



# The **CAVALIER**

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

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

Visit us at [www.pmaaa.org](http://www.pmaaa.org)

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2026



## Sustaining SERVICE



## ABOUT THE COVER



The cover features the recent transitions of leadership within the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Army, and the Philippine Military Academy—each embodying the continuity of leadership, responsibility, and service. The succession of Gen. Antonio G. Nafarrete as Chief of Staff of the AFP, Lt. Gen. Donald M. Gumiran as Commanding General of the Philippine Army, and Lt. Gen. Michael G. Logico as Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy reflects the orderly passage of responsibility from one generation of leaders to the next.

Reflecting the theme “Sustaining Service,” these ceremonies remind us that while leaders change, the mission endures. The mantle of leadership is passed on, while the commitment to serve remains steadfast. (Cover Photos: Presidential Communications Office and PMAAPO)

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# The CAVALIER

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The **CAVALIER** Magazine is a professional journal published quarterly by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), to provide a general forum for the alumni of the Philippine Military Academy. The 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.

### Send your featured article to:

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# FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV RICARDO A DAVID, JR '77

## SUSTAINING SERVICE: The Continuing Commitment of the Long Gray Line

There comes a time when every Cavalier removes the uniform for the last time. Yet the values we learned at the Philippine Military Academy—and our responsibility to serve—do not end with retirement. For active Cavaliers, service means leadership, readiness, discipline, courage, and faithful defense of the nation. For retired Cavaliers, it continues through mentorship, civic engagement, fellowship, and support for fellow Cavaliers and their families. Service may change form, but never its purpose. We remain bound across classes, branches, and generations by our shared commitment to God, Country, and the Corps.

### SERVICE BEYOND THE UNIFORM

Retirement is not an end, but a new opportunity to use our experience for the Corps and the nation. Active Cavaliers must lead with integrity and uphold the honor of the Corps in every mission. Retired Cavaliers must guide younger leaders, strengthen institutions, and contribute to civic initiatives. Lessons learned in uniform should be shared, not lost.

### STRENGTHENING THE LONG GRAY LINE

The Long Gray Line relies on every generation. Senior Cavaliers offer wisdom and institutional memory; younger Cavaliers bring energy and fresh perspectives. We must expand opportunities for mentorship and collaboration—sharing both achievements and failures—so that no Cavalier feels forgotten or disconnected.

### TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

Sustaining service means supporting Cavaliers and their families during illness, financial hardship, disability, or bereavement. Whether visiting a sick classmate or guiding a struggling officer, these acts affirm that the spirit of the Corps remains alive. During PETFI's 50th Golden Anniversary, I proposed that all Cavaliers become members of PETFI as an active expression of our responsibility to the families of our fallen brothers.

### PRESERVING THE LEGACY

We must preserve the stories of those who came before us while keeping alumni organizations relevant. Tradition does not reject progress; our core values of honor, integrity, courage, loyalty, and selfless service must guide us as we adapt to new realities.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

Our commitment to service demands an uncompromising stand against corruption. Whether in government, the military, business, or civic life, we must uphold transparency, accountability, and competence while rejecting dishonesty, conflict of interest, and abuse of authority. Competence without integrity is not enough. These principles must also govern our alumni organizations. Leaders are temporary custodians, and every Cavalier who contributes deserves full transparency and responsible stewardship.

### BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ASSOCIATION

A strong alumni association requires sound financial management, responsible investments, and sustainable programs like an endowment fund. The Center for Leadership and Excellence should serve as a hub for learning, fellowship, professional development, and service—bringing Cavaliers together to support the Academy and sustain the Association.

### SERVICE TO THE NATION AND NEXT GENERATION

Our duty extends to national challenges in security, disaster response, technology, governance, and social development. Active and retired Cavaliers can contribute across all sectors. Crucially, we must empower younger Cavaliers to lead, innovate, and assume responsibility. Our legacy will be measured by the people we develop, the institutions we strengthen, and the country we help build.

### OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT

The uniform may be removed and assignments may end, but our values remain. Service becomes mentorship, stewardship, advocacy, and community engagement.

Let us strengthen the Long Gray Line, care for our own, practice good governance, reject corruption, prepare the next generation, and serve our beloved Philippines in every capacity we can. Our commitment to God, Country, and the Corps must never retire.

*Mabuhay ang Philippine Military Academy!  
Mabuhay ang Long Gray Line!*





# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97

## *President's Message given during the Unveiling of Class Crest of PMA 2026 at the Long Gray Line Memorial last 11 May 2026*

To the PMA Talang Dangal Class of 2026, this is your last full week in the Philippine Military Academy, as members of the Cadet Corps AFP. Your Class started with 350-strong cadet candidates in 2022 and will end with 207 graduates.

Therefore, I will begin my message with a **hope**—I **hope** that you have truly lived a full cadet experience, because cadetship comes only once. You pass through this portal just once in your life.

Thus, I **hope** you embraced everything that came with being a cadet—the prestige and the pressure, the laughter and the exhaustion, and the lessons that made your journey worthwhile—because one day, these will be the moments you will look back on with pride and gratitude.

I **hope** that you have experienced 'Take Life' in the Mess Hall as a plebe, along the hallways of Melchor Hall, and across the grounds of Fort del Pilar. I hope you have dozed off in the library or even under bunks; shared countless moments over boodlefeights; was given an SOP; and pushed your limits during FTXs and the footmarch to Mt. Cabuyao.

With the positive changes instituted, I **hope**, no, I am sure you no longer experience many of the inconvenient practices we once did—the mess-to-mess, the ingenious ways of using a pompom, a laundry bag, or a pair of combat boots, planting rice, or learning that "delta motors" meant something far more than a car dealership. But if you did, I **hope** that you found meaning in even these most undesirable habits—just as we did.

And beyond these shared experiences, I also **hope** that you made the most of your time here. I **hope** some of you earned academic, physical, and military awards. I **hope** that you consistently pass your PFTs. I **hope** many of you joined Corps Squads and Cadet Clubs, and not just boasting to your guests that you're a member of the Silent Drill Team B. And more importantly, I **hope** that you spent breaks and weekend privileges not alone, but in the homes and provinces of your *mistah*—building bonds that go beyond the barracks.

Because one day, these stories of every hardship, every touring, every endorsement, every absurdity, every small victory—will be told and retold in class reunions, alumni homecomings, and family gatherings. And you will realize that they were never small at all.

To the PMA Talang Dangal Class, you have learned that the hardest battle in a place built on discipline and strength is not



always physical - it is the one fought in your own mind. Along the way, some of you may have struggled silently—with doubt, with fatigue, even with depression. Negative thoughts and emotions does not care whether you are a cadet or not. It shows up quietly, even amongst the strongest.

After PMA, the service you are entering is filled with both highs and lows. Setbacks will challenge how you see yourself, especially when you are starting over. From being "*Immaculates*", you will soon report as "*Segunda Kamotes*"—you will be at the bottom of the hierarchy, again. A reminder that every leader must learn how to follow.

But hold on to **hope**. Carry with you a Positive Mental Attitude. As your Squad Leader once reminded you—sometimes, the simplest remedy still applies: "*itulog mo lang yan*", and face tomorrow stronger.

Likewise, I **hope** you remain forever grateful to the Academy. PMA was built to form leaders of character - and that means being shaped, challenged, and tested every step of the way. They may strip away your comfort and pride, but that is not punishment; it is training. So, remember this: you do not grow in comfort, but



in adversity. The same pressure you face as cadets is the same pressure that will make you stronger—as officers, as leaders, and as individuals.

As you move forward, I **hope** that you do not burn bridges—with your then upperclassmen—now your fellow junior officers, your subordinate cadets, and especially with one another. Show gratitude to your Tac-Os and academic professors. The profession you are entering is small, and reputations endure. It is only natural to harbor resentment for offenses, whether real or imagined. However, as Elsa emphatically said, *“Let it go!”* You will feel better off, both personally and in the service.

To the PMA Talang Dangal Class of 2026, I **hope** that you use what the Academy has given you—be purposeful warriors, wise soldier-teachers, clear-minded soldier-analysts, builders of peace, and partners in nation-building.

I **hope** that may you never forget where you came from. Give back to your Alma Mater. Strived to be reassigned to PMA someday. When nominated, joined the PMAAAI Board of Directors, or your respective Major Service Chapters. Serve when called, get involved, and contribute more than you received. But in the meantime, build your service reputation and earn every rank.

As your paths unfold, I **hope** that you will also find, in time, a partner in life—someone who will stand by you through the challenging demands of the profession. Having a good spouse may make or break your career. Build that family life with the same commitment you gave your cadetship and the profession of arms. Maintain a work-life balance, as well. Give your best as a Military professional, but give quality time for you and your family too.

But for now, pause—and look among you.

You stand here as one, a complete Class. But now, in this final week, you begin to drift into your own paths. Soon, the rendering report *“na napag-alaman po ang lahat”* will echo only in memory.

Because life will happen.

Some will be assigned far away.

Some will become too occupied.

Some will leave the service earlier than expected.

Some will face health challenges.

And some—may even give the ultimate sacrifice.

That is why this week matters.

Maximize it. Speak to every mistah or greet them at least once. Call each other by name - or nickname - one more time. Offer a firm handshake, a pat on the shoulder, or a warm embrace. And yes... You may even kiss each other—only if there's toothpaste involved.

Someday, when you'll have the opportunity to visit your Alma Mater, do visit your Class Crest - and remember not just who you became, but who you were, together. And as you take those memories with you, remember that you are about to become part of something greater than yourselves.

So lastly, carry this with you the acronym **HOPE**—Honor your duty, Overcome adversity, Persevere always, and Endure... because **HOPE** is the one thing that keeps every soldier standing, even when the battle is unseen.

Gentlemen and ladies, youngbloods, welcome... to the Long Gray Line!



# ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

## CAV NAFARRETE appointed as the new CSAFP

**P**resident Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed Philippine Army Commanding General CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE as the new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), ushering in a new era of military leadership as CAV ROMEO S BRAWNER JR. retired and completed his three-year fixed term on 21 July 2026.

A member of the PMA “Bigkis-Lahi” Class of 1990, CAV NAFARRETE has held key command and leadership positions, including Commander of the Western Mindanao Command, the 1st and the 6th Infantry Divisions, and as the 67th Commanding General of the Philippine Army. A full-blooded Scout Ranger, CAV NAFARRETE has led counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations across the country.

As AFP Chief of Staff, CAV NAFARRETE is expected to continue prioritizing troop welfare and capability modernization tailored to the country's defense needs, while maintaining a balanced focus on internal security and external defense, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.



**A NEW STAR.** President and Commander-in-Chief Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. and Secretary of National Defense Gilbert C Teodoro Jr. pin an additional star on CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE during his assumption as Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, on 21 July 2026.

## CAV GUMIRAN appointed as the 68th CG, PA



**TURNOVER OF COMMAND.** President and Commander-in-Chief Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. hands the saber to CAV DONALD M GUMIRAN during the Philippine Army Change of Command Ceremony at Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City, on 11 August 2026. GUMIRAN succeeds CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE as Commanding General. (Photos on this page: Presidential Communications Office)

**C**AV DONALD M GUMIRAN has been appointed as the 68th Commanding General of the Philippine Army, succeeding CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE, who was named the 61st Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

A member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) “Tanglaw-Diwa” Class of 1992, CAV GUMIRAN belongs to a class that has produced several senior military leaders.

Before assuming the Army's top post, he served as commander of the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), one of the AFP's unified commands responsible for security operations in Western Mindanao.

Earlier this year, he also headed the 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division, where he oversaw military operations in Central and South-Central Mindanao.

His appointment as the Army's 68th Commanding General marks another significant milestone in a career shaped by extensive operational and command experience.



## CAV LOGICO named new PMA Superintendent

**C**AV MICHAEL G LOGICO assumed command as the 86th Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), succeeding CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA, during a change of command ceremony held in Baguio City on 22 July.

AFP Chief of Staff CAV ANTONIO NAFARRETE presided over the ceremony, which also featured the donning of CAV LOGICO's third star as he took on his new assignment.

A member of the PMA "Maalab" Class of 1993, CAV LOGICO previously served as commander of the Philippine Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

Throughout his military career, he has held key leadership positions in military training, doctrine development, joint exercises, and special operations.

As PMA Superintendent, CAV LOGICO now leads the country's premier military academy, responsible for developing future officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.



**LEADERSHIP TRANSITION.** AFP Chief of Staff, CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE presides over the change of command ceremony as CAV MICHAEL G LOGICO assumes as the 86th Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy on 22 July 2026 at Fort General Gregorio H. del Pilar, Baguio City. (Photo courtesy of PMAPAO)

## PMAAAI pays courtesy call on the new CGPA



**A**ugust 04, 2026 - The PMAAAI Board of Directors, led by GEN RICARDO A DAVID JR., AFP (Ret), Chairman and CEO, paid a courtesy call on LTGEN DONALD M GUMIRAN, PA, Commanding General of the Philippine Army (CGPA).

The visit was held to personally convey PMAAAI's congratulations on General Gumiran's appointment—a proud moment for the Long Gray Line, as he is a distinguished member

of PMA Class 1992 now assuming the highest leadership position in the Philippine Army.

Beyond the congratulatory visit, the courtesy call was an opportunity to reaffirm PMAAAI's continuing partnership with the Philippine Army; from collaborative programs at the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence (CLE), to stronger representation and participation of Army Cavaliers in the Association's activities.



# CAVALIERS' CUP 2026:

## Warriors Reunite in the Spirit of Excellence and Camaraderie

The Cavaliers' Cup 2026 brought together representatives from the Philippine Navy, Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, and Philippine Coast Guard in a celebration of sportsmanship, excellence, and camaraderie.

The Philippine Navy dominated the tournament, winning seven (7) of the eight championship titles, while the Philippine

Army captured the Table Tennis championship. The Philippine Air Force and Philippine Coast Guard also delivered strong performances, making the competition spirited and memorable.

More than a sporting event, the Cavalier's Cup reaffirmed the enduring bonds of friendship, professionalism, and unity among the country's uniformed services.




### CAVALIERS' CUP 2026

#### OPENS WITH STRONG SHOWING OF CAVALIER UNITY

**Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City** – The Cavaliers' Cup 2026 officially opened on 20 June 2026 at the Philippine Army Gymnasium, drawing an impressive gathering of 427 Cavaliers representing various PMA alumni chapters.

The remarkable turnout underscored the enduring spirit of camaraderie, sportsmanship, and unity that continues to define the Long Gray Line. The opening ceremony served not only as the start of this year's athletic competitions but also as a celebration of the values that bind generations of Cavaliers together.

Representatives from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, and Philippine National Police (PNP) Chapters proudly raised their chapter banners, symbolizing solidarity, friendly competition, and the unwavering brotherhood shared by all members of the Philippine Military Academy alumni community.

## 427 CAVALIERS STRONG

As the competitions begin, participants and supporters alike are reminded of the ideals that unite them:

- ONE CAVALIER SPIRIT.
- ONE PMA BROTHERHOOD.
- ONE LONG GRAY LINE.

More than a sporting event, the Cavaliers' Cup is a celebration of leadership, honor, teamwork, service, and fellowship—core values that continue to guide Cavaliers in their respective fields of service and endeavors.

Congratulations to the Cavaliers' Cup 2026 Organizing Committee, the Sports Committee, chapter leaders, volunteers, and all participating Cavaliers for a successful opening ceremony and an inspiring start to this year's games.

*Palayan ang pagkakaisa, pagkakabitigan, at dinang Cavaliers!*



### OFFICIAL RESULTS

| EVENT          | CHAMPION | 1 <sup>ST</sup> RUNNER-UP | 2 <sup>ND</sup> RUNNER-UP | 3 <sup>RD</sup> RUNNER-UP |
|----------------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| FUN RELAY GAME | PN       | PA                        | PCG                       | PAF                       |
| CHESS          | PN       | PAF                       | PA / PCG                  | —                         |
| VOLLEYBALL     | PN       | PAF                       | PCG                       | PA                        |
| BADMINTON      | PN       | PAF                       | PCG                       | PA                        |
| TABLE TENNIS   | PA       | PN                        | PAF                       | PCG                       |
| BASKETBALL     | PN       | PAF                       | PA                        | PCG                       |
| PICKLEBALL     | PN       | PA                        | PAF                       | PCG                       |
| LAWN TENNIS    | PN       | PAF                       | PA / PCG                  | —                         |

| OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP TALLY |                        |   |                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| PN                         | PHILIPPINE NAVY        | 7 | PN PHILIPPINE NAVY         |
| PA                         | PHILIPPINE ARMY        | 1 | PA PHILIPPINE ARMY         |
| PAF                        | PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE   | 0 | PAF PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE   |
| PCG                        | PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD | 0 | PCG PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD |



## PMAAAI-PMARAI and VMMC Conduct Successful Free Vaccination Drive

• **CAV NARCISO A VINGSON, JR '85**  
Executive Director, PMAAAI

**O**n 17 July 2026, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) and the Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI), in partnership with the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), successfully conducted a Free Vaccination Drive for PMARAI members and their spouses, reaffirming their shared commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of the military retiree community.

The activity commenced with the vaccination proper, during which the dedicated VMMC medical team efficiently and safely administered 118 influenza (flu) vaccines and 46 pneumococcal (pneumonia) vaccines, benefiting a total of 164 PMARAI members and their spouses. The vaccination process was carried out in an organized and orderly manner, with the enthusiastic participation and cooperation of the members contributing significantly to the smooth and successful conduct of the activity.

A short program followed the vaccination drive. CAV ROMEO C PRESTOZA '78, Chairman of PMARAI, delivered the opening remarks, welcoming the participants and expressing gratitude to all partner organizations, volunteers, and members for their unwavering support. This was followed by a message from DR. JAN PATRICK C MANGROBANG, Chairman of the Mission Medical Committee, who underscored the importance of preventive healthcare and regular immunization in protecting retirees and

their families against vaccine- preventable diseases.

In recognition of their invaluable service and dedication, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the 20 VMMC volunteers, whose professionalism and commitment greatly contributed to the successful conduct of the vaccination drive. The program concluded with the closing remarks of CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR. '77, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of PMAAAI, who emphasized that the success of the initiative was the result of the collective efforts of VMMC, PMAAAI, PMARAI, the Organizing Committee, the Mission Medical Committee, the volunteers, and the members who participated in the vaccination drive. A photo opportunity followed to commemorate the successful event.

The PMAAAI and PMARAI extend their heartfelt appreciation to the VMMC, the Organizing Committee, PMAAAI and PMARAI, the 20 VMMC volunteers, and, most especially, the PMARAI members and their spouses who participated in the vaccination drive. Their trust, cooperation, and active participation made this meaningful health initiative a resounding success.

The successful vaccination drive reflects the continuing commitment of PMAAAI and PMARAI to promote preventive healthcare, enhance the quality of life of their members, and strengthen partnerships that advance the welfare of the PMA alumni and retiree community.



# PGMC Pension Caravan: PMAAAI and CPCP Host PGMC Briefing



**O**n 30 July 2026, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), through the Council of PMA Class Presidents (CPCP), successfully conducted the PGMC Pension Caravan at the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence, Lawton Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. This event reaffirms the association's commitment to keeping alumni informed and supported on matters affecting their pension and gratuity benefits.

The activity commenced with a briefing led by Commodore Luidegar C Casis, PN Chief of the Pension and Gratuity Management Center (PGMC), who served as resource speaker for the event, conducted via hybrid format to accommodate both onsite and online participants.

## DISCUSSION ON PGMC

Commo Casis provided updates on PGMC's pension and gratuity benefits, policies, and program highlights, briefing the CPCP on matters directly affecting the welfare of PMA pensioners nationwide, currently numbering 141,935.

Commo Casis discussed the HEROES Program and its framework anchored on four pillars: 1. Responsive Customer Service; 2. Extensive Information Dissemination; 3. Responsive Communication and Support Services; and 4. Strengthened Partnership and Engagement.

He also introduced the HEROES Mobile App, developed to give pensioners more direct and convenient access to their benefits information.

On the way ahead, he cited PGMC's strategic partnerships with Timezone Collaboration, the Makati Medical Center Foundation, InDrive, and the Department of Transportation (DOTr), along with recent successful outreach initiatives such as Veteride 2026, the 2<sup>nd</sup> VeteRun 2026 held at Freedom Park, Davao City and the ongoing HEROES Café. An open forum followed, allowing CPCP members to raise questions and clarifications directly with Commo Casis.

## CPCP'S INFORMATION SERIES

The event was held under the continuing initiative of the CPCP, the official information arm of PMAAAI to PMA classes to invite representatives from relevant government agencies to PMAAAI meetings, ensuring that alumni receive timely and accurate updates on matters that affect them.

The CPCP Information Series will continue in the coming months, featuring the following resource speakers: the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) in August; the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, J1 in September; the Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs (RRA), J9 in October; and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) in November.





# GOC 2026

GOLF FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

CAMARADERIE • SPORTSMANSHIP • A HIGHER PURPOSE

Play  
Compete  
Be Recognized

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



# GOC 2026

GOLF FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW  
CAMARADERIE • SPORTSMANSHIP • A HIGHER PURPOSE



Play  
Compete  
Be Recognized

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## MORE THAN A GAME

The Game of the Cavaliers brings generations together through golf, fellowship, healthy competition, and a shared commitment to strengthening the PMA alumni community.

The Game of the Cavaliers (GOC) has become one of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.'s flagship programs—bringing Cavaliers across generations together in an atmosphere of friendly competition, fellowship, and common purpose.

For 2026, the tournament carries the theme:

***"Forging Camaraderie, Driving Excellence, Sustaining the Cavalier Legacy."***

It reflects what GOC has steadily become: not simply an annual golf tournament, but a gathering that reinforces the bonds among Cavaliers while supporting the Association's fundraising initiatives.

### CAMARADERIE

Bringing together Cavaliers from different generations and backgrounds.

### EXCELLENCE

Encouraging disciplined competition, sportsmanship, and recognition.

### HIGHER PURPOSE

Generating support for PMAAAI programs through one of the Association's major fundraising activities.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

17–22 NOVEMBER 2026

Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course • Villamor Air Base Golf Course • Philippine Navy Golf Course  
Awarding Ceremony: 22 November 2026 (Sunday), 1:00 PM | Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course (CAGC)

FORGING CAMARADERIE • DRIVING EXCELLENCE • SUSTAINING THE CAVALIER LEGACY

## FIVE GENERATIONS. THREE COURSES. ONE CAVALIER COMMUNITY.

'60s / '80s '90s 2000s 2010s / 20s

Different generations. One heritage. One game.

The team competition organizes players into five generational divisions, with the top five scores per round counting toward each team's standing.



PLAY. COMPETE.  
BE RECOGNIZED.

GOC 2026 provides avenues for both team and individual competition. Regular Members and Cavalier Ladies compete under Net Stroke Play, while approved Associate and Honorary Members, Cavalier Friends and Ladies, and Cavalier Family participants compete under System 36.

54

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### 32 INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Including the premier Lowest Gross – GOC Champion, with GOC Jacket and Trophy, and Lowest Net – Overall Net Champion.

### 10 TEAM AWARDS

Champion and Runner-Up recognition across the five generational divisions.

### 12 SPECIAL AWARDS

Recognizing Lady Cavaliers, Associate/Honorary Members, Friends, Cavalier Family, Best Dressed Class, and Cadet Company.

## PLAYING FOR A STRONGER TOMORROW

What gives the Game of the Cavaliers its enduring value is not found only on the scorecard. It is found in classmates meeting again after years apart; senior Cavaliers sharing a fairway with younger generations; families and friends becoming part of the fellowship; and alumni reconnecting through the traditions and values they share.

*"Golf brings us to the course. Camaraderie brings us together. Purpose keeps the Cavalier legacy moving forward."*

GAME OF THE CAVALIERS 2026 | 17–22 NOVEMBER 2026

Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course • Villamor Air Base Golf Course • Philippine Navy Golf Course

FORGING CAMARADERIE  
DRIVING EXCELLENCE  
SUSTAINING THE CAVALIER LEGACY





# Executive Director's REPORT

CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85



## Harnessing the Collective Expertise of Cavaliers

### The Center for Leadership and Excellence: A Strategic Way Forward

For generations, graduates of the Philippine Military Academy have served the nation in positions of exceptional responsibility. They have commanded military organizations, formulated strategy, managed crises, protected communities, built institutions, shaped policy, led government agencies and private organizations, and contributed to national development.

Through these varied careers, Cavaliers have accumulated an extraordinary body of knowledge and experience. The recent approval in principle of the strategic enhancement of the Center for Leadership and Excellence (CLE) provides a timely way forward—transforming this collective expertise into an enduring institutional resource for the Association, the Academy, and the nation.

### OUR GREATEST STRATEGIC ASSET

PMAAAI's greatest strategic asset is its people – its alumni.

Across generations, Cavaliers possess deep experience in leadership, security and resilience. These competencies are complemented by expertise in government, diplomacy, business, academia, technology, engineering, medicine, law and other professions.

Those still in active service bring current operational knowledge and emerging perspectives. Retired Cavaliers contribute decades of experience, institutional memory and strategic insight. Alumni in the professions and private sector bring cross-sector knowledge, innovation and specialized expertise.

Together, they constitute one of PMAAAI's greatest strategic assets.

### FROM INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE TO INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Much of the most valuable knowledge acquired throughout a Cavalier's career cannot be learned from books alone. How does

a leader make critical decisions when information is incomplete? How does an organization remain cohesive under pressure? How does a commander balance operational, strategic, political, and humanitarian considerations? How does an institution prepare for disruption, respond to crisis, and emerge stronger?

These lessons are developed through experience. Yet when knowledge remains only with individuals, its institutional value is limited.

As Cavaliers move through different stages of their careers and into different sectors, their expertise naturally becomes dispersed.

PMAAAI therefore has an opportunity to transform individual experience into collective and enduring institutional knowledge.



**"The expertise already exists.  
The challenge is to harness it."**



*CLE can provide an intergenerational platform where Cavaliers teach, mentor, learn from one another, and preserve knowledge for succeeding generations.*

### FOCUS ON WHAT PMAAAI KNOWS BEST

PMAAAI need not attempt to become an institution that does everything. The enhanced CLE should initially concentrate on areas where the Association possesses deep experience and a credible comparative advantage:

- **LEADERSHIP**  
Command • Executive Leadership • Ethics • Mentorship
- **SECURITY**  
National Security • Defense • Strategic Studies • Emerging Security Challenges
- **RESILIENCE**  
Crisis Leadership • Disaster Response • Humanitarian Assistance • Organizational Resilience



### CONNECTING GENERATIONS OF CAVALIERS

A key component of the enhanced CLE can be a CLE Fellows and Experts Network. This network can bring together alumni at different stages of their professional lives.

Retired senior leaders can serve as mentors, lecturers, advisers and repositories of institutional memory. Active and professionally engaged alumni can contribute current operational

knowledge, emerging perspectives, innovation and specialized expertise.

Knowledge sharing should work in both directions. CLE can become an intergenerational knowledge network where Cavaliers continue to learn from each other.

### THE HEADQUARTERS ENABLES THE VISION

The new PMAAAI Headquarters gives this concept a physical and technological home.

### FUNCTION ROOMS

- Executive education
- Workshops
- Mentoring

### BALLROOM / LED WALL

- Leadership forums
- Security dialogues
- Conferences

### COMPUTER FACILITIES

- Digital learning
- AI & emerging tech
- Hybrid programs

### FROM APPROVAL TO ACTION

With the strategic enhancement of CLE already approved in principle, the next step is operationalization.

CLE can start lean: identify alumni expertise, establish the Fellows and Experts Network, select pilot programs, develop partnerships, and demonstrate value before expanding.

One practical starting point is a Cavalier Expertise Registry—a voluntary database of Cavaliers willing to participate as mentors, lecturers, researchers, advisers or resource persons.

Success should be measured by the quality of expertise mobilized, knowledge preserved, Cavaliers mentored, partnerships created, and institutional value generated.

## OUR CAVALIERS POSSESS THE EXPERTISE.

*PMAAAI provides the network. Our headquarters provides the facilities. CLE provides the platform that brings them together.*



*From individual experience  
to collective wisdom.  
From distinguished service  
to continuing service.*

**THIS IS A STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD FOR PMAAAI.**



# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CAV MICHAEL G LOGICO '93

## Guided by Tradition, Embracing Innovation Toward PMA 2028

**W**e are at the threshold of a monumental era of modernization and transformation. During the PMA Change of Command Ceremony on 22 July 2026, we marked a defining transition in the leadership of the Philippine Military Academy. VICE ADMIRAL CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA PN officially relinquished command. This ceremony not only celebrated his distinguished service to the Academy but also ushered in a new chapter of responsibility for me, as I formally assumed command as the 86th Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy.

In my inaugural address as the newly minted Superintendent, I articulated a vision that re-anchors the core purpose of a cadet's education and development. My command philosophy shifts the paradigm of military leadership away from personal ambition and toward a long-term covenant of selfless service to the Filipino people. I firmly believe that the true metric of an officer's career is not defined by rapid promotions, personal advancement, or individual accolades, but by their unwavering commitment to safeguarding our national sovereignty and serving our citizens throughout their lives.

*"My mission as Superintendent extends beyond merely commissioning officers. It is about developing leaders of character who are deeply committed to serving the Filipino people throughout their lives. We must prepare our future officers to lead amid the challenges of modern warfare while remaining steadfast in honor, integrity, and selfless service."*

— LTGEN Michael G Logico PA, 86<sup>th</sup> Superintendent

To operationalize this, we have been building on the momentum attained under the PMA 2028 Strategic Roadmap. This strategic framework seeks to synthesize the timeless, honor-bound traditions of the Academy with rapid institutional, tactical, and technological innovations. This report serves as our accounting on significant progress we achieved during the third quarter of 2026, sharing with you updates on our ongoing efforts to transform PMA into a premier training ground for operationally relevant, highly adaptive, and technologically adept leaders who are fully prepared to safeguard national security in an increasingly complex and multi-domain threat environment.

We start by ensuring organizational stability and seamless continuity in command functions which are critical pre-requisites for executing our mission as a military training institution. To support my strategic objectives, we executed several key leadership transitions within the Academy's primary staff and administrative offices in August 2026. These administrative transitions ensure that our Academy remains highly responsive to the evolving requirements of the AFP and the broader national defense sector.

In August 2026, a joint change-of-chief-of-office ceremony was conducted, marking the transition of key administrative posts. BRIGADIER GENERAL KIM ERIC ALEXANDER D AGATEP PAF officially assumed office as the Assistant Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy. Having served with immense distinction as our Chief of Staff from September 2022 to August 2026, this transition brings deep administrative experience, institutional memory, and operational insight to the Assistant Superintendent position. In recognition of his invaluable service and leadership during his four-year tenure as Chief of Staff, he was formally honored with a prestigious service award during the ceremony.

Concurrently, CAPTAIN JOHN RONALD A MANGAHAS PN(GSC) assumed the vital post of Chief of Staff of the Academy in an acting capacity. This leadership hand-off guarantees that the day-to-day administrative machinery of PMA continues to run with maximum efficiency. It ensures that my office's policy directives, curriculum reviews, and operational plans are executed with the highest degree of coordination across all levels of PMA.

In addition to leadership updates, we have significantly bolstered our logistical infrastructure to enhance operational efficiency. On 03 August 2026, we facilitated the blessing and ceremonial turnover of five (5) newly acquired service vehicles. These mobility assets are strategically vital to our day-to-day administration. They strengthen logistical support for cadet field training, cross-regional operations, and institutional transport, ensuring that logistical constraints do not impede our rigorous and demanding schedule.

Furthermore, our Academy rendered the Testimonial Parade and Review in honor of the following generals and in recognition of their lifelong military service: LTGEN FERDINAND T BARANDON PA '91, MGEN JOSEPH NORWIND D PASAMONTE PA '91, MGEN VICENTE MARK ANTHONY P BLANCO III PN(M) '91, MGEN ALDWINE I ALMASE PA '92, BGEN ALDRIN S ANNANI PAF '92, BGEN JOSE RICKY A LANIOG PA '92, BGEN HUBERT S ACIERTO PA '93, BGEN RODERICK BALBANERO PA '94, BGEN PATRICK B DE VILLA PA '94, and, BGEN MANOLITO F MONTIEL PA '92.

By securing experienced administrative leaders, enhancing our logistical mobility, and honoring lifelong service to the country, we are inching closer to achieving our strategic objectives. But of course, at the center of the Academy remains our cadets. At its core, PMA is about developing them into men and women of character with skills

and knowledge fit to win modern wars. The systematic and rigorous transformation of young citizens into disciplined, ethical, and resilient leaders of character. The third quarter of 2026 marked a historic milestone in this ongoing mission as PMA Class 2030 officially took its place within the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The journey of PMA Class 2030 began through a highly competitive, nation-wide selection process. A staggering 33,640 applicants participated in the PMA Entrance Examination (PMAEE). Following rigorous physical, medical, psychological, and academic evaluations, a highly select group of 342 Fourth Class Cadets earned their place in the New Cadet Battalion (NCBN). This elite cohort, consisting of 266 males and 76 females, represents the finest young minds and physical talents from across our archipelago. The class proudly bears the highly symbolic and inspiring moniker '*MASIKLAB LAHI*', which stands for '*Mandirigmang Simbolo ng Katapangan at Lakas para sa Bayan ng Lahing Hinirang*'. This name serves as a constant reminder of their sacred obligation to serve as symbols of courage and strength for our nation.

Before being formally incorporated into the Cadet Corps, our new cadets had to endure more than two months of intense, highly demanding New Cadet Battalion training. This rigorous program is designed to break down civilian habits, instill military discipline, and build fundamental teamwork. The ultimate and defining challenge of this training period was the historic Mount Cabuyao Foot March in Tuba, Benguet. The foot march to the rugged peaks of Mount Cabuyao represents far more than a simple test of physical endurance. It is a grueling exercise designed to test the limits of physical stamina, mental grit, and psychological resilience. Pushing through steep terrain and high elevations, the plebes of Class 2030 had to dig deep to overcome fatigue and self-doubt. Crucially, the march served as a practical laboratory for our time-honored tradition of leading by example. I joined the cadets on this grueling climb, alongside our senior Academy leadership, Tactical Officers, and training staff, marching alongside them step for step. This shared physical trial demonstrated to the

cadets that we, as their leaders, will never demand a sacrifice we are not willing to make ourselves.

Simultaneously, the foot march provided a critical leadership opportunity for our Second Class Cadet squad leaders. Every kilometer of the steep climb served as a practical test for these upperclassmen, challenging them to mentor their subordinates, maintain morale under pressure, and lead with empathy and firmness. This dual dynamic of physical challenge and active mentorship successfully forged a deep sense of discipline, teamwork, and a rugged warrior spirit within our future leaders.

Having successfully conquered the physical demands of Mount Cabuyao and the academic and military requirements of the NCBN training, our 342 fourth-class cadets stood proudly on the sacred grounds of Fort Del Pilar for their official Incorporation Rites in August 2026. This solemn ceremony marked their official transition from candidates into full members of the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Incorporation Rites are highly symbolic and rich in meanings, representing the end of initial isolation and the formal acceptance of Class 2030 into a brotherhood of arms that spans generations. With their incorporation, our cadets of the '*MASIKLAB LAHI*' class assume a much higher level of responsibility to uphold the Academy's sacred tenets of Honor, Duty, and Country. They now embark on a four-year journey of intensive academic and tactical preparation, designed to transform them into highly competent military professionals ready to meet the complex demands of modern warfare.

To support our cadets through the immense physical and mental pressures of their four-year training, we rely on vital external support networks. On August 11, 2026, I welcomed the officers of PMA Host Parents Inc., led by its Vice Chairperson, Hon. Betty Lourdes 'Lulu' Tabanda, during a formal courtesy call at PMA. Our engagement reaffirmed the essential role of host families in the holistic development of cadets. These families provide a critical emotional anchor, offering guidance, motivation, and a warm, supportive home



*The Philippine Military Academy welcomed Lieutenant General Michael G Logico PA as its 86th Superintendent during the Change of Command Ceremony held at Fort General Gregorio H. Del Pilar, succeeding Vice Admiral Caesar Bernard N. Valencia PN, who retired after more than 40 years of dedicated military service on July 22, 2026.*



*The New Cadet Battalion (NCBN) of PMA Class 2030 successfully completed the foot march to Mount Cabuyao, Tuba, Benguet as one of the final milestones in their NCBN training prior to their Incorporation Rites.*

environment during our cadets' rare off-duty hours. By offering a sanctuary from the relentless demands of cadet life, our host parents play a vital, shared role in fostering emotional resilience, moral clarity, and a deep sense of purpose, helping us shape well-rounded officers who are grounded in strong family values.

As the nature of global conflict shifts toward multi-domain operations, we are aggressively modernizing our educational programs to sharpen the intellectual edge of our future military commanders. Leadership in modern warfare demands not only physical courage but also exceptional cognitive endurance, strategic foresight, and the ability to process complex data under extreme pressure. Launched in August 2026 and running until January 2027, the PMA Academic Olympics 2027 represents a major strategic initiative to integrate academic learning with real-world operational challenges. We have organized the Olympics under the highly relevant and forward-looking theme: 'Navigating Modern Frontlines: Advancing Strategic Thinking in the Era of Multi-Domain Warfare.' This competition is an inter-company battle of intellect, challenging cadets to apply classroom concepts to complex, simulated military scenarios. Spanning fourteen (14) diverse events, the competition requires cadets to showcase mastery in cutting-edge technical disciplines as well as traditional strategic domains:

**Emerging Technologies:** Competitions in artificial intelligence, robotics, and data analytics, preparing our cadets to exploit advanced technological systems on the modern battlefield.

**Operational Planning:** Crisis management and tactical decision-making exercises that test the cadets' ability to lead under pressure and adapt to dynamic, multi-domain threats.

**Strategic and Legal Foundations:** Events covering military research, international humanitarian law, and strategic communication, ensuring that our future leaders operate effectively within legal and global frameworks.

**Cognitive and Analytical Mastery:** Challenges in advanced mathematics, formal debate, and tactical e-games, designed to sharpen critical thinking, rapid decision-making, and communication skills.

The Academic Olympics bridges the gap between theoretical classroom instruction and the practical, unpredictable realities of modern warfare. By fostering a culture of innovation, critical analysis, and intellectual adaptability, we ensure that our future officers do not merely memorize doctrine, but develop the active cognitive skills

required to win tomorrow's fights.

In tandem with the Academic Olympics, we are championing strategic board games to cultivate deep, long-term operational thinking. On 03 August 2026, we recognized our cadets who participated in the 'SND Cup: The 2nd Inter-Academy Strategic Go Tournament'. The ancient game of Go is highly valued in my command's training approach for its emphasis on territory control, resource management, and strategic positioning. Unlike games of direct capture, Go requires players to manage multiple, overlapping fronts, evaluate long-term risks, and maintain cognitive endurance over extended periods. Supporting our cadets' participation in this inter-academy tournament allows them to sharpen their strategic foresight, spatial reasoning, and tactical patience—cognitive traits that translate directly into the planning of multi-domain operations.

