoo. You can defy distance. You can even channel Superman. But glass doors... always win. Worse your story is memorialized in every meeting you are absent. We miss you - Hin Henry!!! Join our activities.

Trivia: The term "Tattoo" comes from the Dutch phrase "doe den tap toe" meaning "turn off the taps" - a signal for soldiers to leave taverns and return to camp. Over time, it became formalized in military life. In PMA it is sounded before Taps.

Skill, Timing, and "Healthy" Choices

The Army meeting was preceded by a friendly golf game that delivered a surprise victory for Hin Bartolome and Hin Hidalgo. Hin Romy and Hin Eric led confidently from start to finish, showcasing powerful drives and near-perfect putting on the greens. However, in the final three holes, the Bart–Jimmy tandem surged ahead as if Tiger Woods himself had taken over Bart. In the end, they clinched the win by a single point. Some may call it luck - but I'd say it was skill meeting perfect timing. The lesson learned: never let your guard down - and if Bart has a lucky charm, you might want to get one too.

After golf, it's usually followed - traditionally and enthusiastically - by eating and drinking. But age, it seems, has either mellowed us or our bodies have issued a formal cease-and-desist order. Have you noticed how more of us now "eat healthy," or at least confidently convince ourselves that whatever is on the table counts as healthy? And when it clearly doesn't, we simply label it a cheat meal - problem solved. Jokes aside, the reality is undeniable: we're now far more conscious

of what we eat... even if we occasionally negotiate with ourselves about it.

Hinirang's Pride in Service and Leadership

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recently appointed retired Rear Admiral Loumer Palapal Bernabe as the new Deputy Administrator for Operations of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). He officially took his oath of office on April 21, 2026, before Department of Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez. His new role centers on strengthening vessel safety and modernizing the maritime industry, advancing digital transformation, protecting the welfare of Filipino seafarers, and deepening stakeholder collaboration through the Maritime Strategy Governance Council. Congratulations Hin Loumer!!! You never cease to amaze us.



When Mistahs Reconnect

It is always a joy when a mistah living abroad comes home and makes the effort to reconnect with fellow mistahs - moments like these bring back memories that time and distance can never fade. On 04 April 2026, Hin Rhyss Hizon hosted a dinner at Alba Ristorante Español at Estancia Mall, Capitol Commons, Pasig. Joining us were Hin Sobejana and Edna, Hin Nick Sotelo, Hin Andy Delos Reyes, Hin Rafael, and Mia.





As expected, stories from **Echo Company days** flowed easily, bringing laughter and a sense of shared history that only mistahs can truly appreciate. Amid the nostalgia, the conversation naturally turned serious as well. With the ongoing **ME conflict**, I took the opportunity to gather Rhyss' insights. During his active service, he transited the **Strait of Hormuz** no fewer than **12 times**, aboard various types of US Navy ships—**aircraft carriers, amphibious vessels, and supply/ replenishment ships**—experiences that gave depth and perspective to the evening's reflections. Big thanks Rhyss!

Hinirangs: Now All Senior Citizens

Hin Bong Dickson officially completed the Hinirang journey into senior citizenship as he celebrated his 60th birthday on 27 March 2027 at Romulo's in Tomas Morato, Quezon City—clear proof that age is merely a number, especially when marked with good food, great company, and stories that only get better with time.

The milestone celebration brought together Bong's family, friends, and relatives from Kalinga and Isabela, all gathering to honor the occasion in true festive spirit. True to brotherhood and tradition, the Hinirangs and their lovely ladies were out in force. In attendance were Hin Joby, Hin Jojo B., Hin Eric K., Hin Nelson B., Hin Ringo L., Hin Alfred C., Hin Loumer B., Hin Fernan T., Hin Loy Morales, Hin Rafael, Hin Reno T., Hin Recomono, Hin Binag, Hin Carreon, and others who ensured the evening was filled with



laughter, camaraderie, and fond recollections. In the photo, from left to right are Ami Tolentino, Gina Carreon, Sarah Samarita, Lyn Bueno, Rachelle Bacordo, Jackie Recomono, Majo Bondoc, Mimi Lim, Mia Rafael, Mylene Dickson, Dang Morales, Maggie Licup, Aya Corpuz, Mayla Kagoan, and Euvin Dela Cruz.

With Hin Bong's entry into the ranks, the Hinirangs can now proudly claim full senior citizen status—not as a sign of slowing down, but as a badge of experience, wisdom, and well-earned privileges.

Where We Stand, Together Still

Through shifting seasons and uncertain days, we stand anchored by shared purpose and unbroken bonds. What time has given us is not age alone, but depth, perspective, and quiet strength. As we move toward the milestones ahead, may we walk together—steady, mindful, and proud of the road we have traveled and the legacy we continue to shape. Together, we remain strong—Hinirang endures.



RONALD JESS S ALCUDIA
President
RAY CLAUDIO R ABAYA
Secretary

For the 2nd Quarter of AY 2026–2027, several changes in designation and promotion took place among the Maalabs. Likewise, a number of classmates have reached retirement after rendering more than three (3) decades of faithful and dedicated service to our motherland.

MGen Fabian Pedregosa, after serving as Commander of the Air Defense Command, Philippine Air Force, and subsequently retiring from the military service, was appointed as Undersecretary for Information Systems and Cybersecurity at the Department of National Defense. Meanwhile, LtGen Thad Rufino Candelario earned his third star following his designation as Commander of the Strategic Command, AFP. Likewise, MGen Moises Micor was promoted upon his designation as Commander of the Air Mobility Command, PAF.

The Air Force Maalabs are likewise anticipating the scheduled "Champagne Flight" of BGen Angelito Retuta, WC, TOWNOL, who will soon retire after years of dedicated service in the blue skies.

The Maalabs also take pride in the achievement of MGen Jose Bonifacio Calub, recipient of the Golden Aviator Award for the Command and Leadership Category during the PAF Flying School Alumni Association, Inc. (PAFFSAAI) Balik Fernando 2026.

For the Army, MGen Marion Angcao was appointed as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army. Meanwhile, BGen Bitoy Llapitan was designated as AJ7 effective 7 May 2026 as the capable Deputy of Pat Amata.

We likewise extend our warm congratulations and best wishes to our newly retired Army Maalabs: Rody Magallanes, Jon Goyena, Macaw Macawaris, and Ronnie Babac. We also wish a meaningful and fulfilling retirement to our soon-to-retire classmates Iking Clemente, Mandy Mandanas, and Pipay Licyayo.

From the Navy, the lone retiree was Commodore Bong Bolaños, the erstwhile AJ1, and VAdm Roy Echevarria retired from the Philippine Coast Guard.

It is with deep sorrow that the Class announces the passing of Danny Alzaga on 28 April 2026 at their family home in Marikina. We humbly ask everyone to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul and for strength and comfort for his bereaved family. We also pray and continuously support other classmates who are recovering from health challenges. Take care, Maalabs and Maalabelles. Mabuhay!

Class Activities










CHANGE OF ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
FOR CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS, AJ7
and
Retirement Ceremony
IN HONOR OF
BGEN EDGAR C TORRES PAF
ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF FOR CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS, AJ7
WITH
MGEN PATRICIO RUBEN P AMATA PA









Eulogy for Cav Daniel C Alzaga '93

17 December 1969 - 29 April 2026

• Cav Ray Claudio Abaya



The news of Danny's passing reached our Viber group on April 29 - just a day before my scheduled kidney transplant. It brought a deep sense of sadness, made heavier by the thought that I might not be able to attend his wake and burial. For a moment, I held on to the hope that it was just another piece of misinformation or fake news. But sadly, it was true—Danny Boy had indeed left us.

His passing remains a puzzle to many of us. We knew Danny as someone who lived life the right way—health-conscious, athletic, and a true advocate of wellness. He carried himself lightly, always calm, seemingly untouched by stress. He had a playful spirit and a natural sense of humor. Yet when it came to duty, he was serious, focused, and dependable. Above all, Danny was kind—especially to those under his care. He looked after his people with genuine concern.

I first met Danny when we were plebes back in 1987. A simple conversation sparked our friendship when we discovered we both came from the same Dominican university along España, Manila. At first, it was just casual greetings—Hi's, Hellos, High Fives. But our friendship truly deepened when we became roommates in Foxtrot Company. As fate would have it, we both got turned back during the first semester of our yearling year.

During the months that followed, while waiting for the next academic year, we had the chance to bond even more as mistahs. Danny spent much of that time in our home in Cubao—staying for weeks at a time, only going

home to Marikina occasionally to get fresh clothes. He became part of our family. In fact, some of our relatives would jokingly refer to him as the youngest Abaya sibling—sometimes even more than me.

Those were simple but meaningful days. We would listen to jazz music, share a few beers, and take relaxed strolls. I still remember him driving his old green Volkswagen Beetle. Danny was especially kind to our relatives from the province—he would personally make sure they were safely brought to the bus terminal when it was time for them to head home. Many of my cousins came to know him well, and like us, they held him in high regard.

When we returned to the Academy and joined Class '93, I was assigned to Bravo Company while Danny went to Golf. Though we were in different units, we remained close—reconnecting during semester breaks and the Christmas season.

As a young lieutenant, Danny was reassigned from Isabela to serve as Executive Officer of the 7th Light Armor Company in Camp Aguinaldo. He quickly became the "go-to" mistah in Metro Manila. His door was always open—his room, his food, his time—generously shared with anyone who needed a place to stay or a helping hand. His room became a gathering place, filled with stories, laughter, and the occasional drink that sometimes went a bit too far. I still recall one incident when a mistah, after one too many, figured in an accident at the Shaw underpass—an episode we now remember with both concern and a hint of nostalgia.

Danny played a special role in my life milestones. When I got married, he stood beside me as my Best Man. I spent the last night of my bachelorhood in their family home in Marikina. I stayed in Danny's room—something that now carries a deeper meaning for me. The Alzaga family welcomed me warmly, with generosity and care. It was in that home where I prepared for one of the most important days of my life. I still remember how, at 10:30 in the morning, Danny was already urging me to get ready for a 3:00 PM wedding—ever the responsible and reliable friend. Later on, he also became the godfather of my eldest daughter.

Through the years, Danny and I remained close—through different assignments, promotions, and phases of our careers. There were times when communication became less frequent, as duty demanded our full attention. But even then, the bond remained unbroken. We always found our way back to that same easy friendship.

Danny, you were more than a mistah—you were family. Your kindness, your laughter, your quiet strength, and your unwavering presence in our lives will never be forgotten.

You will always be missed.

MA NOEL T TOLENTINO
President
IVAN DR PAPERA
Secretary

From Cadets to Leaders: A Class Anniversary Tribute

For 36 years, the bond forged within the halls of the Philippine Military Academy has remained steadfast enduring through every challenge, triumph, and season of life. More than a military institution, the PMA became a second home where young cadets from different regions, backgrounds, and aspirations were transformed into leaders destined by duty, honor, service, and brotherhood. The day they entered the Academy marked the beginning of a journey that would shape not only their military careers, but also their character and lifelong relationships. The rigorous training, sleepless nights, demanding routines, and countless sacrifices tested every cadet's determination. Yet amid the hardships, a unique camaraderie emerged one built on trust, discipline, resilience, and mutual respect.