A critical element of our strategic modernization is ensuring that our cadets are deeply knowledgeable about current national security challenges. On 10 August 2026, we welcomed REAR ADMIRAL JAY TRISTAN TARRIELA PCG, the Philippine Coast Guard Spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea, for a highly critical guest lecture. The lecture, attended by our First, Second, and Third Class cadets, focused on the security challenges and geopolitical dynamics in the West Philippine Sea. RADM TARRIELA PCG delivered an in-depth brief on the strategic role of our government's 'transparency initiative.' He explained how exposing aggressive activities in the maritime domain has been highly effective in building public awareness, advancing Philippine national interests, and generating robust international support for a rules-based maritime order. Following the lecture, our cadets engaged in a highly interactive discussion. We emphasized that maritime security and diplomacy are no longer isolated specialties, but complementary responsibilities that our future AFP leaders must master to successfully safeguard our country's sovereignty and sovereign rights in an increasingly complex and contested maritime environment.

In the modern security landscape, digital superiority, cybersecurity, and information dominance are essential pillars of our defense strategy. To ensure that our Academy can train future officers to operate in highly network-centric, cyber-contested environments, we are executing a comprehensive digital transformation and ICT modernization program. Recognizing that continuous leadership and technical expertise are critical to our digital modernization, we marked a significant transition in our key Information and Communications Technology (ICT) offices in August. COLONEL ELMAR

G LIWAG PA(GSC) officially relinquished his post as the Assistant Chief of Academy Staff for ICT (MA6). This critical staff role was assumed by LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD G RICACHO PA(GSC). Concurrently, LTCOL RICACHO PA(GSC) handed over the direct leadership of our Academy Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC) to MAJOR RAYMOND DEREK P CARBONELL PA. Under this new team, our ICT offices have been recharged with a clear and vital mission: to aggressively strengthen our core network infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity defenses, build robust network resilience, and deliver advanced digital support systems for cadet academic and tactical training. These modern digital capabilities are essential to maintaining a secure and highly responsive learning environment in Fort Del Pilar.

To support this internal modernization, we are actively leveraging strategic partnerships with industry-leading technology providers. We welcomed the top management of Smart Communications Inc., led by Ms. Debbie Hu, First Vice President for the Network Build, Operations, and Maintenance Group, during their official visit to PMA.

Our high-level engagement focused on accelerating several critical infrastructure upgrades designed to meet our expanding academic and research requirements:

**Melchor Hall Wi-Fi Expansion:** Significantly expanding and densifying secure Wi-Fi access throughout Melchor Hall to support collaborative digital learning.

**Computer Laboratory Upgrades:** Acquiring advanced hardware and modern software to support complex simulations, programming, and data analysis.

**Network Infrastructure Redundancy:** Improving ICT connectivity and building network redundancy to prevent service interruptions during critical training phases.

By integrating reliable, high-speed digital connectivity with secure, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, this partnership is building the vital technical foundations we require to support a modern, technology-enabled military education. These upgrades ensure that our cadets are fully prepared to operate, lead, and win in highly digital and multi-domain military environments.

But what is technology without a healthy ecology? Our long-term institutional development is deeply intertwined with the ecological health of our surrounding environment. As a vital national institution located in the Cordillera region, we actively recognize that protecting our military reservations, conserving natural resources, and supporting local communities are essential components of national defense and sustainable nation-building.

In anticipation of our upcoming 128th Founding Anniversary, we launched the 'Greener Tomorrow' initiative, uniting our military personnel with partner government agencies and local environmental organizations. This joint conservation effort resulted in the successful planting of one thousand (1,000) native pine seedlings on PMA grounds.

In addition to environmental conservation, we are actively strengthening our partnerships with local government units to secure our military reservations and support regional development. On 11 August 2026, I made an official courtesy call to Baguio City Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong, reaffirming the strong partnership between the Academy and one of our host cities. Our meeting focused on Baguio City's continued support in maintaining a safe, stable, and highly conducive environment for cadet education and training. A key topic of discussion was the critical importance of protecting the areas immediately surrounding Fort Del Pilar and other military reservations. These military lands are essential not only for our future physical expansion but also for meeting our broader, long-term national defense and training requirements.

Similarly, I met with Mayor Clarita P Sal-ongan of the Municipality of Tuba, Benguet, to strengthen our cooperation with local government. This engagement focused on our shared responsibility

to protect the environment in areas where the municipality and our training grounds overlap. In particular, we highlighted the need for sustained, highly coordinated actions against illegal mining and other unregulated activities that threaten the ecological stability of our shared borders. Through these proactive local government partnerships, we continue to advance cadet safety, environmental conservation, and local community welfare.

To sustain our progress towards our strategic objectives, we must also look outward and expand our global engagements. Developing globally competitive officers requires exposing our cadets to international military standards and diverse strategic perspectives. On 11 August 2026, I welcomed fourteen (14) of our outstanding PMA cadets who are currently pursuing their military education and training in the Republic of Korea under the prestigious Foreign Pre-Commission Training Institution Program.

During their courtesy call, I strongly encouraged these cadets to strive for academic and tactical excellence in their respective Korean service academies. I reminded them that they serve as vital ambassadors of the Philippine Military Academy and the Republic of the Philippines, and assured them of our unwavering, continuing support throughout their international training. Through these global educational exchanges, we continue to broaden the strategic perspectives of our future officers, strengthen military ties with partner nations, and prepare our leaders for an increasingly complex international security environment.

To ensure that our educational and tactical training programs remain highly relevant to the actual needs of the operational force, the PMA Center for Leadership and Professional Excellence (CLPE) conducted the External Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey 2026. This comprehensive, data-driven survey actively engages field commanders, peers, subordinates, and recent PMA graduates serving across key operational units of the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, and Philippine Air Force. By actively listening to our external stakeholders, we ensure that our training remains operationally relevant and fully aligned with the evolving defense needs of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This survey serves as a vital diagnostic tool for my command to accomplish three main objectives:

**Assess Field Performance:** Evaluate how effectively our recent graduates are applying their academic knowledge and tactical training in actual operational environments.

**Identify Training Gaps:** Discover areas where our curriculum must be adjusted to meet emerging threats and real-world operational realities.

**Modernize Curriculum:** Continuously refining academic courses, tactical leadership programs, and physical training to ensure that we produce mission-ready, future-proof leaders of character.

The milestones we achieved during the third quarter of 2026 demonstrate that we are successfully navigating our dual path of tradition and innovation. By anchoring ourselves in our timeless, honor-bound values and aggressively embracing modern technology and strategic thinking, we are actively preparing a new generation of leaders to safeguard our nation's sovereignty in a complex, multi-domain threat landscape.

As we march confidently toward our PMA 2028 strategic goals, every program, partnership, and transition executed during this quarter serves as a vital building block. From the administrative stability of our leadership transitions to the technological upgrades of our ICT infrastructure, the physical and moral transformation of Class 2030, and the strategic cognitive training of our academic programs, we remain steadfastly committed to our sacred mission: producing highly competent, adaptive, and ethical Leaders of Character who are dedicated to a lifetime of honorable service to our nation and the Filipino people.





# Baron's Dissemination

Cdt F/Cpt **JOSHUA J MASCULINO** C-27158 'G' CO



## Sustaining Service: Anchoring Our Legacy in Unyielding Honor and Excellence

**A**s I stand upon the sacred grounds of Borromeo Field during the graduation rites of PMA Class of 2026, the pressure of leading the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines slowly falls on to me and reminded of the standard of selfless dedication and unwavering integrity laid down by those who marched before. The theme "*Sustaining Service*" is not merely a motto; it is both the lifeblood and challenge to the Cadet Corps. It is the sacred bridge that connects our present endeavors on the hill to all of the Cavaliers enduring legacy in the field and as early as being a cadet, sustaining service requires more than routine performance; it demands an active, daily commitment to the ideals that define a Philippine Military Academy graduate.

As Regiment Commander, I anchored my leadership on guarding the Honor Code and the Honor System above all else. The Honor Code and the Honor System represent a timeless pledge that connects Cavaliers and cadets of PMA and will always be the bedrock of our institution. Even if technology advances and requires the corps to adapt to these changes, I assure you that I will uphold the standard and lead the corps without compromise, ensuring that each graduate deeply internalizes these values before joining in the Armed Forces of the Philippines

Alongside establishing and strengthening the cadets' moral standard, the corps also commits to upholding a culture of excellence while aggressively fighting mediocrity. Mediocrity is the quiet enemy of military leadership, and to honor the trust reposed in us by the nation, the Cadet Corps must champion high standards across all domains. To operationalize this pursuit of physical readiness, we have embraced the "*Faster, Stronger, Better CCAFP*" program, incorporating a functional fitness test alongside our standard Physical Ability Test and Physical Fitness Test to ensure our cadets possess the real-world operational endurance needed in modern combat. Simultaneously, we are sharpening our intellectual edge through the integration of cutting-edge micro-credentials for our First Class cadets—equipping our

graduating seniors with vital technical competencies in Python programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Electronic Warfare. We are sharpening our discipline, pushing past comfort zones, and rejecting complacency so that every drill, examination, and tactical exercise is approached with the rigor expected of 21st-century leaders.

Crucial to this transformation is fostering adaptive leadership and a renewed culture of mentorship within the barracks. LTGEN LOGICO, the current superintendent of PMA, set a bold direction of updating the long-standing PMA Mission specifically to give current and future cadets greater opportunities to exercise leadership—one that prepares every cadet to the demand of the AFP. He also thrives for the reintegration of every class on the barracks, which poses a challenge and yet a great learning opportunity to every cadet. True military discipline is built not on fear, but on a shared responsibility to mold leaders of character who can thrive under complex, high-pressure environments. We are actively refining our leadership practices to ensure that senior cadets guide their subordinates with purpose, firm standards, and genuine concern for their professional and personal growth. By cultivating an environment where camaraderie is forged through shared hardship and mutual trust, we ensure that every cadet who leaves Fort del Pilar possesses both the resilience to face modern warfare and the empathy required to command the brave men and women of our armed forces.

Finally, a synchronized force is essential to mission success, and I give you my firm assurance that the cadet leadership stands fully dedicated to supporting the Commander's intention. By aligning the corps actions with the vision of the PMA Superintendent, we ensure that each cadet is properly developed, mentored, and empowered to realize the core mission of our beloved institution. As we prepare the next cohort of young officers to step off the grounds of Fort del Pilar and join the ranks in service to the Filipino people, we commit to keeping the standard high, holding the line, and preserving the flame of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.



# The Wonder Years

COURAGE

INTEGRITY

LOYALTY

## RETIRES SECTION

### Retired But Never Separated — Your Brotherhood Awaits You

**P**PMARAI is NOT just another organization—it's your home beyond the barracks. Built exclusively for retirees, spouses, widows, former cadets and distinguished affiliates—so NO ONE walks alone in this season of life.

Distinguished retirees, beloved spouses, and honored affiliates: You gave your prime in service to our nation—and now, in this season of life, PMARAI stands ready to serve YOU. We are not just an association; we are family—where rank fades, bonds deepen, and no one walks alone. We invite you to come home, join our ranks, and let us walk this journey together—because service continues, and our brotherhood truly remains. You hung up the uniform, but honor never retires. Brotherhood never fades.

#### WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT:

- ✓ 3 Pathways → Regular • Associate • Honorary—all equally valued
- ✓ ONE-TIME lifetime contribution—NO annual fees, ever
- ✓ Real care: medical aid • burial assistance • counseling • fellowship
- ✓ Rank fades—dignity and bond remain for every single member
- ✓ Purpose: fellowship • wellness • legacy • community service

*"Retirement is not the end of service—it is the beginning of walking together."*

Don't wait for the next reunion to reconnect. Join once—belong for life. 🤝

#PMARAI #ServiceContinues #BrotherhoodRemains #PMA #Cavaliers  
#Retirees Association #HonorAndSolidarity #BrotherhoodForLife

#### PMARAI CHAPTER NEWS—For Prospective Members

*Retired but never separated—your brotherhood awaits you.* The Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) warmly invites all retired Cavaliers, spouses, widows, former honorable cadets, and distinguished affiliates who are not yet members to join our growing family. Unlike other groups, PMARAI welcomes Regular, Associate, and Honorary members on equal footing—with one-time lifetime membership, no recurring dues, and real benefits including mutual aid, health and wellness programs, fellowship, and legacy initiatives. Rank fades, but service and bond remain. You belong here. For inquiries and membership forms, email [pmaai.retirees@gmail.com](mailto:pmaai.retirees@gmail.com). com, visit the PMAAAI Center in Taguig City. PMARAI @PMA Alumni Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

*Service Continues, Brotherhood Remains.*

#### JOIN PMARAI—YOUR HOME BEYOND THE BARRACKS

For Retired Cavaliers • Spouses • Families • Qualified Affiliates

- ✓ 3 Membership Classes: Regular / Associate / Honorary
- ✓ ONE-TIME Lifetime Fee — NO Annual Dues
- ✓ Mutual Aid • Health Support • Fellowship • Legacy
- ✓ All Are Equally Valued — Rank Does Not Separate Us

*"Service Continues, Brotherhood Remains"*

#### RETIRED BUT NEVER SEPARATED

Your Brotherhood • Your Home • Your Support

#### WHO WE WELCOME?

- ✓ REGULAR MEMBERS — PMA Graduates, Retired from Active Service
- ✓ ASSOCIATE MEMBERS — Former Honorable Cadets • Spouses • Widows • Family
- ✓ HONORARY MEMBERS — Distinguished Supporters and Affiliates

*You do not need to be a graduate to belong — you only need to share our values.*

#### WHY JOIN PMARAI?

- ✓ ONE-TIME LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP — NO Annual Dues, Ever
- ✓ MUTUAL AID FUND — Burial and Emergency Financial Assistance
- ✓ HEALTH AND WELLNESS — Medical Missions • Seminars • Specialist Referrals
- ✓ FELLOWSHIP — Monthly Gatherings • Spiritual Recollections • Outings
- ✓ LEGACY AND SERVICE — Preserve History • Mentor Youth • Community Projects
- ✓ EQUAL DIGNITY FOR ALL — Rank Fades. Brotherhood Remains.

#### YOUR INVITATION!

*"Retirement is not the end of service—it is the beginning of walking together."*

Don't wait for the next reunion to reconnect. Join once—belong for life.

#### HOW TO JOIN?

Email: [pmaai.retirees@gmail.com](mailto:pmaai.retirees@gmail.com) | [info@pmaaa.org](mailto:info@pmaaa.org)  
Office: PMAAAI Center, Taguig City

#### MOTTO: SERVICE CONTINUES, BROTHERHOOD REMAINS

— The PMARAI Board of Directors —



# PMAAAI PAF Chapter News

## PMAAAI-PAF Chapter Holds 2026 Annual Election and General Assembly Celebrating Leadership, Excellence, Legacy, and the Continuing Spirit of the Long Gray Line



The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. – Philippine Air Force (PMAAAI-PAF) Chapter successfully conducted its **2026 Annual Election and General Assembly** on **09 July 2026** at the **PAF Gymnasium, Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base (CJVAB), Pasay City**, bringing together Cavaliers in a celebration of leadership, service, achievement, and fellowship.

The activity began with **online and on-site registration and voting**, followed by the singing of the **Philippine National Anthem** and the **Cavaliers' Prayer**. **CAV MA. CONSUELO N. CASTILLO '97**, Vice President, PMAAAI-PAF Chapter, delivered the Welcome Remarks.

A significant highlight was the **Induction and Oath-Taking of the new PAF Cavaliers from PMA Class 2026**, who were formally welcomed into the Long Gray Line and presented with their Certificates of Membership.

The General Assembly was called to order by **CAV ULYSSES S. MANCAO '96**, President, PMAAAI-PAF Chapter. The formal proceedings included the proof of due notice, acknowledgment of the

**Board of Trustees (BOT) AY 2025**, recognition of attendees, approval of the previous minutes, presentation of the **President's Year-End Report**, ratification of BOT acts, and proclamation of the election results.

### RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE

The Chapter proudly recognized Cavaliers who achieved **Star Ranks**, reflecting distinguished careers and continued service to the Armed Forces:

#### Lieutenant General (O-9)

CAV ARISTOTLE D. GONZALEZ '92

CAV THAD RUFINO P. CANDELARIO '93

#### Major General (O-8)

CAV GEROLD N. GAGAN '92, CAV LORETO B. PASAMONTE '93, CAV RONIE D. PETINGLAY '93, CAV JOSE BONIFACIO F. CALUB '93, and CAV MOISES L. MICOR '93.





#### **Brigadier General (O-7)**

CAV ERWIN G. SOLOMON '94, CAV LUISITO F. ANGELES JR '93, CAV PEDRO S. AGAPITO '96, CAV JESSIE A. BANASTAO '93, CAV CHARLIE L. TIU JR '95, CAV EWALD M. MANAY '95, CAV JOSE JOHNSON T. GRAYDA '94, CAV EDMON B. GUPIT '94, CAV ADRIANO SJ. DUADICO '94, CAV RONNIE C. CABINGAS '96, CAV ROLANDO CONRAD B. PEÑA III '97, CAV GILBERTO T. ESTEBAN JR '95, CAV REX D. TEMPLONUEVO '98, and CAV ALFREDO G. ANTONIO JR '96.

#### **CAVALIER AWARDS – CY 2025**

The Chapter likewise honored Cavaliers whose exemplary accomplishments earned them recognition in the **Cavalier Awards for CY 2025**:

##### **Awardees:**

- **Command and Administration** — CAV ARISTOTLE D. GONZALEZ '92
- **Staff Function** — CAV RONNIE C. CABINGAS '96
- **Special Field – Science and Technology** — CAV GINO ANTONIO U. BENAVIDES '08
- **Air Operations – Senior Category** — CAV FRANCIS L. DANCEL '00
- **Air Operations – Junior Category** — CAV JONATHAN A. CORPUZ '10

##### **Other Nominees:**

Command and Administration — CAV ALFONSO S. LUGAY '95, CAV JOSEPH C. CORTES '96

Staff Function — CAV ROMEO D. DIMAANO '94, CAV JONATHAN M. CALALANG '97, CAV ARNEL G. SANTOS '98

Special Field – Science and Technology — CAV VICTORIANO R. JORGE '97; CAV RODAN M. PASCUAL '99

Air Operations – Senior — CAV ERWIN G. SOLOMON '94; CAV RONALD V. MORALES '96

Air Operations – Junior — CAV MARK ANTHONY B. REYES '11; CAV DANILO P. SORIANO '12

#### **HONORING LEGACY AND SERVICE**

The gathering also paid tribute to the **Outgoing Board of Trustees** and **Outgoing PMAAAI Committee Chairpersons** for their dedication and contributions to the Chapter. A special recognition was given to the **Golden Jubilarians of the Air Force Group, PMA Class 1976**, commemorating **50 years in the Long Gray Line**, with a response delivered on behalf of their class.

The newly elected **Board of Trustees** was formally inducted through the Oath-Taking Ceremony, followed by the remarks of the newly designated **PMAAAI-PAF Chapter President**, marking the beginning of another chapter of service and leadership.

#### **A MESSAGE OF INTEGRITY AND SELFLESS SERVICE**

The Chapter was honored by the presence of **LTGEN ARTHUR M. CORDURA PAF**, Commanding General, Philippine Air Force, as Guest of Honor and keynote speaker. In his message, LTGEN



Cordura emphasized the importance of **integrity, leadership, selfless service, and continued support for the Philippine Air Force and the organization**, inspiring Cavaliers to remain steadfast in their commitment to Duty, Honor, and Country.

The assembly concluded with the singing of the **PMA Alma Mater Song**, followed by a photo session and fellowship. Beyond the formal

proceedings, the occasion strengthened the bonds of **camaraderie, unity, and shared purpose** among Cavaliers.

The 2026 Annual Election and General Assembly once again demonstrated that while Cavaliers may belong to different generations and pursue different paths, they remain united by the enduring spirit of the **Long Gray Line—serving with Duty, Honor, and Country.**



## **NEW PMAAAI PAF CHAPTER LEADERSHIP PAYS COURTESY CALL ON COMMANDING GENERAL, PAF Newly Elected Board of Trustees and Appointed Committee Chairpersons Begin AY 2026–2027 with Renewed Commitment to Service**

**12 August 2026** — The newly elected members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the **Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) – PAF Chapter** for Association Year 2026–2027, together with the newly appointed Committee Chairpersons, paid a courtesy call on the **Commanding General, Philippine Air Force (PAF)**, marking the formal start of a new chapter of leadership and service for the Air Cavaliers.

Led by **CAV MA. CONSUELO N. CASTILLO '97**, President of the PMAAAI PAF Chapter, the delegation introduced the newly constituted leadership team and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the partnership between the alumni organization and the Philippine Air Force.

The courtesy call served as an opportunity for the new leadership to present its direction and priorities for AY 2026–2027, while emphasizing the important role of Air Cavaliers in supporting the PAF

through meaningful programs, professional engagement, welfare initiatives, and sustained camaraderie among members.

The new Board of Trustees is composed of:

**CAV MA. CONSUELO N. CASTILLO '97** – President

**CAV MELVIN A. BANUA '97** – PAF Chapter Representative to the Mother Chapter

**CAV DERRICK S. ABLOG '98** – PAF Chapter Representative to the Mother Chapter

**CAV JOSEPH B. MADARANG JR. '98** – Vice President

**CAV JERICK A. DOLLENTE '00** – Treasurer

**CAV GLENN P. EUGENIO '01** – Auditor

**CAV ALVIN DC CAYABYAB '08** – Public Relations Officer

**CAV ESTHER JOY G. RIMANDO '09** – Senior Board Secretary

**CAV MARK FERDINAND V. AGULAN '10** – Junior Board Secretary

Supporting the Board are nine newly appointed Committee Chairpersons who will spearhead the Chapter's major programs and activities for the year:

**CAV ARCHIBALD S. MAGBANUA '02** – Sports

**CAV MICHAEL VINCENT R. MALLARI '02** – Socials

**CAV MARIA GHIRLY A. SOLIS '02** – Public Affairs

**CAV ANA LIZA F. TIO '05** – Awards

**CAV CAROL ENA S. SANTOS '05** – Education and Professional

**CAV MICHAEL ANGELO S. PATRON '05** – Ways and Means

**CAV CYNTHIA FORTEZA-GUINTO '09** – Welfare and Grievance

**CAV MA. JO CONCEPTION M. BANIQUED-DOMINGUEZ '10** – Female Cavaliers Affairs

**CAV ROSELYN D. UMALLA '13** – Membership and Election

Together, the BOT and Committee Chairpersons form the Chapter's leadership team tasked with translating the organization's vision into concrete programs that will benefit Air Cavaliers and contribute to the broader mission of supporting the PAF.

Among the Chapter's key areas of focus are strengthening membership engagement, promoting professional and continuing education, advancing welfare assistance, fostering fellowship and sports activities, recognizing outstanding Cavaliers, enhancing public communication, and generating resources to sustain meaningful programs.

The leadership team will also work toward strengthening connections among Cavaliers across different generations, recognizing that the alumni organization's greatest strength lies in the collective experience, expertise, and commitment of its members.

The new leadership is guided by the theme:

**"AIR CAVALIERS IN ACTION: COURAGE TO INNOVATE, INTEGRITY TO LEAD, LOYALTY TO SERVE FOR A MODERN AND MISSION-READY AIR FORCE."**

The theme captures the Chapter's commitment to move beyond tradition and transform the values of the PMA and the Air Force into purposeful action—serving the alumni community, supporting the institution, and inspiring the next generation of leaders.

The courtesy call marked more than the introduction of a new set of officers. It signified the beginning of another year of collective service, strengthened partnership, and renewed commitment to the enduring ideals of **Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty**.



As the PMAAAI PAF Chapter embarks on AY 2026–2027, its newly elected BOT and Committee Chairpersons stand ready to lead with purpose and work together in advancing programs that keep the spirit of the Air Cavaliers alive and relevant.



## **PMAAAI PAF CHAPTER CELEBRATES SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP TRANSITION**

# **Thanksgiving Dinner Honors Outgoing Members of the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairpersons**

**18 August 2026** - The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI)–PAF Chapter gathered Air Cavaliers for a **Thanksgiving Dinner** honoring the **outgoing Board of Trustees (BOT) members and Committee Chairpersons of AY 2025–2026**, while **welcoming the newly elected BOT and appointed Committee Chairpersons for AY 2026–2027**.

The evening began with an opening prayer led by **CAV ESTHER JOY G. RIMANDO '09**, Senior Board Secretary, followed by welcome remarks from **CAV JOSEPH B. MADARANG JR. '98**, Vice President of the Chapter. A fellowship dinner followed, providing Cavaliers an opportunity to reconnect and celebrate the enduring bonds of camaraderie.

A major highlight of the gathering was the **Induction and Oath-Taking of the newly-appointed Committee Chairpersons for AY 2026–2027**, formally marking the start of their leadership and responsibility in advancing the Chapter's programs and activities.

The Chapter also presented **awards and tokens of appreciation to the outgoing BOT members and Committee Chairpersons**, recognizing their dedication, time, and valuable contributions throughout AY 2025–2026. Their service helped strengthen the Chapter's programs, membership engagement, welfare initiatives, professional activities, and fellowship.



In her message, **CAV MA. CONSUELO N. CASTILLO '97**, President of the PMAAAI-PAF Chapter for AY 2026–2027, expressed appreciation for the outgoing leaders and encouraged the incoming team to carry forward the Chapter's legacy of service and camaraderie.

The new leadership is guided by the theme:

***"AIR CAVALIERS IN ACTION: COURAGE TO INNOVATE, INTEGRITY TO LEAD, LOYALTY TO SERVE FOR A MODERN AND MISSION-READY AIR FORCE."***

The evening concluded with a photo session, capturing the spirit of fellowship and the symbolic passing of responsibility from one leadership team to the next.

The Thanksgiving Dinner was a fitting celebration of **service rendered, leadership entrusted, and a mission that continues**—a reminder that while positions may change, the commitment of Air Cavaliers to one another and to the organization remains steadfast.



# PMAAAI PCG Chapter News

## BEYOND THE STARS: PCG Bugo-Bugo Cavaliers Rise to Higher Flag Rank



**T**en (10) Bugo-Bugo Cavaliers of the Philippine Coast Guard were elevated to a higher flag rank marking yet another milestone in their careers. The promotion reflects years of leadership, professional service, and dedication to the nation's values first instilled during their formative years at the Philippine Military Academy.

On September 1, 2026, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. led the oath-taking ceremony of the 21 newly promoted Philippine Coast Guard flag-rank officers at the Heroes Hall, Malacañang Palace, Manila. The President, accompanied by Auxiliary Vice Admiral Liza Araneta-Marcos, welcomed the newly promoted officers and their families as they formally assumed the responsibilities of their higher ranks.

ADMIRAL RONNIE GIL GAVAN, Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard graced the occasion. As the most senior PMayer in the PCG, Admiral Gavan looked on with pride to see not just his subordinates in the Coast Guard get another rank higher. He beamed with pride as he saw his fellow Cavaliers add yet another star on their shoulders, with integrity, courage, and professional excellence.

VICE ADMIRAL EDGAR YBAÑEZ, Deputy Commandant for Operations, and other PCG flag-rank officers also attended the ceremony.

Among the newly promoted flag officers were (10) ten Cavaliers, whose careers have taken them to key leadership positions across the Philippine Coast Guard:



1. VICE ADMIRAL HOSTILLO ARTURO E CORNELIO PCG, Deputy Commandant for Administration (DCA)
2. VICE ADMIRAL GENITO B BASILIO, Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC)
3. VICE ADMIRAL ALLEN J DALANGIN PCG, Acting Commander, Coast Guard Human Resource Management Command (CGHRMC)
4. VICE ADMIRAL TITO ALVIN G ANDAL PCG, Commander, Coast Guard Education, Training and Doctrine Command (CGETDC)
5. VICE ADMIRAL ARNALDO M LIM PCG, Commander, Coast Guard Weapons, Communications, Electronics, and Information Systems Command (CGWEISC)
6. VICE ADMIRAL ROMMEL SUPANGAN PCG, Commander, Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM)
7. REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHER M MENIADO PCG, Acting Commander, Coast Guard National Capital Region (CGDNCRCL)
8. REAR ADMIRAL WENIEL A AZCUNA PCG, Commander, Coast Guard Fleet (CG Fleet)
9. REAR ADMIRAL JOHN ESPLANA PCG, Commander, Coast Guard Aviation Command (CGAvComm)
10. REAR ADMIRAL MARCO ANTONIO GINES PCG, Deputy Commander, Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC)

They now carry the responsibilities of higher flag rank in service to the Coast Guard and the Filipino people.

Their elevation to flag rank represents the culmination of years of service in diverse areas of Coast Guard leadership from maritime safety and environmental protection to aviation, fleet operations, human resource management, education and training, administration, and information systems.

For the Bugo-Bugo Cavaliers, the occasion carries significance beyond personal achievement. Their new ranks place them among the senior leaders entrusted with guiding the service, developing future Coast Guard leaders, and advancing the PCG's mandate to protect the country's maritime interests.

President Marcos underscored this responsibility in his message to the newly promoted officers:

*"To all our promoted flag rank officers, led by example. Uphold the highest standard of integrity, prepare the next generation of Coast Guard leaders."*

The words serve as a fitting reminder that promotion is not simply a recognition of what has been accomplished, but a call to greater responsibility for what lies ahead.





# PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) BULLETIN

## 50 YEARS OF GOLDEN RAYS: Continuously Serving Scholars

**A**n open letter dated 31 August 2026, digitally sent by Ms Alice Pantaleon, aunt of Zach Pantaleon (PETFI Scholar) whose father is Cav Christopher A Pantaleon '04:

*Last night my sister-in-law, Peng, asked me to accompany Nico to the 50th Golden Anniversary of PMAAA Educational Foundation (PETFI).*

*PETFI has been helping provide education and a better future for the children of our fallen heroes.*

*It is a meaningful way to honor our heroes by caring for those they left behind.*

*Thank you, Peng, for this opportunity. It gave me something to believe in and a reminder that despite everything, there are still genuinely good people in this country. It gives me hope that goodness still exists.*

*Pugay kamay sa ating mga bayani!*

*Thank you and Happy 50th Anniversary, PETFI!*

The value and significance of any Foundation is not measured when we hear trumpets blown and drums beaten at their loudest, but when the very people it serves find the Foundation Relevant and in the Nick of Time.

At the PMAAA Educational Foundation Inc. (PETFI), we only exist to serve its mandate - to help in the education of dependents of deceased and disabled regular members of the PMA Alumni Association.

Tracing back PETFI's history, it was unfortunate that several graduates of the Philippine Military Academy lost their lives in combat leaving many orphans at the height of hostilities/combat operations against Muslim secessionists in Mindanao, in the seventies.

With this scenario, a group of concerned PMA graduates proposed the establishment of an educational trust fund in 1976 that quickly generated support from among its alumni, and on



Cav Anselmo S Avenido Jr. '67, former PETFI President, delivers his remarks as GOHAS during Part I of PETFI Golden Anniversary Celebration.



Cav Ricardo A David Jr '77 as GOHAS, encouraged every member of PMAAAI to be also a member of PETFI because education and future of our fellow Cavaliers' children are responsibilities we all share.



Cav Edgardo D Tamayo '80 PETFI President mentioned in his remarks that the Foundation serves to be Relevant and in the Nick of Time.



*The scholars and their guardians with PETFI Board of Trustees.*

August 16, 1976, the PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc., which is a non-stock, non-profit organization, was created.

This year, on 31 August 2026, PETFI celebrated its 50th Golden Anniversary. It was a special occasion not only to add another year of life to the Foundation but, more importantly, also to our stakeholders, scholars' achievements, friendships, and shared experiences that propelled us to reach this milestone.

An anniversary is more than a celebration of time; it is also an opportunity to look back with gratitude at where we started, to recognize the contributions of those who came before us, and to appreciate the dedication and efforts of everyone who continues to share their Talent, Treasures, and Time to make our Foundation stronger.

As we celebrated PETFI's 50th Anniversary, we cannot help but recall the challenges and struggles we have overcome; although it was not smooth sailing all the way through, the accomplishments we have achieved and the many meaningful moments we have shared. All of these factors contribute to our continuing quest for a better future for the Foundation.

Our theme for this year's celebration, "50 Years of Golden Rays: Radiating Minds, Inspiring Futures," is not only five decades representing merely 50 years in nominal terms but rather 50

years of True Commitment, True Service, True Excellence, True Servant Leadership, and True Accountability.

It is our vision that this Golden Anniversary celebration shall renew our sense of purpose, strengthen our fellowship, and inspire us further to continue the legacy entrusted to us.

Cav David, guest of honor and speaker during the 50th-year celebration, put forward a simple but powerful principle: "Every member of PMAAAI should also be a member of PETFI."

According to Cav David, PETFI is not simply another organization. It is a collective expression of compassion, solidarity, and continuing service to the families of our fallen and disabled Cavaliers.

"If every PMAAAI member becomes a member of PETFI, we create a broader, more sustainable foundation for its mission. More importantly, we send a powerful message that the education and future of our fellow Cavaliers' children is a responsibility we all share," he said.

In closing, Cav David emphasized that PETFI should not be viewed as another obligation. "It is an investment in our Cavalier family and in the future of the Philippines. With a stronger membership base, we can expand scholarships, assist more dependents, and strengthen our endowment."



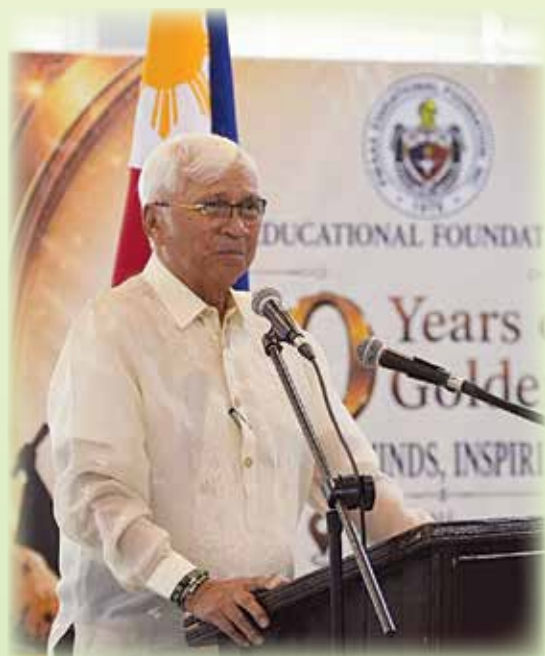
*The PETFI Board of Trustees with its founding members and officers.*



*Testimonial from PETFI scholars.*



*A song number from a PETFI scholar.*



*PETFI Chairman Cav Jose C Lalis Jr '71 expressed that the scholars are the future leaders for which the Foundation is proud to serve.*



*Distribution of giveaways for PETFI scholars.*



# FEMALE CAVALIER SEGMENT

## The HEART OF A WARSHIP – A Story of a Female Warship Captain

From the open deck of the BRP Artemio Ricarte, the ocean looks endless. For COMMANDER OLIVIA ESPIRITU-FERNANDEZ, this wide expanse of blue is not just a workplace. It is a home, a classroom, and a daily test of character.

As a warship Commanding Officer deployed in Eastern Mindanao, Commander Olivia Fernandez carries an immense weight on her shoulders. She is responsible for a massive vessel patrolling vital sea borders, but more importantly, she holds the lives and safety of her entire crew in her hands. Yet, behind the crisp uniform is a leader who remains deeply grounded in humility, faith, and care.

Commander Fernandez' path to the captain's seat was not a straight line. When she graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 2008, she spent her first five years in the intelligence community. She was even one of the last female officers in her class to be assigned to sea duty. But in 2014, she entered the Basic Surface Warfare Officers Course and eventually joined the Surface Warfare Commanders Course as the only female officer in her class. Step by step, deployment by deployment, the sea called her forward.

Today, she leads her crew—the “Familia Temyong”—with a balance of firmness and compassion. To her sailors, she is a sharp skipper and a motherly figure who treats her team like family. On her ship, everyone steps up to carry the weight together, regardless of rank or gender.



Her proudest days at sea reflect this commitment to mission and team. Taking her very first command aboard BRP Apolinario Mabini (PS36) was a major personal milestone. Later, aboard BRP Artemio Ricarte (PS37), her crew successfully intercepted a smuggler at sea—a powerful victory that directly served national security.

Yet, command also brings quiet heartbreak. She shares that her toughest moment as a skipper was having to help others at sea while being far away from her own family, precisely when they needed her most. In those difficult, lonely hours, she relies on prayer and the support of her husband—a fellow military officer—and her two children, Echo and Army. In her rare moments of rest, she recharges by reading on the shore, freediving into the quiet ocean, or exploring local food spots when docked.

As one of the few women leading a patrol ship, Commander Fernandez naturally challenges outdated notions about leadership. Rather than viewing emotion as a weakness, she harnesses emotional intelligence as a vital strength—one that empowers her crew to be fiercely resilient while remaining deeply attuned to each other. Looking ahead, she hopes her legacy will help clear the path so that female leaders on the frontlines are no longer seen as rare pioneers, but simply as equals.

That profound empathy and unwavering resolve translate directly into how she commands. Her true leadership is measured not just in orders given, but in the life breathed into a vessel and its crew. For Commander Fernandez, pouring her heart and soul into the PS 37 became a labor of devotion—one that transformed a patrol ship into a beating heart of excellence.

That dedication has now borne its ultimate testament. Recognized for their relentless grit, exceptional teamwork, and high standard of service, the PS 37 BRP Artemio Ricarte has been named 2026 Ship of the Year by Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao.

In the demanding world of naval operations, milestones like this are never accidents. They are forged in the quiet hours of vigilance, rigorous drills, and the shared values of a crew that treats their ship as a home and their mission as a calling—proving that when heart and discipline meet, the extraordinary follows.



Looking back on every challenge and victory at sea, Commander Fernandez describes her leadership journey in one sentence: *“A beautifully chaotic zigzag road, full of bumpy challenges and scenic triumphs, yet profoundly worthwhile.”*

For young Filipino women who dream of wearing the uniform and following in her footsteps, her message is clear:

*“Serving in the Armed Forces is not for the faint-hearted. Joining means stepping into a challenging yet rewarding journey, driven by the desire to serve. While the process is demanding, remember that many are called, but few are chosen. If you earn the opportunity to serve, embrace it, own it, and protect it.”*





# YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES

## BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY: The Journey of an Air Cavalier

For Cavalier **RODEL M BACSARSA**, a member of PMA “Masidlak” Class of 2010, flying has never been simply about mastering an aircraft or accumulating hours in the cockpit. For him, every flight carries a purpose: to support the soldier on the ground, save lives, defend the nation, and answer the call of duty wherever the mission demands.

An Airborne and Scout Ranger-trained military officer, CAV BACSARSA understands the realities faced by troops on the ground. This perspective has shaped him into a combat aviator deeply committed to supporting ground forces, particularly when lives hang in the balance. Whether conducting troop insertion, resupply, reconnaissance, casualty evacuation, or limited close air support, he recognizes that behind every mission is a soldier relying on the helicopter overhead.