Last March 7, 2026, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the Bantay Laya Class of 1994 together with their spouse, gathered to celebrate 36 years of brotherhood. The occasion also served as a solemn tribute to the departed Mistahs, honoring their memory, service, and legacy. Amid prayers, reflection, and camaraderie, the gathering reaffirmed the strong bond shared by the class through the years. More than a







reunion, it became a meaningful reminder that true brotherhood surpasses time and distance.

This quarter took on deeper meaning with the remembrance of one of our beloved Mistahs, COLONEL ANDREW B BACALA JR PA, who joined with the



Creator on April 13, 2026. A distinguished soldier and leader, COL BACALA's military career reflected unwavering dedication, courage, and commitment to the service of the Filipino people. As Chief of Staff of the 11th Infantry (ALAKDAN) Division, Philippine Army, he exemplified professionalism and steadfast leadership in advancing the mission of the organization. Throughout decades of service, he held critical assignments in intelligence, special operations, and command positions across Luzon and Mindanao, earning the respect of peers and subordinates alike through his exemplary performance, discipline, and patriotism.



Beyond his accomplishments in uniform, COL BACALA pursued academic excellence and leadership development grounded in integrity, service, and nation-building. His remarkable military achievements and unwavering devotion to duty remain an enduring inspiration to soldiers, comrades, and future leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. As the Bantay Laya Class of 1994 continues its journey, the memory of our departed Mistahs including COL BACALA will forever live in the hearts of the brotherhood they helped strengthen through honor, sacrifice, and service.



After more than three decades in military service, MGEN SIMPLITIUS G ADECER PN(M), hailed from Cagayan De Oro City, proudly stood once again on the grounds where his journey began inside the Philippine Military Academy. This time,





however, he no longer stood as a young cadet dreaming of becoming an officer, but as a retiring leader looking back on a life dedicated to honor, duty, and country.



During the testimonial parade and review held in his honor, he shared reflections on his career and emphasized that leadership in the Armed Forces is anchored on two indispensable qualities: competence and character. He reminded the cadets that competence earns the trust of soldiers and superiors, while character defines the integrity and moral courage expected of every PMAer. In an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world, he underscored the importance of continuous learning, discipline, and unwavering adherence to the Honor Code.

As he prepares to retire from active service with the rank of Major General, he carries with him not only medals and accomplishments, but more importantly, the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. His story stands as a testament that success is never achieved overnight. It is built through resilience, humility, faith, and the courage to continue despite failure.

For the younger generation of officers and cadets, his message was simple yet powerful: never stop pursuing the desires of your heart. Work hard, stay grounded in values, and strive to become not only competent leaders, but officers of character. Retirement, after all, is not merely the end of a military career, it is the culmination of a life spent faithfully serving the nation and inspiring those who will carry the mission forward. CAV Adecer rendered his last Military Service last February 27, 2026.

On March 24, 2026, BGEN JOSE EDUARDO F LIBOON PA, formally concluded his distinguished military career. The retiring Army Engineer Officer reflected on a lifetime dedicated to duty, leadership, and service to the nation. Standing before his comrades, family, and troops, he expressed deep gratitude to the people and organizations who became part of his journey in the Philippine Army.

He paid tribute to his family for their unwavering support and acknowledged as his constant source of strength throughout the many challenges and sacrifices of military life. He likewise commended the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian workforce of the 512th, 534th, and 544th Engineer Battalions, the Engineer Support Company, and Brigade Headquarters for







their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to accomplishment. Mission

Reflecting on his career, he recounted his humble beginnings as an Engineer Officer with the 53rd Engineer Brigade and the various assignments that shaped his leadership and operational competence, eventually culminating in his designation as the 24th Commander of the 52nd Engineer Brigade, Philippine Army. He also expressed his gratitude to the leadership of the Philippine Army and to his alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy, for molding him into a leader guided by honor, duty, and excellence.

As he bid farewell to active service, he emphasized that the Brigade's accomplishments were not the work of one individual alone, but the result of collective dedication, teamwork, and sacrifice. With deep pride and gratitude, he closed his message by honoring the soldiers and personnel who walked the journey with him in service to the Filipino people.

The revered traditional Champagne Flight marks a senior pilot's final flight before retirement, a symbolic tribute honoring years of dedicated service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to military aviation. Last April 18, 2026, at the Air Education and Training Command



(AETC) in Fernando Base, COLONEL JULIUS SAMSON A NAZI PAF (MNSA) was accorded this distinguished tradition as he officially concluded his remarkable flying career in the service of the nation.

The ceremony served as a fitting recognition of his invaluable contributions to the Philippine Air Force, highlighting decades of professionalism, dedication, and excellence in aviation leadership. Fellow officers, aviators, personnel, friends, and family gathered to witness the meaningful occasion and to honor a career defined by courage, discipline, and selfless service.

As COL NAZI completed his final sortie, the traditional champagne toast symbolized not only the culmination of an illustrious military aviation journey but also the beginning of a new chapter beyond active service. His legacy will continue to inspire the next generation of airmen and







pilots who aspire to uphold the highest ideals of the profession.

The AETC community proudly salutes COL JULIUS SAMSON A NAZI (PAF) for his steadfast dedication and faithful service to the country and wishes him continued success and fulfillment in his retirement years.

As the Bantay Laya Class of 1994 continues its journey, the memories of our departed Mistahs and the examples set by the retiring leaders will forever inspire the brotherhood strengthened through honor, sacrifice, and service. More than a reunion, the gathering stood as a powerful reminder that true brotherhood transcends time and distance, living on in the hearts of those who continue to serve the nation with courage, integrity, and unwavering commitment.



RHOSSEL R DUQUE
President
CHARLIE L TIU, JR
Writer

"What We Keep Alive: A Journey Beyond Time"

There are days when the game feels secondary. When the ball doesn't land where it should, when the swing feels unfamiliar, or when the scorecard quietly reminds them that time has, indeed, moved forward. But even on those days, the Marilag officers still show up. Not out of habit, but out of something deeper—a quiet commitment to themselves and to each other. Because for them, it was never really about perfect shots. It's about the presence.