His journey as a military aviator reflects the many dimensions of airpower and the demanding responsibilities carried by those entrusted to wield it. From tactical and combat helicopter operations to humanitarian missions, pilot instruction, Presidential airlift, and command leadership, CAV BACSARSA has built a career defined by courage, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to service.





As a Night Vision Goggle-qualified S-70i Black Hawk pilot, CAV BACSARSA has operated in the demanding environment of night missions, where darkness adds another layer of complexity to an already unforgiving profession. Night flying requires discipline, precision, situational awareness, and complete confidence in one's training. For the military aviator, the mission does not always wait for daylight, and CAV BACSARSA has demonstrated the capability and readiness to operate when conditions demand it.

During the covered period, he accumulated 2,138.54 flight hours and 1,673 sorties aboard the S70i Black Hawk helicopter. He completed 120 tactical missions, transporting troops, civilians, wounded personnel, and critical cargo in support of military operations. His combat record earned him Distinguished Aviation Crosses, Silver Wing Medals, Military Merit Medals with Bronze Spearhead Devices and among others for exceptional performance in high-risk flight missions involving intelligence gathering, aerial reconnaissance, troop insertion and extrication, casualty evacuation, limited close air support, and resupply.

Among the missions that define his service are those in which the aircraft became a lifeline for troops on the ground. In casualty evacuation missions, speed, precision, and sound judgment can mean the difference between life and death. For CAV BACSARSA, supporting the ground soldier has never been an abstract mission—it has been a personal commitment forged through his own military training and operational experience.

Yet his contribution to air power extends beyond the missions he personally flies. As an S70i Instructor Pilot and Flight Examiner, he has helped train and qualify 40 Black Hawk pilots. Today, he is the only S-70i Instructor Pilot in the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing, continuing to upgrade and develop pilots to expand the Wing's pool of qualified aviators. Through every pilot he trains, evaluates, and mentors, his experience and standards continue to multiply across the organization.

His career also broke new ground in Presidential aviation. CAV BACSARSA became the first S70i pilot to fly the President of the

Republic of the Philippines, earning the extraordinary trust required to operate at the highest level of Presidential air operations. As S70i Chief Pilot and Primary Pilot of the President, he demonstrated that technical skill alone is not enough; such responsibility demands precision, discipline, discretion, and absolute professionalism.

His professional journey has also reached the highest levels of aviation responsibility. He earned the Philippine Air Force Command Pilot Rating Badge, recognizing his advanced experience and qualification as a military aviator. He was also awarded the prestigious *Kahusayan* Award for professional airmanship and safety achievement after accumulating more than 2,500 flying hours without a human factor-related aircraft accident.

These recognitions reflect a career built not only on courage and operational accomplishment, but also on disciplined professionalism.

His commitment to aviation excellence is equally reflected in safety. By April 2026, he achieved 3,500 flying hours without accident or incident—a milestone built through disciplined airmanship, sound judgment, and respect for the unforgiving demands of military aviation.

His service has never been confined to the battlefield or Presidential missions but also brought him to communities in crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, as Element Lead, he delivered personal protective equipment and vaccines to remote communities and island municipalities. He participated in humanitarian assistance and disaster-response operations during Typhoons Odette and Kristine and served as Pilot-in-Command during helicopter water-bucket operations in response to a major fire incident in Tondo, Manila.

These missions revealed another dimension of the Air Cavalier's calling. The same aircraft that carries soldiers into battle can also carry hope to isolated communities. The same pilot trained for combat can become a lifeline during a disaster. In the hands of a disciplined military aviator, air power becomes not only an instrument of national defense, but also an instrument of compassion and national service.

Today, CAV BACSARSA serves as Squadron Commander of the 482nd Supply and Support Squadron of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing. While his career was forged in the cockpit, his leadership now extends to the critical systems that sustain aviation operations.

From the battlefield to the disaster zone, from the cockpit to the classroom, and from supporting troops on the ground to flying the nation's Commander-in-Chief, CAV RODEL M BACSARSA embodies the modern Air Cavalier. His journey reminds every young officer and airman that greatness in military service is not measured by how high one flies, but by how many lives one serves, how many others one inspires, and how faithfully one answers the call of duty.



# Vignettes of Elder CAVALIERS

PATRIOT REFORMERS NETWORK (PRN)

## The Constitution We Were Promised

vs.

## The Country We Actually Got

*A simple side-by-side comparison every Filipino should understand*

• CAV MANUEL B MARIANO '62

• CAV MEDIN T VELASCO '72

### Why This Paper Matters

**T**he 1987 Constitution is the highest law of the Philippines. It is the country's rulebook. It tells the government what it must do, and it tells the people what rights they have.  
The problem is simple:

*The Constitution is beautiful on paper. But many of its most important promises have never been kept.*

This paper shows you, in plain words, what the Constitution promised — and what the government actually delivered. You can decide for yourself if the gap is acceptable.

### How to Read This Paper

Think of the Constitution like a contract between the government and the people.

- The blue side of the table shows what the contract says.
- The red side shows what really happened.
- If a contract is signed but never followed, it is not a real contract. It is just a piece of paper.

### The Side-by-Side: Promise vs. Reality

*Below are 15 of the most important promises in the Constitution. Read them slowly. Each one affects your life.*

| # | Constitution      | What the Constitution Promises                                                         | What Actually Happens                                                                                                  |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Art. II, Sec. 26  | Political families cannot dominate public office. (No political dynasties.)            | Congress has refused to pass the law to enforce this for 38 years. The same families stay in power across generations. |
| 2 | Art. II, Sec. 27  | Public officials must be honest and have integrity.                                    | Treated as a nice slogan. Dishonest officials rarely face real consequences.                                           |
| 3 | Art. II, Sec. 9   | Every Filipino should have a rising standard of living.                                | The gap between rich and poor is one of the worst in Asia. Inequality has gotten wider, not smaller.                   |
| 4 | Art. II, Sec. 10  | Social justice for the poor and the weak.                                              | Mentioned in speeches. Missing in the budget.                                                                          |
| 5 | Art. IX-B, Sec. 2 | Government jobs must go to people based on merit and ability.                          | Many positions are given to friends, relatives, or political supporters — not the most qualified.                      |
| 6 | Art. XII, Sec. 2  | The State owns and controls our natural resources — oil, gas, minerals, water, energy. | Malampaya gas, mining, and energy contracts have been quietly handed to private and foreign interests.                 |
| 7 | Art. XII, Sec. 19 | No monopolies. No business cartels.                                                    | A few families control electricity, telecoms, shipping, and ports. Prices stay high. Choices stay few.                 |
| 8 | Art. XIII, Sec. 1 | Reduce inequality between rich and poor.                                               | After 38 years, inequality is worse, not better.                                                                       |
| 9 | Art. XIII, Sec. 3 | Full protection of workers. Job security.                                              | "Endo" and short-term contracts are everywhere. Workers have little protection.                                        |

| #  | Constitution     | What the Constitution Promises                                           | What Actually Happens                                                                                     |
|----|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Art. XVI, Sec. 5 | The military must be professional and not used for politics.             | Generals are often appointed for political reasons. Promotions are sometimes based on loyalty, not merit. |
| 11 | Art. XVI, Sec. 7 | The State must take care of veterans and their families.                 | Veterans' pensions are suspended. Separation benefits are denied. Widows are made to wait years.          |
| 12 | Art. II, Sec. 28 | Government must be transparent. The people have the right to know.       | Congress exempts itself. Big contracts stay hidden. FOI requests are often ignored.                       |
| 13 | Art. XI, Sec. 1  | Public office is a public trust. Officials are accountable at all times. | Accountability is selective. Political allies are protected. Opponents are prosecuted.                    |
| 14 | Art. II, Sec. 16 | Every Filipino has the right to a clean and healthy environment.         | Forests are cut. Rivers are poisoned. Mining permits are signed quietly.                                  |
| 15 | Art. XIV, Sec. 1 | Quality education for all.                                               | Many children cannot read at grade level. Classrooms are overcrowded. Teachers are underpaid.             |

### What This Means in Simple Words

The Constitution made 15 big promises.

**Not one of them has been fully kept.**

That is not a small problem. That is the real reason why:

- Poor families stay poor for generations.
- The same political families win every election.
- Our gas, minerals, and energy enrich a few—not the nation.
- Soldiers and veterans are left behind.
- Children grow up without good schools.
- Honest workers cannot get ahead.

The Philippines is not poor because the Constitution is bad.

*The Philippines suffers because the Constitution is not being followed.*

### The Most Important Idea in This Paper

There is a difference between:

- Writing a rule — easy.
- Following a rule — hard.

Right now, the government writes the rules but does not follow them. And no one is forcing them to.

### That is the single biggest problem in the country today.

It is not a problem that needs a new Constitution. It is a problem that needs enforcement of the Constitution we already have.

### What Citizens Can Do

You do not need to be a lawyer, a politician, or a soldier to help fix this. You only need to do three things:

1. **KNOW** — Read the 15 promises above. Memorize at least three.
2. **ASK** — When a candidate asks for your vote, ask them: *"Which of these 15 promises will you enforce?"*
3. **WATCH** — After they win, check if they kept their word. If they did not, do not vote for them again.

*That is how a Republic stays alive. Not through speeches. Through citizens who remember.*

### A Final Word

The 1987 Constitution is a good document. Filipinos who suffered under martial law wrote it with care and with hope.

But a Constitution that is not enforced is like a fire extinguisher that no one uses during a fire. It does not matter how good it is if no one picks it up.

### This generation's job is simple:

**Pick it up. Read it. Use it. Enforce it.**

The country we were promised is still possible. But only if the people demand it.

### Cav Manuel B Mariano '62

Patriot Reformers Network

"Canuck" | Capt. Medin T. Velasco (Ret.)

Convenor, Patriot Reformers Network (PRN)

Founder & CEO, MICU Medical Rescue Inc. | Chairman, AOPRAP

Former Captain, Philippine Air Force (PMA Class 1972)

Former Flight Operations Inspector, Transport Canada

*"A sleeping Sovereign is a powerless Sovereign. A Nation Above Loyalty. No Filipino Left Behind."*



# FROM BATTLEFIELD TO DIVINE CALLING: THE RESURRECTION OF GENERAL ABELARDO “ABE” P VILLACORTA ‘83

• CAV PERFECTO O QUILICOT JR ‘83

The air over Tabuk was thick with gunpowder, smoke, and the heavy weight of impending tragedy. It was February 6, 1986. A Special Operations team from the Kalinga-Apayao PC/INP Command, led by a fiercely dedicated officer—then 2nd Lieutenant, now General Abelardo “Abe” Villacorta—found themselves locked in a violent, high-stakes ambush against the New People’s Army. What began as a routine tactical operation quickly devolved into seven agonizing hours of relentless firefight.

By mid-morning, disaster struck. Shrapnel from exploding grenades tore through the brush, and two direct enemy rounds pierced Abe’s body. Nine of his brave men fell around him, instantly silenced in the brutal crossfire. Bleeding profusely, his comrades dropping one by one, Abe refused to yield. Drawing upon the grit of his Scout Ranger training, he bound his own wounds mid-combat and continued to unleash rounds toward the enemy line, maintaining the defense until reinforcements finally breached the perimeter at three in the afternoon.

Yet as his blood pool broadened in the dust, Abe realized tactics alone could no longer save them. Looking up into the chaotic canopy, he whispered a desperate, solemn pact to the Heavens: *If You allow me to survive this day, I will dedicate the rest of my life to peace. I will surrender myself fully to serving my country, unifying the Filipino people, and healing this nation.*

When the dust settled, the body of General Abe Villacorta—alongside nine of his fallen men—was evacuated to the Kalinga Provincial Hospital. He was cold, devoid of a pulse, and presumed dead.



What transpired inside the emergency room bordered on the surreal. With the local Red Cross blood bank entirely depleted, doctors desperately scrambled for options. In a dramatic race against the clock, medical staff gathered 1,000 cc of blood volunteered by inmates from the nearby Provincial Jail to replace what Abe had lost.

As clinicians fought to pump life back into his shattered frame, something extraordinary occurred beyond the physical realm. Abe’s soul felt detached, hovering above the trauma bay, watching the desperate chaos of the medical team below. In that ethereal space, he witnessed the spirits of two of his fallen men beginning their celestial ascent. Panicked at the thought of leaving his soldiers behind, Abe screamed into the void,

telling them to wait so they could cross the threshold together—wherever their final destination might be.

Suddenly, a jolt of violent reality snapped Abe back into his mortal shell. The chief surgeon wiped the sweat from his brow, looked down at the gasp of air coming from the gurney, and shouted in utter astonishment: *“We’re done, sir! You’re alive!”*

He had returned from the dead, but the lingering ghost of his battlefield promise would haunt Abe for years.

Six years passed. The physical scars had healed, but the spiritual debt remained unpaid. During the Christmas season of December 1992, a powerful divine stirring overcame Abe. A persistent, undeniable inner voice began calling him to honor the vow he made amidst the gunfire in Tabuk.

For four months, Abe resisted, rationalizing the voice as stress or imagination. A warrior’s hands, after all, were forged for



weapons, not miracles. But the tipping point arrived inside the quiet pews of the Church of the Most Holy Rosary in Manaoag, his hometown. Following an intense moment of prayer, a clear instruction settled over his spirit: *Go home. The sufferings are waiting.*

Reluctantly returning to his residence, Abe was stunned to find a crowd gathered at his doorstep—strangers from all walks of life, bearing chronic illnesses, infirmities, and broken spirits.

*"My house is not a clinic!"* Abe protested to the crowd. *"I am a soldier, not a physician. There are no doctors here—please go home!"*

Unmoved, the crowd insisted they were sent there to be healed. Seeing their profound desperation, Abe instructed everyone to bow their heads and ask Almighty God for mercy. As he laid his hands upon the sick, miraculous recoveries began to unfold before their eyes. In the weeks that followed, word spread like wildfire. Buses of terminally ill patients rejected by major hospitals arrived at Abe's home, and through fervent prayer, divine restorations occurred daily—including testimonies of the cold and lifeless being restored to life.

Yet the ultimate test of his faith came when Abe's own wife fell gravely ill. Medical specialists ran endless diagnostic tests over several weeks, finding neither

a cause nor a cure. As her body slowly shuts down, doctors advised Abe to take her home to spend her final moments in peace.

Faced with losing his beloved, Abe fell to his knees in total surrender. Together with family, they embarked on nine days of intense novena prayers. On the final day, a sudden break in her fever turned into a complete, inexplicable recovery. She rose from her bed entirely whole, as though the illness had never existed.

In that moment of profound grace, General Abe Villacorta fully surrendered his heart, accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He was no longer merely a veteran of military warfare; he had been anointed as a Soldier of God.

Driven by the Holy Spirit, Abe embarked on evangelistic missions across the archipelago, bringing physical healing, spiritual renewal, and the gospel to forgotten communities. Recognizing the need to unite non-denominational workers, missionaries, and spiritual instruments across the country, he was guided to form a coalition of faith.

On December 6, 1996, after extensive planning and spiritual counsel, Abe established the Alliance of the Resurrected Christ Apostles and Missionaries of the Philippines (ARCAMP). Serving as an umbrella organization for missionaries across the land, ARCAMP carries a single, unified mandate under Abe's leadership: to build the Kingdom of God on earth and usher in a renewed era of faith for Pilipinas, Bayang Banal—the Holy Nation of the Philippines.

**This is just the first part of the amazing life of Mistah Abe. The second part will feature his current commitments and activities to the callings of his spiritual and patriotic journey. Abangan!!!**





## CLASS 1977

# PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE



**A**LWAYS OUTNUMBERED BUT NEVER OUTFOUGHT. So goes the old motto of the Philippine Constabulary that upon their graduation on 01 March 1977, 41 members of PMA Masikap Class of 1977 joined that elite branch of service of the AFP, vowing never to be outdone and never to be outfought. These Masikap Constables were: Raul BACALZO, Ireneo BACOLOD, Benjamin BELARMINO JR, Jaime BUENAFLO, Lino CALINGASAN, Andres CARO II, Josefino CATALUÑA, Fidel CIMATU JR, Renato CRUZ, Isagani CUEVAS, Leodegario DE GUZMAN, Danilo DESUASIDO, Edgardo DIVINA, Danilo EMPEDRAD, Mervyn ESPADERO, Arnulfo ESPIRITU, Ramon GATAN, Renato HEREDIA, Ronnie JAVIER, Ireneo MANAOIS, Salvador MANGA JR, Roque MARAÑON JR, Eugene MARTIN, Teofilo MELLIZA JR, Jaime MILLA, Conrado MIÑANO JR, Ricardo PADILLA, Perfecto PALAD, Orlando PESTAÑO, Arturo QUILOP, Anselmo ROXAS, Mario SANDIEGO, Mateo SAN MIGUEL JR, Jessie SEBLARIO, Felizardo SERAPIO JR, Angelo SUNGLAO, Jaime TAGACA, Pedro TANGO, Federico TERTE, Balligi TIRA and Ricardo VER. Eric JAVIER reported a few months after his graduation from USMA, making the PC group's strength to 42.

### LIFE IN THE SERVICE BEGAN

After the 30-day post-graduation leave, the new Masikap PC 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants clad in their immaculate khaki uniforms reported to Camp Crame to start their official duty. Orientation briefings were given by the PC General and Special Staff after which they were received by the Chief of Constabulary, MGen Fidel V Ramos who exhorted them to be loyal to the country and to the service, and be humble servants of the people they have vowed to serve and protect. It was highlighted by his specific instruction that these new 2Lts should have field experience foremost and "smell the smoke of battle" first, which meant that they should be assigned to the different PC Battalions. They were herded thereafter to the Constabulary Support Command where they were issued two duffle bags each containing field equipment—from mess kit to water canteen to poncho to fatigue uniforms, and everything that may be needed in the field. They were also issued a .22 Caliber Magnum revolver—"the most reliable sidearm" according to the Commanding Officer of the Firearms and Explosives Unit, Col Alfonso Trance '54.

Their brief stay in Camp Crame was capped by the issuance of orders specifying their first assignments in the field. By mid-April 1977, 38 of the Masikap Constables found themselves assigned to different PC battalions in Mindanao, Sulu and Basilan where the

thorny issue of MNLF secessionist movement still persisted. Three were assigned to the Cordilleras in the 1<sup>st</sup> PC Zone to confront the problematic Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA). The 57<sup>th</sup> PC Bn and 54<sup>th</sup> PC Bn got the bulk of the new 2Lts with 16 and 12, respectively while the other Battalions had two each. Eric Javier joined the 61<sup>st</sup> PC Bn later.

### THE FIRST ASSIGNMENT AFTER GRADUATION

| 57 <sup>TH</sup> PC Bn | 54 <sup>TH</sup> PC Bn | 51 <sup>ST</sup> PC Bn                            | 56 <sup>TH</sup> PC Bn   |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| I CUEVAS               | R BACALZO              | D DESUASIDO                                       | B BELARMINO              |
| E DIVINA               | I BACOLOD              | T MELLIZA                                         | F SERAPIO                |
| D EMPEDRAD             | L CALINGASAN           |                                                   |                          |
| A ESPIRITU             | J CATALUÑA             | <b>59<sup>TH</sup> PC Bn</b>                      | <b>Cordilleras, IPCZ</b> |
| L DE GUZMAN            | F CIMATU               | A CARO                                            | J BUENAFLO               |
| S MANGA                | I MANAOIS              | R HEREDIA                                         | M ESPADERO               |
| R MARAÑON              | J MILLA                |                                                   | E MARTIN                 |
| C MIÑANO               | R PADILLA              | <b>60<sup>TH</sup> PC Bn</b>                      |                          |
| A QUILOP               | P PALAD                | R GATAN                                           |                          |
| A ROXAS                | M SAN MIGUEL           | O PESTAÑO                                         |                          |
| M SANDIEGO             | A SUNGLAO              | (Both later transferred to the 56 <sup>th</sup> ) |                          |
| J SEBLARIO             | J TAGACA               |                                                   |                          |
| P TANGO                |                        | <b>61<sup>ST</sup> PC Bn</b>                      |                          |
| F TERTE                |                        | R CRUZ                                            |                          |
| B TIRA                 |                        | R JAVIER                                          |                          |
| R VER                  |                        | E JAVIER                                          |                          |

### LIFE AND CHALLENGES IN THE FIELD

It did not take long for the Masikap Constables to experience the first baptism of fire when in July 1977, *Salvo Sunglao*, leading a platoon of PC soldiers, encountered a heavily-armed group of NPA terrorists in Agusan del Norte resulting in the killing and wounding of a number of terrorists and the capture of several high-powered firearms. This encounter made Salvo the first battle-experienced and the first recipient of a military award among the Masikap Constables. In September 1977, *Piloy Melliza*, became the first WOUNDED-IN-ACTION (WIA) casualty when his platoon was ambushed by MNLF terrorists in Sulu and the Chaimite armored personnel carrier he was riding in was hit by a land mine. The first KILLED-IN-ACTION (KIA) casualty not only of the PC group but of the whole Masikap class was *Renato Cruz* who lost his life in a fierce armed encounter with a MNLF group on the beaches of Brgy Semut, Tuburan, Basilan in October 1977.



PMA MASIKAP CLASS 1977; GOLDEN PLEBOS 2023.

These episodes turned out to be confidence-building baptisms of fire as every Masikap Constables soon had their own “taste of battle”. Most notable was in late 1977 when *Benjie Belarmino* and *Apiong Serapio* stood out in the famous Battle of Kanlagay in Sulu where 80 MNLF rebels were killed and more than 100 firearms were recovered. It was considered the biggest single encounter won by the PC at that time although the PC suffered 15 KIAs and a number of WIAs. For their heroism, Benjie and Apiong earned the first ever GOLD CROSS MEDAL for the Masikap Constables. A few years later, *Jing Tagaca*, in an unwavering display of loyalty and courage, was awarded the first DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT STAR for the PC group when he led a company of PC soldiers against a better-armed rebel soldiers during the failed coup attempt in November 1989. He was also awarded the WOUNDED PERSONNEL MEDAL for the injury he sustained and painfully endured for the rest of his life. In sum, almost all the Masikap PC “Segundo Kamotes” have “smelled the smoke of battle” as desired by the Chief PC and have each secured a military award or more.

However, all was not that well in the field. In November 1978, a platoon of *Ric Padilla* was ambushed in Lanao del Sur and soon Ric’s 542<sup>nd</sup> PC Coy was engaged in a firefight with a well-entrenched, superior MNLF force. *Per Palad*’s 541<sup>st</sup> PC Coy immediately jumped in to reinforce and rescue Ric’s beleaguered Coy. This forced the enemy to withdraw. Although Ric suffered 15 KIAs and two WIAs, the incident drove home an important lesson—that in desperate times, a mistah will always come to the rescue of a fellow mistah in distress.

As the PC Zones were disbanded and the PC Regional Commands (RECOM) were organized in 1979, many of the Masikap Constables were re-assigned to the different Provincial Commands mostly as Intelligence and Operations Officer (I & O), except for some who remained in the PC Battalions as Company Commanders. Some joined the different Regional Intelligence and Security units. A few were selected as Aide-de-Camp (AdC) of some Generals and VIPs- *Eric Javier* was the AdC of Chief PC MGen Fidel Ramos; *Ric Padilla* was AdC of post-EDSA Chief PC MGen Renato De Villa; *Don Miñano* was AdC of BGen Romeo Gatan; *Ding Terte* was AdC of BGen Andres Ramos; *Elmer Roxas* was AdC of BGen Alfredo Olano while *Bal Tira* was AdC of BGen

Hermilio Ahorro. *Andy Caro* and *Spade Espadero* became the AdC and Security Officers of then Presidential son, Ferdinand Marcos Jr, while *JB Buenaflor* served as AdC and Security Officer of then Presidential daughter, Irene Marcos. Others went back to the Alma Mater to become Tactical Officers, namely: *Jake Cataluña*, *Fidel Cimatu*, *Dan Empedrad* and *Mario Sandiego*. Later *Dan Desuasido* joined the Corps of Professor and spent the rest of his military career with the permanent military faculty of PMA.

*Andy Caro* will always be remembered as the indomitable “Warrior of North Cotabato”. In 1986-1987 alone, as the Company Commander of 457<sup>th</sup> PC Coy, he led his unit in 20 armed encounters with Southern Philippine terrorists (SPTs) and accounted for more than 30 enemy KIA—actual body counts, the capture of several leading terrorists, the recovery of more than 50 high-powered firearms including .30 caliber machine guns, mortars and IEDs, and the wounding of undetermined number of terrorists. Andy’s accomplishments in North Cotabato have been considered in PC history as one of the most significant achievements attained single-handedly by a PC Company. Andy has thus become a revered and respected icon of courage not only in North Cotabato but in the whole of Central Mindanao as well.

The rest of the 1980s demonstrated the Masikap Constables’ courage and ability as they continued to cast their individual marks in the field. Many were recognized and bestowed awards at the provincial, regional and national levels. In the national category, *Orly Pestaño* was selected in 1985 as the “INP District Commander of the Year – Rural Category”. *Apiong Serapio* and *Miles Milla* were adjudged “PC Company Commander of the Year”—Apiong in 1986 and Miles in 1989.

#### FROLICS IN THE FIELD AND HUMOR IN UNIFORM

While life in the field was a no-laughing matter, the Masikap Constables were also involved in some amusing circumstances. A story circulated that soon after reporting for duty with the 56<sup>th</sup> PC Bn, *Benjie Belarmino* and *Apiong Serapio* test-fired their issued “most reliable sidearm”, the .22 caliber Magnum revolver, on a cow which happened to be in the “no man’s land” area of Sulu. Fortunately for the cow, it sustained only minor scratches on its thick skin.

It was also not a so-serious business in Basilan. One time, the platoons of *Per Palad* and *Salvo Sunglao* engaged an undetermined number of MNLF terrorists in a brief but raging skirmish. As it was already dark, only the flashes of the enemy's firearms could be seen, *Per* requested for mortar-delivered flares over the enemy's location. *Miles Milla*, who headed the Combat Support Platoon, immediately fired several flares as requested. Unfortunately, his flares hovered above *Per* and *Salvo's* location—making it a clear and perfect target for the enemy. After several trial-and-error adjustments, *Miles* got the coordinates correctly, but by then the MNLF terrorists had long withdrawn. *Miles* simply told *Per* and *Salvo*—“*Bok ang liwanag pala ng flares, parang araw!*”

In the Agusan provinces, *Lino Calingasan*, *Jefrox Seblario*, *Leo De Guzman* and *Divines Divina*, made waves as cunning operators. They were dubbed as the Big 4 but sometimes called the “Cuadro de Jack of PMA Class 1977.” Their activities were so classified and complicated that only the living member of the Big 4, *Lino Calingasan*, may be able to reveal the mystery of their operations. *Lino* later became the Regional Director of Region 13 covering the two Agusan and two Surigao provinces including Dinagat Islands.

One tactical operation in Basilan involved seven Masikap Constables. The platoons of *Irene Manaois*, *Mike San Miguel* and *Raul Bacalzo* were tasked as the main effort to assault a suspected MNLF encampment. The platoons of *Ric Padilla* and *Salvo Sunglao* were to execute a diversionary attack from the right flank, while *Miles Milla*, with his 60 mm and 81 mm mortars was to provide combat support. Farther to the left of the target area was the platoon of *Per Palad* to act as the blocking force. *Ric* and *Salvo's* platoons engaged the enemy first, which killed *Ric's* radioman and his close-in buddy on the spot. In the thick of battle the Battalion Commander, the late LCol Romeo Abendan '67, radioed *Salvo* asking him their exact location. *Salvo* perhaps in excitement responded, “*Sir narito kami sa gitna ng mga puno ng niyog at maraming mga bulaklak*”—forgetting his lessons in map reading and navigation. With *Ric's* timely response as to their exact location, the Army's artillery support saved the day for *Ric* and *Salvo*. Curiously, *Ric* and *Salvo* never asked for combat support from *Miles*. It could only be surmised that *Ric* and *Salvo* were worried that *Miles* might inaccurately fire his mortar rounds again as in the past.

*Miles Milla* may be the first to be officially reprimanded in writing by no less than the Chief PC for alleged cockfighting. In his own defense, *Miles* insisted that he was merely conducting close surveillance of wanted persons and monitoring suspected urban partisan fighters of the New People's Army, who were reportedly visiting the cockpits. He may also be the first Company Commander whose full name and rank were officially recorded in the police blotter for punching an INP personnel in the stomach for serious breach of discipline. *Miles* countered that the act was an official exercise of old-school leadership and a prerogative of command. It was fascinating though, that *Miles* was later adjudged the PC/INP Company Commander of the Year.

*Per Palad* and *Ric Padilla* may be the first PC-student officers who recorded 0.0 % in the final examinations of the PC Officer Basic Course in the PC Training Command despite being ranked numbers 1 and 2, respectively in the order of merit immediately

prior to the final examinations. The misdeed was in truth intentional on the part of *Per* and *Ric* for trying to circumvent the then existing PC policy that those who ranked numbers 1 and 2 in the order of merit of every class in any PC training institution shall be assigned to that training facility as part of its faculty and training staff. They were subjected to investigation aimed at possible Court Martial proceedings for Conduct Unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman. Adding insult to the injury by skipping the graduation ceremony, *Ric* was made to report personally to the Chief PC who gave him long and strongly-worded tongue-lashings but in the end pardoned the two of them. Contrary to their plan and by clear and irrevocable instruction, the Chief PC assigned *Per* and *Ric* to the PC Training Command to become members of its faculty and training staff. Both graduated last in the order of merit of their class.

### TRANSFORMATION FROM CONSTABLES TO COPS

In 1991, the Republic Act 6975 took effect, disbanding the Philippine Constabulary (PC) and establishing the Philippine National Police (PNP). Most opted to leave the Armed Forces of the Philippines and joined the PNP. *JB Buenaflor* and *Ronnie Javier* decided to remain in the AFP and joined the Philippine Army. *Dan Desuasido* chose to resign early from the service. *Jess Melegrito*, who was with the Philippine Navy at that time, settled on joining the PNP. With *Renato Cruz* and *Jess Seblario* already gone, a total of 38 members of PMA Class 1977 became officers of the newly-organized PNP.

As was in the PC before, the new Masikap Cops continued to shine as more national and major awards crossed their path. At the national level, *Salvo Sunglao* and *Pete Tango* were selected as the “Junior Staff Officer of the Year”—*Salvo* in 1992 and *Pete* in 1994. In 1997, *Pete Tango* was chosen as the “Civil Service Commission's Dangal ng Bayan” awardee. *Pete Tango* and *Raul Bacalzo* were selected as the “CIDG Regional Office Chief of the Year”—*Pete* in 1997 and *Raul* in 2001. The PMAAAI's “Cavalier Award” and “Outstanding Achievement Award” were conferred on *Raul Bacalzo* in 1998 and 2011, respectively. *Benjie Belarmino* got his “Cavalier Award” in 2008. *Ric Padilla* was adjudged as the “Provincial Director of the Year” in 2001 and was selected as one of the “Ten Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines (TOPP)” in 2003. *Gani Cuevas* earned the honor of being the “Senior Commissioned Officer for Administration of the Year” in 2005. *Andy Caro* and *Raul Bacalzo* were named the “National Support Unit Director of the Year”—*Andy* in 2005 and *Raul* in 2008. *Andy Caro* was also the first ever recipient of the “Honesty and Integrity Unit Award” in 2005 for the recovery and return to airline passengers of some 16M pesos worth of valuables and cash left in the airport. *Pete Tango* once again captured the limelight when he was adjudged as the “Regional Director of the Year” in 2010. *Raul Bacalzo* was twice a “Philippine Legion of Honor” awardee—in the Degree of Officer in 1997 and in the Degree of Commander in 2011.

In the field of sports, *Benjie Belarmino* carried all by himself the torch for the Masikap Cops. He was a “Multi-International Champion in Practical Shooting” in tournaments held world-wide. The fastest gun-alive of the PNP, *Benjie* earned Gold Medals in

Indonesia in 2004; Australia in 2007; Thailand in 2007; Indonesia in 2016; and Bronze Medal in France in 2017. Also in 1985, Benjie was the “National Marathon Champion” in the All-Executive 10-kilometer category.

In the field of intelligence and investigation, *Eugene Martin* will always be honored as the “Peacekeeper of Abra” when he, against all odds, ended the violent political warlordism in the province with its capital Bangued infamously described by the media as the “murder capital of the North”. The most atrocious incident then was the ambush-killing of the incumbent Congressman in 2006. With zealous intelligence works and meticulous but impartial investigations, Eugene stood sturdy and fearless from outside pressures and threat to his life. He caused the filing of criminal cases against the incumbent Governor and his minions culminating in their arrest and conviction. He also directed the conduct of raids of their hide-outs and safehouses resulting in the dismantling of their private armies. Eugene served as the Regional Director of the Cordilleras and retired as the Director for Intelligence of the PNP.

In the field of entertainment, no one would ever beat *Benjie Belarmino*. Even when he was in Sulu, Benjie used to be regularly invited by the other Battalions including Army and Marine units co-located in the area, to sing and entertain troops during smokers-night events. A gifted singer and a passionate performer in the caliber of Andrea Bocelli, Bon Jovi and Wing’s Paul McCartney, Benjie continues to sing in class affairs and occasionally performs in some popular clubs, posh hotels and other by-invitation-only events in the country.

#### FROM CONSTABLES TO COPS: THE FIRST AND THE BEST

The Masikap Cops also recorded some of the FIRSTS in the annals of the PC/PNP group. In 1980, *Piloy Melliza and Jake Cataluña* were the first to be meritoriously promoted to CAPTAIN for the massive intelligence operations in Davao resulting in the total dismantling of the NPA leadership and machinery in Eastern Mindanao. *Jun Manga, Mar Sandiego, Jake Cataluña, Pitong Heredia and Raul Bacalzo* were the first to be adjusted to LT COLONEL under the PNP Law in 1991. First to be promoted to COLONEL in 1998 were *Pete Tango and Raul Bacalzo*. In March 2004, *Andy Caro and Raul Bacalzo* were the first BRIG GENERALS not only of the PC/PNP group but of the class as well. *Raul Bacalzo* was the first to be promoted to MAJ GENERAL in 2008 while *Per Palad* was the first to be appointed LT GENERAL in 2010. RAUL BACALZO was the first and only 4-star GENERAL in the Masikap77 PC/PNP Group when he was appointed the Chief of the PNP in 2010. The first Provincial Director was *Major Bal Tira* in Ifugao and the first Regional Director was *Brig Gen Andy Caro* in Region 11.

*Per Palad* was the first and only PC/PNP group’s FBI Academy’s graduate of the FBI Regular Training Session in Quantico, Virginia, USA. Thus, he is the only one who can rightfully claim the title “The Fed”, short for a regular FBI agent. *Andy Caro* holds the record of having the longest tenure as the Director of the PNP Aviation Security Group serving in that capacity for three years and eight months. His tenure paved the way for the conferment of the “All Green Security Clear and Zero Incident Audits” certification to the Philippine airports by the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the International

Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the years 2003 - 2006, a first in the history of civil aviation security in the country. *Orly Pestaño* was the first twice-elected President of PMA Class 1977 in two separate terms of office. *Benjie Belarmino* took the NAPOLCOM Police Executive Service examinations twice to prove that he could top both examinations and he did; a first in the history of NAPOLCOM. *Raul Bacalzo* was the first and only PhD graduate. *Don Miñano* has been acknowledged as the “Father of the Masikap Chicken Club”, having organized and founded the same in Camp Crame in the late 1990s.

Even in foreign and local trainings, the Masikap Constables had risen to the occasion. *Per Palad* was cited as the 1990 “Most Distinguished Allied Graduate” while *Mon Gatan* was the 1989 “Distinguished Allied Graduate” of the MP Officer Advanced Course that they separately took in Fort Maclellan, Alabama, USA. *Miles Milla* was the 1982 “Distinguished Allied Graduate” of the Infantry Officer Basic Course while *Raul Bacalzo* was the 1989 “Distinguished Allied Graduate” of the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, both completed in Fort Benning, Georgia, USA. *Miles Milla and Ric Padilla* both “topped” their respective PC Officer Advanced Course in the PC Training Command in 1986. *Pitong Heredia* graduated Number 1 in his PC Officer Basic Course in the PC Training Command in 1979 and repeated the feat by graduating Number 1 in his Public Safety Officer Senior Executive Course in the Philippine Public Safety College in 1995. *Gani Cuevas* graduated both Number 1 in his Public Safety Officer Senior Executive Course and in his Total Quality Management Course taken at the Philippine Public Safety College in 1995.

The group produced five lawyers, namely- *Pitong Heredia and Pete Tango* in 1984; *Raul Bacalzo* in 1985; *Jake Cataluna* in 1986 and *Mar Sandiego* in 1989. *Pitong Heredia and Jess Melegrito*, joined separate UN Peacekeeping missions in East Timor, with Pitong as the Philippine Contingent Commander and the UN Civilian Police Commander. Consequently, Pitong became the only Masikap Cop with the most foreign postings when he was appointed Police Attache to Washington DC, USA.

In addition to and concurrent with their military and police duties, some PC/PNP Masikaps served in the civilian bureaucracy. *Raul Bacalzo* was appointed as DOJ Special Prosecutor from 1986 to 1990 to investigate and prosecute special cases assigned by the DOJ. *Pitong Heredia* was the Head Executive Assistant of SILG Alfredo Lim and Director of DIAL 117, DILG from 1996 to 1997. *Raul Bacalzo* was also appointed by the President as Panel Alternate Member of the Presidential Commission for the Peace Process in the peace negotiations with the military rebels from 1993 to 1997. In 1999, *Andy Caro* authored Executive Order Number 62, creating the Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes and served as its first Director for Operations from 1999 to 2001. He was succeeded by *Iren Bacolod* who served in the same capacity from 2001 to 2002. *Orly Pestaño* was the Director of the Financial Management Service of PDEA from 2002 to 2005. *Eric Javier* served as Military Assistant to SND from 1988 to 1989 and later as Technical Assistant to the President and Executive Officer, Presidential Consultant on Police Affairs from 1994 to 1998. *Lino Calingasan* was the Chief of the Intelligence Division of the Bureau of Immigration from 2001 to 2004. *Andy Caro* also served as the Head Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff of SOTC Leandro Mendoza from 2002 to 2003.



PMA MASIKAP CLASS 1977 PC-PNP GROUP; GOLDEN PLEBOS 2023.

#### THEY SHONE AND SLOWLY FADED AWAY

In 2010, the Masikap Cops dominated the command and leadership hierarchy of the PNP with the appointment of *Raul Bacalzo* as the 16<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Philippine National Police. *Per Palad* was designated as The Deputy Chief PNP for Administration while *Benjie Belarmino* became The Deputy Chief PNP for Operations. Actively assisting them were *Miles Milla* as the Director for Personnel and Records Management (C1), *Pitong Heredia* as the Director for Intelligence (C2) and *Jake Cataluna* as the Director for Operations (C3). Still fighting it out in Mindanao in 2010 were *Salvo Sunglao* as the Region 9 Director, *Pete Tango* as Region 11 Director and *Lino Calingasan* as Region 13 Director while *Jun Manga* remained as the Deputy Director of the Southern Luzon Area Police Command.

Five Masikap Cops opted not to complete their mandatory military or police service and chose to leave early in order to seek greener pastures abroad or elsewhere. *Elmer Roxas* and *Spade Espadero* immigrated to Canada while *Mike San Miguel* relocated to the USA. *Dan Desuasido* and *Rox Maranon* decided to establish private businesses in the country. *Jess Melegrito* optionally retired from the PNP and joined the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor. Eight members went ahead of the pack and moved to the Great Beyond—*Renato Cruz* in 1977, *Jessie Seblario* in 1988, *Arnulfo Espiritu* in 2002, *Leodegario De Guzman* in 2012, *Edgardo Divina* in 2022, *Jaime Tagaca* in 2019, *Mario Sandiego* in 2024 and *Balligi Tira* in 2025.

The years 2008 to 2012 saw the mandatory retirement of the remaining members of the PC/PNP group. First to go was *Art Quilop* and the last to sign off was *Benjie Belarmino*. Over the years they produced one General, two Lt Generals, nine Major Generals, 16 Brig Generals, five Colonels, two Majors, four Captains and one Second Lieutenant. They occupied major positions in the PNP—one Chief PNP (CPNP), two The Deputy Chiefs PNP for Administration (TDCA), three

The Deputy Chiefs PNP for Operations (TDCO), three The Chiefs of the Directorial Staff (TCDS), nine Directors of the PNP Directorial Staff, four Directors of the Area Police Command, 17 Regional Directors, and 14 Directors of National Support Units.

#### THE LAST ASSIGNMENT PRIOR TO RETIREMENT

|             |                                |              |                           |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| R BACALZO   | - Chief PNP                    | M SANDIEGO   | - RD, Region 8            |
| P PALAD     | - Dep Chief PNP                | A SUNGLAO    | - RD, Region 9            |
| B BELARMINO | - Dep Chief PNP                | D EMPEDRAD   | - RD, Region 10           |
| J MILLA     | - Director for Personnel/C1    | P TANGO      | - RD, Region 11           |
| E MARTIN    | - Director for Intelligence/C2 | F CIMATU     | - RD, Region 12           |
| R HEREDIA   | - Director for Intelligence/C2 | L CALINGASAN | - RD, Region 13           |
| A CARO      | - Director for Operations/C3   | O PESTAÑO    | - RD, Cordillera Region   |
| J CATALUÑA  | - Director for Operations/C3   | A QUILOP     | - RD, RIAS 11             |
| T MELLIZA   | - Director for IT Management   | I BACOLOD    | - Dir, Civil Security Grp |
| J TAGACA    | - Inspector General/IAS        | I MANAOIS    | - Dir, COMMEL Grp         |
| E JAVIER    | - Director, APC South Luzon    | D MIÑANO     | - Dir, COMMEL Grp         |
| F SERAPIO   | - Director, APC West Mindanao  | S MANGA      | - DD, APC, South Luzon    |
| R GATAN     | - RD, Region 1                 | R VER        | - DRDA, Region 9          |
| R PADILLA   | - RD, Region 4                 | E DIVINA     | - SOG, CIDG               |
| B TIRA      | - RD, Region 5                 | J MELEGRITO  | - UN PK Force             |
| I CUEVAS    | - RD, Region 6                 | L DE GUZMAN  | - PNP Gen Hosp            |
| F TERTE     | - RD, Region 7                 |              |                           |

## THE WOMEN BEHIND THE SUCCESS

While the Masikap Cops were tough and stern in the performance of their official functions, they all proved beyond an iota of doubt that they were romantic lovers too. They would not have reached the apex of their career without the support of the women they love. Majority met their future wives in their respective places of assignment as they fell in LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. Five manifested their UTMOST LOYALTY to their childhood classmates, neighbors, or 'kabayans'. Only five remained true to their KAYDET GIRLS in PMA while three met their future life-long partners under unique circumstances evincing truth to the song "YOU ARE MY DESTINY"

### LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

|               |                       |              |                          |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| I BACOLOD     | - JULIET, Agusan Sur  | R PADILLA    | - GRACE, Cagayan         |
| L CALINGASAN  | - LAI, Agusan Norte   | P PALAD      | - JOSIE, Kalinga Apayao  |
| J CATALUÑA    | - MENCHIE, Davao City | O PESTAÑO    | - LOI, Davao Oriental    |
| R CRUZ        | - NANETTE, Basilan    | A QUILOP     | - EMILY, Camarines Norte |
| I CUEVAS      | - SUSAN, Iloilo       | A ROXAS      | - JUDITH, Cebu           |
| D EMPEDRAD    | - JULIET, Bukidnon    | M SANDIEGO   | - MARITA, Baguio City    |
| M ESPADERO    | - VIRGIE, Mt Province | M SAN MIGUEL | - LINA, Quezon           |
| A ESPIRITU    | - NIKKI, Bukidnon     | J SEBLARIO   | - YOLY, Agusan Norte     |
| R HEREDIA     | - TITA, Camp Crame    | A SUNGLAO    | - ROSE, Basilan          |
| E JAVIER      | - MAYLENE, OCPC       | J TAGACA     | - ANITA, Pampanga        |
| I MANAOIS     | - ANNE, Sorsogon      | F TERTE      | - LEILA, Quezon          |
| R MARAÑON     | - GLORIA, Pampanga    | P TANGO      | - WINA, Metro Manila     |
| E MARTIN      | - PRECY, Benguet      | B TIRA       | - ANGIE, Zambales        |
| J BUENAFLORES | - MALOU, Metro Manila |              |                          |

### UTMOST LOYALTY

|             |                     |         |                        |
|-------------|---------------------|---------|------------------------|
| R BACALZO   | - LEVI, Townmate    | R GATAN | - HENNIE, Neighbor     |
| L DE GUZMAN | - MILANIE, Neighbor | J MILLA | - MERCY, Province mate |
| E DIVINA    | - SUSAN, Townmate   |         |                        |

### MY KAYDET GIRL

|             |          |          |          |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| D DESUASIDO | - AILEEN | D MIÑANO | - MENCHU |
| R JAVIER    | - PINKY  | R VER    | - BEBS   |
| J MELEGRITO | - JANET  |          |          |

### YOU ARE MY DESTINY

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| B BELARMINO | - LYNNE, Southern Cruise    |
| A CARO      | - CHING, Ward 24, VLMC      |
| T MELLIZA   | - ANNIE, Surgical Ward VLMC |

### LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

After the Masikap Cops left the police service for good, some continued to serve in various capacities in the government, in the corporate arena or in private practice. Spade Espadero remains as the Executive Director of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. USEC Apiong Serapio became the Executive Director of the Center for Transnational Crimes and later Commissioner of NAPOLCOM. USEC Jake Cataluna and USEC Rene Bacolod both served as Deputy Executive Secretary while Lino Calingasan became the Vice President for Security of PAGCOR. ASEC Andy

Caro was appointed Head Executive Assistant in the Office of the Executive Secretary. In the local government, Fidel Cimatu completed three continuous terms as Mayor of Bangui, Ilocos Norte while Ric Padila is the incumbent Mayor of Bongabon, Nueva Ecija. Irene Manaois once served as the City Administrator of Sorsogon. In the corporate world, Don Minano still works as member of the Board of Directors of the Land Bank Leasing and Financing Corporation while Andy Caro continues to serve as the Security Banking Corporation's Chief Security and Safety Officer. Eric Javier and Piloy Melliza applied their computer savvy as members of the Board of Trustees of Public Safety and Mutual Benefit Association, Inc.

Some chose to put their knack in the different fields of private endeavor—Per Palad, Ric Padilla, Dan Empedrad, Iren Bacolod, Miles Milla, Raul Bacalzo, Ding Terte, Eric Javier and Pete Tango are still trying their hidden skills in farming. Andy Caro and Iren Bacolod put their interests in fish and aquatic culture while Orly Pestano takes his poultry business seriously. Jake Cataluna and Mar San Diego have been 'abogados de campanilla' in their law practice. Pitong Heredia, a lawyer, becomes a full-time hospital administrator while Ric Ver joins the family's passion for youth education and school administration. Apiong Serapio still teaches as Fellow in the Philippine Public Safety College while also attending to his real estate business. Per Palad, Pete Tango and Raul Bacalzo are also engaged in property leasing and management while Eugene Martin still enjoys managing his famous resort and theme park. Gani Cuevas busies himself managing his family's private security and investigation agency. Jun Manga, Dan Desuasido and Bal Tira find happiness in bible ministry and faith-based advocacies. Most, if not all, Masikap PC/PNP retirees are also happily applying their skills in the pursuit of 'APOS'tolic missions, finding joy and solace in caring for their respective grandchildren and great grandchildren

### THE LEGACY

The PC/PNP group of PMA Masikap Class of 1977 consists of men who have met the challenges squarely—with an unfaltering spirit and a dedicated mind. They are the people who have worked away from their families, who have walked the streets and climbed the hills and mountains in the dead of the night, under the hot midday sun, or under the pouring rain to ensure that the streets are safe and the hills and mountains are secured. They are the men whose achievements may never have made it to the headlines but who have continued to perform their tasks dutifully and selflessly. Their deeds may not have been known to the public but they have served with commitment, dedication and hard work.

For 50 years the PC/PNP group of PMA Masikap Class of 1977 has served the country and the Filipino people with the PMA core values of COURAGE, INTEGRITY and LOYALTY. Their tour of duty that brought them from the mountains of Baguio City to the length and breadth of the Philippines has brought honor and pride to the organization in general and to their respective families in particular which their future generations shall cherish and admire. Their experiences and achievements are a living testament that these Golden Masikaps may indeed have been outnumbered but they have always endured and have never been outfought. This is their story and this is their legacy.





• CAV RAUL B LEYRITANA '79

The Philippines' security landscape is growing more complex, shaped by the converging and evolving threats. At the center of this landscape is the annual Balikatan Exercise. Once a routine military exercise between the Philippines and the United States, it has now evolved into a multilateral exercise that extends beyond traditional military cooperation, shaping how Philippines prepares for and responds to contemporary security challenges.

Over time, Balikatan has mirrored Philippines' shifting security priorities. During the Cold War, it focused on combined military readiness and alliance-building. In the early 2000s, it shifted toward counterterrorism operations, later on expanding to include humanitarian assistance and disaster response. Amid the rising tensions in West Philippine Sea (WPS), the Balikatan Exercise has continued to evolve into a full spectrum, multi-domain training platform covering land, sea, air, and cyber operations, with growing participation from like-minded partners.

The 2026 edition of Balikatan underscores this transformation. With approximately 17,000 troops from the Philippines, United States, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and France, alongside international observers, the Balikatan Exercise has expanded in scope and moved beyond a bilateral cooperation toward a more connected defense framework. The exercise now features more complex scenarios such as territorial defense, maritime security, and high-intensity combat operations across the country. These drills are all aimed at enhancing Philippines' ability to defend its territory, conduct joint operations with allies, and respond to illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive actions in a high-tension environment. This transformation reflects a shift from reactive defense posture toward a proactive defense security approach in a changing security landscape.

Beyond training, the Balikatan Exercise serves as a mechanism for generating strategic outcomes, advancing a more self-reliant defense posture and strengthening national resilience. Simultaneously, the participation of foreign partners reflects their shared commitment

to collective security, enhanced interoperability, and promotion of a rules-based order in the WPS which remains the focal point of the regional tension. Being a vital sea line of communication comparable in strategic significance to the Strait of Hormuz, the importance of the WPS in promoting regional stability cannot be overemphasized.

Moving forward, the future iterations of Balikatan will likely continue expanding in scope and participation, evolving into a more integrated, multi-domain, and technology-driven framework essential for building credible deterrence and strengthening the Philippines' external defense posture, while retaining the capacity to address internal security threats. However, the progressive evolution of Balikatan must translate into sustained capability development rather than short-term gains. This requires institutionalizing lessons learned and aligning them with the modernization efforts of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) under the Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC). Thus, the AFP needs to absorb new skills, develop indigenous logistics systems as well as asymmetric deterrent strategy. This capability development should be reinforced by tailoring doctrine to local conditions, ensuring the continuous modernization of military equipment and materiel at the same time pursuing the development of the local defense industry.

In the final analysis, Balikatan Exercise has outgrown its original role as a routine bilateral drill. It now serves as a strategic platform that shapes national defense posture as well as enhances deterrence and interoperability. More than a multilateral exercise, Balikatan acts as a catalyst for capability development while directly strengthening a more resilient and increasingly self-reliant defense posture. The key challenge moving forward is not whether Balikatan will continue to expand in scope and increase in participation, but how the capability development can be harnessed to attain the Philippines' long-term interests toward bolstering the deterrence capability while reducing operational dependence from external partners in an increasingly contested security environment.



# Some Thoughts for the **DEVELOPMENT** of a **SOVEREIGN NAVAL VESSEL** **SRDP Program** (Part 2 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**

**T**he Challenges with the Forward Engineering Approach. The most notable forward engineering projects drew inspiration from the development of the Sarao Jeepney. This is unsurprising, given that the Sarao Jeepney story embodies an inspiring tale of Filipino technical ingenuity that has become an integral part of the Filipino culture. The Sarao Jeepney emerged from the Willys Jeep, which underwent a redesign specifically tailored for Philippine mass transportation.

For the Philippine Aeronautic Development Corporation (PADC), this inspiration manifested as the “Hummingbird” Project. In the 1980s, PADC collaborated with the Philippine Air Force to initiate the “Hummingbird” Project. As the Sarao Jeepney emerged from the Willys Jeep, the “Hummingbird” Project emerged from the Bo 105 airframe. However, it was only in 1997 that the government granted permission for the project to proceed. By that time, it can be inferred that the specifications of the equipment may have become obsolete. Nevertheless, in 1998, a project review concluded that the project was unjustifiably lengthy and costly to complete. Furthermore, the project faced the risk of copyright infringement, as the airframe was derived from the MBB/Eurocopter Bo 105C. Consequently, the project was ultimately abandoned.

The PADC was established with the aspiration of acquiring PRAs for multiple aircraft to sustain the production process. Simultaneously, PADC aimed to design and develop its own aircraft. Unfortunately, despite several manufacturing contracts to build different aircrafts under license, and attempts to design and develop its own aircraft, not enough demand was created to keep the production line operational. In the end, PADC also lost the technology it once was able to develop.

As for the PN Naval Planners, the Sarao Jeepney inspiration led to the Aguinaldo Class SRDP Program Project. This time, the vessel emerged from two design technologies: the Japanese-designed Tirad Pass SAR vessel for the basic hull and the German-designed Kagitingan Class for the superstructure. For propulsion, the ubiquitous, albeit obsolete, GM Detroit Diesel 12V92 TA was utilized to substitute for the original German-designed Japanese marine engine. For the superstructure, steel was used instead of aluminum. Due to funding constraints, it took over six years before the first vessel, BRP Emilio Aguinaldo, was completed. The construction of the second vessel, BRP General Antonio Luna,

commenced two weeks after the launch of BRP Aguinaldo and completed in 1.5 years. The vessels did not perform as expected and the project prematurely terminated.

The most ambitious forward engineering SRDP Program project was the Project Sta. Barbara Missile Program with the first missile being successfully launched in 1972. However, after over a decade, the program had made minimal progress due to various technical limitations and funding issues. Consequently, the program was ultimately abandoned following a change in administration in 1986.

Although intermittent funding is a contributing factor to the failures, it is considerably easier to address compared to the most challenging issue. The technical skills required to design and develop modern military aircraft and naval vessels are significantly higher than those needed to redesign a World War II-era Willys Jeep. The approach that may have been effective with Sarao Jeepney proved ineffective with the “Hummingbird” Project and the Aguinaldo Class SRDP Program Project. Since the Philippines is not an industrialized nation, acquiring the necessary technical skills domestically is limited.

**Transfer of technology is not a key success factor for an SRDP Program Project.** Notably, the Delta Mini Cruiser stands as the most successful SRDP Project initiative ever undertaken for two distinct reasons. Firstly, the product’s origin can be traced back to the Philippines. It was meticulously designed and constructed by Delta Motors Corp., a Filipino entity, in collaboration with Toyota, a Japanese multinational corporation, to meet the specific requirements of the AFP. Secondly, the product’s exceptional design and build quality facilitated its successful exportation to numerous countries, including Italy. All stages of the product development and production process were carried out by a Filipino entity. Regrettably, the program’s failure was attributed to external factor not by the program itself. The severe economic downturn during the period significantly impacted the whole local automotive industry.

What distinguishes the Delta Mini Cruiser from other SRDP Program Projects is its demonstration of the feasibility of indigenous development of both design and manufacturing technologies. This achievement extends beyond mere domestic production. It is a truly self-reliant and sovereign manufacturing.

## V. The Key Success Factors

The following are the key success factors that can be derived from the past SRDP Program Project initiatives:

**Adhere to the globally recognized design process that ensures optimal outcomes.** The production of poorly designed equipment is inherently doomed to failure. This was demonstrated by failed projects such as the Kagitingan Class, the Aguinaldo Class, BRP Tagbanua, and reverse-engineered projects. All of these projects were plagued with performance issues that could have been avoided if the projects had followed meticulous design processes. In fact, a vessel's performance can be accurately predicted using a combination of physics-based models and data-driven machine learning techniques that analyze factors such as speed, fuel consumption, and weather conditions. In his paper titled "Modern Design and Construction Methods as Applied to 95-Ft Patrol Boats," presented at a meeting of the Chesapeake Section of The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in Washington D.C. on May 7, 1954, the author, Capt. G.M. Phannemiller, USCG, demonstrated that the performance of a small craft less than 100 ft in length can be accurately predicted without constructing a prototype.

The SRDP Program projects that were mentioned did not undergo this process during their respective design stages. Instead, they proceeded directly to construction. In contrast, the Andrada Class Project opted to avoid making this shortcut. It even took an additional step that incorporated third-party regulations including the construction stages, ensuring that the design adhered to a well-established set of standards. As a US-designed and originally built vessel, it was classified under USCG Rules. Consequently, the Andrada Class achieved such success that it was even adopted by several navies in the Middle East.

In shipbuilding, naval architects follow a design process what is described as the ship design spiral. Essentially, this spiral follows four design stages that are iterated until the design is finalized. These four stages are concept design, preliminary design, contract design, and finally, detailed design. Advancements in computer technology, particularly the introduction of Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) and Finite Element Analysis (FEA) softwares, have tremendously improved the speed and reliability of the design process.

During the Concept Design phase, a feasibility study is conducted to assess the present and evolving threat or opportunity in the defense environment as well the size of the fleet of equipment. This phase focuses on establishing the fundamental functionality and viability of the vessel. Once the viability has been confirmed, the design process proceeds to the subsequent stages.

In the Preliminary Design phase, the initial concept undergoes rigorous testing, refinement, and validation to ascertain its feasibility. Technical and regulatory considerations are meticulously addressed, resulting in a comprehensive set of plans and specifications that demonstrate the design's viability and performance. These refined plans and specifications are subsequently prepared for contract finalization. Classification societies play a crucial role in this phase, providing essential support and expertise to ensure the design meets all necessary standards and requirements.

The Contract Design phase is when exact build requirements are finalized. Comprehensive set of plans and specifications that form the contractual basis for construction, price calculation, and delivery terms are prepared to form the detailed documentation required for a legally binding agreement between the shipowner and the shipyard.

Finally, the Detailed Design phase goes into play. The shipyard prepares a complete set of detailed engineering and

manufacturing documentation that allows the shipyard to begin metal cutting, assembly, and eventual launching and delivery of the ship.

**Utilize the appropriate manufacturing technology.** Alexander Graham Bell famously stated, "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success." Consequently, the success of manufacturing the vessel relies on the meticulous design of the vessel. However, no matter how well the vessel is designed, the project will inevitably fail if the builder lacks the requisite manufacturing technology to construct the intended product.

During the design process, the design is either based on available manufacturing technology or, in the case of highly advanced equipment, a new manufacturing technology is developed to enable the production of the designed equipment. The PCF SRDP Program Projects were unsuccessful because they attempted to replicate the vessel using the available manufacturing technology with the builder, rather than the specialized technology it was designed with. The same can be said with the Aguinaldo Class. For naval vessels like in the case of the Andrada Class, the vessel was also built to class, meaning that manufacturing process went thru stringent set of rules, which ensured that the vessel was built to high standards.

**Ensure the continuous operation of the production line.** It is evident that, despite the initial successes of numerous past SRDP Program Projects, they ultimately failed. There is a finite demand for each piece of equipment. When that demand is exhausted, the production line ceases, and the manufacturing capability is lost. This was what happened with the SRDP Program Projects during the PD415 regime. Notable examples of these SRDP Program Project initiatives include Elisco Tool Manufacturing Co., Colt M-16A1, PADC SIAI-Marchetti SF206, PADC Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander, and Vetronix URC-187. The uninterrupted operation of the production line is of utmost importance. The use of this technology is contingent upon its timely utilization, as failure to do so will result in its loss.

## VI. An SRDP Program for the Development of a Self-Reliant and Sovereign Naval Vessel Shipbuilding Program

Although specifically designed for the development of a Self-Reliant and Sovereign Naval Vessel Shipbuilding Program, certain aspects can be adapted for other forms of equipment projects. This program shall be modified as experience is gained and make it more responsive towards the development of a truly self-reliant sovereign defense industry.

**1. Abandon the colonial mentality mindset and reinforce national values.** For reasons now apparent, the nation will never be able to establish a self-reliant and sovereign defense industry unless detrimental national values are eradicated. This will enable the development of original Filipino equipment with a potential for export to help mitigate the persistent negative trade imbalance. Of utmost importance, this capability will also empower the PN to formulate strategies predicated on innovative equipment, thereby enabling them to potentially defeat a superior force. Additionally, transcending the colonial mindset and the prevalent "gaya-gaya" mindset would further foster national pride and patriotism.

**2. Gradually develop the industry, project by project, by utilizing In-country Enterprises rather than relying on domestic production from foreign suppliers.** The development of a self-reliant and sovereign defense industry is a huge and complex undertaking. Given the nation's current status as a non-industrialized country, this endeavor will necessitate substantial effort and a protracted

timeline. It will require a gradual and incremental approach, with each step progressing systematically. The magnitude of each step will depend on the ability of the end user and equipment contractor to collaborate effectively. Despite potential setbacks, it is crucial to sustain consistent effort, as exemplified by the successful implementation of PD415.

It is imperative to recognize that the establishment of a self-sufficient defense industry necessitates the development of distinct yet interrelated technologies: design technology, manufacturing technology, and product technology. Interrelatedness can sometimes make it challenging to discern one from the other. Advances in design creates new manufacturing processes in the same manner as advances in manufacturing processes affect the design. Together, they form the product technology. At most, relying solely on foreign suppliers for domestic production results only in job creation. At the best, it leads to the development of manufacturing technology, which may even be existing in the country in some form. After completion of the production run, even the manufacturing technology is likely to be lost. The ultimate objective is the advancement of product technology. Foreign suppliers will never be able to fulfill this objective; only In-country Enterprises can.

### 3. Establish an SRDP Sovereign Development Fund.

Obtaining budget allocations alone is insufficient; they must be consistent. An intermittent budget would disrupt the production line and could result in either an increase in manufacturing costs, or worse, the loss of the acquired technology. Furthermore, while intermittent funding is problematic in the development of a genuinely self-reliant defense industry, foreign suppliers are immune to such fluctuations. Foreign suppliers have access to the global defense market, as well as their country of origin. The Philippines is a small market for them that they can do without. If intermittent funding presents a substantial challenge even for foreign suppliers and established enterprises, how significantly more arduous is it for a start-up In-country Enterprise? During the initial stages of self-reliant defense industry development, it is highly probable that participants will predominantly be start-ups. A solution is imperative that would enable In-country Enterprises to equitably compete with foreign suppliers and enhance the prospects for the nation to develop a self-reliant defense industry. The solution can be found in PD415. Section 7 of PD415 mandated the annual appropriation of at least Php100 million to the budget of the Department of National Defense upon its request.

Adjusting for inflation, the purchasing power of Php100 million in 1974 is equivalent to approximately Php5.5 billion in early 2025. This is 5.5 times the initial budget allocated under RA12024. Annualizing the AFP Modernization Budget allocations for the Horizon 1 and Horizon 2, the initial RA12024 budget of Php1 billion would constitute only 1.6%. This amount is negligible for the development of a self-reliant defense industry, which has the potential to significantly enhance national security.

Using PD415 as the benchmark, the RA12024 initial fund should be augmented to a minimum of Php5.5 billion. This adjustment is contingent upon the fulfillment of the following conditions:

- The main purpose of the fund is to jump-start the development of sovereign equipment and not simply the procurement of domestically manufactured equipment. As such the fund should be named the SRDP Sovereign Development Fund.

- Similar to the fund provided under PD415, it is not a fixed annual appropriation. As a development fund, it is an amount that must be maintained and replenished annually through budget allocations, similar to a revolving fund. It should not be realigned for other purposes.

- The SRDP Sovereign Development Fund shall be adjusted as

the need increases.

- The SRDP Sovereign Development Fund shall be used during the incubation period of equipment development, the initial stage of production. After an equipment is successfully incubated, funding for the mass production of the equipment shall be transferred to the SRDP Sovereign Production Fund.

- The SRDP Sovereign Production Fund shall be established to distinguish a project from incubation to mass production stage.

**4. Establish SRDP Sovereign Development Targets.** To attain complete self-reliance and establish a genuinely credible force, it is ideal that the entirety of the modernization budget be allocated to In-country Enterprises. However, given the level of industrialization in the Philippines, a target exceeding 50% of the budget would be reasonable. Below 50% would make the SRDP Program irrelevant. The following is the possible build-up targets for the SRDP Program:

SRDP Program Budget Build-up Targets

| Year                          | 2026-2027 | 2029-2030 | 2031-2032 | 2033-2034 | 2035-2036 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Share of Modernization Budget | 9%        | 12%       | 19%       | 29%       | 52%       |

**5. Establish a government incubator fund similar to those with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST).** The United States has the world's largest defense industrial base, with over 60,000 companies and 1.17 million employees. In 2025, the US spent \$320.86 billion in arms and military services. By using these figures as a reference point, we can project the magnitude of a Philippine Self-reliant Sovereign Defense Industry. Assuming a 52% share of the Horizon 1 and Horizon 2 AFP Modernization Budget allocations, means that the SRDP Self-reliant Sovereign Defense Industry would need to develop at least 112 In-country Enterprise start-ups that would employ at least 2,200 employees. To foster the development of 112 In-country Enterprises, additional support is required beyond merely extending the current incentives afforded to well-established locators in the export processing zones and foreign defense equipment suppliers. This is because In-country Enterprises, which assume a significantly more pivotal role in national security, necessitate tailored assistance. It would be prudent to adapt developmental practices from the technology sector in the form of government incubator fund.

**6. Continuously innovate and develop new equipment.** This can be accomplished with a systematic process for developing SRDP Program Projects. The process can be divided into five distinct stages: the Concept Formulation Stage, the Equipment Design Stage, the Production Stage, the Optimization Stage, and the Re-development Stage. During the Concept Formulation Stage, a problem is either being experienced or anticipated. This is where innovation plays a pivotal role, where creativity merges with operating experience and technological expertise. Where a solution is formulated that determines the equipment design characteristics and its intended utilization, rather than being driven by what is available in the market. This leads to the Equipment Design Stage. The success of the Equipment Design Stage hinges on the level of talent, expertise, and experience possessed by the designer or team of designers. The Production Stage follows the completion of the design stage. It is crucial to acknowledge that there are technological distinctions between the Design Stage and the Production Stage. While production technology may be integrated into the design, the two nevertheless necessitate distinct skill sets. As experience is gained in the equipment's usage, improvements and adjustments

would be required. This process is known as the Optimization Stage, where enhancements would be implemented to the equipment. Subsequently, the Re-development Stage occurs when obsolescence overlaps with innovation. The issue of obsolescence is resolved through an innovative solution. Several potential events can trigger this stage: 1) new technologies render the equipment obsolete, rendering any improvements cost-ineffective; or 2) the threat environment undergoes a shift, rendering the equipment ineffective. This stage can also be referred to as a loopback to the Concept Formulation Stage, as novel problems arise at this stage, necessitating the formulation of novel solutions.

A similar approach can be adapted for equipment from other naval platforms, including airframes, surface drones, sub-surface drones, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), land vehicles, weapon systems, firearms, munitions, communications systems, and other electronics, and related equipment.

**7. Collaborate with advanced technology consultants to design and manufacture equipment specifically tailored to the unique defense environment of the nation, rather than relying on existing foreign equipment.** This is necessary for the development of innovative equipment, ensuring that the modernization plan remains forward-looking and progressive. This is consistent with the ultimate objective of developing product technology.

**8. Replace naval vessels at the end of their service lives.** A study conducted by the United States Congressional Budget Office in March 2018 revealed that operating vessels beyond their service lives incurs costs that are comparable to, or even surpass, those associated with operating brand-new vessels. Therefore, it is illogical to keep vessels beyond their service lives.

**9. Refrain from accepting outdated equipment under the pretext of a donation.** The acceptance of retired or obsolete equipment should be carefully evaluated, as it may have a detrimental impact on the development of an SRDP Program. This is exemplified by the premature termination of the Andrada Class Program Project. While it may be argued that the absence of adequate funding prematurely concluded the program during its initial phase of local construction, it is difficult to definitively assert this. However, it can be definitively stated that the entry of retired PKM and Haksang Class vessels from South Korea made it easy for the government to decide the premature termination. This practice should be avoided unless really necessary.

**10. Maintain a consistent production schedule.** If equipment is produced at an excessive rate for an excessive number, there is a substantial likelihood that the production run could end before a new product becomes available for production. In the event of such an occurrence, the production line would be compelled to cease operations.

**11. Avoid market overcrowding.** While competition can be advantageous, an excessive influx of players into the market may result in a decline in quality due to cost-cutting measures, which could result to enterprise failures, potentially weakening the industry. Consequently, it is imperative to maintain a delicate equilibrium between supply and demand.

**12. Adapt a prohibition policy similar to 10 US Code Section 8679 with specific modifications.** To help ensure adequate demand and sustain production, the most straightforward strategy involves adapting a prohibition policy, as exemplified in 10 US Code Section 8679, with specific modifications. Several countries, including China, Japan, the United States, and South Korea, have adopted this approach as a global best practice. While it may not be entirely feasible given the limited capabilities of Filipino shipyards, its implementation is feasible depending on the vessel's size and complexity. Foreign suppliers should be prohibited from supplying vessels that are of comparable or

inferior size and complexity to those that Filipino shipyards are capable of constructing.

**13. Present the investment argument when requesting the defense budget from Congress.** Similar to any project, funding is the lifeblood of SRDP Program Projects. Annually, the AFP competes with other agencies for budgetary allocations from Congress. This relationship is best illustrated by the production possibilities frontier model for guns versus butter, commonly used in macroeconomics. (Refer to Figure 3.) Guns represent defense spending, while butter represents civilian spending. When allocating its finite resources, the government must determine which balance of guns versus butter best satisfies its needs.

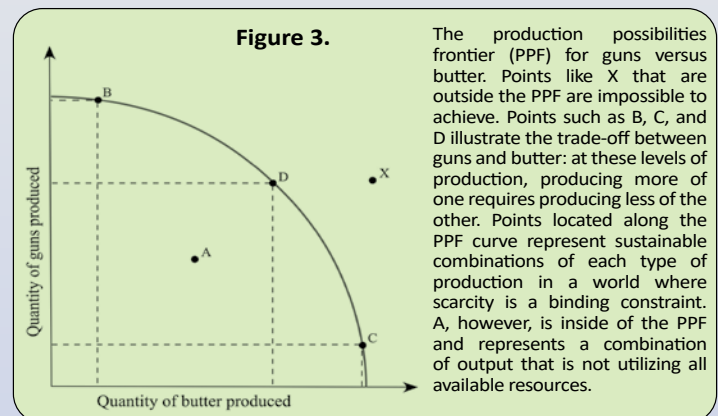
The AFP encounters a disadvantage compared to other agencies, particularly in the context of capital expenditures. While capital expenditures of other agencies are regarded as investments intended to improve the well-being and livelihoods of Filipinos, defense acquisitions are perceived as expenditures. However, a self-reliant sovereign defense program project transforms defense spending from an expense to an investment. Consequently, requests for budget allocations for self-reliant sovereign defense program projects are easier to justify than foreign-supplied equipment.

A 2009 study indicated that approximately 39.5% of the expenditure incurred in acquiring a 91-meter Aluminum Naval Vessel is allocated to labor costs. If this is applied to determine the added value of naval vessel acquisitions, the following outcomes are associated with economic contributions:

Cost Breakdown of 91m Aluminum Naval Vessel

|                         | Foreign-Supplied/<br>Foreign Built | Foreign-Supplied /<br>Domestic Built | Sovereign-Supplied |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Cost of Imports         | 100.0%                             | 60.5%                                | 44.8%              |
| Value Added*            | 0.0%                               | 39.5%                                | 55.2%              |
| Net Contribution Margin | -100.0%                            | -21.0%                               | 10.4%              |

Value added for smaller vessels would be higher. As ship size decreases, labor costs tend to increase.



It is evident that even for a domestically constructed foreign-supplied vessel, the economic burden remains considerably high. In contrast, 55.2% of the cost incurred in constructing a sovereign-supplied vessel is returned to the economy, resulting in a net positive economic contribution of 10.4%. This assumes that 100% of the raw materials are imported. However, as the SRDP Program progresses and more and more raw materials are sourced locally, it is anticipated that the value added will continue to increase, consequently leading to an even greater economic contribution.

**14. Ensure participation of Government Financial Institutions.** In-country Enterprises, especially start-ups, are tremendously handicapped in competing with well-established foreign suppliers. The support of GFI's would contribute in leveling the playing field for these enterprises.

Given the incongruity of the government budgeting and procurement system in ensuring uninterrupted production of defense equipment, sales of defense equipment under a supplier's credit arrangement have emerged as the predominant and practical mode of transaction. Foreign-supplied equipment that poses a substantial threat to economic security can be further compounded by a supplier's credit arrangements with foreign suppliers.

As part of their mandate, government financial institutions (GFI) generate revenue for the national government. They generate revenue by utilizing public capital to generate interest income. However, if an equipment is foreign-supplied under a supplier's credit arrangement, foreign suppliers incur additional interest costs to be able to extend the said arrangement. This situation places GFI in a unique predicament. While they strive to generate interest earnings from the efficient utilization of public capital, those earnings are subsequently used to cover the interest costs of foreign suppliers under a supplier's credit arrangement. Therefore, it is crucial for GFI to participate in the SRDP Program not only to assist In-country Enterprises but most importantly to preserve government capital budget, which would otherwise be allocated to foreign financing entities.

**15. Upgrade the Humanware.** Technological innovation is an integral component of an SRDP Program, encompassing both external tangible equipment and internal inherent capabilities, knowledge, and techniques possessed by the individuals who create and utilize it. It serves as a pivotal performance indicator for such programs. The absence of innovative ideas and a lack of continuous improvement can result in a slowdown or even a complete halt in progress, potentially leading to decline or obsolescence. While innovation is inherently unpredictable and cannot be systematically planned or foreseen, it remains a human endeavor. Creating an environment that promotes technological innovation among technically proficient individuals can be controlled and managed. Conversely, without science and technology-proficient individuals, technological innovation will be challenging or even impossible.

Although the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) offers fundamental engineering courses, it does not confer engineering degrees. In contrast, other institutions, such as the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) and the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP), provide degrees like Marine Engineering, which are more directly related to specific engineering disciplines while still offering a pathway to military reserve service. This distinction is significant, considering that the Philippine Navy currently operates vessels that are considerably more sophisticated than those found in the merchant fleet. The United States Military Academy (USMA), from which the PMA was patterned, was initially established as a school of engineering. In 1831, under the guidance of USMA Superintendent Sylvanus Thayer, USMA became the first institution in the United States to offer a formal, high-quality academic engineering curriculum. Presently, approximately 20-25% of USMA graduating cadets are awarded engineering degrees. In contrast, the United States Naval Academy (USNA) and the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) confer engineering degrees to a higher proportion of their graduates, ranging from 35-40% and 73%, respectively. This indicates that a substantial segment of the officer corps of these organizations comprises engineers, with some pursuing advanced degrees and even higher studies in their respective disciplines. To keep pace with the modernization efforts of the AFP, the PMA needs to accelerate its transformation, akin to what transpired in the USMA in 1831.

Within the Philippine Navy (PN), there exists a substantial pool of officers who possess the requisite aptitude to excel as engineers. However, engineering degrees are not valued as highly as they should be, resulting in insufficient incentives for naval officers to pursue engineering careers. The military dominance of the Roman army was predicated on its exceptional engineering capabilities. Legionaries were renowned for constructing siege machines, bridges, and roads, some of which have endured to this day. In contemporary times, Admiral Hyman Rickover's profound understanding of science and engineering played a pivotal role in establishing the nuclear navy for the US Navy. To strengthen its position, the PN would require an Admiral akin to Rickover who can guide its transformation into a truly technologically advanced force to more effectively operate its rapidly modernizing fleet. This can be achieved by increasing the pool of engineers by providing engineering scholarships to promising officers. As these officers ascend in rank, they should be incentivized to pursue postgraduate studies in their respective engineering disciplines. Only through such initiatives can the PN cultivate a pool of officers from whom an officer can be selected to lead the SRDP Program.

A forum conducted by the Department of Science and Technology's Metals Industry Research and Development Center (DOST-MIRDC) has identified a critical vulnerability in the local shipbuilding and ship repair (SBSR) industry. The primary obstacle is the absence of specialized design capabilities within the industry. This deficiency arises from the insufficient availability of design technology tools in training institutions. This situation raises concerns, as the technological skills necessary for the successful implementation of an SRDP Program are specifically design-oriented. Consequently, scholarships should be allocated to institutions that prioritize design education over mere technological utilization. Once a sufficient pool of officers with a strong background in science and engineering with an orientation towards design is established, the SRDP Program will be able to design and develop innovative equipment more attuned to the unique maritime security requirements of the nation.

**16. Persevere; keep on going.** In total, the implementation of PD415 has yielded a certain level of success. The government was successfully able to manufacture its own rifles, communications equipment, jungle boots, and even aircraft, both fixed and rotary. However, funding support was intermittent, which exerted significant pressure to keep the production line running and preserve the manufacturing technology. Eventually, the manufacturing capacity for the said equipment were lost. Nevertheless, the responsibility for this outcome extends beyond intermittent funding support. The manufacturers also bear a share of the blame themselves for failing to develop new equipment to keep their respective production lines open. The manufacturers stopped innovating, the government stopped funding and the AFP stopped.

The defense environment is inherently dynamic, and the defense industry, in turn, undergoes constant evolution due to technological advancements and equipment innovations. Consequently, the development of a self-reliant and sovereign defense industry necessitates a continuous and persistent process.