The familiar faces waiting at the tee. The gentle nods that say, "You made it again today." It's in the small gestures—sharing water under the heat, offering a light joke after a missed putt, or simply walking side by side without the need to fill the silence. These moments carry a kind of honesty that only time and shared experiences can create. It's in the little things where everything feels real. These small, ordinary moments are what make it special. They carry a kind of honesty you can't force—built slowly through time, shared rounds, and quiet understanding.



Out there, it's not just about the game. It's about connection, ease, and the simple joy of showing up, again.

There's a certain humility that comes with this stage of life. The titles, the ranks, the years of command—they remain respected, but they no longer define the man or woman on the course. Here,













they are simply themselves. Teammates. Friends. Individuals still learning, still adjusting, still finding meaning in the ordinary and perhaps that is where beauty truly lies.

Because even after everything they have carried—decisions made, missions completed; sacrifices endured—they continue to choose growth. Not in the grand, visible ways they once did, but in quieter, more personal forms. In choosing patience over frustration. In choosing laughter over pride. In choosing connection over isolation. There is strength in that kind of choice.

Sometimes, as the sun begins to lower, and the shadows stretch across the fairway, there's a moment—a pause. A look around. A quiet realization that this, right here, is enough. No urgency. No pressure. Just the steady rhythm of life being lived, one step at a time.

And in that moment, it becomes clear: the legacy of the Marilag officers was never confined to the years they wore the uniform. It lives on in how they carry themselves now. In how they show kindness, extend patience, and remain grounded despite everything they've seen and done.

Their story continues—not in loud declarations, but in quiet consistency.

Every early morning they choose to rise. Every round they choose to play. Every friendship they choose to keep.

That's what lasts.

Not just the memory of service—but the quiet, steady way they still live it, day after day.

















The PMA Kaakibat Class 2001 @ 25!

As we reflect on the past 25 years, we - the proud members of PMA Kaakibat Class of 2001 - can confidently say that we have lived up to the ideals and expectations of our Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy. Through the years, we have grown both as leaders and as individuals, faithfully guided by the core values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty instilled in us by our beloved alma mater.

With the strong service record and outstanding performance demonstrated by every Kaakibat, the future holds even greater promise. Many, if not all, are destined to rise higher and earn greater distinctions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

True to the essence of our class name "*Kaakbay at Kabalikat*" let us remain steadfast in our commitment to serve the Filipino people.

From the fly boys...

On active duty, the class continues to be strongly represented in key leadership and command positions across the Air Force, GHQ-AFP, and AFPWSSUs. Serving as Group Commanders are **Cav Mark Gavilan** (GC, TOG SulTaw), **Cav Simon Medroso** (GC, TOG 6), **Cav Alan Castro** (GC, 952nd SWG, 950 CEWW), **Cav Roy Lacbain** (GC, 530ABG, AIBDC), and **Cav Jun Ty II** (GC, 590ABG, AIBDC).

Within HPAF, the Class continues to serve in critical Staff positions through **Cav Sadz Tabutol** (Deputy A1), **Cav Justin Benitez** (EX-O, OA-3), and **Cav Glenn Piquero** (Ex-O, OA-4). Equally vital as chiefs of offices, commanding officers, and commandants. These include **Cav Jon de Leon** (C, AFSO), **Cav Itong Balico** (C, PAFIMAO), **Cav Shiela Dauz** (CO, PAFHRMC), **Cav Abu Gador** (CO, AFWC), **Cav Gani Quiming** (CO, TDC), **Cav Rene Sevilla** (CO, AWC), and **Cav Fred Isla** (AC, AFSMO), each contributing to the institutional strength, professionalism, and readiness of the Air Force.

The class likewise remains deeply involved in joint, unified, and strategic-level

assignments, with **Cav Glen Cabalquinto** (C, PPD, OJ9), **Cav Jay Baquiran** (C, IAD, OJ5), and **Cav Caloy Chan** (C, DD, OJ5) serving at GHQ. Operational leadership is further reinforced by **Cav Rich Somera** (DO, TOWNOL), **Cav Arjo Buan** (DO, TOWSOL), **Cav Marlon Parugrug** (C3, ACC), **Cav Ram Tolentino** (DO, 300AISW), **Cav Glenn Eugenio** (U6 SOLCOM), and **Cav Roy Aguhob** (C, CRG, WESCOM). While **Cav Atoy Olave** is currently on foreign schooling at the NDU, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. and **Cav Jonie Hallara** posted as Defense and Armed Force Attaché to Cambodia.

Beyond active service, Kaakibat PAF members continue to distinguish themselves in other fields. In the airline and aviation sector are **Cav Francis Vergara** (Captain, Philippine Airlines), **Cav Mike Magluyan** (First Officer, Airbus Wide Body Division, Philippine Airlines), **Cav Emmar Marinas** (First Officer, Boeing 777 Division, Philippine Airlines), **Cav Danele Fabic** and **Cav Romy Vasquez** (Trans Pacific Journey Fishing Corporation). In government and industry, **Cav Archie Grande** serves as Regional Director of TESDA Region V, **Cav Joel Plaza** as Regional Director of PDEA Region VII, and **Cav JR De Guzman** as Key Account Manager for Airbus Defence and Space in the Philippines. Abroad and at home, classmates such as **Cav Stephen Penaflorida** (US-based Sheriff), **Cav Elai Anonat-Daniels** (US-based military wife), **Cav Melvin Caronongan** (US-based), **Cav Adrian Alvarino**, **Cav Elmer Ariola**, **Cav BJ Bajesta**, **Cav Raul Carandang**, **Cav Jomer Hussein**, **Cav JV Macarubbo**, and **Cav Mario Asis** continue to live out the Academy's values as private citizens, professionals, businessmen, and retirees.