**About the author.** *James C. Ylanan* is a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Matikas" Class of 1983. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the United States Coast Guard Academy and a Master of Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management. Ylanan has served aboard numerous Philippine Navy vessels and USCG cutters operating in the Philippine Archipelagic Waters and the Eastern Seaboard, respectively. Additionally, he was assigned with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement and Separation Benefits System and was placed in charge of overseeing investments on subsidiaries engaged in various SRDP Program Projects under PD415.

# Command of *NAVAL TASK FORCE 61* (1997- 1998)

• CAV ARISTON V DELOS REYES '71

It is a must and it pays when a unit commander sets an example to his men.

As a Navy Captain, I commanded Naval Task Force 61, Philippine Fleet for 19 months from 27 March 1997 to 29 October 1998, deploying 17 naval vessels, gunboats and aircraft and a naval special warfare unit. It was manned by about 350 officers and enlisted personnel to support AFP ground operations in Mindanao, conduct sea patrol to combat piracy, illegal transport of logs and marine products, smuggling, illegal fishing, and poaching.

The accomplishments of the Command included sealift of 9,800 military personnel, 5,500 civilians and 1,900 tons of cargoes; apprehension of 17 foreign fishing boats poaching in the border area; apprehension of 26 vessels engaged in smuggling goods worth P41 million, highlighted with the rare capture of two speedboats loaded with 955 cases of smuggled cigarettes; apprehension of 75 vessels illegally transporting forest products worth P15 million; and, confiscation of 82 loose firearms and 52 sacks of ammonium nitrate (used for improvised explosives and dynamite fishing); and, unprecedented capture of two pirates in the act of robbing passengers aboard a commercial vessel and 20 others extorting fish catch from a fishing vessel.

The Task Force pounced upon an illegal underwater operation then secured and supervised the recovery of 968 artifacts from a sunken wreck off Gujangan Island in Jolo in July 1998. I personally supervised the operation and worked for the shipment of the artifacts to Manila for their turnover by the Philippine Navy to the National Museum where they are now kept and considered part of the national treasure. During the Philippine Navy Centennial celebration in 1998 and until 2004, some artifacts had been displayed for public viewing at the Headquarters Philippine Navy.

The Task Force was awarded the AFP Chief of Staff Streamer, the Naval Task Force of the Year (1998) by the Commander Philippine Fleet and a Plaque of Appreciation by the Commander Southern Command. Its personnel received 342 military commendation medals, 126 military merit medals, one bronze cross medal, and two distinguished navy crosses. In 2000, the PMAAAI bestowed on me the Cavalier Award for outstanding performance as military professional in Navy Operations for said tour of duty. I was awarded the distinguished navy cross for the recovery of the Gujangan artifacts.

The accomplishments of the Task Force were featured more than 144 times in the national and local newspapers, all of them projecting positive image of the AFP in general and the Philippine Navy in particular. There was no known negative publication of any action by the units and their personnel.

During my tour, I repeatedly reminded my unit commanders to perform their assigned operational tasks diligently and in accordance with published "HNTF 61 STANDING POLICY THRUSTS" as follows:

- a. Operations shall be conducted in accordance with current rules of engagement. Safety and human rights of civilians shall be observed.
- b. No items shall be taken from the passengers and crew of boarded vessels, except those serving as evidence of violations of maritime laws.
- c. No money, bribes, gifts nor favors of any kind shall be accepted.
- d. Existing policies on off limits (night spots) shall be strictly adhered to.
- e. Gambling at all times is prohibited.

In their implementation, I walked the talk. I never went on off limits nor gambled. Neither did I receive bribes nor "donations" from barter traders (direct importers of goods from Malaysia and Indonesia). In this regard, I issued a directive to subordinate units, Lessons Learned 02-98 dated 16 April 1998: Watch out, the "Donation" Could Be a Bribe. Enclosed in it was my letter to the President, Zamboanga Barter Traders Kilusang Bayan, Inc. In that letter, I informed him that I was not interested in the donation of P20,000 in connection with the two vessels which arrived in Zamboanga City. I could sense that it was a "test offer" for more if I would accept, but no way. The donation tantamounted to a bribe. In the letter, I also emphasized that the Task Force was committed to serve and protect the people and that the traders could communicate with me directly, in writing, by phone or personal visit in my office, should they encounter problems due to unwarranted acts by task force personnel.



# PHILIPPINES CURRENT ECONOMIC and Human Development Challenges

• CAV WILFREDO G NUQUI '68

**I. Context.** The quality and scope of public governance directly impact on the economy and population. Public policies, programs and services demand the highest quality of governance. PH faces intensified domestic and global challenges. In response to the oil crisis, the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) provides additional assistance to 7.5 million poor, near-poor, and low-income households.

The current global oil crisis and its negative impact on the PH economy persist with uncertain duration and intensity. Calibrated military and economic intervention by the United States in the Middle East continues. Japan commits assistance to ME countries in constructing oil pipelines which bypass the Strait of Hormuz.

**II. PH macroeconomy.** World Bank projects a low 3-3.7% growth of gross domestic product (GDP) this year 2026. This contrasts with the PH GDP growth of nearly 6% in 2023-2024. PH growth and fiscal indicators continue to lag behind ASEAN 5 economies. Vietnam and Malaysia lead ASEAN economic performance. The PH economy is services oriented and driven heavily by household and corporate consumption. Modernization of PH agriculture, industry and export activities is vital to the competitive transformation of the PH economy.

BSP recently raised its policy interest rate by 0.5% to a) moderate the projected inflation of 6% this year and 5.4% in 2027 toward the 3% official target, b) avoid speculative attacks on the exchange rate which breached P62/1\$ in late August, and c) protect economic growth. GDP growth in 2027 is projected at nearly 5%. PH must take full advantage of Southeast Asia's recognized dynamism for investment, trade and innovation.

**III. Public spending.** The proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 General Appropriations Act (GAA) demands intensified scrutiny due to serious vulnerabilities. It lacks transparency, public consultations and more effective safeguards. The People's Budget Coalition of civil society organizations flags P725 billion in "*soft, hard and shadow pork*." The GAA must impose stricter conditions on the grant and use of public works, contingency, intelligence, confidential, unprogrammed appropriations and other lump-sum funds, including those of the Office of the President. Lessons learned from the misuse of flood control and lump-sum funds must be applied.

COA officially declared its need for 384 additional state auditors to effectively monitor public funds. The CADENA bill also known as the "Blockchain the Budget Act" (Senate Bill No. 1506) requires full public disclosure of government transactions through a secure digital budget portal. The portal places the annual national budget on digital database black chain and secure greater transparency in public spending. DepDEV (formerly NEDA) is expected to endorse the Bill to the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) and Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) which both advise the President. PH official policy of fiscal consolidation guides the GAA. It aims to protect fiscal space by reducing the budget deficit, moderating public debt and achieving sustainable economic growth.

Fiscal space remains tight due to a) the subdued growth of the economy which softens taxable sources of incomes and assets, b) increased funding on social assistance, calamity protection, national security and other priorities, and c) reported corruption in public revenue collection and spending. Increases in the Local Government

Support Fund, a suspected pork to LGUs demands greater oversight, transparency and accountability on local governments' spending.

Export growth remains durable based on the BSP's balance of payments. PH is a steady international source of electronic products which comprise 60% of exports, other manufacturing and agricultural products and skilled manpower services. Growth in OFW remittances remain marginally positive. Increasing application of data science and artificial intelligence in domestic transactions reinforce international competitiveness. PH must significantly pursue accountable governance and an effective industrial policy to keep up with its progressive ASEAN members.

**IV. Population and income poverty.** Economic growth ought to be socially and geographically inclusive to achieve human development goals. Income poverty in 2023 was reported by the PSA at 15.5% of the population and 10.9% among families. PSA and DepDEV regularly review the estimated poverty line to better inform public policies. PSA developed the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to measure poverty based on deprivations in different aspects of well-being. It complements the income-based poverty estimates every two years. MPI considers 17 indicators grouped into 4 dimensions—measuring deprivations in (i) education, (ii) health and nutrition, (iii) housing, water, and sanitation, and (iv) employment. These better inform public policies and programs to address poverty.

In 2024, the relative contribution of each dimension to the overall MPI at the individual level was: education share is 40.7%, followed by housing, water, and sanitation at 31.3%; health and nutrition at 18.5%; and employment at 9.5%. These were followed by deprivation in ownership of assets 7.8%, food security 7.2%, internet access 6.8%, sanitation and toilet facility 6.1%, and safe water source 5.6%. These indicators inform targeting of sectoral, policy and program interventions.

The proportion of population belonging to households classified as multi-dimensionally poor was 12.8%. In terms of the relative contribution of each dimension to MPI at the individual level, education accounted for the highest share at 40.7%, followed by housing, water, and sanitation at 31.3%; health and nutrition at 18.5%; and employment at 9.5%.

PSA data further showed that educational attainment and housing materials are the most prevalent deprivations experienced by multidimensionally poor individuals, each with 10.7% censored headcount ratio. These were followed by deprivation in ownership of assets (7.8%), food security (7.2%), internet access (6.8%), sanitation/toilet facility (6.1%), and water source (5.6%). These indicators when combined with estimates of regional gross domestic product (GRDP) inform NG revenue allocation to provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays as provided by the Local Government Code (LGC) and distribution of the Local Gov't Support Fund.

Philippines has been classified by the World Bank as an upper-middle-income country as of July 1, 2026. This shall reduce PH access to official development loans and grants from OECD countries. Income poverty and human deprivation remain unacceptable. These are persistent and unending challenges to achieving PH development goals and the quality of public governance.

Sources of data: PSA, DBCC and other official and respectable international and domestic reports as of Sept 2, 2026



*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

**M**ga Kababayan, let us pressure both National and Local governments to prioritize the construction of their offices for the next five years. Just imagine when our government offices were destroyed after the 2nd World War, we were not able to construct our government offices that are around 80 years ago.

Approximately, there are more than 100 National government offices and if we include our Local government offices this figure might reach probably more than a thousand that are being rented

only. Mga Kababayan, we learned from our experience that rented office spaces are open in perpetuating corruption. Why? Because their Contract rental prices are normally overpriced compared to neighboring private offices and houses.

Below is a quotation in our book:

*"The Epilogue to the Power of Reform", The Struggle continues....* Note: I was appointed Chairman and CEO of The Videogram Regulatory Board (now Optical Media Board) last 2001. My stint at the VRB, albeit short, left its own mark. For one, I left behind a legacy to the agency—its very own office building. After 15 years of simply renting office space in Makati, Pasay then on to Ortigas and then Quezon Avenue, with a substantial portion of its minimal budget going for rent expense,

the VRB finally found a permanent "home" on Scout Limbaga St, Quezon City.

We converted liability into an asset for government. I asked the staff to look for properties open for lease-purchase arrangements in the area, despite initial lack of support from national government. Thanks to the macro vision and understanding of Secretary Emilia Boncodin of the Department of Budget and Management, eventually we were able to enter into a win-win agreement. Lesson: As shown by my experience with the VRB, it is to the advantage of government to acquire its own office building instead of simply shelling out an increasingly substantial portion of limited government resources for rental expense alone. *By Cav Manuel B Mariano '62*



## The Epilogue to the Power of Reform





## CLASS OF 1964: STILL STANDING

Part of our class history can be traced through old, faded black-and-white photographs and, more recently, colorful digital images of our get-together luncheons and dinners. The pictures move from well-attended events filled with bright faces and slim physiques to later gatherings marked by growing waistlines, thinning hairlines, and declining numbers. Yet the smiling faces captured by the camera continue to reflect the strong class spirit of the proud and the few, if we may borrow the Marines' favorite words. The increasing attendance of widows and the declining presence of classmates also reveal the statistical reality that women often outlive their husbands. We continue to meet periodically and look forward beyond our recent diamond anniversary

to returning to Fort Del Pilar in 2028 for the 64th anniversary of the graduation of PMA Class of 1964. We hope to celebrate that occasion in good, if not excellent, health and with a strong attendance. Our cellphone cameras will once again record faces beaming with gratitude for having reached another milestone. Above all, we shall thank the Lord for granting us the extra mile.

In this issue, we present an update on the members of PMA Class of 1964.

Sixty-two years after graduation, twelve of the original thirty-five class members are still standing: Jorge Agcaoili, Winston Arpon, Santiago Diño, Renato Garcia, Clemente Mariano, Leonardo Odoño, Rolando Pabellano, Ernesto Padilla, Salvador Peran, Reynaldo Reyes, James Valeros, and Ismael Villareal.

After retirement, **Jorge Agcaoili** settled in Illinois but has since returned permanently to the old house in Antipolo that he and Miriam maintained even while they were away. Jorge and Miriam have regularly attended class get-togethers, although, for reasons we have yet to learn, Miriam has missed the latest class socials. Now eighty-eight and one of the older members of the class, Jorge has lost

much of his mobility and agility because of Parkinson's disease. In his younger days, he once beat Fidel Ramos in a cross-country contest in Baguio City. Jorge brings life and color to our periodic but lively lunches at Vikings. His stories, told in his usual soft voice, are always interesting and entertaining.

**Jimmy Valeros**, three months younger than Jorge, settled in Baguio with his wife, Glo. He is no longer as fast and agile as he used to be. Jimmy and Glo are currently in Canada to attend the wedding of one of their grandchildren.

In May of this year, Jimmy's daughter Melody invited class members to lunch and merienda at their official residence, the White House in Camp Aguinaldo. Melody is married to General Romeo Brawner, the former Chief of Staff of the AFP.

**Buddy Peran**, the oldest member of the class, is ninety-one years old. He originally belonged to Class 1960 and ultimately spent eight years at the Academy before graduating with Class 1964. Nena has faithfully remained by his side, giving him the best care she can. As expected at his age, he makes frequent visits to the hospital, sometimes for major concerns but more often for minor ones.

**Andy Pabellano** is in a very similar situation. He now lives in Henderson, in the Las Vegas metropolitan area, with his daughter and her family. This was a recent move from Las Vegas proper, where the couple had maintained their home.

**Ding Odoño**, one of the youngest members of the class, has not attended our get-togethers for a long time. He disagrees with our focus on social gatherings, which he describes as little more than constant boodling, and believes the class should instead work actively for reforms in governance. To his credit, he has maintained a high profile as an advocate for honesty and integrity in government.

**Billy Villareal** and his wife, Beth, live in Phase 5 of AFPOVAI, near Clem. Billy is now feeling the long-term effects of a leg injury caused when a .357 revolver belonging to then Colonel Brigido Figueroa was accidentally dropped and struck him while Billy was assigned to NOLCOM. Figueroa, who was then assigned to the Presidential Security Command, was visiting at the time. Despite the injury, Billy continues to travel with Beth. In fact, he is currently in Bangkok for a short break from staying home most of the time.

**Tagoy Diño** and his wife, Sofie, are still in Chicago. They are enjoying life with their dancing group, holding frequent dance sessions and finding every small excuse to party and dance.



August 2026 lunch at Vikings



*Clem and Cora Mariano*



*Andy and Siony Pabellano*



*Tagoy and Sofie Dino*



*Billy and Beth Villareal*



*George and Miriam Agcaoli*

**Garic Garcia** and his young wife, Nida, live in Parañaque. Nida works regularly at PVAO in Camp Aguinaldo, which has prevented her from attending the nearly regular class get-togethers at Vikings Aura. Garic has also missed recent gatherings. We recently heard from Nida that Garic had another fall and fractured his left arm.

After Mercy's passing, **Paddy Padilla** migrated to Canada but later repatriated. He now spends most of his time in Pangasinan, tending land entrusted to him by the government under a forest-management agreement. He has a young school-age son whom he diligently takes to school and fetches every day. Paddy also faces the challenges of aging. He frequently experiences swollen feet that make walking difficult, in addition to poor eyesight and hearing.

**Winston Arpon**, who is both American and Filipino, stays busy with several activities while keeping Vicky company. Apart from gardening, he goes to BGC every Tuesday for breakfast with the BTTser group, which he formed last year. After breakfast, he joins his regular bridge group in Alabang. Paying for past excesses,

he now follows a strictly nonalcoholic diet.

**Clem Mariano** is one of the fittest members of the class and carefully monitors his health through regular medical checkups. This allows him to continue taking vacations here and abroad, including recent trips he made on his own. His partner, Cora, recently suffered an unfortunate fall and had to use a wheelchair for some time.

**Rey Reyes** lives with Sandy in a provincial home in Lipa City, near the air force base. The location is convenient because it provides easy access to the driving range, golf course, fitness gym, hospital, and other sports and base facilities. The couple moves around a lot with Rey doing most of the driving. They spend part of the year here in the Philippines and part with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in the US.

Each classmate's story is different, but together they reflect resilience, loyalty, and an enduring bond formed at the Academy. Distance, age, and declining health may limit our gatherings, yet the spirit of Class 1964 remains strong. We look forward to

every opportunity to meet again and to honor both those who are still standing and those who have gone ahead.



*Jimmy and Glo Valeros*



*Rey and Sandy Reyes*



*Buddy and Nena Peran*



*Rene and Nida Garcia*



**MIGUEL A LEONARDO**  
President  
**EVERLINO P NARTATEZ**  
Secretary

*INURNMENT of MULAWIN PLT GEN ANDRES M SUPERABLE last July 14, 2026 at the LNMB. In attendance were L to R back standing: Jolaps, Pat Duque, Jomari Solquillo, Berlie Tates Nartatez, Rolly Cauton Ofring Marcelo and Doming Habos. In front L to R: Rose Monta: Baby Duque., Lita Marcelo: Lynn Nartatez and Marlin Bing Superable.*



*Wake of PLT GEN ANDRES M SUPERABLE w/ Mulawinettes Baby Duque, Vicky De Leon, Lita Marcelo, Marlin Bing Superable, Rose Monta and Lynn Nartatez.*



*85th Birthday of MULAWIN Associate Rogelio GADOY Bergado.*





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

## PART I

### PAMBUNGAD

Umampas na naman tayo sa kalahati ng taon. Kailan lang, pinaghahandaan natin ang Alumni Homecoming 2026. Baka kailangan na rin pag-usapan ang homecoming 2027, na kung kailan, ipagdiriwang natin ang ika-61 taon ng pagtatapos natin sa PMA, sa kapahintulutan ng Panginoong Diyos.

Ang dami ng mga pagbabago ang nagaganap sa Alma Mater. Una, marami ng mga pasilidad ang itinayo – malalaking cadet barracks na kayang maglaman ng mahigit sa isanlibong kadete, di tulad ng panahon natin na di lalampas sa 350. Pati yong mission ng PMA, na sa ating pagkakaalam noon ay, *“To train and develop the cadets so that each graduate shall possess the character, the broad and basic military skills and the education essential to the successful pursuit of a progressive military career”* ay nabalitang napalitan na. Ang dahilan, ay upang magkaroon ng kaalamang teknikal ang mga bagong opisyal ayon sa mga pagbabago sa larangan ng digmaan.

Sana naman, hindi mabawasan ang husay ng mga opisyal sa pamumuno ng mga tao.

### LIFE GOES ON

And so, after passing through the Diamond Anniversary of our graduation, we kept busy, through our peer groups. Of course, paramount is the Class Sixty-Six organization which for sometime experienced being a SEC-registered corporation during our younger and more active years as veterans. For sometime, we held regular walks, followed by breakfast within Fort Bonifacio Global City. Somehow, the number of walks has dwindled, for explainable reasons – 80 year-old knees won't cooperate.

Fortunately, a newer group emerged (by accident, actually). The Class is now active with the BTTS (Back To The Slope), consisting of survivors from Classes '64, '65, '66 and '67. This group meets every Tuesday for breakfast at Serendra, Bonifacio Global City (our very own Fort Bonifacio Military Reservation, privatized “thanks” to our government), and every quarter at the AFP Officers Club, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. To cut a growing



*BTTS Lunch at AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo, once every quarter.*

long story short, it is our peer group of sort where during meetings, we tell jokes, stories about cadet life and life as veterans, many true, others half truths, the rest untrue (who cares, anyway, they add life to our years).

### VETERANS SIXTY-SIX AND ASSOCIATES, INC. (VSSAI)

Not known to many, the Class organized the Veterans Sixty-Six and Associates, Inc. (VSSAI) which was incorporated at the SEC in 2016. However, it has an earlier birth during the time of the late Mistah Charlie Batayola, who he was a top official of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP) as Veterans Sixty-Six, Inc. (VSSAI). He recruited members of the Class, other retired officers, retired enlisted personnel and even widows of veterans to be members of the Association. Through the efforts of Mistah Temy Arugay, it was renamed VSSAI and registered with the SEC in 2019, and a fraternal organization of the VFP.

The survival of VSSAI as a fraternal organization is a work in progress of some members of the class. It has an important work to do – work for the welfare of the veterans, a job that requires a major effort of the class as a whole.

## PART II

### VIEWS FROM A SIXTY-SIX “BRAT”

*As the newly graduated members of the PMA Class of 2026 stand on the threshold of active service, a time honored tradition of guidance comes alive through a meaningful mentor-mentee fellowship with a returning jubilee class.*

### BRIDGING GENERATIONS OF HONOR

*Shared Wisdom: Veteran silver or golden jubilee alumni return to Fort del*

*Pilar to pass the torch of operational experience.*

**Practical Advice:** *Discussions more beyond the academy manuals, tackling real-word command challenges and field realities.*

**Emotional Support:** *Mentors ease the anxious weeks awaiting deployment with stories of resilience and steadfast morale.*

**The Value of Brotherhood Lasting Bonds:** *The informal pairings create safety nets that stretch far past graduation day.*

**Ethical Anchor:** *Senior officers reinforce the core tenets of duty, honor and loyalty to the Constitution.*

**Seamless Transition:** *Junior Lieutenants enter their first assignments with seasoned perspectives guiding their initial steps.*

*These vital intergenerational dialogues ensure that the incoming field commanders do not walk alone. By linking yesterday's veterans with tomorrow's protectors, the institution secures its legacy of courageous and compassionate leadership.*

**Contributed by Ana Santos**  
**Daughter of VADM EDUARDO MA. R. SANTOS**

*P.S. We use the word brat, not in a derogatory sense as defined by Mr. Webster, but rather in an affectional, appreciative way. Soon, “brat”, may become a cadet lingo, as senior classes had started using the term years go, to mean that they would someday replace us – from being our crutches, walking canes, drivers, man-Fridays, etc., to being us.*

### THE BRATS AT WORK

In the last issue of the Cavalier Magazine, we described how our brats assisted us in many ways, in our planning



*A Saturday dinner at the Espejo residence in Cavalry Hill, attended by several female Class 2026 graduates.*



*Surprise visit of female Class 2026 graduates at the Espejo residence at Cavalry Hills East Rembo, Taguig.*

and preparations for our participation in the February 2026 Alumni Homecoming as Diamond Jubilarians. The most significant, which up to now lingers in our memory, was the dinner hosted by them on 21 February 2026, where they showed their ability to make a night full of fun, complete with well-prepared speeches and surprise numbers.

The pictures above, depict the continuation of their efforts to perpetuate the memories of their parents even by small ways like meeting once in a while and having lunch/dinner.

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

**July** – Jimmy Bantolo (25), Troy Dumadapat (20), Gene Parreñas (10), Cel

Espejo (10), Ilay Urgello (11), Patri Cordova (21).

**August** – Fred Bautista (25), Bing Rivera (02), Alice Alba (15), Portia Varona (22), Sylvia Agudelo (28), Higido Gayya (27)

**September** – Serge Belleza (09), Ric Tañedo (19), Jacie Aquino (11), Tita Belo (2), Puri Eco (30).

Maligayang araw ng pagsilang, mga kapuwa kong nagdiriwang ng kaarawan.



*Lunch at PN Golf Club on 27 June attended by Class President Manuel P Espejo and MAAP President Edd Santos.*



**MARIANO R SANTIAGO**  
President  
**ROSAURO V SIBAL**  
Secretary

#### PMA DIMASUPIL CLASS OF 1967

**Breaking News!** PBBM recently appointed our Mistah Bernie E. Patiño PN (Ret.) as Board Director, BASECO/PCGG on June 2, 2026.

On the same date, Alice Tanabe Averilla, sister and wife of our late classmates Conry Tanabe and Cesar Averilla, respectively, graciously hosted a special lunch for some Dimasupils and Tagasupils at her residence without being asked to. Bernie Patiño who did not know about his appointment yet, said Alice does not know what to do with

her millions in liquid assets. Manny Dalipe came all the way from far Zamboanga bringing “curacha” and “sugpo” to add to the sumptuous menu.

A majority of the Dimasupil Board members were present and took the occasion to hold a special meeting regarding our Diamond Jubilee celebration next year at Fort Del Pilar. Bobby Lastimoso made a report about the recent Golf Tournament jointly organized with One Movement, Inc. led by former army captain, Dr. Marlon

Mendoza, at Pradera Golf Course in Lubao, Pampanga and held on May 9, 2026. Bobby then turned over to Ross Sibal, our Class Secretary and Treasurer, our share in the proceeds of the tournament. Sergio Austria, chair of the uniform committee,



*Dinner hosted by Toto Salvana.*



was all smiles and his deep dimples showed the moment he received the advanced subsidy for our Class coat from Ross. The ladies were happy to hear that they too would have a subsidy for their attire.

Jun Ibay recommended that the Class will hire a bus for the Diamond Jubilee. Alice T was designated in-charge of our billeting reservations.

A week later following that lunch, Bobby L, Sergs A, Dionix D and Mar S, had a meeting with One Movement at Club Filipino in preparation for another proposed fund-raising shoot fest. Sergs A took the occasion to bring the tailor to take the measurements of some Dimasupils. In the meeting that followed on July 4, 2026, measurements continued while fitting started for those who already had their measurements before.

On July 16, 2026, the Class held its forum at the NIU Podium in Mandaluyong to celebrate the birthdays of the following Dimasupils and Tagasupils as follows: for June - Tante Torrechante (1), Abe Din (15), Ross Sibal (16), Walter Briones (17), Beth Santiago (19), Louie Sanchez (21), and Cora Din(30); and for July - Reina Young (2), Vic Laurilla (8), Ben Samonte (15), Tita Fragante (19), Romy

Villanueva (20), Oying Pinto (21), Mandie Sibal (22), Pol Aliac (24), Glo Parena (24), Archie Balboa (26), and Jovy Sales (28). Mar Gatmaitan was not able to join us because of a medical procedure, which, thankfully was successful.

On August 7, 2026, the PAF group of Manny D, Ross S and Dionix D, together with Tagasupils Mandie S and Hedy Dueñas visited our Mistah Edsel Salvaña who has long been paralyzed, and had dinner with Toto S afterward.

We pray and wish for the recovery of Edsel and all our classmates and ladies with health issues.

By the way, the Class is actively with the special group Back to the Slope (BTTS) of the PMA Classes of 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967.

The schedule of the birthday forum for August and September will be announced later.

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

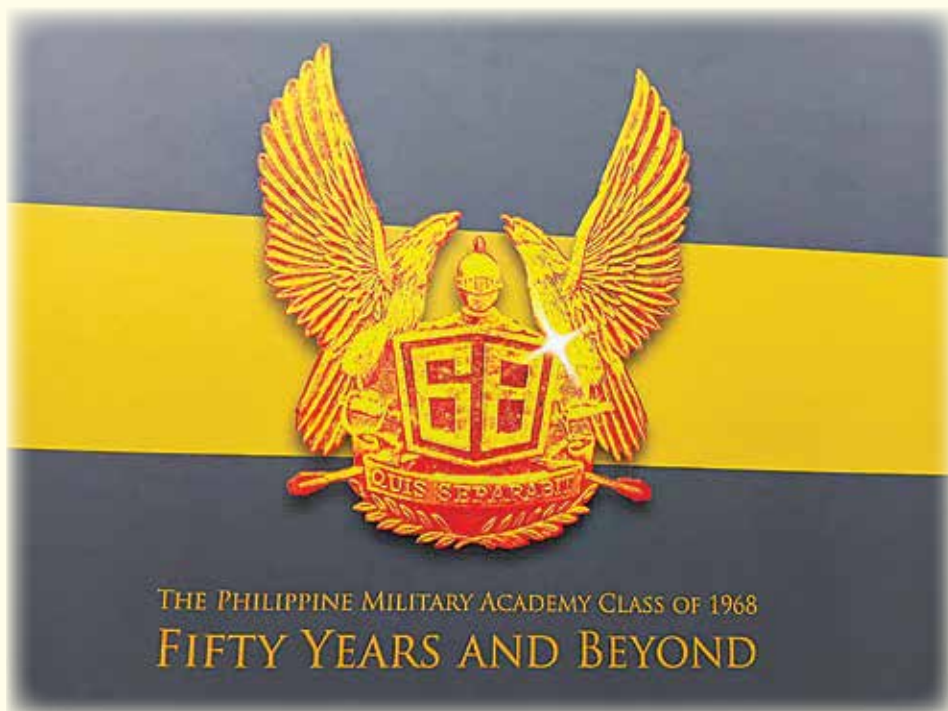




**MELCHOR P ROSALES**  
President  
**WILFREDO G NUQUI**  
Secretary

The Class and ladies met on Aug 19 to discuss preparations for our 60th graduation anniversary celebration in PMA Baguio in Feb 2028.

It plans to informally dialogue with PMA authorities and gain from the experience on similar events of very recent classes.



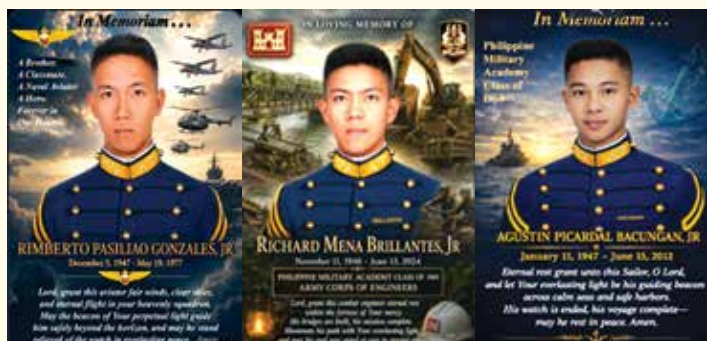


**H**appy Birthday Greetings to our Suaviter celebrants in the Third Quarter 2026:

+Boy Maligalig – 2 July, Vic Erfe – 4 July, Inday Tiangco – 5 July, Yet Wong – 15 July, +Dennis Nagtalon – 19 July, +Romy Sua – 19 Jul, Marilou Abanes – 20 July; Marle Noble – 15 Aug, Menjie Erfe – 18 Aug, Mone' Carranza – 24 Aug, Ike Begonia – 23 Aug, Ingging Begonia – 27 Aug; Rene Aguda – 5 Sep, Dan Reventar – 7 Sep, +Pacoy Chanco – 8 Sep, Benjie Defensor -12 Sep, Vikki Brillantes – 15 Sep, Chris Abanes - 16 Sep, Jake Duller - 22 Sep and Pol Gange - 23 Sep.

*Copied from Bingbo's vault file. Thank you, Bobing.*

**In Memoriam... from the AI creations of Mistah Willie May - Rimbert; June - Bingbo, Cutes, Richard; July - Romy, BoyM, Pacoy; Aug: EdM; Sep: MaxB**



**Sad news as of 1100H 7Aug26,**  
**posted by Mistah Cleo in**  
**our Viber Class-Chat:**  
*The following was forwarded to me*  
*by Mao Mauricio'70 :*



**Message from DanR:** "Thank you all for praying with us for Emy's recovery...but God had better plans for her. He took her this afternoon to be with Him forever! She is now resting in God's peace. I shall surely and sadly miss her but somehow joyfully grateful that she is present with the LORD! Thank you for your all your prayers and thank God for His lovingkindness! To God be the Glory! (2Cor5:8; Phil4:7)."

**Suaviter's prayerful and heartfelt condolences to Mistah Dan Reventar on Emy's untimely passing:**

**Willie Wong:** *Eternal rest grant unto Emy, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace.*

**Jake and Sarla Duller:** *Our hearts ache upon hearing the news about our dear Emy's passing. Mistah Dan, we condole with you and share your sorrows on this tragic event in your family. We pray for her eternal peaceful repose. Will transfer dollar abuloy to DanR directly thru Zelle.*

**Benjie and Meg Defensor:** *Rest in peace, Emy, with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Emy is a daughter of a PMayer and sister of Larry Ello, PAFFS70A and my partner and brother in field assignments when we were junior officers. Deepest condolences Dan with prayers that Emy will be blessed with God's grace always in heaven. Abuloy is on its way +\$10K for processing and batchoy incentive.*

**Ike and Ingging Begonia:** *Our condolences and prayers for the passing of Emy. May she rest in eternal peace!*

**Rene and Odette Aguda:** *Our deep condolences...I called our daughter Dr. Reneelou at Ft. Worth Texas to contact/call Dan in Houston and offer whatever help she can do aside from giving our deep sympathies. My daughter and family live in Texas too!*

**Jimmy and Lulu De Los Santos:** *Deepest sympathies to Dan and family. Adm matters: As a class policy, 50K will be extended to Dan as financial assistance. Likewise, we invite pledges from Suaviters. The \$ equivalent will be remitted thru my daughter Grace who lives in Houston. If I recall, Emmy had a knee replacement and heart bypass, not sure of the latter. I will request my daughter Grace to drop by anytime if there is a sked wake. Class' pledged abuloy and assistance will be converted to \$ and will be remitted to Dan accordingly.*

**Jess and Olive Regala:** *Condolences to Dan and family.*

**Joey and Tere Syjuco:** *Sincerest condolences and prayers Dan. Much saddened by this.*

**Jus and Ellen Manlongat:** *Will pledge an amount for Emy Reventar. Will deposit money today to class BDO account.*

**Cris and Marilou Abanes.** *Will deposit into Suaviter BDO account on Monday morning.*



Taken during our visit to Houston, Texas last May 2025.

--Jimmy De Los Santos

Left photo: Standing: Jimmy and Dan  
Sitting: Lulu and Emy



Harvested durian Saturday, 18 Jul. Will bring frozen fruit during Ike's Birthday on 23rd August. - Jimmy De Los Santos.

...brings back memories of my mango farm in Ilocos 1995 – 2015. Congrats Mistah Jim! This makes us enjoy a longer happy, exciting life. - Rene Aguda.

...indeed, farming gives us an extra lease in life. Breeders/Farmers use a familiar phrase: Breed them and grow old with them to be happier. - Benjie Defensor.



On the Road Again...Cleo's Bday Trip

First two photos from the left: Vivz and Cleo on the go once again. They visited the Infant Jesus Church of St. Nicolas, Prague, Czech Republic.

Rightmost: Homeward bound from Europe aboard fly-on-demand airline!



Happy Birthday, Mistah Cleo!

Raise a cold one!!! From all your Mistahs! Cleo's birthday was on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

(Response from Cleo: Big thanks to my awesome Suaviter for the birthday greetings! You all made my day extra special!!!)



(Compliments go to Mistah Willie for the above Special AI birthday greetings for Cleo and Ike. Mabuhay!)

A "wise redirect" of some sort from Just Manlongat went this way for all the Suaviter birthday celebrants: **The older you get... the more you realize: PEACE is priceless. NATURE is medicine. HEALTH is everything. And HAPPINESS is simple.**



Photos shared by Jimmy and Lulu during their US annual visit to the US East Coast. Thank you, Jimmy and Lulu.

Left photo: High School Graduation of my grandson, Justin at Phillips Academy in Andover, Boston with the Barangay de los Santos in attendance.

**Photos below:** Left to right

1. Oculus at World Trade Center w/in the vicinity of the 9/11/01 tragic event, symbol of rebirth after the plane crash.
2. Boat ride on Niagara Falls, Toronto side, proof of God's infinite wisdom and power.



*... shared by Inday Berroya.*

*Thanks, Inday.* 



#### Magiting Milestones-in-Review

**T**his segment is a fresh recall of the past — all at the same time heroic, deathly and funny feats to honor both the departed and the living to marvel at life during and after our Loakan days.

#### Kidnappings in the Lanao Provinces



Brig Gen Sonny Atienza was the 402nd Brigade Commander in the two Lanao provinces for over three years. He was able to solve at least seven kidnapping cases that were brought to his attention. Among those rescued were two Columban Irish priests (one in Lanao del Norte and another in Lanao del Sur) both of whom he escorted to the Columban House in Cagayan de Oro. They were rescued with a group of students from the Mindanao State University.

Sonny enumerates the four steps he used in the recovery: 1) Intel ops to pinpoint the exact location of the victims, 2) Cordoning the area using all resources available, 3) Using the right negotiator and harnessing the cooperation of selected local officials and residents and, 4) Threat of force against the kidnappers should they refuse to release the victim.

An example is the first case involving the kidnapping of a Columban priest. 1) He was brought to upper Munai in Lanao del Norte. 2) A Maranao barter trader who knew the kidnappers was found in

Zamboanga and was taken to Lanao. 3) Coordination was made with one of the MILF commanders to cordon the area and probable exit points between their position and of the kidnappers. This prevented the kidnappers from crossing Lanao del Norte into Lanao del Sur. 4) The ranger company strike force was brought to Lanao from their base of operations.

Military and local officials undertook a vigil in the municipality near the proximate area to administer the operating units. In less than two weeks the priest was picked up in the designated release area and was brought to the Columban house in Cagayan de Oro City.

Beyond operations, Sonny developed a long lasting camaraderie among the local officials and the military. In coordination with Governor Mahid Mutilan of Lanao del Sur, the hosting of the monthly peace and order council meetings were rotated among the municipalities instead of traditionally holding them in the Provincial Capitol. With this move, the governor became popular because the local constituents were able to see their governor more often and felt the provincial government's concern regarding their needs. This process enabled the governor to personally address problems in the municipalities.

Of great help to Sonny's efforts were his battalion commanders, then Lt Col Allan Luga '80 and Lt Col Augusto Tolentino '82. These commanders were familiar with their AORs. They were able to anticipate most of the moves of the kidnappers.

Credit must likewise be given to Gen Joselin Nazareno(+) '66, then 4ID Commander who made sure that all of Sonny's requests regarding the kidnappings, especially the use of 4ID ranger strike force, were acted upon with dispatch.

#### "Damocles at Km1, Buriasan"

Major Generals Rufo 'Boots' de Veyra and Glenn Rabonza favored the Class Call with a recollection of their ordeal on 'Kilometer Nr 1' of Buriasan, Lanao del Norte in the summer of 1971, barely a year away from the innocuous greens of Loakan. Boots tells their story here...

Because no one else other than Glenn nor I would ever come close to the facts now that our former Company Commander had passed on. I will oblige with some narratives on "Km1" episode referred to by Bob Nuqui that Glenn and I shared together as 2nd Lts in Mindanao.

We underwent a rushed tactical training with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro. Soon after, we were given an imperative briefing and were deployed as platoon leaders of "C" Company under then 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Victor Erfe(+) '69 of the 26<sup>th</sup> "Ever Onward" Battalion commanded by then Lt Col Gonzalo Siongco(+) '52.

Buriasan, Lanao del Norte was then a mix of Muslim-Christian población lorded over by the Dimaporos. The local security situation somehow had escalated for the worse with the entry of newly-minted war dogs, the Blackshirts, controlled by the local politicians terrorizing the countryside at will. Local elections loomed in the horizon with the threat to separate as a Muslim state.