In solemn remembrance, the PAF Kaakibat honors its departed mistahs—**Cav Aristotle Anguluan**, **Cav Dennis Abaygar**, **Cav Randy Gabriel**, and **Cav Spencer Matias**.

Fly high PAF Kaakibat!

From the Skippers...

Navigating the complexities of the ever-changing shift in operational focus are the Kaakibat sailors.



In HPF are **Cav Romy Mosuela** as F1, **Cav Joel De Vera** as F5 and **Cav Dennis Resuello** as F7. As Deputy Coms of SAF and OCF are **Cav Marco Sandalo** and **Cav Phil Plaza** respectively. Assigned aboardship is **Cav Paul Hechanova** as CO of BRP Miguel Malvar (PN Capital Ship). **Cav Ayie Coloma** is the Supt, NAW School.

In HPN, is **Cav Wawen Lopez**, as Deputy N1.

While educators in NETC are **Cav Tony Bosch** as the Superintendent, NOSC and **Cav Jess Pilar** as Commandant, PNOCS, and **Cav Keith Marquez** as the Mayor of NIF-Zambales.

In the joint and operational commands are **Cav Ariel Torres** (U5-WesCom), **Cav Ray Umbac** (CO, NRC-WV), and **Cav Manny Pantaleon** (CO, NRC Central).

With the PN Support units are **Cav Ted Cerezo** as C,NCSC, **Cav Henry Mabbagu** (IG,NCF), and **Cav Joy Tanag** as DC, NAVMETOC. Making sure that the Navy is logistically ready is **Cav Fred Cayabyab** as the Chief, PNPC.

Our "the few and the proud" marines are also performing staff functions after finishing their BatCom duties. **Cav Rowan Rimas** is establishing the newly created Strategic Command, **Cav Prisco Tabo** and **Cav Wowie Olaso** is honing their academic prowess as a student officer in India and Australia, respectively. Assigned with HPMC performing staff duties are **Cav Tino Maslan** (MC8), and **Cav Cliff Basco** (MC7). Ensuring the safety of and security of the President and the Seat of Government at



PSC are **Cav Al Pola** and marine by heart, skipper **Cav Fred Parpan**.

Sailors joining the PCG are **Cavs Nelson Timbang** as CG2, **Cav Rowene Colita** as Supt, CASC, **Cav Jinggoy Ruiz** is the Dep DC, CGD-BARMM, **Cav Arjohn Elumba** as C,CGSOG-Bicol, **Cav Kris Ilarde** is the CO BRP Boracay, and **Cav JQ Panes** as Exec Dir, CGSSIAC.

While **Cav Bryan Babang** serves in the government as Dir, PDEA Regional Office.

Soon to retire from the active service are **Cav Harold Pre**, **Cav Brian Valdez**, and **Cav Marissa Librando**.

'Sincerely enjoying' retired life are **Cav Imee Butac-Marinas**, **Cav Flor Murito**, **Cav Dennis Donga**, and avid/addict-golfers **Cav Mickey Simeon** and **Cav Jo Marcelo**.

Navy mistahs who resigned and joined the corporate world as either IT or security practitioners are **Cav Arman Pontejos**, **Cav Dacs Daquilana**, **Cav Earl Perez**, **Cav Cesar Tamba**, **Cav Bal Laborte**, and **Cav Ian Dira**.

Exploring the vast land of Australia and continental US are **Cav Espe Fajardo-Pretila** and **Cav Lyle Rosos**, respectively.

Fairwinds and Clear Skies Kaakibat Sailors!

From the Army Troopers...

Zero-casualty...through meticulous and proactive planning, and superb military tactics and strategy, the Army Kaakibats were able to surpass their combat duties in the field without any casualties. This includes of course the blessing of the good Almighty!

Assisting the highest-ranking Generals in the AFP are **Cav Ben Ramos Jr** (HEA, OCSAFP) and **Cav Manny Degay** (OVCSAFP).

Mistahs with the silent service guiding the infantrymen are **Cav Mar Bautista** (GC, MIG 19), **Cav Mark Cabunoc** (CO 5MIB), **Cav Cons Cahayon** (ADir, DPP, AIC), **Cav Ray De Lima** (G2, 11ID), **Cav Olik Salayo** (ADir, DSA, AIC) and **Cav Rino Guda** (JC2, JSOC).

Overlooking that the different units of the PA are financially and logistically capable are **Cav Cheng Reano-Bautista** (EXO, G10, PA), **Cav Vic Villanueva** (G10, SOCOM), **Cav Lamcel Caranguian** (EXO, FCPA) **Cav Jelson Buyuccan** (G4, 10ID), **Cav Ally Depayso** (G4, 4ID), **Cav Frank Garcia** (G4, 10ID), **Cav Earl Panganiban** (DGC, 2LSG, SPTCOM), **Cav Joy Dalangin** (G3, SPTCOM) and **Cav Jason Panaligan** (DG4, 2ID).

Directing the operations of PA divisions and units are **Cav Erwin Carino** (G3, 11ID), **Cav Stephen Encarnacion** (G3, FSRR), **Cav Boysen Gawiden** (EXO, G3, PA), **Cav Mags Mapalad** (G3,3ID), **Cav Romar Marvida** (G3, IMCOM), **Cav Roel Tabas** (G3, TRACOM), **Cav Sid Vicente** (G3, 7ID), **Cav Evelio Ilanga III** (EXO, 302 BDE), **Cav Nante Occiano** (EXO, 903BDE).

The lone intelligent Army planner is **Cav Atty Harvey Gernale** (G5, SOCOM).

Experts in Comms and Weapons are **Cav Jo Perlas** (DG6, PA), **Cav Romil Calero** (EXO, G6, PA), **Cav Vic Pulmano** (EXO, OCOCS), and **Cav Odi Barrientos** (G6, AD).

Immersed in the populace performing community relations are **Cav Nass Arojo** (GC, 8CRG), **Cav Manny Diasen** (G7, 5ID), **Cav Chris Mugot** (G7, 4ID), and **Cav Orly Ramos** (G7, 9ID).

Honing the knowledge and skills of PA personnel are **Cav Perci Alcanar** (CMDT, SS, TRACOM), **Cav Aris Antonio** (G8, 4ID), **Cav Lemuel Baduya** (CMDT, MCS TRACOM), **Cav Bert Batingga** (CMDT, 4DTS), **Cav Jerome Cabigon** (DGC, 2TG, TRACOM), **Cav Julius Munar** (CMDT, RTS, RESCOM), **Cav Filven Noche** (C,CLM DEPT, CGSC), **Cav Ric Dayata** (CMDT, SRTS, FSRR), **Cav Joel Delmendo** (CMDT, 11DTS), **Cav Nelson Mico** (H, ACAD, CGSC), **Cav ToniFer Solamo** (CMDT, 10DTS), **Cav Angel Valenzuela** (G8, IMCOM), **Cav Gladius Calilan** (1TG, TRACOM), **Cav Don Frivaldo** (G8, AD), and **Cav Farah Askalani** (AFPETC).

Mistahs still skirmishing in the operational areas are **Cav Will Sabado** (CO, 1MECH, AD) and **Cav Laz Quigao Jr** (CO, 2IB, 9ID).

Managing the human resources of the PA and AFP are **Cav Ronie Desingano** (C,MPAD, OJ1), **Cav Jo Estrada** (G1, 3ID), and **Cav Pete Solosa** (G1, 9ID).

Fighting the communist-terrorist organization in a different battle arena (NTF-ELCAC) are **Cav Paeng Caido** (DI, NS) and **Cav Iko Sasing** (CS, NS).

Kaakibat Mayor (not in politics), managing a PA camp is **Cav Fred San Agustin Jr** (CO, 16IMB, IMCOM).

Performing inspections and audits to ensure the readiness of PA units and accountabilities of officers are **Cav Ric Agojo** (DEP IG, 11ID) and **Cav Jason Domingo** (C, Admin Div, OTIA).

Pursuing academic excellence here and abroad are **Cav Homer Estolas, Cav JP Baldomar,** and **Cav Jerold Jale**.

Other mistahs performing equally important tasks are **Cav Francis Rugayan** (AC, OSJS, AFP), **Cav Rey Taqueban** (GC, 103CDC, 1RCDG, RESCOM), **Cav Mike Rayman** (C, 1ST GLMBn), **Cav Jess Jumawan** Jr (CO, FS, HHSG, PA), and **Cav Benjie Cadiente** (6ID).

Cav Ronie Torcelino left the Army and joined the PCG making him the first CGPA of the Class…Coast Guard – Philippine Army.

The only foreign army officer mistah and doing good in his career is **Cav Mongkol Khum**-Arwut (Thai Army).

Bowing out from the military service to pursue other careers are **Cav Ryan Villar** and **Cav Ian Hamlag**. Mistahs who have retired earlier are **Cav Arbern Abiva, Cav Glenn Apresto, Cav Pau Busog, Cav Alex Cabales, Cav Angel Araneta, Cav Jo Arriola** (LTO), **Cav Aldrin Baldonado, Cav Regie Coloma, Cav Jacon Cordero, Cav Gomer Dela Roca, Cav Vangie Espanola, Cav Julius Espiritu, Cav Ysmael Estacio, Cav Henry Guillermo, Cav Mar Hidalgo** (Councilor), **Cav Gen Ignacio, Cav Rich Mabalod, Cav Ron Malcon, Cav Bryan Puncia, Cav Glo Ramos, Cav Warjam Tayaban, Cav Ronie Vento**, and **Cav Antero Prado** (BOC),

Aim High…Kaakibat Army Guys!

PMA Kaakibat Class of 2001 marches on in service to God, country, and people.

Kaakbay at Kabalikat, ***KAAKIBAT*** *tungo sa pag-unlad. Mabuhay!*



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

LAST CALL

COL JOSE FLORENCIO B JUNIO '74
17 Apr 1950 – 02 Feb 2026



The members of PMA Class of 1974 and friends of Cav Junio mourned his sudden demise on 02 February. Wake was held at St. Mark Chapel, PAF Mortuary, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City where necrological service was held on 11 February. He was laid to his final resting place on 12 February at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

COL DARWIN B SACRAMED '99
18 Aug 1977 – 18 Mar 2026



Former Provincial Administrator of Cagayan Province, Cav Sacramed joined our Creator on 18 March 2026. Cav Sacramed also served with various PAF units, to include 5th Fighter Wing, 505th Search and Rescue Group and the Air Force Officer School. After his retirement from the PAF, he continued serving the country as Provincial Administrator of Cagayan Province and head of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.

He left behind his wife Dra. Connie Marie with whom he has three children.

BGEN MARCELO S SANTOS '74
22 Dec 1948 – 19 Mar 2026



Cav Santos passed away on 19 March 2026 at Jesus Nazarene General Hospital in Lingayen, Pangasinan due to cardio pulmonary arrest, he was 77. Inurnment was held in his hometown in Pangasinan.

COL ALFREDO T CAYCO '81
08 Oct 1958 - 06 Apr 2026



Cav Cayco passed away on 06 April after a massive heart attack. He retired from the Philippine Air Force and thereafter served as the Municipal Peace and Safety Officer of Taytay, Rizal until 2018.