On the day of our unit's takeover, signs of atrocities met us at the gates as we relieved-in-place the unit of bigger-than-life 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Julius Javier '70. Charred transport minibuses where passengers were believed burned alive served as unnerving reminders of what lie ahead.

My platoon stood as reserve at the center of Buriasan which was the entry through our AOR and through Kapatagan,

the capital town. The next town was Nunungan, an idyllic location with a Baguio-like weather at an elevation of 1,200 meters. It is believed to be a hotbed and bailiwick of the Blackshirts.

Before Nunungan, at the edge of our AOR, was a built-up outpost referenced as "Km1" where Glenn's platoon took post. His role was to radiate security and recon patrols as necessary to prevent surprises. Since there was an empty stretch between Km1 and the center of Buriasan, it was a daily, nay, nightly sleepless concern when it would take a hit hanging like a sword of Damocles over their heads.

Reinforcement routes were meticulously planned and designated. Gunshots were common nightly occurrences used either as a ruse, an actual return fire or warning shots in a unique way of welcoming us.

The usual stance when new in an area was to introduce your presence usually by '*pagpapakitang gilás*'. True to form, Day 2 of our takeover, after allowing our boots to breathe, we launched clearing operations through mountainous routes eastward towards Banserville1 where Naga Dimaporo, younger brother of then Governor Ali, was a warlord. My team encountered a couple of illegal loggers who are unlucky enough to be on our path. On our way back to headquarters the following day, we were cheered and jeered by Blackshirts, who by then had consolidated and lined up across the canyon. No shots were fired. We waved back. Mission accomplished — for the moment.

Daily, we would allocate some eight rounds of Cal. 50 MG aimed towards the eastern direction just to let them know we knew where they were. *Yung mga utu-uto naman* would fire back which served our purpose of locating them.

But things would not stay that way for long. We received information that Nunungan to our North was the real deal. It nestled all the rustled cattle and animals, pigs, goats, carabaos from the lowlands in its fabled plains literally as a gold mine representing power and influence by their culture. In hindsight, this was the crux of the conflict — the Golden Rule: Whoever holds the gold rules.

Back then our concern was simply how to have the next meal. Immediately Vic Erfe launched another clearing operations towards Nunungan with Glenn on the left and me on the right which took a day to negotiate. A skeleton force stayed behind at headquarters.

The uphill route was treacherous and by nightfall their token resistance fizzled

and fled. The first calf that showed up among the teeming herd was pronounced "dinner" by Vic which we had by 2200H.

Halfway through our after-operations assessment, Vic Erfe barked an order for both Glenn and I "to secure both approaches towards Nunungan for the night" to which Glenn and I, half-asleep, dead-tired, hardly listening, and comfortably lying on both sides of Vic in the only rattan *banig* in town quickly answered in unison, "Yes, Sir!", within earshot of the troops.

By daybreak the next day, Glenn and I were exactly on the same spot we were the night before where and when we acknowledged his orders. We were rudely awakened by a loud, "*Gademmet!*" from Vic Erfe. "Yes, Sir!" We again answered in unison with him shaking his head in disbelief, turning away, but visibly smiling in the inside. *Tinuyo namin siya. Ano siya sinusuwerte?!*

Lessons learned: 1) Young graduates are not prepared to comprehend the geo-socio-political-economic conditions on the ground and therefore ill-equipped to learn from it. 2) Whatever, ALWAYS TAKE THE INITIATIVE. Never accept what appears to be. 3) There is no forever, that's total hogwash! If there is, then Glenn and I would still be risking our 3-footer putts instead of taking gimmies. In fact, we wouldn't even be here still playing golf today.

Believe it or not, for these we were awarded the Mindanao Campaign Ribbon which Glenn and I proudly wore in our uniforms. Looking back, it's a nice feeling to have visited Vic Erfe in his VMMC sickbed some two years ago, this time without the expletives.

Indeed, it's a treasure to be feeling healthy in our seventies, looking at each other in the eyes, and smiling in the inside with nary a word said. Our golden nuggets...

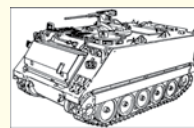
#### Caster's Iron Horses

In August 1971, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Roderico "Caster" Castro led an armored unit of four M113 Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) on board a Navy LST onward to Maguindanao del Norte. His mission was to reinforce a composite battalion that was urgently dispatched to quell the first secessionist attempt launched by Buldon Mayor Bangon Aratuc. The APCs belonged to the pioneer 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Cavalry Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Inf 'Tabak' Division. The other crispy Magiting Lieutenants who reported were Roy Cimatú and Julius Javier



from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inf Div plus Dionisio Santiago, Julian Antolin and Arsenio Tecson(†) from the 4<sup>th</sup> Inf Div.

The campaign commenced without delay. As Caster advanced with his iron horses, his own M113 conked out. One of his men, SSgt Bacosa, quickly improvised a fan and an alternator belt made of abaca ropes. Such ingenious and resourceful skill in the thick of action was God-sent.



As the Iron Horses resumed their advance side by side, the PC Provincial Commander, on board one of the APCs, radioed that an enemy heavy machine gun was emplaced in a mosque. The attack commenced, shortly one APC ran over a land mine and became disabled. This one had to stand down but was later rescued after the battle. The rest continued the advance.

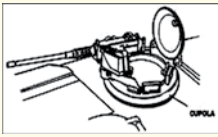
Provisionally, three other M113s were able to overrun enemy positions and extracted friendly KIAs & WIAs. As a result, a platoon of the 18<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn was able to sustain the fight and no one was left behind.

At some point during the running firefight, Caster's APC inadvertently moved dangerously to low ground in the surrounding hills. The old APCs do not have armor around the mounted Cal .50 Heavy Machine Gun (HMG). A gunner is exposed as he emerges out the commander's cupola to fire the HMG.

As Caster fired away, the HMG's deafening rhythmic thump deadened the noise of the exchange of fire. He was blasting at the rebels in foxholes and a number on horseback some 50 to 150 feet away. Amid the intensifying crossfire, SSgt Bacosa jerked down Caster's waist belt, from where he was standing on the cupola seat, to pull him down to safety as steady thwacks of AK47 bullets rained all over the APC.

As an aside, amidst the hectic tempo of the battle, Caster was almost killed by accidental fire. In the M113A, a Cal. 30 Light Machine Gun (LMG) can be mounted below the Cal. 50 HMG for added firepower, exactly what was in Caster's command APC. Because they were inside EN territory, he decided to close all hatches during the extraction process. In the thick of the shooting, he decided to uninstall the LMG as a precaution. The rebels might climb over and steal the LMG while the hatches were closed. Caster says the LMG can be hastily removed from its tripod in just one click.

He reached out from the commander's cupola for the LMG, hurriedly pulled the



cocking lever only once instead of the required two cycles to completely clear the chamber. As

it was being lowered through the tight 22-inch diameter cupola hatch, the LMG inadvertently fired, thereby startling the crew. Fortunately, the APC driver was not hit but one periscope was hit missing Caster's forehead just a few feet away. It was not Caster's time yet.

The final intense confrontation between well-armed insurgents and government forces took place in the town proper of Buldon. Artillery also played a massive role in the battle. The campaign was terminated on August 25, 1971, following the capitulation and surrender of insurgent forces.

Lesson Learned: Take care of your men under your command and they in turn will protect you. With God's divine protection and a crew member's quick action, Caster lived to tell his story.

#### Otek's Magic Transistor



Early in his career, newly minted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Arsenio "Otek" Tecson(†) began as a platoon leader of the 261B, and was assigned as a Detachment Commander in the interior

town of Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte. His detachment was located in the vicinity of the Municipal Hall. One early morning in 1971, the Municipal Hall was unexpectedly surrounded and attacked by a large group of Muslim rebels. The detachment team was lightly armed with Garands and a few M16s.

The men felt overwhelmed by the sudden burst of gunfire. Sparked by an idea, Otek turned on his transistor radio to full volume and kept it playing loudly until the exchange of fire ceased. The rebels hastily withdrew as reinforcements arrived. Otek was able to maintain the composure of his men with crackle and music from his transistor radio which was a high-tech device at that time.

Otek's equanimity under fire that morning was decisively infectious. It encouraged his men to fight bravely. The detachment did not suffer a casualty but the Municipal Building was badly scarred by wayward bullets. For his bravery and unwavering leadership, Otek earned a Gold Cross Medal, the first in the class.

Lesson Learned: "Thinking outside the box" is a creative approach in finding

a solution during a crisis. (Narrated by Roy Cimatu)

#### A Comical Danger

As far back as 1966, Cadet Oscar Jaime 'Jimmy' Mauricio can still recall a funny yet dangerous event at the grenade court at the lower hillside of the statue of



General Gregorio del Pilar. It was time for the plebes to undergo familiarization on grenade throwing.

Live grenades were used since training versions were not available. Each plebe was issued two live grenades, one on hand to be thrown and the other to be hung on his web belt. A real grenade is an inherently delicate weapon to handle, like it is going to go off by itself. Just for precision, the steps to use this weapon safely and lethally need a short review.

In the foxhole, one must secure the grenade with a proper, unyielding grip. Right-handed throwers must hold the grenade upright with the safety lever (the "spoon") pressed firmly into the web of the hand between your thumb and index finger. Left-handed throwers must grasp it upside down so the safety lever is properly secured against the thumb web, while keeping the pull ring accessible. Once the grenade is gripped, maintain steady, unbroken pressure. Do not adjust, loosen, or "milk" your grip. Once the hand is relaxed after the pin is gone, the spoon will fly off and start the 4 to 5 second detonation countdown prematurely.

The instructions of grenade court officer were to stand inside the foxhole and perform the four-count protocol. *Count Number One*—in a throwing stance, with the left arm shoulder-high, elbow facing the direction of the throw, for right-handed individuals, stand with feet apart to provide more impetus for a perfect throw. *Count Number Two*—extend your right hand as far back as you can, still gripping the safety lever in place, while keeping the left hand still. At *Count Number Three*—hurl the grenade towards the target, releasing the spoon to free up the firing pin and to initiate the detonation of the grenade. At *Count Number Four*—dive into the bottom of the foxhole.

Here comes Fourth Classman Edgardo "Perot" Perez(†), who performs all steps flawlessly. Alas, upon completing *Count Number Four*, he finds A GRENADE, AT HIS FEET!!! Instinctively he jumps out of his foxhole into the safe

arms of his favorite St. Ignatius of Loyola. His mind was filled with sudden fear that his foxhole would become his grave. "BOOM", two explosions went off in front of the grenade court. Perot realizes he is still alive – still quaking, he peeks down to find that his spare grenade had come loose from his web belt and fell on the floor of his foxhole!! What a day !! (Narrated by Jimmy Mauricio)

#### Magiting Family Milestones

##### Birthday Celebrations



The Mas Magiting birthday celebs for the third quarter of 2026 are: For the month of July will be Malou Visperas on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Gemma Nemenzo Ver on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Nene Galvante on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Fely Resos on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and Tess Atienza on the 28<sup>th</sup>. In August they will be: Lou Ugale on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Marilen Signey on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Alice Parayno on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and Maricar Alvarez on the 25<sup>th</sup>. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, it will be Esther Ocampo's.

Mas Magitings promptly held their customary First Wednesday Fellowship for the third quarter on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Philippine Navy's Ogbinar Hall. Ed, Teddy, Nesty, Mads, Mar and Romy were commended for exceeding their job as food tasters.

Meanwhile for the third quarter of 2026, the Magiting men who will celebrate birthdays: In July, they will be Roy Cimatu and Garrick CP on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Rudy Garcia on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Julius Javier on the 17<sup>th</sup>, Cesar Alvarez on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and Teddy Delarmente on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In August they will be: Ernie del Rosario on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Irwin Ver on the 9<sup>th</sup>, Vic Signey on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and Romy Gojo on the 30<sup>th</sup>. In September, they will be Eloy Garcia on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and Egay Galvante on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

In the middle of winter, Ernie and Cecile arrived in February — attended the Homecoming in February, stayed in Bataan, enjoyed Mistahs, friends and relatives. They will be home by June 16<sup>th</sup> at the start of the Canadian summer. See you soon Mistah.



##### 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 Magitings kinship. For the third quarter of 2026, we remember; Felipe "Pipes" Gaerlan(†) July 20, 2020; Edgardo "Perot" Perez(†) July 30, 2012; Romy Peña(†) August 29, 2002; Marius dela Peña(†) August 8, 2008; Eduardo "Vispe" Visperas(†) August 10, 2014; Fernando "Paco" Francisco(†) August 13, 2019; Guillermo "Willie" Parayno(†) August 2, 2023; Miguel "Mike" Coronel(†) August 2, 2024; Rex Baquiran(†) September 13, 1986 and, Rodolfo "Rudy" Ocampo(†) September 2, 2023. May our Almighty ever keep these valiant men in His bosom.

### Retirement Avocations

#### Gov Ebdane Regional Chairman Anew

The election of Hon. Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr as the new Chairperson of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) Central Luzon Regional Committee was the major highlight of the Key-3 Team Annual Meeting in the region. The meeting was comprised of the BSP Key-3 Team namely, the Regional Chairman, the Regional Scout Commissioner, the Regional Scout Director and the participation of local BSP council officials. It took place in San Fernando, Pampanga on June 11, 2026.

Governor Ebdane emphasized a commitment to strengthen leadership, cooperation, and the overall scouting movement across the region.

*"Bilang kasalukuyang Chairperson ng Regional Development Council at Regional Peace and Order Council sa rehiyon, ating isusulong ang mga programa, proyekto, at aktibidad na higit na maghuhubog sa kakayahan, disiplina, at pagmamahal sa bayan ng ating mga kabataan."*

Interestingly, the BSP generates its funds internally and does not receive annual subsidies or direct financial support from the Philippine national government.

Its primary sources of funding include: membership fees from annual dues paid by registered scouts and adult leaders; income generated from selling official scout uniforms, camping gear, and manuals; fund raising campaigns during nationwide drives, special events, and community collections; property rental income from leasing BSP-owned real estate and scout camp facilities, and private donations from civic-minded individuals, corporate sponsors, and local government units.

We can recall that on December 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Zambales hosted the very successful 33<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree. Also last year, Gov. Ebdane was

appointed as the Chairperson of the Third Regional Development Council on October 16, 2025.

Among all governors in Central Luzon, a Magiting stands tallest above them all. We take our hats off to Magiting Gov. Jun Ebdane.

#### Fairway Habitués

The Veterans Golf Course was the most played links. North golfers Vic Signey, Egay Galvante, Eloy Garcia and Primo Esguerra enjoyed the fairways on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. On most days Roy Cimat, Nesty Carolina, Glenn Rabonza and Bob Nuqui would play with North Golfers to stage a *Giant* game, a skewed pun of *higanti* coined by the revered Jack Ligot(†) five years ago.

Ernie del Rosario arrived with OAO Cecile early this year to beat the cruel Canadian winter and to wow golfing Mistahs with his flawless game. A Despedida Golf for him was held on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Golf Course by Egay, Dionet Santiago with friend Bernard, Roy, Nesty, Eloy, Glenn and Primo. Thereafter, Rudy Garcia, Teddy Delarmente, Ed Israel and Mads Madrid joined the fellowship lunch with the rest at Doris Resto at VMMC. Ernie also played the PMA Class '67 *Alay sa Kalikasan* Tour at the Pradera Golf Club in Lubao, Pampanga on May 9, 2026. Cavalier

Bobby Lastimoso was the tournament chairman.

Roy, Bob and Nesty patrolled the Army fairways on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Nesty feels golf is just not the same if we do not patrol the Army links. Earlier, Bob played at the Villamor and Army fairways with son-in-law Vince Paredes and his two grandchildren on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, respectively. Vic with nephew Ernest Pablo and another golfing buddy played at Beverly Place, Pampanga on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Not the least, the never ending rivalry between Boots de Veyra and Ed Israel rages unabated at the Philippine Navy Golf Course. The betting win-loss peso score depends on who you talk to. Either way, one will get a gentleman's answer.

Bob Nuqui was invited as a guest player for the Air Force and Delta Company in the Class 74 Quarterly Fellowship and Inter Service/company Tournament on

June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Camp Aguinaldo links. Lunch was served at the AGFO facility.

Irwin visited from the U.S. in early July. Bert Taguyuna hosted him, Nesty and Justice Ely Ibanez at the Valley Golf links on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Bob played at the Army links on July 19<sup>th</sup> with son-in-law Vincent and grandson Aizik.

Roy Cimat, Glenn Rabonza and Nesty Carolina played at the Riviera Golf Club on July 16<sup>th</sup> with Cavaliers Ike Begonia, Jeff Sodusta and Raffy Valencia. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Roy, Nesty, Bob and Glenn played at the Navy course.

#### Professional Pursuits



Nesty Carolina is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP). He attended the MAP Symposium on Artificial Intelligence on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Shangri-la, BGC. Hon. Deputy Speaker Albee Benitez was one of the subject matter speakers. He holds a Math degree from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia USA and, was the founder of Bingo Bonanza Corp and AB Leisure Expo Inc.

Subsequently, Nesty attended the MAP Symposium on Energy: Understanding Why Bills Are High -- and What Can Be Done, on July 15. The Keynote Speaker was Atty. Francis Saturnino C. Juan, Chairperson and CEO, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). Nesty is a member of the MAP National Resilience Committee chaired by former DILG Sec Rafael Alunan. The Committee has been engaging concerned agencies such as the DND/OCD, the National Maritime Council and the AFP CMO Command and AFP Reserve Command to coordinate corporate sector participation in preparing for disasters, both natural and man-made, in the light of the anticipated "big one" and geopolitical challenges posed by the Taiwan and West Philippine Sea situation.

Board Member Nesty attended a Filipino War Veterans (FILVETS) Foundation meeting. Chairman Cavalier Rey Velasco presided over the meeting at the Veterans Center in Taguig on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



Nesty, a member of Rotary Club of Pasig received a Service Citation Award in recognition of his "dedicated volunteer service and generous support" from Club president Roy Quejada on June 25, 2026.

## Reform and Civic Awareness



The EDSA "White Ribbon Campaign" is chiefly a citizen-led and faith-based anti-corruption movement in the Philippines. It is organized by the Inter-Religious Leaders Council for National Transformation. Its reform themes are government accountability and political/electoral reforms, and also supports impeachment and investigations. A good handful of concerned Cavaliers join peaceful marches of the campaign. Perhaps our professional defense-security background makes us yearn for better statecraft. Boots de Veyra and son Pong, Bong Ramos, Mel and son Mark Rosales plus Glenn Rabonza joined the Sunday walk on June 31<sup>st</sup>.

Glenn Rabonza and Nesty Carolina joined the "MUP for United PH" general assembly on May 27 at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, followed by the Sunday walk on June 31<sup>st</sup>.

## DND-MAP on National Resilience

Members of MAP Committee on National Resilience namely - Raffy Alunan, Nesty Carolina and Astro del Castillo met with DND-Office of Civil Defense Asst Sec Rafael Alejandro on the update on the program on Building Community Resilience in the NCR. MAP and DND represent a government/non-government cooperation to foster an inclusive program on Building Community Resilience.

## Roy's Milestone 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

The first Wind Farm in Southeast Asia rose in 2003 in Bangui, Ilocos Norte, the hometown of Roy's heart and soul. After five years, twenty wind turbines became operational in 2008. The townfolk of Bangui became happily proud of this first-ever project of its kind in Southeast Asia. More supremely, Bangui is immensely proud of their very own Roy for being the *fabled local boy who made good*. Roy never ceased to bring honor to the nation, his province, his town and his people.

Very fittingly Roy chose to celebrate his milestone 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in Bangui on his official birthday that falls on July 4<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Magitings played golf at the Navy links and rallied at Roy's residence for all to enjoy his ever sumptuous treat. Yes, the traditional Tomahawk steak was served. In full force, Mas Magitings joined Roy's cherished Ning(+) in spirit to celebrate this milestone.

## Jimmy and Ding in Manila

The Magiting couple arrived from Houston, Texas on July 17<sup>th</sup>, visited friends



Lunch Marcher Godo with Magitings and Matatags - July 2<sup>nd</sup>



Symposium sponsored by MAP @ Shang-Rila BGC, Nesty with Hon. Albee Benitez & IT Professionals - June 30<sup>th</sup>



Filipino War Veterans Foundation Board Meeting - June 30<sup>th</sup>



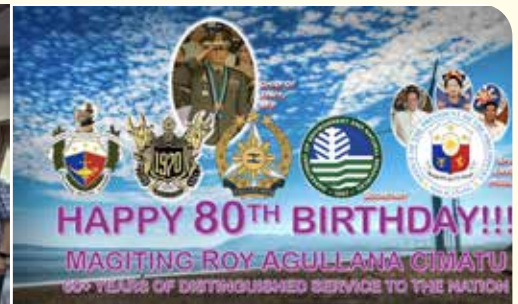
Hon. Jun Ebdane, sworn as the new Chairman BSP Luzon Regional Committee - June 11<sup>th</sup>

and met up with Mistahs. They stayed in Baguio for three days, went to PMA on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and tried to pay a call on the Supe but Vice Admiral Valencia was already packing up for his retirement. Ding and Jimmy had dinner with Bob and Taj, and Nesty and Au

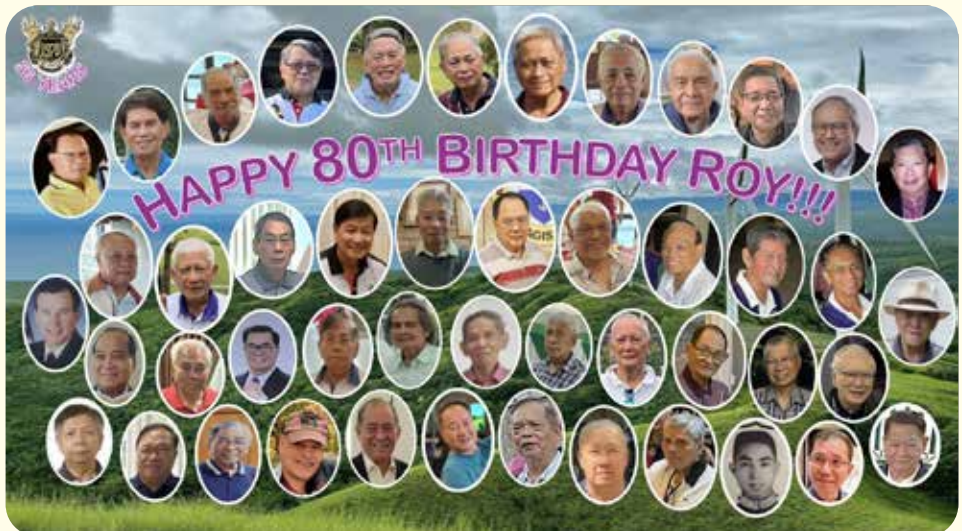
at the Podium on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. They flew back to Texas via Narita on the 27<sup>th</sup> for ten days to enjoy their two grandchildren, courtesy of son Jody and Japanese wife Yukie. They plan to join the Homecoming in February 2027.



Roy with Magitings, Ladies and Guests During His Birthday Treat at His Residence - July 11<sup>th</sup>



Mar, Teddy, Roy, Bert, Uly, Justice Lopez, Nesty, Vic, Dionet, Glenn, Romy, Ed, Julius, Boots & Bob - July 11<sup>th</sup>





North-South Fellowship & Despedida Golf for Ernie – June 5<sup>th</sup>



Irwin, Bert, Justice Ibañez & Nesty  
– July 1<sup>st</sup>



Roy, Bob & Nesty – May 30<sup>th</sup>



First Wednesday of June Fellowship – June 3<sup>rd</sup>



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

### A time to cherish, A time to give thanks

**W**armest greetings from the Matatag Class of 1971.

As we welcome the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2026, we cannot help but marvel at how quickly time passes. As the saying goes, "How time flies!" Soon, the "Ber" months will be upon us. By the time this issue of the Cavalier Mag reaches you, September will already be here, and before we know it, we will once again be celebrating Christmas. For us who are now in our 70s, the passage of time carries a deeper meaning. We have reached a stage in life when every day becomes more precious. We have experienced the high and lows of life – our triumphs and defeats, joys and sorrows, successes, and disappointments. Through it all, we have learned that life is not measured simply by the number of years, but by the memories we have created, the people we have touched, and

the lives we have made better. One of our Mistahs remarked that we are already in the "departure stage." It may sound a little sobering, but perhaps there is wisdom in it. If indeed we are approaching that stage, then all the more reason for us to make the most of the time that remains - to live more meaningfully, love more deeply, forgive more readily, and appreciate more sincerely the blessings that come our way. Let us take good care of ourselves and our loved ones. Let us be more prayerful and more forgiving. Let us stay connected

with our Mistahs, friends, and families. Let us slow down when necessary and appreciate the simple pleasures that we may have overlooked when we were younger. Perhaps it is time to stop and smell the flowers - to enjoy the morning sun, a round of golf, a good conversation, shared meal, a laugh with an old friend, or simply the quiet comfort of knowing that we have people who care about us. They say that age is just a number. I believe what matters most more is what we do with the years that have been given to us. Let us



The Mas Matatags in green, celebrating tennis star Alex Eala's Championship victory in WTA Washington, D.C. Green is Eala's favorite color for her attire.

not dwell on the years that have passed. Instead, let us ask ourselves: How can I still be of value? How can I continue to make a difference in the lives of others? May God bless us with good health, peace of mind, stronger faith, and more precious moments together. Mabuhay!

### **Class Fellowships, socials, and Golf**

Among the Matatags, the golfers – known as Hampaslups’71 – had the most fellowships this 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Why? We play at least twice a week, rain or shine. But golf is more than the game. The real fellowship begins after the round, when the “bolahizing” starts. Over lunch, coffee, and beers, we shift from golf to stories from our cadet days, active service, and retirement. These gatherings are not only fun but also healthy and meaningful, laughing and sharing stories, is always special. I am amazed by one Mistah, now at 81 years old, who still recalls plebehood events from 59 years ago. How is that possible? Maybe, it is because these stories are retold so often that they stay alive in our memory. Each meeting adds another layer, keeping the past vivid. This made



*The driver-escorts (L-R) Oca, Dong, Greg, Joey, Stan, Rey V, and Jun P.*

me realize our fellowships are also a way of keeping memories alive and exercising the mind. Golf keeps us moving. The conversations, laughter, and camaraderie keep our minds and spirits alive. In short,

golf moves the body, fellowship sustains the soul. That is why the HL’71 keep showing up, rain or shine. Cheers!

Speaking of socials, last 7 August, the MMs had an impromptu gathering at the residence of Jun and Tess Paynor. There was a dress code specified - green or a touch thereof. The reason was to celebrate Alex Ealas’s victory in the WTA in Washington DC ..he he. As always, the ladies engaged in lively conversations, the details of which remain private. The driver-escorts (kami yun) were present, and, thanks to our MMs, we were able to partake of the sumptuous lunch prepared by the Paynor couple. Present were Prexy Celia, Jane H, Mawie, Tess P, Dra Nona, Fim, Verna, Benjie, Lulu T, Aleli, Jinggoy, Jo G, and Lita. The driver-escorts present were Prexy Joey, Greg H, Rey V, Dong, Stan, and host Jun P.



*The HLs’71 braving the inclement weather. (L-R) Tex, RolGar, Joey, Rex, Teody, Twiggy, HL Prexy Poca, and Bing.*



*Presenting our Class logo attached to the 71st tree in Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course. (L-R) Teody, Tex, and Joey.*

### **Remembering our Mistah Rey Rivera**

Last 27 July 2026, we gathered at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club FVR Hall to commemorate the 1<sup>st</sup> death anniversary of Rey Rivera. Present were wife Benjie, Rey’s relatives and friends, and of course mga Mistahs and MMs. I remember Rey as one of our best golfers-unassuming, low key, humble, diplomatic, and genuinely friendly. On the golf course, he was a formidable player and, like every golfer dreams of doing, he achieved one of the most coveted feats in amateur golf: a hole-in-one, which he made while playing abroad. During the gathering, heartfelt tributes were offered in Rey’s memory, mostly by the HLs’71, as well as his widow Benjie. The Matatags and Mas Matatags sang a special number, “Saan Ka Man Naroroon.” With misty eyes,

everyone listened to the poignant lyrics, which seemed to express what was in our hearts- that although Rey is no longer with us, he remains in our memories and in the hearts of those who loved and valued his friendship. May God grant Rey Rivera eternal rest, and may perpetual light shine upon him. Rest in peace Mistah. You will be remembered.

#### Blessing of the Mas Matatag Hall

Last 3 July 2026, Mistah NICA Dir-Gen Dick de Leon invited some of the Matatags and MMs to grace the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Mas Matatag Hall at the NICA Compound in QC. MM President Celia, Dra Annie and Dick de Leon led the ceremonial cutting, witnessed by the MMs and Matatag Prexy Joey, Tex, Stan, Aris, and Marte including the officers, staff, and personnel of NICA. More than just the opening of a hall, the occasion reminded us of the bond of friendship and camaraderie that has kept our class '71 family together through the years. Thanks, Mistah Dick for this and the MMs will forever be grateful for this wonderful dedication to our MMs. Mabuhay ka Mistah!



**Farewell mga Mistahs. May your souls rest in eternal peace. You will be remembered always.**

#### Farewell Mistahs DA Domingo and Manny Foronda

Dee-ey, as we fondly called him, suffered from a lingering illness for many years. He succumbed last 29 May 2026. I last saw him early this February during our 55<sup>th</sup> graduation anniversary in PMA. I was surprised when he told me that he intended to join the trooping of the line. I advised him to stay at the grandstand and simply watch the ceremony. But that was Dee-ey. He was determined to be with his

Mistahs. He summoned his caregiver, and together we walked from the grandstand to our assembly area. Unfortunately, because of his breathing problem, he was unable to join the inspection. But he tried- and that effort spoke volumes about his love for his classmates and the desire to be part of the occasion. I invited the PC/ PNP group for a photograph, and Dee-ey joined us in that photoshoot. Little did we know that it would be his last photo with us.

Manny, on the other hand passed away in California last 1 August 2026. Many of us were surprised because he seemed to be doing fine before he left for the US. Manny was always present in many of our social gatherings. He joined our class "we" time celebrations, which we held quarterly, as well as our HLs'71 fellowships. He may not have been a golfer, but he does not need a golf club to be one of the brothers- his presence, friendship, and camaraderie were more than enough. Mistahs Dee-ey and Manny- thank you for the memories, the friendship, the laughter, and the brotherhood. Wherever you are now, may you rest in eternal peace. Our condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, and friends.

#### The Class Prayer Warriors

Last August 1, our Class Prayer Warriors gathered again for the rosary novena prayers. This year marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of this meaningful tradition, started by our Mas Matatags. For three years, they have faithfully prayed for our departed Mistahs and MMs, for classmates who are ill, and for the unity, safety, and peace of our class. The Prayer Warriors quietly do something very special for all of us. Despite busy lives, they consistently make time to pray for the whole class. Their dedication reflects the strong bond of the Class of 1971. The MMs who initiated and sustain this spiritual exercise are Mawie, Prexy Celia, Aleli, Lita G, Fim V,



*Ceremonial cutting of the ribbon of the Mas Matatag Hall in NICA Compound led by Dir Gen Dick de Leon, Dra Annie de Leon, and MM Prexy Celia Lalisan.*

Jane P, Barrie, Rose Almario, Rose Perico, Chit, Chato, Tetet, Verna, Jinggoy, Benjie, Lulu T, Eden S, Tess P, Puring, and Jennie Domingo. The Matatag members are Mel A, Boy Caste, BobSac, Prexy Joey, Bobby

Yarisantos, Archie A, Oca, and Wency Cruz. To all our Prayer Warriors, *saludo kami sa inyong lahat*. Thank you for keeping our faith and unity alive. Amen.

**Quote for this Issue**

**I did my best, and God did the rest.**  
Hattie McDaniel/ JCL/7 Aug 2026



**G**reetings to all. Here are the latest updates of Class activities for the months of June to August for your information and reading pleasure.

The Ladies Working Group (Ludy, Beth, Lucille, Yoly and Fe) met last 25 June at the Conference Room of Veterans Social Hall, Camp Aguinaldo. The purpose of the meeting has something to do with preparation of our incoming 55<sup>th</sup> Emerald Anniversary during the homecoming in Feb 2027. They talked about simple but relevant attire for the ladies during the event. Likewise, they will assist the Board in every possible way to ensure the success of the celebration. For Masigasig attire, it will be dark blue suit, khaki/beige pants, white long sleeve with green necktie and green cap with embossed Masigasig logo. To date, the Board is on track on the preparation for the much-awaited event.



Maximum participation of the whole Class is very much desired to ensure success.

Last 13 July, Mas Tata and family commemorated the one-year death anniversary of our beloved Mistah Jay, the big man with a big heart. A memorial mass was celebrated at Bulwagan Hall, LNMB, followed by lunch for family members and guests, including the 41 Masigasig and Mas in attendance of course. It was a sort of fellowship among Mistah sharing the memories of Jay. Unfortunately, by twist of faith, Jay and Tata's family house in Imus, Cavite was gutted by fire and was totally burned down five days after the memorial mass in LNMB. Thanks God, Tata and her two alalays were able to get out of the house safely. I surmised Jay saved the lives of Tata and two households. Amen. Last 17 August, Mas Melba and family commemorated also the one-year death anniversary of Mistah Orly Buenaventura which was attended by friends, relatives and of course 40

Masigasig and ladies. Memorial mass was held at Bulwagan Hall, LNMB followed by lunch at the same venue. To Mistahs Jay and OG, we miss you and may you rest in eternal peace in the Kingdom of the Lord.

A fellowship golf game was held last 23 July at the famous and challenging Couples course of Riviera Golf Club at Silang, Cavite. It was a sort of respite and fellowship among avid Masigasig golfers (Freddie, Celo, Efren, Ernie, Johnny, Fe and Celso). We really enjoyed the games and camaraderie among us; bulahizing and teasing each other as we navigated the treacherous layout of Couples course. What a shame for us male golfers when Fe birdied the par 4, Hole Nr15. After finishing the game, we went directly to the shower rooms to refresh, then proceeded immediately to the newly built dining hall of the Club. We enjoyed the lunch and savored the signature and delicious menu exclusively from Riviera. After the sumptuous meal we decided to leave for home, bringing with us the fellowship and joys of being together with a promise and prospect of coming back to the famous and alluring fairways of Riviera Golf Club.

Where art thou, Mistah and Mas? To date there are 27 Mistah and Mas who are permanently living abroad. From USA: LA: Dony and Rosie Rosete, Lino Caringal; Sacramento: Elmer and Renee Ignacio, Paco Fuentes and Angie Vilches; Chicago, Illinois: Rico Teves; Orlando, Florida: Roger





and Annie Favis; Las Vegas: Tony and Joji Villarosa; Connecticut: Eric and Helen Evangelista; Virginia: Jimmy and Helen Viernes, Willy and Lennie Mejia; Hawaii: Cora Oliveros; Australia: Jack and Siony Cordero; Canada; Toronto: Dulce Bismonte; Niagara: Rudy and Baby De Castro, and lastly Medin Velasco. Mista Vic Carag is here in the Philippines with his beloved OAO. So far, this is the info I gathered from other sources The Class expect them to join the Emerald Anniversary during the 2027 homecoming.

For other items, the Class will donate a replica of the Class Ring as requested by the Academy historian to be displayed at the newly renovated PMA museum. During our recent visit to the Academy, the Historian informed us that our Class is the only one among classes who have not yet donated the Class ring replica. The price of ring replica is only 5K at Suarez, so prexy Bing committed to donating it in due time. We encourage our Mistah/Mas to visit PMA and see for themselves the new renovations that took place in Fort del Pilar particularly the Museum, Library and new buildings. Let's go folks.

Another item for the Class to know is our Class Logo/Crest displayed at the Long Gray Line area located at the opposite side of Hall of Heros. This is where the logos/crests of all classes are displayed. Maybe you do not notice that our Class Logo displayed in that area is much different from our original Class logo that we cherished forever, not to be altered without the Class permission. Pinaghirapan ito ng members of the Committee that conceptualized and designed the logo. This is the official symbol of our Class, so it should not be altered or changed without Class approval. We will bring this issue to the attention of PMA leadership particularly OMA4 (Logistic) responsible for the display of Class Logos to replace the wrong logo with the original one.

The Board of Directors are updated on the preparation of our incoming 55<sup>th</sup> Emerald Anniversary on 26 March 2027. The celebration will take place at PMA as jubilarians during the Homecoming

in 2027. Preparation of schedule of activities is in place, of course with Ladies Working Group assisting the BOD. We must encourage all Mistah/Mas particularly those from aboard to attend



the homecoming next year as Emerald jubilarians. We are looking forward to these historic gatherings among us.

Birthday greetings: Happy birthdays to all birthday celebrators. AUGUST: Boogie Agustin, Orly Ambrocio, Marido Ambrocio, Ed Aquino, Gil Batestil, Percy Brawler,

Melba Buenaventura, Jack Cordero, Vangie Dizon, Rolly Hermoso, Lads Ladia (+), Edsel Lumawag, Ric Nobleza, Nic Olarte, Olive Oliveros (+), Dony Rosete and Tony Simangan. SEPTEMBER: Rudy Aguinaldo (+), Elsie Castro, Queck Ebuena, Paco

Fuentes, Renee Ignacio, Ernie De Leon, Alex Quirante, Suzette Sabado, Bobby Santos, Choly Teodosio, Freddie De vera, Pepe Vidad and Angie Vilches. From BOD, GOD bless and Happy Birthday to all. HAPPY READING TO ALL.....OSLEC.



#### **PMA Marangal Class 1974: A Quiet Quarter That Ended on a High Note**

The second quarter of 2026 was a little different for PMA Marangal Class 1974. For once, the calendar was unusually quiet. But as it turned out, sometimes a little less activity makes everyone appreciate the next gathering even more.

The quarter started with some uncertainty. When fuel prices suddenly went up because of the US-Iran conflict, there was considerable concern about how the situation might develop. Like everyone else, we noticed that people were becoming more cautious about going out and limiting unnecessary travel. We also wondered whether our Mistahs and their ladies would be willing to brave the roads just to attend a class activity. After all, there is no point planning a fellowship if half the class is likely to spend the evening sitting in traffic.

With that in mind, the class leadership headed by President **Sonny Razon** decided not to schedule a fellowship during the second quarter. Even the scheduled class board meeting was cancelled. It was a practical decision, considering the circumstances. There was no need to force an activity when the situation was still uncertain. For a class whose members

have spent a lifetime planning and making sound decisions, discretion seemed to be the better part of valor.

But as June approached, things began to normalize. The situation appeared less uncertain, and the idea of having at least one fellowship before the quarter ended was raised. The traditional class get-together was therefore scheduled for



*Class Board meeting, July 13, 2026*



June 23 at the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) Building in Camp Aguinaldo.

There was one important change: instead of the usual dinner gathering, the fellowship was held during lunchtime. The reason was simple - avoid the late-afternoon rush hour and the notorious traffic that can turn a short trip into an endurance exercise. Over the years, we have heard more than a few stories of Mistahs who intended to attend a class gathering but ended up spending hours trapped along EDSA. Clearly, fellowship is more enjoyable when getting there does not become an adventure in itself.

What happened next was a pleasant surprise. Despite the short notice and the relatively quick preparations and announcements, the June 23 gathering turned out to be one of the best-attended class activities in recent memory, with approximately 60 Mistahs, their ladies and widows in attendance. That was certainly not what we expected when we started planning the event.

The question naturally arose: Why did so many people come when the activity was announced on such short notice? Perhaps the answer was sitting right in front of us - or rather, sitting at the lunch table. The lunchtime schedule may have been the secret. Without the pressure of the evening rush hour, getting to AGFO became much easier. No need to battle the late afternoon traffic, no need to calculate the traffic situation on EDSA, and, most importantly, no need to wonder whether a one-hour trip might suddenly become a three-hour adventure.

Whatever the reason, the turnout was a welcome reminder that the desire to see old friends remains strong. After more than five decades

since our days at the Academy, the simple opportunity to sit together, exchange stories, share a meal, and catch up with one another continues to have special meaning. Our activities may be fewer than they were in our younger years, but the value of getting together seems to increase with age.

The experience also gave the class something to think about as we plan





*Birthday celebrants for the quarter.*

future activities. Perhaps lunchtime gatherings deserve a more permanent place in our calendar. If avoiding Manila's evening traffic can bring more Mistahs to the table, then there is no reason not to explore the idea. After all, we have already spent enough time in traffic over the years. We might as well spend the next few years talking to each other instead.

Although the second quarter itself was deliberately light, the class leadership did not lose sight of the activities ahead. The quarterly board meeting was subsequently held at AGFO on July 13, as the class

prepared for the next round of activities.

The next major gathering on the calendar is the quarterly joint birthday celebration scheduled for August 17 at AGFO, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The early indications are very encouraging: 57 members of the class, their wives and widows have already signified their intention to attend. If that number holds, it promises to be another well-attended Marangal occasion.

Looking back, the second quarter may have appeared quiet on paper, but it gave us an important reminder. Class activities

are not really about how many events we can put on the calendar. They are about giving Mistahs and their ladies a reason to come together. And when nearly 60 people show up on short notice simply because they want to see one another, that says something about the strength of the bond we formed so many years ago.

The Marangal Class 1974 may be getting older, but apparently, we are not getting any less interested in seeing our Mistahs. We just have to find the right time - and, preferably, a time when EDSA is not part of the itinerary.



**Christmas 2026.** The class has already begun planning its December Christmas party. On July 15, 2026, once a quorum was reached, the class officers confirmed that the celebration will be held on December 7, 2026, starting at 5:30 p.m., at East Ocean Palace Restaurant, Aseana Business Park, 1701 Bradco Ave., Aseana City, Parañaque City. Event details were discussed and finalized during the fellowship sponsored by the Air Force and Navy groups, headed by Cav Pete

Cadungog and Cav Pete Magno, on August 5, 2026, at the Greenside Restaurant, Villamor Air Base Golf and Country Club. For the Christmas attire, ladies shall wear shiny semi formal, while men shall wear black suits. Exchange gifts shall be worth at least Php 2,000.00.

**Champion Again!** At the Corps of 74567 Golf Tournament held at Villamor Air



*Cav Raul Gonzales with his daughter, Doctor Christine.*



*Cav Sen and Alma with their future lawyer daughter Abigail.*



Base Golf Course on June 26, 2026, the Makabayan Golf Team once again emerged as champion — this time without playing a single round. Heavy rain forced the competition to be called off, and the team



Monique Bernabe



Abigail Arugay



Sean Patric Dandasan

was declared overall winner for one simple reason: Makabayan was the host.

**The Graduates of 2026.** Many Makabayans are now proudly watching their children receive their college diplomas. One is Christine Dianne Gonzales, who is now a Fellow, Diplomate: Cardiovascular Institute Clinical Research in Interventional Cardiology at the Department of Advanced Medical Education at The Medical City. The daughter of Cav Raul and Ollie Gonzales finished Medicine at the Ateneo University School of Medicine and Public Health.

Next is Abigail Arugay, the daughter of Cav Senyong and Alma Arugay, who graduated from San Beda University College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree. Another San Bedan, from the College of Medicine, is Leo Hope Monique P. Bernabe, who finished her MD degree. She is the daughter of Atty. Cav Leo and Cherry Bernabe, and the third doctor in the family.

While the graduates above are children of Makabayans, this year, is already a grandson: Sean Patric A. Dandasan, grandson of Cav Charlie and Lolly Alejandrino through their eldest child. He is graduating from UP Diliman with a degree in Speech Communication. Congratulations to them, and to all sons, daughters, and grandchildren who are graduating this year.

**Diaspora in Manila.** Diaspora is the spreading of a group of people from their original homeland to other places in the world, while keeping a connection to their culture and heritage. A good example is our own Mistah Cavalier Walter

Villagonzalo, now a prominent Melbourne-based Filipino-Australian community leader. On June 16, 2026, he was among three Filipino-Australians representing Australia at the 2026 Filipino Diaspora Summit at the Marriott Hotel in Manila. Cav Walter — an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) awardee, 2022 PAF100 Pamana ng Pilipino Awardee, 2023 Cavalier Awardee, and former Deputy Mayor Councilor of Wyndham City Council in Australia — was a participant and panelist at the summit. In his speech, he shared his experience as a Filipino migrant and community leader in Australia, stressing Filipinos' vital role in connecting cultures, communities, and nations. He noted Filipinos' longstanding contributions to their adopted countries



Cav Walter Villagonzalo at the Diaspora Summit.

through hard work, resilience, and service, and urged the diaspora to step off the sidelines and participate actively in civic life, community leadership, and public discourse.

**Third-Quarter Birthday Celebrators.** Twenty-six Makabayans have birthdays this quarter, including nine whom we remember posthumously. Please pray for their eternal rest; they remain in our hearts and memories.

The remaining seventeen gentlemen are celebrating another year of life. We wish them continued optimism, good spirits, and a happy birthday.

#### July

|                         |         |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Eulogio C. Baltazar +   | 3 July  |
| Rodolfo F. Petican      | 9 July  |
| Silverio R. Ilagan      | 10 July |
| Dominador L Makinano +  | 14 July |
| George R. Quisido +     | 14 July |
| Alberto B. Villanueva + | 25 July |
| German B. Doria         | 31 July |

#### August

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Pedro J. Binuya      | 3 August  |
| Benjamin D. Tesoro + | 4 August  |
| Noe A. Wong          | 11 August |
| Merito A. Quijano    | 12 August |
| Raul S. Gonzales     | 17 August |
| Bonifacio B. Ramos   | 30 August |
| Petronilo P. Magno   | 26 August |

#### September

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Dominador A. Flores Jr | 5 September  |
| Cardoso M. Luna        | 7 September  |
| Adrian P. Espera +     | 8 September  |
| Benjamin S. Gonzales   | 9 September  |
| Napoleon C. Cachuela   | 13 September |
| Wilfredo G. Pabalan +  | 15 September |
| Van Cornelius D. Luspo | 16 September |
| Alejandro C. Geronimo  | 17 September |
| Alexander D. Aleo      | 19 September |
| Antonio R. Medina +    | 23 September |
| Tirso R. Danga +       | 24 September |
| Napoleon B. Malana     | 27 September |

(+) – deceased

**NOTE:** As of this writing, the trio of Cavaliers Noe Wong, Raul Gonzales and Gerry Doria are hatching a plan for a triple treat lunch for the Makabayans and their ladies at Shangri-la Makati on the occasion of their birthdays.





**SILVERIO D ALARCIO, JR**  
President  
**FERDINAND S GOLEZ**  
Secretary

### STILL MARCHING, STILL SWINGING, STILL PILYO!

If anybody thinks the Magilas gentlemen are finally slowing down, he obviously has not attended a Magilas gathering lately.

Yes, the knees may now require a little negotiation before agreeing to cooperate. The backs sometimes issue their own orders. Eyeglasses have become standard equipment, and medicines occasionally outnumber the coins in our pockets. But when the Mistahs get together, something remarkable happens: suddenly, everybody is young again!

The stories become louder, the laughter gets longer, and exploits from long ago somehow become more heroic with each retelling. And, of course, when golf is involved, everybody remembers his best shot—but nobody seems to remember the triple bogey on the previous hole.

Such is the continuing story of the Magilas Class: fellowship strengthened by the years, friendship tested by time, and brotherhood that remains very much alive.

### HAMPAS LUPA DESCENDS ON MIMOSA

On July 16, the legendary Magilas Hampas Lupa contingent descended upon Mimosa in Clark for another day of golf, fellowship, and the occasional creative interpretation of the scorecard.

The gathering was hosted by Mistahs Toto Golez and Romy Hilomen, with Lina Sarmiento, Vice President for the Security



Services Group of Clark Development Corporation, joining the occasion.

As usual, expectations were high.

Everyone arrived convinced that this would finally be the day when years of practice, expensive clubs, new golf balls, YouTube tutorials, and unsolicited advice from fellow golfers would come together to produce the perfect round.

Reality, however, had other plans.

There were magnificent drives that went exactly where intended. There were also drives that explored parts of Mimosa apparently never visited by golfers before. Some balls landed beautifully on the fairway. Others apparently decided that Clark was such a nice place that they preferred to stay permanently.

But who was counting?

Well... everybody!

Golf among Mistahs remains one of those rare activities where friendship is unconditional—until somebody questions another Mistah's score.

Still, the true score was measured not in birdies, pars or bogeys but in laughter, companionship and another memorable day spent together.

Our thanks go to Toto, Romy and everyone who helped make the Mimosa gathering another successful chapter in the long-running adventures of the Magilas Hampas Lupa.

### DELTA COMPANY'S PILYOSHIP

From the fairways of Clark, the Magilas fellowship continued at Opus Mall in Ortigas, where Delta Company hosted the 2nd Quarter Pilyoship.

And whenever the word "Pilyoship" appears on a Magilas calendar, one thing is certain: attendance becomes unusually enthusiastic.

The formula remains simple— good food, good company, endless stories, and enough laughter to make everybody forget his age for several hours.



Special appreciation goes to Mistah Toto Golez, who generously sponsored the gathering.

As Mistahs settled around the tables, the familiar stories inevitably returned. Tales from cadet days resurfaced. Old assignments were remembered. Adventures from the service were revisited.

Naturally, some details may have improved with age.

A routine patrol from decades ago can somehow become a major strategic operation after sufficient retellings. A harmless cadet prank gradually develops into a legendary covert mission. And the Mistah who originally stood somewhere in the background may, after fifty years, suddenly discover that he was actually commanding the whole operation!

But nobody objects.

After all, history belongs to those who remain awake long enough to tell the story. More importantly, gatherings like the Pilyoship remind everyone that Magilas fellowship was never limited to the Academy or to the years in uniform. It has become a lifelong connection.

Delta Company has now done its duty with flying colors, and the baton passes to Alfa Company, host of the 3rd Quarter Pilyoship.

No pressure, Alfa.

But after Delta's performance, expectations are high. Very high.

The Mistahs will be watching.

And more importantly, they will be hungry!

### COFFEE, DONUTS AND MAGILAS STRATEGY

Another activity quietly becoming an institution is the Dunkin' Meet and Greet, spearheaded by Mayor LNB Pol Bataoil. Who would have imagined that after decades of command conferences, operational briefings and strategic planning sessions, some of the most interesting Magilas discussions would eventually take place over coffee and donuts?

But perhaps that is exactly why it works. There are no stiff protocols. No long presentations. No complicated agenda. Just Mistahs sitting together, exchanging ideas, discussing class concerns, planning future activities—and naturally inserting a few jokes whenever discussions threaten to become too serious.

The Dunkin' gathering has become a convenient venue where ideas for the



Class can be raised and discussed in a relaxed atmosphere.

And there is something about coffee that makes every Mistah an expert.

One cup and everybody has an opinion.

Two cups and everybody has a solution.

Three cups and somebody is ready to reorganize the entire government.

The donuts, meanwhile, provide additional motivation.

At our age, however, the traditional command "Take one and pass" occasionally encounters resistance. Some Mistahs carefully inspect the choices first, perhaps remembering that certain decisions in life should never be rushed.

Our thanks to Mayor Pol Bataoil for spearheading this initiative and providing another opportunity for Magilas gentlemen to remain connected.

It proves that fellowship does not always require a grand occasion.

Sometimes all it takes is coffee, a table, a few Mistahs—and enough donuts.

### REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

Amid the laughter and fellowship, the Magilas Class also took time for something far more solemn and meaningful.

Mayor LNB Pol Bataoil led participating Mistahs in paying tribute to our nation's heroes at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial and the Libingan ng mga Bayani.



A good number of Magilas gentlemen joined this important

Class activity to remember those who served before us, those who fought beside us, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country and our people.

Special appreciation goes to Mistah Bong Ibrado, who assisted in arranging the bus transportation that brought the Class safely and conveniently to the commemorative activities.

For soldiers, memorials are never simply monuments of stone.

Behind every name is a story.

Behind every grave is a family that once waited for someone to come home.

Behind every marker is a life once filled with dreams, friendships, laughter, duty and hope.

Walking among the resting places of our heroes reminds us that the freedoms we enjoy today were purchased through courage, sacrifice and blood.

Class President Boying Alarcio embraced the solemnity of the occasion and delivered an inspirational message honoring our soldiers and heroes who offered their lives in faithful service to God, Country and People.

For the Magilas gentlemen, the occasion carried special meaning.

We may joke about age. We may laugh about our aching knees, fading eyesight, golf handicaps and forgotten passwords. But some things never grow old.

Duty does not grow old.

Honor does not grow old.

Love of country does not grow old.

And the memory of comrades who have gone ahead must never grow old.

The visit was therefore more than a Class activity. It was an affirmation of values formed many decades ago—values that continue to define the Magilas brotherhood today.

We remember because we served.

We remember because we understand.

And we remember because our fallen heroes deserve nothing less.

#### **GET READY FOR SEPTEMBER!**

After the solemn remembrance comes another challenge—this time involving golf clubs, scorecards, and perhaps a little friendly psychological warfare.

The Corps of 74567 Golf Tournament is fast approaching this September, with the Class hosting the 3rd Quarter tournament.

Our Magilas golfers are therefore



advised to begin preparations immediately. Clean the clubs.

Practice the swing.

Check the shoes.

Stretch those muscles.

And most importantly, prepare the excuses.

Because every veteran golfer knows that there are at least twenty-seven perfectly legitimate reasons why a ball refuses to travel in the intended direction. The wind.

The grass.

The sun.

The club.

The caddie.

The noise.

The previous night's dinner.

The alignment of the planets.

Anything, of course, except the golfer.

But whether the final result is under par, over par, or something better left unmentioned, the Corps Golf Tournament promises another opportunity for friendship and fellowship.

To our Magilas golfers: Good luck! Swing easy, play well, and count honestly.

Remember, gentlemen: age is only a number. Unfortunately, so is your handicap!

#### **THE MAGILAS BOND ENDURES**

Looking back at these activities—from Mimosa to Opus, from Dunkin' coffee gatherings to the solemn grounds of our national memorials—one message stands above everything else.

The Magilas brotherhood endures.

The venues may change. Uniforms have long been hung in closets. Ranks and positions have become part of personal histories. Careers have been completed, and many of us now spend more time discussing grandchildren, maintenance medicines and golf than operations and deployments.

But when a Mistah calls, the years disappear.

We are reminded of young cadets who once marched together, dreamed together, struggled together and eventually went forth to serve the nation.

Life took us in different directions. Some served in the military. Others entered government, business, diplomacy, public service or private pursuits.

Yet somehow the road keeps bringing us back together.

That is what these gatherings are really about.

The golf games will end.

The coffee cups will eventually be empty.

The Pilyoship tables will be cleared.

The photographs will find their way into albums and group chats.

But the friendship remains.

So here's to the Mistahs who continue to show up.

To those who organize.

To those who sponsor.

To those who drive across town despite traffic.

To those who still play eighteen holes even when their knees recommend nine. To those who tell the same stories—and to those who politely laugh as though hearing them for the first time.

And above all, here's to those who keep the Magilas spirit alive.

We may be older.

We may walk a little slower.

We may occasionally forget why we entered a room.

But when it comes to friendship, service, remembrance and fellowship, Magilas still answers the call.

And as long as there are Mistahs willing to gather, laugh, remember and raise a cup of coffee—or perhaps a golf trophy—the Class will remain what it has always been:

United in friendship. Bound by service. Faithful to our fallen. Proud of our heritage.

Magilas forever!

Still marching. Still swinging. Still pilyo. And definitely not yet ready for taps!





**ORLANDO L PESTAÑO**  
President  
**DOMINGO M PEQUIRAS**  
Secretary

The Masikap 77 activities that could be featured in the 3rd Quarter issue of this magazine are centered largely on preparations for the Class's Golden Jubilee in February 2027. Through the tireless efforts of our indefatigable Class President, Orly Pestaño, the Class BOT has been meeting frequently to anticipate and address potential concerns in the preparations. Each committee continues to provide regular updates to the members of the Class.

Notably, the Golden Sword Committee has already completed its task, and the manuscript is now ready for printing. Kudos to the industrious Toto Butch Supapo, who initiated these efforts, with the full support of our professor, Joone De Leon, who generously shared his expertise in editing and preparing the final manuscript. We likewise acknowledge the efforts of our BOS representatives, who have been consistently following up with their members to ensure compliance.



There is, however, one area that still needs further follow-up. As of this writing, only about half of the Class members have had their uniform measurements taken. Committee Chief Nes Ochoa is therefore requesting those who have not yet done so to have their measurements taken as soon as possible.

The Transportation Committee has also completed its assigned tasks. So far, the other committees have reported no major concerns requiring attention. We remain hopeful that everything will proceed smoothly and according to plan.

**Mabuhay ang Golden Jubilarians!**  
**Mabuhay Masikap 77!**





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

#### Vintage Shooters of MAKATARUNGAN 78

The Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) held its 1<sup>st</sup> Shootfest Competition at Camp Aguinaldo Firing Range on 27 June 2026, participated in by 16 top caliber shooters from PMA 68 to 89, including some generals from the reserve force. The



#### MAKATARUNGAN 78 Regular Fellowship

Party seniors enjoyed each other's company at the semi-annual Makatarungan 78 Fellowship held on June 28, 2026 at the Philippine-Korea Friendship Center. The occasion foremostly featured the celebration of a mass in gratitude for God's blessing. It also featured the consolidated semi-annual birthday and wedding

Makatarungan 78 participants in Clint Eastwood style prominently topped the competition. Cav Rollie Detabali captured the Top Gun Award in Precision Shoot. Cav Charlie Holganza finished 3<sup>rd</sup> Runner-up in Precision Shoot and Runner-up in the Man-to-man shootout. A fitting conclusion would be "*Kaya pa nilang pumutok.*"



celebrations from January to June. The class shared food, drinks and their talents in singing and dancing. The dance turned out to be a decent workout for the seniors to the tune of "*Hawak ko ang beat.*" Special mention to Cav Evans and Vicky Opina who came all the way from Pagadian City and Lealda Antonio, widow of Cav Ging Antonio, who came all the way from Sydney, Australia.





**TRISTAN M KISON**  
President  
**JOSE TONY E VILLARETE**  
Secretary

The last four months have been another productive and meaningful period for the PMA Matapat Class of 1979. Guided by our commitment to good governance, fellowship, and enduring camaraderie, the Executive Board and the various committees have continued to work tirelessly in advancing the interests of our Class while laying the groundwork for a memorable Golden Jubilee Celebration in 2029.

A major milestone during the period was the successful election of the Class Representative to the governing bodies of the Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) and the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI). On 27 March 2026, the Executive Board passed a resolution calling for the election and reactivated the Class Committee on Elections (COMELEC) to supervise the process. Recognizing the enormous responsibilities attached to the position and the high expectations of the members of both organizations, the Executive Board emphasized the need to elect a representative who possesses the willingness to serve, unquestionable integrity, and the experience and expertise in good governance necessary to effectively represent the Class. The Class COMELEC, chaired by Cav Rex Recomono, with Cav Elmir De la Cruz, Cav Edwin Corvera, and Cav Marlon Garbo as members, professionally managed the entire electoral process, ensuring that it was transparent, orderly, and credible. Their dedication and impartiality earned the confidence of the Class. At the conclusion of the election, Cav Ramon Liwag was elected as the Primary Class Representative, while Cav Antonio Supnet was chosen as the Alternate Class Representative.



The Executive Board formally welcomed the newly elected representative during an Oath-taking Ceremony held on 11 May 2026 at the Board Room of the PMAAAI Center, Camp Aguinaldo. Cav Ramon Liwag took his oath of office as the official PMA Matapat Class of 1979 Representative to the governing bodies of PMARAI and PMAAAI, signifying the Class's continued commitment to responsible leadership and active participation in the affairs of our alumni organizations.

The Matapat Golf Club (MGC) continued to be one of the most active pillars of fellowship within the Class. Monthly golf tournaments and fellowship gatherings were successfully conducted on 9 March, 20 April, 25 May, 22 June, and 20 July, rotating among the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course, Philippine Navy Golf Course, and Villamor Air Base Golf Course. The MGC Executive Committee, headed by President Cav Tattu Sanchez, together with Secretary Cav Benjie Gorres, Treasurer Cav Tony Villarete, and Tournament Czar and Coach Cav Rolly Añonuevo, with the all-out support of Cav Rey Lanada, continued to provide excellent leadership in organizing

tournaments, establishing playing rules, coordinating schedules, procuring uniforms, and ensuring the smooth conduct of all MGC activities. Beyond golf, these regular gatherings promote physical fitness, mental wellness, friendship, healthy competition, and stronger camaraderie among classmates.

On 16 July 2026, the MGC organized a heartfelt Despedida Golf Fellowship in honor of Cav Rex Recomono, who, together with his family, is migrating to Darwin, Australia. The golf fellowship was held at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club, followed by a luncheon at the newly opened FVR Hall. Led by Class President Cav Titan Kison, classmates expressed their appreciation for Cav Rex's many years of dedicated service and invaluable contributions to the Class. The Matapat Golf Club, through its President, Cav Tattu Sanchez, presented Cav Rex with a parting gift as a token of gratitude and friendship. It was a memorable celebration honoring a classmate whose generosity, leadership, and commitment have left a lasting legacy within Matapat.





The spirit of fellowship continued on 20 July 2026 when the MGC held its monthly tournament at the Philippine Navy Golf Club. Sponsored by Cav Rolly Añonuevo in celebration of his 70th birthday, the event was aptly called the "Matapat Golf Club Monthly Tournament and Rolly A's 1st Invitational Tournament." In addition to MGC members, the tournament welcomed Cav Rolly's family, close friends, and former colleagues. Participants enjoyed a day of competitive golf, generous raffle prizes, sumptuous meals, and lively entertainment provided by a live band. It was truly a day of friendship, gratitude, and joyful celebration.

Preparations for the Golden Jubilee Celebration in February 2029 continue to gain momentum. The various committees organized by the Executive Board have been diligently working on their respective responsibilities to ensure that this once-in-a-lifetime milestone will be worthy of the proud legacy of the Matapat Class. Notably, the Uniform Committee, chaired by Cav Sammy Pagdilao, has done an outstanding job by initiating the early acquisition of the official

Golden Anniversary Uniform that members will proudly wear during the Homecoming Parade at the hallowed Borromeo Field of Fort Del Pilar in February 2029. Such early planning reflects the commitment and dedication of the many volunteers working behind the scenes for the success of our Golden Jubilee.

We also take pride in recognizing our classmates who continue to serve the nation in key leadership positions. Cav Secretary Eduardo S.L. Oban Jr. continues to serve as the National Security Adviser; Cav Undersecretary Ireneo "Boy" Espino serves as the Senior Undersecretary of the Department of National Defense; and Cav Ricardo Banayat serves as Chief of the Intelligence and Security Service of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. We salute these distinguished Cavaliers for their continued selfless service and unwavering commitment to our country and our people.

As we move into the coming months, the excitement within the Class continues to build. Every activity, every committee accomplishment, and every fellowship



gathering brings us one step closer to our historic Golden Anniversary in February 2029. Let us continue to support one another, participate actively in Class activities, and preserve the enduring spirit of Matapat that has united us for nearly five decades.

Matapat... Always Together.



The third quarter of 2026 found the Mapitagans once again drawing strength from the enduring bonds of brotherhood forged half a century ago within the hallowed grounds of the Philippine Military Academy. The period brought moments of remembrance and fellowship, pride in the achievements of a distinguished Honorary Mistah, support for a longtime friend in the performing arts, and delight in the milestone of a promising young apo.

Yet amid these joyful moments came the sad farewell to a beloved Mistah—a poignant reminder that, as the years pass, the true strength of Mapitagan lies not merely in

shared memories, but in remaining present for one another through both celebration and loss.

#### **Farewell to a Mistah**

The period began on a somber note as our PMA Mapitagan Class of 1980 mourned with deep sadness the passing of our beloved Mistah Ramon "MonLors" Loria in the early hours of Thursday, 4 June 2026 in Baguio City.

His mortal remains lay in repose at St. Ignatius Chapel, PMA, Fort del Pilar beginning 5 June, where Mistahs, family, and friends gathered to pay their final respects. A necrological service was held on Sunday, 7 June, followed by the Farewell Mass the following morning before his cremation.

Only a few months earlier, Mistahs had visited MonLors at his Baguio residence after the PMA Alumni Homecoming and personally conveyed the Class' prayers, friendship, and modest assistance during his treatment. His passing therefore touched the Class deeply.

Rest in eternal peace, Mistah MonLors.

We shall remember you with affection and honor the friendship, brotherhood, and legacy of service you leave behind. 🙏

#### **2nd Quarter Birthday Fellowship Lunch**

As June drew to a close, the Class moved from a time of remembrance to another cherished Mapitagan tradition—the quarterly gathering to celebrate life, friendship, and the birthdays of our Mistahs.

Tuesday, 30 June 2026, arrived with heavy morning rains. But downpours have never dampened the spirits of Mapitagans, whose mettle has been tested and proven both in the field and on the fairway. What they were less prepared for was the heavy traffic that snarled major roads along EDSA after thousands of rallyists gathered near a commemorative monument.

The 2nd Quarter Birthday Fellowship Lunch, scheduled for 11:00 a.m., thus started late as the 30 attendees arrived in trickles after finding their way around the gridlock. By 1:40 p.m., however, Dimalupig A Hall of



*Mapitagans and their ladies join Nelia Loria (5th from left) at St. Ignatius Chapel, PMA, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, to pay their final respects to Mistah Ramon “MonLors” Loria during his wake. From left: Ige and Aleli Rodriguez, Gil and Baby Pacia, Nelia Loria, Siony and Bogs Abogado, Herbert and Marivic Yaming, and Mae and Emil Sarmiento.*

the AFP Commissioned Officers’ Country Club (AFPCOC) in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City was buzzing with familiar Mapitagan camaraderie. Class President Ces Ordoyo called everyone front and center for the traditional group photo to formally open the abbreviated celebration.

The seven birthday celebrators present—Jardie Mantele, Gil Meneses, Ric Pasamba, Emil Sarmiento, Jie Segovia, Raffy Torres, and Efen Yebra - then gathered around the birthday cake for the ceremonial blowing of candles, with President Emeritus Nick Bartolome leading the one-of-a-kind Mapitagan Birthday Chant.

During the senior-friendly late buffet lunch, Mapitagan favorite Bo Cerrudo regaled

everyone with his powerful, ageless voice. Surprise guest songstress Allynna Velasquez joined Bo in several OPM duets, much to the delight of the Mistahs. Despite the rain, traffic, and delayed start, another Mapitagan fellowship ended—as always—with good food, good music, and even better company.

#### **Mapitagan Excellence in Broadcasting**

The Class proudly congratulates Honorary Mistah Angelo “Angel” Palmones, a longtime friend of many Mapitagans and later adopted into the Class, for receiving two prestigious recognitions for his continuing excellence in broadcast journalism.

Angel was named “Best News Anchor” at the 20th Gandingan Awards on 25 April 2026.

Organized by the UP Los Baños Community Broadcasters’ Society, Inc., the award recognized his exceptional work on the DZRH radio program *Magandang Umaga Pilipinas*.

A respected veteran broadcaster, his achievements did not stop there. On 11 June 2026, Angel was also named “Radio Personality of the Year” at the Rotary Club of Manila Pro Patria Journalism Awards 2026, recognizing his contributions to radio broadcasting, public education, and responsible journalism.

Congratulations, Mistah Angel! Your professionalism, integrity, and continuing dedication to excellence bring honor not only to your profession but also to the entire Mapitagan Class. Carry on! 🙌

#### **“UnstoppaBOI”: Mapitagan-Sponsored Concert**

The media calls him the Premier Classical Balladeer. To the Mapitagans, however, Bo Cerrudo is first and foremost a good friend—one who rarely misses our social gatherings and is always ready to mesmerize the Mistahs with his big, booming voice and repertoire of timeless tunes and OPM classics.

In appreciation—and perhaps as a tribute—to this enduring friendship, the Mapitagan Class of 1980, as a supporter of the arts, sponsored “UnstoppaBOI,” a concert celebrating Bo’s decades-long career in the music industry.

On 15 July 2026, nearly a hundred music lovers gathered at Red Rhino at The Hub in Greenfield District, Mandaluyong City for an evening of music and entertainment. Among those in the audience to lend their support were Mapitagans and their ladies Nick and Noemi Bartolome, Vic and Ella Caragan, Paco and Baby Francisco, Gil and Cristy Meneses, Emil and Mae Sarmiento, Raffy and Evelyn Torres, Rainier and Dolly Cruz, Jeff and Tess Tupas, and Herbert and Marivic Yaming. Also present were Ces Ordoyo, Jardie Mantele, Efen Yebra, and Jigs Cristales.

It was the Mapitagan way of returning the favor to a friend who has generously shared his music with the Class through the years—and an evening that proved friendship, like a good song, only gets better with time.

#### **Milestone: A Heart of Gold**

The familiar saying “Nothing beats the original” may not always be ironclad—especially when good qualities are passed down to the next generation.

Five-year-old Finn Bonnibel “PB” Armada, granddaughter of proud Mapitagan Lolo Onell Lleno through his second daughter, Atty. Kae, received the special “Heart of Gold Award”, together with two other certificates of recognition from her school. The award



*Seven jubilant 2nd Quarter birthday celebrators gather around the cake for the traditional Mapitagan Birthday Chant and ceremonial blowing of candles during the Fellowship Lunch at AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo. From left: Jie Segovia, Gil Meneses, Jardie Mantele, Raffy Torres, Emil Sarmiento, Ric Pasamba, and Efen Yebra.*



Five-year-old Finn Bonnibel "PB" Armada, granddaughter of proud Mapitagan Lolo Onell Lleno through his daughter Atty. Kae, proudly displays her **Heart of Gold Award** with her beaming Class Adviser. Galing - mana talaga kay Lolo!



Another feather in the Mapitagan cap: veteran broadcaster Angelo "Angel" Palmones, named **Best News Anchor** at the 20th Gandingan Awards for his outstanding work on DZRH's Magandang Umaga Pilipinas—one of two major journalism honors he received in 2026.

reflects the school's holistic approach to education, emphasizing not only intellectual development but also character, values, and spiritual formation. Upon her Kindergarten graduation on 3 June 2026, PB added two more medals to her growing collection.

Galing! Mana talaga kay Lolo! Hehe. 😊

#### Message from the Class President

My Dear Mapitagans,

As we face the uncertainties of global conflict, political divisions, and the continuing challenges of corruption and governance, let us remain unwavering in our faith and steadfast in our commitment to serve.

God has carried us through countless trials before, and He will continue to guide us if we place our trust in His divine providence. Like Alex Eala, whose humility, perseverance, and discipline have inspired our nation, let us

pursue excellence with courage and grace.

As we enter the fourth quarter of the year, let us welcome the coming holiday season with renewed hope, grateful hearts, and a deeper resolve to become instruments of God's peace, justice, and compassion.

May the Lord continue to bless our Class, our Armed Forces, our nation, and our families.

"Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." — Joshua 1:9

Mabuhay ang PMA Mapitagan Class of 1980! 🌈 🇵🇭



## THE JOYS AND THE SORROWS OF THE DIMALUPIG SUMMER 2

### The Joys of Summer

The 3rd PMA Dimalupig Class 1981 Golf Cup was successfully held at the Villamor Air Base Golf Course last May 29, 2026. This is a yearly event by the Dimalupigs to support the Class's

social projects. The tournament was sponsored by the usual loyal patrons and benefactors who believe in the cause of the Dimalupigs.

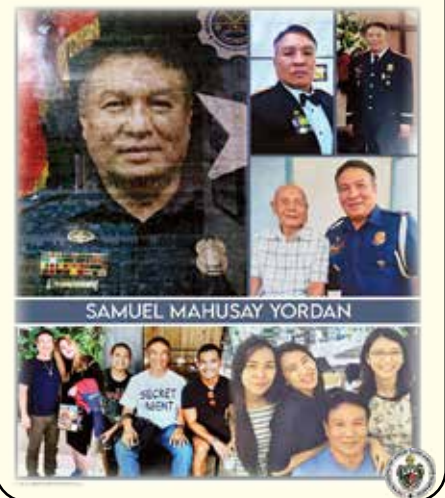


Despite the rains, the Dimalupigs spirit was not dampened to celebrate the birthday of its President, Cavalier Greg Catapang. The celebration was joined even by those usually elusive members of the Class. The celebration started in the morning and stretched out well into the night. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were served. These fueled the energy of the Manlulupigs for non-stop dancing and non-stop singing of Dimalupig rock stars, crooners, folk and country singers with aging voices ranging from gravelly, to hoarse, to “squawky”, “screechy” and squeaky.



### And the Sorrows

Three months after the passing of one Mistah, the Dimalupigs have lost with much grief and the sorrow to heaven another one of its beloved Mistah. Cavalier Samuel “Bay” Yordan passed away on July 30, 2026 within three weeks of being diagnosed with an aggressive liver disease. Sammy Yordan retired from the Philippine National Police with the Rank of Police Chief Superintendent. After his retirement he served as a member of the Marawi Rehabilitation Team. He thereafter went into a quiet retirement. Sammy Yordan who is fondly called “Bay” is known for his calm demeanor and a constant smile that made him be regarded with fondness by every Dimalupig. Surely he is now in the state of eternal repose in the embrace of the Lord God Almighty.



### PMA Sandigan Class 1982: Brotherhood That Stands the Test of Time

There is a saying among Cavaliers that while careers eventually come to an end, the bond of being a mistah never does. For the men of PMA Sandigan Class 1982, that bond has only grown stronger over the past 45 years.

The third quarter of 2026 was another reminder that Sandigan is much more than a graduating class. It is a community of lifelong friends who continue to celebrate one

another’s successes, lend a helping hand in times of need, honor those who have gone ahead, and remain committed to serving the country in whatever capacity they can.

Whether through fellowship, support for a classmate’s family, recognition of fellow Cavaliers’ achievements, or a collective voice on matters of national interest, every activity reflected the same spirit that first brought the Class together within the hallowed grounds of Fort Del Pilar. Here are some of the moments that made the quarter especially memorable.

### Fellowship with Purpose

One of the quarter’s highlights was the highly successful block



*Mistahs and friends gather for the block screening of the classic film Top Gun at the Director’s Club Cinema, S’ Maison, Conrad Manila, on 16 May 2026.*

screening of the classic film *Top Gun* on 16 May 2026 at the Director's Club Cinema, S' Maison, Conrad Manila. More than a nostalgic movie experience, the event provided an opportunity for mistahs, spouses, families, and friends to reconnect in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

The overwhelming support of classmates and guests resulted in the sale of all available tickets and generated approximately ₱162,000 in net proceeds, in addition to sales of class memorabilia such as mugs, caps, and T-shirts. These funds will help support future programs and activities of PMA Sandigan Class 1982.

The event also highlighted an enduring strength of the Class: its ability to turn simple social gatherings into meaningful activities that benefit the organization as a whole. Such initiatives reflect the creativity, generosity, and volunteer spirit that continue to distinguish Sandigan Class 1982.

### Planning for the Future

Sustaining a vibrant alumni organization requires careful planning, responsible governance, and a clear sense of purpose. On 2 June 2026, the PMA Sandigan Class 1982 Association, Inc. (PSAI) convened its Second Quarterly Board of Trustees Meeting at the Philippine Navy Golf Club, Bonifacio Naval Station, in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

During the meeting, the Board approved an extensive calendar of activities covering the remainder of 2026 and the first quarter of 2027. These include the Third Quarterly Board Meeting, a Golf Fund-Raising Tournament, the annual Christmas Fellowship, participation in the 2027 PMA Alumni Homecoming, and preparations for the Class's 45th Graduation Anniversary in March 2027.

These activities represent more than administrative planning. They provide opportunities for classmates to strengthen relationships, mentor younger Cavaliers, support PMAAAI initiatives, and preserve the traditions that have bound the Class together for more than four decades.

### Celebrating Professional Excellence

The Sandigan spirit also continues to shine through the professional achievements of its members. On 7 July 2026, Mistah Aminkadra S. Undug, Commander of the 2303rd Ready Reserve Brigade, was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General during a Donning of Ranks Ceremony at Headquarters Philippine Army, Fort Bonifacio.

His promotion reflects decades of dedicated military service and leadership and is a source of pride for the entire Class. Every professional achievement of a Sandigan member is a reminder that the values learned

at the Academy continue to inspire excellence across the Armed Forces, government institutions, and civilian organizations.

Such milestones also offer younger generations of officers' examples of principled leadership, professionalism, and steadfast commitment to duty.

### Brotherhood in Times of Need

Perhaps no aspect of the Sandigan brotherhood is more meaningful than the willingness of classmates to help one another during difficult times.

Following the hospitalization of Mistah Jerome Pagaragan's wife, Mrs. Annette Pagaragan, who underwent major colon cancer surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City on 10 July 2026, members of the Class promptly responded with financial assistance to help ease the family's burden.

Acts such as these seldom attract public attention, yet they represent the true essence of the PMA brotherhood. Behind every contribution is a shared understanding that no mistah or family member should have to face life's most difficult challenges alone.

This culture of compassion has remained a defining characteristic of Sandigan Class 1982 throughout the years and continues to demonstrate the enduring meaning of the Academy's tradition of brotherhood.

### Standing for National Sovereignty

The Class also demonstrated that the responsibilities of a Cavalier extend beyond personal and organizational concerns.

In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, PMA Sandigan Class 1982 issued a formal declaration that was widely circulated among PMA alumni organizations and through social media platforms.

The statement reaffirmed the Class's steadfast support for Philippine sovereignty, maritime rights, and adherence to the rule of law. It honored the sacrifices of the country's military personnel, diplomats, fisherfolk, and coastal communities, while calling upon all Filipinos to remain united in protecting the nation's legitimate interests.

Rather than adopting a partisan position, the declaration emphasized unity, patriotism, peace, and respect for international law—principles that have guided generations of PMA graduates throughout their careers.