The 970th Honor Escort and Ceremonial Group, PAF rendered final honors to Cav Cayco on 11 April during his interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

COL OSCAR C SOLAMO JR '85
26 Mar 1962 - 10 Apr 2026



Cav Solamo, a member of PMA "Sandiwa" Class of 1985 joined our Creator on April 10 leaving behind his caring wife Leonila. Funeral services were held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on April 11-14; Brgy Pob. Liangan, Surigao del Sur on April 15-19; and at Penaplata, Island Garden City of Samal on April 20-24. Interment was on April 25 at Samal island Memorial Park.

COL ANDREW B BACALA JR '94
02 Jan 1972 – 14 Apr 2026



Cav Bacala, a highly decorated and respected officer in the Phil. Army's Special Forces Regiment passed away 14 April 2026. He served as the Battalion Commander of the 4th Special Forces Battalion and was known for his bravery, leadership, and dedication to duty. Burial rites were held on 22 April in Barangay Tumitus, Vitali District, Zamboanga City.

CAV AUDIE SERRANO
(PMAAAI Associate Member)
08 Nov 1955 – 21 Apr 2026



Cav Serrano, an associate member of PMAAAI passed away on 21 April 2026. Funeral services to honor Cav Serrano's well lived life were held on April 23 – 24 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. and on April 25 at CCF Katipunan, U.P. Town Center, Q.C.

PGEN WILFREDO V GARCIA '74
05 Nov 1951 – 24 Apr 2026



Former PMA Class of 1974 Secretary, Cav Garcia passed away on April 24. Wake was held at The Chapels, Heritage Park, Taguig on April 25-28. Necrological services to honor his life was on April 27, after which he was interred the following day with full military honors at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

Cav Garcia is survived by his wife Mars Hazel Vidanes-Garcia, four children and three grandchildren.

BGEN RENATO A ECARMA '55
19 Nov 1933 – 25 Apr 2026



Cav Ecarma, a member of PMA Class of 1955 joined our Creator on 25 April, he was 92. Memorial service to celebrate his life was held at The Chapels at Heritage Park, Taguig on April 26-27. Inurnment was on April 28 at the Garden of the Divine Word Columbarium, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Q.C.

COMMO ARTURO Y CAPADA '63
08 Sept 1941 – 28 Apr 2026



Cav Capada peacefully joined our Creator on 28 April. He was a former Commandant of the Phil. Coast Guard. He took his position as Commandant, Phil. Coast Guard on 17 Oct 1994. Wake was held on April 30 at the Bonifacio Hall, Manila Memorial Park, Paranaque City. He is survived by his wife Vicky with whom he was blessed with five children: Vina, Arthur, Arvin, Argie, and Victor.

RADM SISENANDO G PEREZ JR '67
25 Aug 1944 - 28 Apr 2026



Cav Perez passed away on 28 April. A dedicated officer, a true patriot, and a selfless servant of the Filipino people. For his demonstrated dedication to his duties, he was assigned to vital command and staff positions, among them: Commander of Naval Forces Central from 16 Dec 1998 to 31 July 1999 and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel from 1999 to 2002.

Necrological service was held on 01 May and inurnment on 02 May at the Heritage Park, Taguig City.

COL DANIEL C ALZAGA '93
17 Dec 1969 - 29 Apr 2026



Cav Alzaga passed away on 29 April. His remains laid in state on May 01 – 04 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani where he was given a hero's burial on 05 May.

COL PEDRITO P ALBAN '86
29 June 1962 – 15 May 2026



Cav Alban, a member of PMA "Sinagtala" Class of 1986 passed away on 15 May 2026. Wake and interment were held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

CPT RUTH ANGELIQUE R PASOS '19
23 Dec 1997 - 20 May 2026



Cav Pasos lost her life after her SF-260 trainer aircraft encountered a mishap in Mt. Cabuyao, Tuba, Benguet during a Military Pilot Training mission. She was a member of PMA "Mabalasik" Class of 2019, where she graduated ninth out of 263 cadets. She was raised in Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

Wake was held on 21-25 May at the CJVAB Mortuary, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City where necrological service was held on 25 May. She was interred at her final resting place on 26 May at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

1LT CHERKY E EMBUDO '24
03 Sept 2002 - 20 May 2026



Cav Embudo and Cav Pasos lost their lives after their SF-260 trainer aircraft encountered a mishap in Mt. Cabuyao, Tuba, Benguet during a Military Pilot Training mission. He was a member of PMA "Bagong Sinag" Class of 2024,

Wake was held at the CJVAB Mortuary, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. He was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 26 May.

CAPT RODOLFO T JAVIER '63
07 Sept 1937 – 26 May 2026



Cav Javier joined his Creator on 26 May at the Capitol Medical Center, Q.C. where he was confined at the age of 88. He was a devoted husband to Ofelia and a loving father to his four children: Bonifacio, Rizaldy, Rhodesa, and Russ Jayson. Memorial services were held at the Mortuary 3, Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig on May 30 – June 3. Interment was on June 4 at the LNMB.

BGEN PEDRO RAMON L SINAJON JR '78
08 Feb 1956 – 28 May 2026



Cav Sinajon, born in Cebu, died peacefully on 28 May 2026. A devoted husband to Rose and a benevolent father to his three children: Roselle, Dimple, and Jason. Beyond retirement, he dedicated his time and efforts to the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

Funeral services were held on May 30 - June 1 at Room 1 Phil. Army Mortuary, Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City, where necrological service was held on June 1. He was interred on June 2 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City.

PBGEN DOMINADOR A DOMINGO '71
12 Oct 1947 - 29 May 2026



Cav Domingo passed away on 29 May. His remains laid in state at St. Ignatius Funeral Homes, Bonny Serrano, Q.C. on May 30-June 3; and at St Joseph Parish Camp Crame on June 3-4. Cremation was held on June 4 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Commonwealth, Avenue, Q.C. He left behind his wife Jane Arlene and children: Tina, Abe, and Jason.

COL JUAN M SANCHEZ '55
24 June 1931 - 30 May 2026



Cav Sanchez, former Municipal Mayor of Lubang, Occidental Mindoro passed away on 30 May, he was 94. He was married to former Pilar Calderon with whom he has five children: Jojo, Yanina, Cecilia, Conchitina and Bobby. A dedicated public servant, a respected leader, and a man of honor whose service to Lubang will always be remembered. Wake was held on June 2 to June 5 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City where he was laid to his final resting place on June 6.

CAV MARLON O VILLARALVO '78
9 Oct 1955 - 03 June 2026



Cav Villaralvo died on 03 June 2026. His remains laid in state at Chapel 1, PN Mortuary, BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

BGEN RAMON E LORIA '80
19 Dec 1957 - 4 June 2026



Memorial service was held starting June 5 at the PMA St. Ignatius Chapel, Baguio City where a farewell mass was held on June 8, after which he was cremated.

COL HERBERT T ESTEBAN '99
23 Sept 1973 - 07 June 2026



Cav Esteban passed away due to cardiac arrest on 07 June at St. Lukes, BGC. Wake was held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

PCOL MELECIO C LABALAN, JR '83
18 June 1960 - 09 June 2026

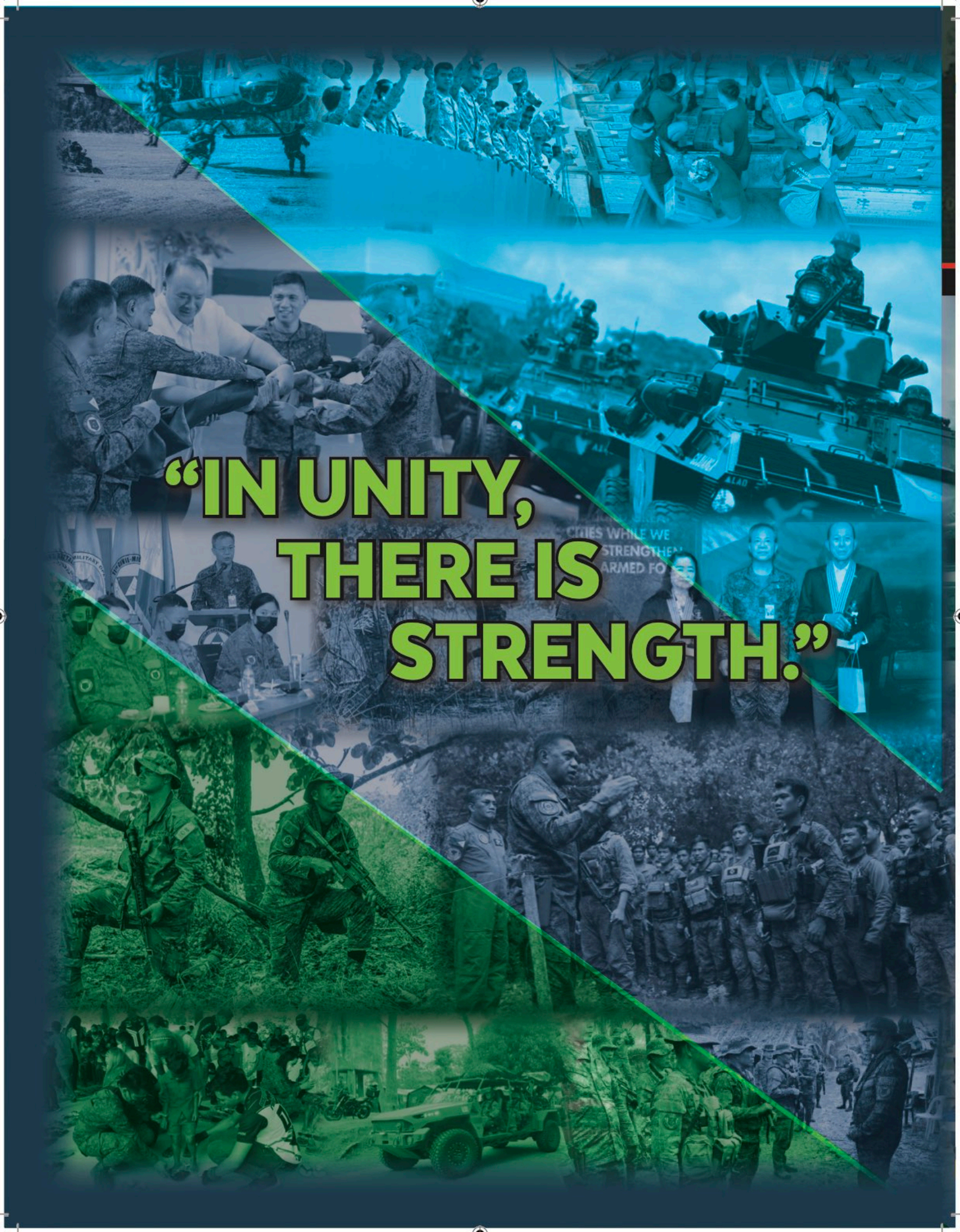


Cav Labalan, age 65, passed away on 09 June 2026 at UC Health Medical Center of the Rockies, located in Loveland, Colorado. He passed away just nine days before his 66th birthday. A member of PMA Class of 1983, he retired from the police service in March 1999. He is survived by his loving wife, Nelda; four sons: Jose Carlo Luis, Miko, Kim Justin, and Melecio (Thirdy).

LTCOL FAYE GOMEZ-MICOR '99
21 Aug 1975 – 10 June 2026



Cav Faye Micor joined our Creator on 10 June 2026. Funeral services were held on June 10-12 at Mactan Air Base Chapel, Lapu-lapu, Cebu and June 13 onwards at the VAB Mortuary, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City. She was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on 18 June.


"IN UNITY,
THERE IS
STRENGTH."