For the members of Sandigan Class 1982, defending national interests remains an enduring responsibility long after active military or government service has concluded.



*Mistah Vicente Marcelo "Boyett" Lampas, PN (Ret.), was laid to rest at Love Memorial Park, Noveleta, Cavite, on 26 July 2026, with full military honors.*

### Remembering a Fallen Brother

The quarter also brought profound sadness with the untimely passing of Mistah Vicente Marcelo "Boyett" Lampas, PN, on 20 July 2026 following an acute myocardial infarction.

His wake at Sangley Point, Cavite City and the subsequent necrological services became occasions not only for mourning but also for celebrating a life dedicated to service. The presence of classmates and fellow Cavaliers during the wake and funeral reflected the enduring promise that PMA classmates never truly walk alone.

Through shared memories, prayers, and support for the bereaved family, Sandigan once again demonstrated that brotherhood continues beyond active service—and even beyond life itself. The Class honors Boyett Lampas with gratitude for his friendship, dedication, and faithful service to God, Country, and People.

### Recognizing Outstanding Leadership

Another proud moment came with the submission of the nomination of Cavalier John S. Bonafos for the 2027 PMAAAI Cavalier Awards under the Alumni Affairs Category.

The nomination recognizes years of exceptional leadership, professional competence, integrity, and dedication to duty. His accomplishments have contributed significantly to the success of the organization, the advancement of the profession, and the welfare of the nation.

More importantly, the nomination highlights the many volunteers who quietly devote their time, experience, and resources to strengthening alumni organizations, supporting fellow Cavaliers, and preserving the Academy's traditions. Whether or not recognition ultimately follows, the nomination itself symbolizes the

Class's appreciation for servant leadership and sustained commitment to the PMA community.

### Renewing Old Bonds

The first fellowship lunch of mistahs formerly belonging to First Battalion, CCAFP (Alfa and Bravo Companies), provided another welcome opportunity to reconnect.

Held at King's Chef Restaurant in McKinley West, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on 2 August 2026 the gathering of mistahs and their wives was filled with stories, laughter, shared memories, and renewed friendships—the kind of easy camaraderie that only decades of brotherhood can produce.

Such informal reunions often become the foundation for future projects, outreach initiatives, and collaborative activities. They remind everyone that the greatest strength of Sandigan Class 1982 has never been measured solely by individual accomplishments, but by the willingness of classmates to remain connected through every stage of life.

### Looking Ahead

As preparations continue for the Golf Fund-Raising Tournament, the Christmas Fellowship, the 2027 PMA Alumni Homecoming, and the Class's 45th Graduation Anniversary, Sandigan Class 1982 looks to the future with optimism and renewed purpose.



*Mistahs formerly of the 1st Battalion, CCAFP, and their spouses gather for their first fellowship lunch at King's Chef Restaurant, McKinley West, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, on 2 August 2026.*

Forty-five years have neither diminished the bonds of friendship nor weakened the commitment to serve. Instead, the passage of time has strengthened the conviction that the Academy's ideals become even more meaningful with age.

The achievements of this quarter demonstrate that service takes many forms. It is seen in organizing activities that strengthen fellowship, extending assistance to families in need, standing for national interests, celebrating professional excellence, recognizing outstanding leadership, and remembering those who have gone before us.

Through every accomplishment and every challenge, PMA Sandigan Class 1982 continues to embody the enduring spirit of the Philippine Military Academy—a brotherhood united by shared values, sustained by mutual respect, and inspired by an unwavering commitment to God, Country, and People.

As the Class moves toward another historic milestone in 2027, one truth remains unmistakably clear: Sandigan is not merely a graduating class. It is a lifelong family whose legacy of service continues to inspire, strengthen, and endure.



The year 2026 brings blessing to most of the Maharlikans. Getting older is a blessing after-all. At 65, we are now entitled to PVAO's old age monthly pension of P5,000.00, just enough to cover our ever-increasing need for maintenance medicines. *Meron chismis noon na magiging P10,000.00 daw sya. Kailan kaya yun?*

On May 21, 2026, the first-ever Maharlika Pickleball Tournament was conducted purposely to raise funds for the Class. The numbers showed modest return, yet it was a welcome boost to our Class Fund. More modest returns in our succeeding tournaments!!! Pickleball has become popular in recent years, and it is not that hard to learn especially if you have played tennis some decades ago. Pickleball is now

a fad, a fashion and a source of "passion" too! In golf, we usually hear some buddies say "If you cannot play, display!" I guess some golfers are now into pickleball. Some pickleball enthusiasts are conscious about OOTD or outfit of the day. *Sana hindi OOTW ang dating nila...out of this world!*

Some Maharlikans have taken their passion for golf to a higher level. And I am not talking mainly about higher level of skills

here, but their desire to go far-away places to swing and putt. Golfers **Danny Pelisco**, **Noli Taliño**, **Bob Villanueva**, **Benjie Baladad**, **Gene Cerbo** and **Butz Suzara** stormed Brookside Golf Course at Pasadena, California during their Maharlika USA Golf Tour 2026. I heard that they also went to Calgary, Canada to visit some mistahs and play golf with them there. The group includes **Joel Bagasin**, **Oca** and **Nestor Materiales**, aside from





**MAHARLIKANS from ALPHA and BRAVO COys enjoying FELLOWSHIP activities.**

**Gatherings of CHARLIE and DELTA COys.**

those mentioned earlier. Of course, they were under the strict supervision of their respective wives. *Mahirap na baka lumusot pa!*

Here at the local scene, many of our passionate golfers may have decided to go vegetarian to be free from the bad effects of flesh, rather meat! *Nakita ko yung isang picture nila na may hawak pang mga gulay. Akala ko tuloy nagtitinda sila! Yung isa ay squadmate ko pa mismo. Ang mga manggugulay po ay sina Gerry Amante, Nelson Chidrome, Banji Ramos, Paeng Mariano, Raffy Valencia, Dan Ubaldo, Noli Taliño at PT Gonzales.*

Guys, I hope we carry the same passion for golf when we hold our 30th Maharlika

Cup Golf Tournament on October 27, 2026 at Villamor Air Base Golf Club. This is a continuing project of the Class to raise funds for our worthy projects like providing financial assistance to mistahs who have health and medical issues. We are consistent on this. Any comment or objection, gentlemen? Hmm...I am seeing one lost soul, rather one bug who raised his right hand. *Hindi ka ba nabigyan ng financial assistance? Pero pwede na siguro sa yo moral support na lang!* The Class also resorts to "pass the hat" to raise some funds for them. *Maraming salamat po sa mga generous donors!*

In recent months, we have heard news of successful anti-illegal drug operations by PDEA. Congratulations to our very own USEC

**Gani Nerez**, Director General of PDEA. Keep it up, mistah! Few months ago, Maharlikan **Senen Sarmiento** was appointed as Secretary, OPAPRU. **Jon Miano**, a Senior USEC and **Joey Kakilala**, as Consultant, joined Sec Senen at OPAPRU. Please, restrain me from calling the trio as "The Peace and Fish Advocates"! *Galing kasi si Kaks sa GenSan City ang Tuna capital of the Philippines.* Peace, guys! *Pero sandali lang po mga ginoo. Si Bay Pascual at Bernie Sun ay mga Consultant din pala ng OPAPRU.*

**Alan Arrojado** is doing well with his public service as town councilor in San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu. **Manny Orduña**, councilor in Bugallon, Pangasinan is also putting on extra time and effort in his

own locality. **Jon Aying**, on his last term as mayor of Sara, Ilo-ilo, has been doing great as local chief executive. I know about their extended public service because their FB pages use to pass my wall. Keep up the good work, guys!

At Down Under, **AJ Lim** was elected to a volunteer work two (2) months ago as one of the Welfare Officers for the local branch of ex-servicemen group called RSL (Returned & Services League) of Australia. Their retired members are from South Korea, Malaysia, India, USA, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Euro Nations, Singapore, South Pacific Islands and Philippines. **AJ** was also appointed to be a member of the Budget and Funding Committee. *Pahinga ka rin, mistah! Enjoy life to the max just like what Maharlikan golfers are doing. "Healthy" na happy pa!*

*Shout out nga pala! Pagaling ka, Elmer Quiros.* Few months more and you will be swinging and putting again at CAGC. You sorely need the UG, I mean the UV rays in the fairways to accelerate your recovery. **Rey Mutiangpili** is also on his way to full recovery. We saw each other briefly sometime in June during the certificate distribution of DVHAI at Camp Evangelista, Patag, Cagayan de Oro City. *Isang shoutout pa uli! Pagaling din kayo Kid Florece, Eric Uchida at Akong Parreño.* Guys, health is wealth. Let us all take care of ourselves!

Our pursuit of a peaceful and comfortable life after retirement is disturbed and flooded by the noise of political divide going on recently. Let us learn how to swim and go with the flow especially those who are still in government service. The flood is still under control like the Flood Control Project! We have many chat groups where we express our opinions about current issues and Class concerns. If you want to have more fun and make your day, the chat group "Class '84 Political Discussion Insights" where serious discussions are always brewing is the right place to go. **Caution:** Indeed, patience is a virtue! Yours truly (**Jesse Alvarez**) enters the lion's den once in a while. *Nakakatakot ang mukha ng mga nag-aabang na leon sa chat group na yan! Tipong pang 45-90-90.*

**Icebreaker:** *Mahal sa buhay!*

**Juan:** *Mistah, narinig ko sa EP natin na may dinala ka raw na chick sa safehouse natin. Bawal yun! Meron strict instruction si Battalion Commander na yung mahal sa buhay lang ang pwede dalhin.*

**Pedro:** *Ganun ba! Hindi naman ako nag-violate sa instruction nya ah.*

**Juan:** *Di ba meron ka naman talagang dinala rito? Overnight pa!*

**Pedro:** *Oo pero hindi violation yun! Eh mahal ang bayad ko kaya...mahal ko rin sya noong gabi na yun.*



**Bonding moments for ECHO and FOXTROT COYs.**



**FELLOWSHIP activities of GOLF and HAWK COYs.**



After a quarter of inactivity, the SINAGTALAN's are again in the thick of things involving themselves individually or class wide-reaping achievements that brought accolades for the class albeit tempered with sadness due to personal griefs suffered by class members.

The period's highlights include the successful culmination of the Inter Battalion Golf Tournament staged by the SINAGTALA Early Messer's Golf Club. The awarding ceremony was held last May 30 at the Villamor Air Base Golf Clubhouse. The 4<sup>th</sup> battalion won the team championship while the following won individual awards:

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Longest drive      | - Ronnie Evangelista |
| Most accurate      | - Gems Molina        |
| Nearest to the pin | - Gems Molina        |
| Lowest Net         | - Dan Rodelas        |



The Championship trophy and the individual awards were conferred by the Class Prexy BOB EMPEDRAD and the SEMGC President ARNOLD FERNANDEZ. A raffle

and the fellowship vibe lent spice to the activity/fellowship which left the attendees sated and happy.

The period also pushed to the forefront the qualities of leadership that SINAGTALANs possess exemplified by our "Class Mayors" - TED CARRANZA of Silang, Cavite and RONNIE EVANGELISTA of Rodriguez (Montalban) Rizal who both got a set of accolades for exemplary performance in governance as mayors of their respective municipalities. Mayor TED actually received the following awards:



1. AGAPAY 2026 Outstanding Stakeholder in Education Award -

Conferred by: DepEd, Cavite

Leadership Focus: Investing in the future of Silang Youth

Overview: for steadfast commitment to uplifting basic education across the Municipality

2. Noble Distinction and Excellence Award and Outstanding Public Servant Award- C conferred by: International Recognition Bodies

Leadership Focus: World Class Public Administration and Visionary Leadership

Overview: for exemplary public service and strategic approach to local governance

3. Top 2 Municipality in CALABARZON in Locally Sourced Revenue Collection-

Conferred by: Department of Finance

Leadership Focus: Regional Economic Vitality and Fiscal Efficiency

Overview: Reflecting high business confidence and sound fiscal planning

4. Top 5 Municipality (Nationwide) in Locally Sourced Revenue Collection FY 2024

Conferred by: Department of Finance  
Leadership Focus: National Financial Autonomy and Sustainable Governance

Overview: for proactive approach to local economic growth and sound fiscal management

5. Top 3 in Top Performing Municipal Mayors (Boses ng Bayan) by RP Mission and Dev't Foundation Inc.

Conferred by : RP Mission and Dev't Foundation Inc. (RPMD)

Leadership Focus: High Public Trust and Administrative Excellence

Overview: Highlights widespread approval of Mayor GenTed Carranza's transparent, responsive and action oriented management style

6. Seal of Good Financial Housekeeping (SGFH) CY 2025

Conferred by: DILG

Leadership Focus: Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sound Management

Overview: for strict adherence to national accounting and auditing standards as well as full disclosure policy mandates

7. Multiple Plaque Citations for Exemplary BOPV Campaign and Health Innovation

Conferred by: DOH, Center for Health Dev't (CALABARZON) with Provincial Health office of Cavite

Leadership Focus: Achieving National Health Targets and Public Health Innovation

Overview: the multiple public health awards validates his successful, rapid mobilization of resources that protected a generation of Silang children



**MAYOR RONNIE EVANGELISTA**  
Montalban, Rizal

Mayor RONNIE EVANGELISTA on the other hand reaped the following awards:

1. 2025 Good Financial Housekeeping Award- conferred by DILG

2. Achieving a 91.69 % rating in the 2025 Local Government Units Compliance

Assessment (LGU CA) Table Assessment and On-site Inspection for the municipality of Rodriguez (Montalban)

3. Stable Internal Peace and Security Award for making Rodriguez an insurgency-free Municipality Conferred by 80<sup>TH</sup> IB, PA

4. Top LGU Implementer in Category C - 1<sup>ST</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> class Municipalities conferred by DILG

5. 2024 Subaybayani Award as Top Performing Municipality for timely and quality delivery of Government services to constituents - conferred by DILG

#### SINAGTALA Bulletin:

FRED SORIANO and CARLOMAR CONCEPCION are keeping the SINAGTALA Flag active in the PMAAA Educational Foundation Inc. (PETFI) by successfully winning their bids for membership in its Board of Trustees, taking their Oath of Office last May 13, 2026. Carlo is also the Board's Auditor while Fred is the current Chairman, Scholarship Committee. PETFI provides scholarship through monthly stipends to children of deceased or disabled PETFI members in good standing. It also provides the same financial assistance to qualified siblings (below 21) of deceased or disabled PETFI members who are single. In the same vein the SINAGTALAns expressed their full support to PETFI's noble undertaking by participating in the "Drive Fore Our Scholars Golf Tournament" last July 10, 2026.

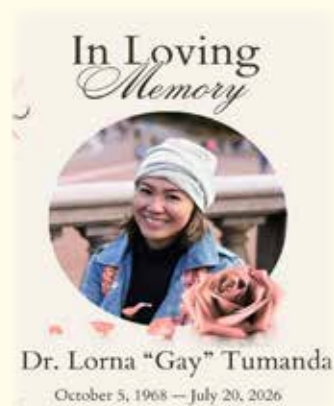
#### Our Grief

We can not help but grieve the passing of our mistah PEDRITO "BANONG" ALBAN who succumbed to illness last May 15, 2026. His wake was held at the LNMB where several mistahs and his family extolled his virtues as a Father, husband and Mistah during the necrological rites. He was interred at the LNMB on May 21, 2026. He left behind his loving wife Elma, children Gelo and Tonette, and grandchild Asiel Sebastian.



We express our deepest sympathies to our Mistah, CRIS TUMANDA for the passing of his wife, GAY, last July 20, 2026. Nothing can assuage the grief of losing a loved one more than the assurance that she is now in a better place. Her wake was held in

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Chapel in Fernando Air Base, Lipa City where mistahs, friends and relatives came in droves. She was laid to rest last July 29, 2026 in the Eternal Gardens Park, Lipa City./AAS





**FERNAN T. TRINIDAD**  
President  
**TOINKS H. VALENCIA**  
Class Historian

### Greetings, Hinirang!

"Golf is the most political sport there is. Everybody campaigns for par, negotiates with the hazards, and then blames the conditions when the votes are counted."

That observation proved remarkably accurate during the 24 July 2026 Hinirang Charity Golf Tournament at the West Course of Wack Wack Golf & Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

### WHERE BIRDIES, BONDS, AND BANTER MEET

As always, the day was about more than golf. It was a chance to reconnect with friends and mistahs, forge new linkages, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes the game so special. The competition was spirited, but the laughter was even more abundant.

Naturally, excuses flowed as freely as the conversations. Some blamed the sudden drizzles and untimely rain showers that seemed to arrive precisely when a good shot was needed most. Others, in good-natured jest, pointed an accusing finger at their caddies. A few managed to blame everything and everyone except themselves, a feat arguably more impressive than a birdie.

Yet that is part of golf's enduring charm. Every round comes with its own debates, alibis, and post-game analyses. Victories are celebrated, misfortunes are rationalized, and every player leaves convinced that the next round will be better.

In the end, the scorecards will be filed away, but the stories, friendships, and laughter will linger. And that is why golf, much like life, is never boring.

### HINIRANG CHARITY GOLF: A SUCCESS

The Ceremonial Tee-Off was graced by Senator Tito Sotto, Speaker of the House Bojie Dy, and Hin Fernan Trinidad, representing Hinirang. Their presence added distinction to the event and set the tone for a memorable day of fellowship and friendly competition. As golfers gathered on the first tee, confidence was at an all-time high, handicaps seemed suspiciously high, and everyone believed that the laws of golf would somehow be suspended in



their favor for the day. Needless to say, the course had a different agenda.

### Partners in Purpose: The Art and Science of Rallying

Hinirang gratefully acknowledges all sponsors, named and unnamed, whose generosity and trust made this undertaking a success. Despite the headwinds created by the ME situation and its effects on the business sector, the values of charity, friendship, and service prevailed. Their support reminds us that even in challenging times, the strongest partnerships are built not merely on shared interests, but on shared purpose.

Barely a month before the tournament, sponsor confirmations were at a level that caused concern. The targets were

ambitious, the time was short, and the challenge was real. But as every mistah knows, rallying is not merely a habit. It is both an art and a science.

True to form, the call to "Mag-rally na tayo!" was answered with determination and urgency. What initially appeared to be a daunting task soon became a remarkable display of teamwork, persistence, and brotherhood.

The results speak for themselves. In the final month alone, the value of confirmed sponsorships tripled, an achievement that was far from ordinary and certainly not easy. It was made possible by mistahs who went the extra mile, worked double time, and refused to let the mission fall short.

Indeed, when mistahs rally behind a common cause, targets become milestones,





challenges become opportunities, and the seemingly impossible becomes achievable. To all who answered the call and made it happen, a heartfelt salute and a resounding thank you.

#### The Tournament Winners

John Jambora captured the Overall Championship with a net score of 71, while Ian Rosales claimed Low Gross honors after carding a 74 gross.

Class A honors went to Champion Mark Limbo with a score of 72, followed by Ferdinand Cayanong as 1st Runner-up and Anto Florida as 2nd Runner-up. In Class B, Chet Valencerina emerged as Champion with a score of 74, while Arvin Banaag and Sean Villa finished as 1st and 2nd Runner-up, respectively. Borgy Arambulo topped Class C with a score of 74, followed by Jeshua Jambora as 1st Runner-up and Maki Datu Ramos as 2nd Runner-up. Class D was

won by Concon Domado, who carded a 77, with Eric Vinoya taking 1st Runner-up honors and Ferdie dela Cruz placing 2nd Runner-up.

In the Ladies Division, Bianca Cuevas captured the championship with a score of 74, followed by Ma. Lourdes Roxas as 1st Runner-up and Yla Trinidad as 2nd Runner-up.

Borgy Arambulo won the Nearest-to-the-Pin contest on Hole No. 3 at 10 yards, Mark Limbo recorded the Longest Drive on Hole No. 5 at 286 yards, and Ma. Lourdes Roxas captured Most Accurate Drive honors on Hole No. 13 with a remarkable 8-inch deviation.

While the winners rightfully earned their place on the leaderboard, the true victory of the day extended far beyond scores, trophies, and prize categories. The Hinirang Charity Golf Tournament was a celebration of friendship, brotherhood, sportsmanship, and shared purpose. Every drive, putt, and good-natured excuse contributed to an unforgettable day on the fairways of Wack Wack.

As the sun set on another successful tournament, participants left not only with memories of shots made and missed, but with renewed bonds and the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause. Indeed, the biggest win was not found on the scorecard, but in the camaraderie and generosity that made the event possible.

#### Big Wins Beyond the Greens

The excitement did not end on the fairways, as participants also had the chance to take home an impressive array of raffle prizes. Mark Peclaro won the TCL 55-inch QLED TV with soundbar, while Jose Marigomen took home the LG 50-inch TV. Rey Dela Cruz won ₱30,000 worth of Petron fuel, and Gen. Ed Año received a PLDT Home Fiber 700 Mbps 12-month subscription. Nelson Bondoc was the lucky winner of a Condura split-type air conditioner.

The Callaway Wedges were won by Carlito Bueno Jr. and Mark Gabriel, while Ryan Co took home an Odyssey Putter. Three Whirlpool washing machines were awarded to Venus Emperado, Lasmar Edullantes, and Ramir Encabo. Meanwhile, the Condura Personal Refrigerators went to Poopsie Alunday and Avel Pangan, capping off a raffle draw that brought even more excitement and smiles to an already memorable day.

#### UNTIL THE NEXT TEE-OFF

With another successful Hinirang Charity Golf Tournament now in the books, participants left with more than trophies, prizes, and scorecards. They



departed with renewed friendships, stronger bonds, and the satisfaction of advancing a worthy cause through the enduring spirit of brotherhood and service.

From rallying sponsors to sinking putts, the tournament proved once again that when mistahs unite behind a common purpose, success follows. To all our sponsors, players, organizers, and

supporters, our heartfelt thanks.

**Well played, mistahs, and until the next tee-off, keep the Hinirang spirit alive.**



**ELISEO DC CRUZ**  
President  
**EDGARD A AREVALO**  
Secretary

**The Highs in July**  
(Class Call "Bigkis-Lahi" 1990)  
By: CAV Edgard A. Arevalo

On 09 July 2026, in Solaire Resort North, Class President Eliseo DC Cruz presided over a breakfast meeting for class officers. They discussed over a hearty meal at Fresh International Restaurant the activities lined-up for the class and their respective families. Approved as planned so far were: 9Tee Fellowship Golf at Villamor Airbase Golf Club in August, a "Bigkis-lahi" '90 Fun shoot in September, and Class Golf in October. And to cap the blessings of year 2026, a Class Christmas Party in December.

One of the planned activities well-executed by the class was BL '90's participation in the Testimonial Golf Tournament tendered by the Philippine Navy in honor of the outgoing PMA Superintendent Ceasar Bernard "Toinks" Valencia. A contingent of BL '90 golfers and their ladies joined the festive 18 holes of fun and raffle prizes held at the Navy Golf Club on 13 July. But they were there not just as joiners and players.

President Eli took to the rostrum the well-wishes and appreciation of the class for Toinks' remarkable service to the maritime nation. He also revealed that aside from trophies and prizes that the Navy has prepared, BL '90 is giving away cash prizes

for the golfers! The announcement added to the delight and excitement of players—many of whom share meaningful memories and experiences with the honoree.

After the raffle, the class sent a golfer rolling home ₱10,000 richer, another wealthier by ₱5,000 and a BL '90 golfer walked away by the light of a silvery moon with ₱5,000. As usual, single digit handicapper Noel Belewalk emerged as the tournament's over-all Champion; another SDH Rommel Ollets bagged the Class A First Runner-up trophy and another trophy for having scored the "Most Number of Pars". It makes us a wonder how much space they have allocated in their homes to display those awards heralding their golfing skills!

### "Bigkis-Lahi" 1990's proudest moment

The month of July was punctuated by an event of national and regional significance that brought immense joy and pride to the class—the ascent of a BL '90 stalwart to the highest post in the Armed Forces Philippines' totem pole of command. Lieutenant General Antonio "Toto" Gustilo Nafarrete, erstwhile Commanding General of the Philippine Army, was designated as the 61<sup>st</sup> Chief-of-Staff of the 160,000-strong soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines.

A number of BL '90 and their spouses attended the elaborate changing of the guards ceremony. There could have been more had the name of the next AFP Chief was announced earlier than the morning



**FIRST OFFICIAL ACT AS CS, AFP. GENERAL ANTONIO G NAFARRETE PA arrives at the Philippine Military Academy at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City. He poses with his jubilant Mistahs for the first time as command guest and AFP Chief to preside over the Change-of-Command and Retirement Ceremonies of another esteemed Mistah and PMA's 85<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Caesar Bernard N Valencia PN.**

of the scheduled day of the Change-of-Command in the afternoon. The race was so tight that the name of the incoming AFP Chief in the printed program invitation was blank.

But it was by Divine Providence that Toto was selected; and his name was finally announced just before the afternoon ceremonies presided by no less the President and Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in the GHQ Grandstand at Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo. On the same occasion where he received the sword of authority from the retiring AFP Chief General Romeo S. Brawner, Jr., Toto was promoted to four-star General.

In his assumption speech, AFP Chief Toto laid down the three cornerstones of his tour of duty.

Firstly and acknowledging that the AFP is at a critical juncture in its constitutionally mandated task to protect and defend the state, he emphasized the need to prioritize the upgrade of the military's territorial defense capability and the operationalization of the Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept.

Secondly, he underscored that modernization must be holistic. Thus he accentuated the need to ensure that all platforms, systems, and capabilities are supported by proper personnel, doctrine, logistics, and sustainment.

Thirdly, having led men and women in various levels of command, he stressed the importance of investing on human capital. Toto pointed out, as he did when he assumed command of the Philippine Army, that the ultimate strength of the military lies in its personnel, rather than just its equipment or technology.

Toto's designation on 21 July 2026 to the lofty position and his assumption of enormous responsibility comes as a validation of his leadership excellence, professional competence, and esteemed service reputation established since he was a young Lieutenant. It gives the class enormous pride that three among the strong contenders to the post aside from Toto include Mistahs: LTGEN Arthur Cordura, former AFP Vice Chief-of-Staff and incumbent Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force and VADM Cesar Bernard "Toinks" Valencia, PMA Superintendent.

Toto, who has until 20 July 2029 for a 3-year maximum Tour-of-Duty, stands to receive the Cavalier Award for Command and Administration during the PMA Alumni Homecoming in February 2027. He will steer the AFP in the country's most challenging times to include the first ever



**THE WAY TO START THE DAY.** *The Class Officers met over breakfast at the Fresh International Restaurant in Solaire Resorts North to discuss and approve the class activities in store until December of 2026 and before they relinquish their positions as another set of Class Officers take over in February of 2027.*

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao elections on 14 September 2026, the ongoing Impeachment Hearing of Vice President Sara Duterte, and the Presidential elections on 8 May 2028.

#### **First official act as the new AFP Chief-of-Staff**

Toto's first official duty after his assumption as AFP Chief was to preside the next day in the Change-of-Command and Retirement Ceremonies of another esteemed Mistah and PMA's 85<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Toinks Valencia.

The more than 40 years of naval service of Toinks culminated on 22 July 2026 at Fort del Pilar—a stint that he calls a rare and distinct privilege not too many were

accorded with. A service that has come "full circle"—in Fort del Pilar where he begun his military career as a PMA cadet and ended it as PMA Superintendent.

In his valedictory address, Toinks stressed that PMA has been and will always be an institution of excellence with the primary mission forging disciplined leaders of character more than just tactical scholars. To this end, he urged the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain the highest standards of excellence. He exhorted the support of the PMA community, emphasizing that only through the concerted effort of everyone—not only the cadets—can this be attained.

He expressed his deep appreciation to the immense support of strategic partner-



**PROUDEST MOMENT FOR THE CLASS AND THE FAMILY.** *Newly-promoted GENERAL ANTONIO G NAFARRETE PA who just assumed his post as the 61<sup>st</sup> AFP Chief-of-Staff huddled for a photograph for posterity with his official family and his BL '90 family.*

stakeholders from the private sector who committed to finance the construction of a new Modern Warfare building to host updated classrooms and laboratories.

It was through Toinks' initiative that the funding by the Sy-led SM Prime Holdings was secured; paving the way for the construction, beginning last February, of a two-storey, 21,000-square-meter multi-use facility featuring a large dining and multipurpose hall seating 2,500 cadets, offices, and an athletic track oval.

Finally, Toinks thanked the cadets for supporting the meaningful reforms that he and immediate past superintendents have instituted; in expressing his confidence to the leadership of his successor, LTGen Michael Logico, he leaves to the latter the pursuit of all the reforms to ensure cadets are better prepared for modern warfare than how the former found it.

As we welcome Toinks to the exciting world of cavalier retirees, the class expresses its full support to and fervent prayers for the last two BL '90s standing—CG, PAF Art Cordura and the newly-minted AFP Chief Toto Naf. Their successes redound to the benefit of peace and security for every Filipino. - EAA '90.



**ONE LAST TIME, AT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TABLE.** *Outgoing Superintendent and retiring Vice Admiral CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA gamely poses with attending Mistahs who would like to make sure he will be properly rendered fitting honors for more than 40 years of active military service.*



**RONALD JESS S ALCUDIA**  
President  
**RAY CLAUDIO R ABAYA**  
Secretary

### THE MAALAB STARS ARE FALLING!

Greetings, Maalabs!

**W**hat a time to be a Maalab! The Almighty has certainly been generous with our class. Lately, it seems that stars have been falling from the sky and landing on Maalab shoulders! One after another, our Mistahs are getting promoted, designated, appointed, or simply shipped somewhere far enough to test their leadership—and their marriage! LOL!

Seriously, though, we have much to be thankful for. Our classmates continue to make their mark in the Armed Forces and other uniformed services. So, let's check who's doing what and where the Maalab stars are shining.

### IN THE ARMY

Chi Coronel is now a Lieutenant General and has assumed the post of TIG, AFP. From one Maalab milestone to

another—congratulations, Chi! Three stars look good on you, Mistah!

Then there's our "Barefoot General," Mike Logico. After what must have been a long hike across the plains of Luzon, Mike finally reached his precious destination—Superintendent of our dear alma mater. And true to form, he didn't even wait for the dust to settle. He is already making waves with his innovations in cadet training. Mike, we know you've always had big feet... now they're walking through big shoes!

Our quiet but deadly worker, Pruds Iddoba, the proud son of Pinukpuk, Kalinga, has captured one of the most coveted posts among true-blue logisticians. He is now Commander, Support Command, Philippine Army. Pruds, after years of making sure everyone gets what they need, you finally got the command where you can ask everyone what they need!

Rey Ga also earned his first star. Congratulations, Rey! Of course, the Army has its own way of celebrating your

promotion—send you to Jolo, Sulu! So much for enjoying the comforts of Fort Bonifacio. Rey is now serving as ADC, 11ID. One star, one new assignment, and definitely much less traffic than BGC!



*Maalab Mike Logico is the 86<sup>th</sup> Superintendent of our alma mater. (Photo credit: Philippine Military Academy)*



Raul Regis, assumes command of the Philippine Fleet. (Photo credit: Philippine Navy)



Arsing Sadural assumes the post as Commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division stationed in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. (Photo credit: 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, PA)

The class now has three new Division Commanders!

Joey Escanillas is now in the Visayas, joining Pete “Lakay” Burgonio in the neighboring AOR. Two Maalabs in the Visayas—good luck to the locals! LOL!

Meanwhile, Arsing Sadural is now the big boss of 2ID. Arseng has officially become a certified Jungle Fighter. Mistah, please remember that the Maalabs are always here if you need reinforcements—preferably those who don’t have to go to the jungle anymore!

Down south, Ricky Bunayog has remained in Central Mindanao and has assumed the former post of Vlad Cagara as Acting Commander, Kampilan Division.

And speaking of Vlad, he has been sent to Zamboanga City to lead the Western Mindanao Command, also in an acting capacity. Vlad, we hear you are now honing your Chavacano. *¡Bienvenido a Zamboanga*, Mistah! From Kampilan to Western Mindanao Command—*¡Viva Maalab!*

Lennon Babilonia, Mike’s deputy, has temporarily taken over the post Mike vacated as Commander, Training Command, Philippine Army. Lennon, congratulations! You’re now holding the fort while Mike is busy shaking up the alma mater.

Likewise, Romy Bautista III assumed the position vacated by Ricky as Acting Brigade Commander, 602nd Infantry Brigade.

Going international is our very own Greg Nieveras, who is now serving as

the OIC of the ASEAN Observer Team in Thailand. Greg, congratulations on the assignment!—another Maalab taking our class colors beyond Philippine soil. Just remember, Mission is clear: observe, monitor and report, and don’t get observed too much! Thailand has two known operational hazards—spicy food and warm hospitality. So, take it easy on the chili and be even more careful with the hospitality! Remember, you’re there as an Observer, not as a permanent resident!

And let’s give a big Maalab salute to Ed Delos Reyes for receiving the *Gawad sa Kapayapaan* for the dismantling of RSDG Jaguar of the SMRC. Great job, Ed! Another Maalab quietly doing his job and getting recognized for it.

#### UP IN THE BLUE SKIES

The Maalab stars are shining in the Air Force as well.

Ronnie Petinglay has assumed command of the Air Defense Command, a two-star billet. Congratulations, Ronnie! From watching the skies to commanding the people who protect them—Maalab air power!

Meanwhile, Uly “Royal Salute” Marquez is now the Commander of the Air Logistics Support Command, following his stint as Chief of Air Staff, HPAF. Uly, from Chief of Air Staff to logistics command—clearly, somebody has decided that if it flies, moves, or needs fuel, you’re the guy to call!

#### ON THE SEAFRONT

The lone Maalab update from the Navy is our very own Raul Regis, who recently assumed a tough assignment as Commander of the Philippine Fleet. Congratulations, Raul! That’s one serious fleet to command. Fair winds, following seas, and may the Maalab Class never run out of stories to tell about you!

By the way, erstwhile Bullfrog Dwight Steven Dulnoan, our Zamboanga Siege hero who last served at Eastern Mindanao, retired from the service last June 3. Soon to follow are Francis Laput, Josel “Gucci Boy” De Guzman, and Bates Battung.

Gentlemen, congratulations on completing the mission! Soon, you will discover that retirement is another form of command—except nobody salutes you anymore, and the wife is now the commanding officer!

Enjoy the next chapter, Mistahs!

#### IN THE COAST GUARD

We are also proud to announce that our very own Commandant PCG Ronnie Gavan has been named a finalist for the 2026 University of Wollongong, Australia Alumni Award for Professional Excellence. Congratulations, Ronnie! From the Maalab Class to the top of the Coast Guard—and now being recognized internationally.

Good luck, Mistah! We’re all rooting for you. Bring home that award and make the Maalabs even more proud!

## THE MAALAB BIRC FRONT

Among the Maalab BIRC, things appear relatively quiet at the front. But we know better—quiet Maalabs are usually the dangerous ones!

Robert Bosch continues to fly a Boeing 747 freighter for Western Global Airlines. While most of us are still trying to fit everything into our carry-on luggage, Bosch is moving cargo by the 747!

Ron Babac, meanwhile, has apparently discovered a new battlefield—pickleball! We hear you've been improving your skills in this latest craze, Ron. Keep practicing, Mistah. At this rate, the next Maalab reunion may have a pickleball tournament instead of a golf tournament!

And Alex Musngi? Well, Alex remains a kingpin. Or should we say...a kingmaker? Whatever the case, we know Alex is still somewhere behind the scenes, making things happen.

And there you have it, Mistahs!

From Camp Aguinaldo to Fort Bonifacio, from the jungles of Mindanao to the blue skies above, from the Philippine Fleet to the Coast Guard, and even inside a Boeing 747, the Maalab Class continues to make its presence felt.

Different services. Different assignments. Different battlefields.

Same Maalab spirit.

## "Forging a Credible, Agile, and Multi-Domain Air Force through Mission Readiness, Capability Development, and Values-Based Service."

1 July 2026 | Villamor Air Base, Pasay City



Ronnie Petinglay of the Air Defense Command proudly displays the CG, PAF streamer award Command Combat / Combat Category during the PAF's 79<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary with our President and Commander in Chief President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr as the Guest of Honor. The occasion was also graced by the SND Secretary Teodoro Jr. (Photo credit: Philippine Air Force)

We may be getting older, our knees may be getting weaker, and our waistlines may be getting wider—but apparently, the Maalab stars are still rising!

To all our Mistahs, congratulations on

your achievements and best wishes on your new assignments.

Mabuhay ang PMA Maalab Class of 1993!

Once a Maalab, always a Maalab!



**MA NOEL T TOLentino**  
President  
**IVAN DR PAPERa**  
Secretary

**A LEGACY OF SERVICE:  
REMEMBERING THE FALLEN AND  
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE**

"There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven." — Ecclesiastes 3:1.

These words beautifully capture the journey of a soldier. There is a time to take the oath, a time to wear the uniform, a time to lead and serve, and eventually, a time to step away from active duty. Yet, while a military career may come to an end, the values, friendships, sacrifices, and memories forged in service remain long after the uniform is folded away.

This truth was profoundly reflected in the solemn naming of the headquarters of the 1001st Infantry "Pag-Asa" Brigade as Camp **CAPTAIN MICHAEL VELARDE**, in honor of a fallen warrior whose ultimate sacrifice remains part of the history of the



Philippine Army and the continuing story of peace in Davao Oriental.

For the Commander of the 10th Infantry "Agila" Division, the occasion carried a deeply personal meaning. CPT VELARDE was not merely a fallen officer. He was a *Mistah* - a brother from the Philippine Military Academy "Bantay Laya" Class of 1994. Together, they entered the Academy as young men filled with dreams and aspirations. They endured the same demanding training, shared the hardships of cadet life, and were shaped by the same ideals of honor, duty, and country. Their individual careers eventually brought them



to different assignments and battlefields, but the bond forged at the Academy remained unbroken.

The brotherhood of *Mistahs* transcends rank, assignment, distance, and time. It is a bond created through shared hardship and strengthened by shared service. Thus, seeing a military camp permanently carry the name of one of their fallen classmates was more than a ceremony of remembrance. It was an affirmation that a soldier's life does not end when he falls in the line of duty. His legacy continues through the people he inspired and the institution he served.

Cav Velarde made the ultimate sacrifice in Tarragona, Davao Oriental, during an encounter against a Moro secessionist group while fulfilling his duty as an officer of the Philippine Army. His final mission became part of the difficult journey toward peace in the province. Years have passed since that sacrifice. Davao Oriental has continued to move forward. Communities once affected by conflict have pursued peace and development. Families have rebuilt their lives. Government agencies, security forces, local leaders, and ordinary citizens have worked together toward a future where communities can live, work, and prosper in peace.

But peace is never achieved overnight. It is built gradually through the courage and dedication of countless people. It is protected by soldiers who stand in harm's way, by leaders who choose dialogue over conflict, and by communities that refuse to surrender hope. He was among those who contributed to that journey, paying the highest price that a soldier can pay.

The naming of the camp therefore represents more than the commemoration of an individual. It is a reminder to every soldier who enters its gates that the peace they are entrusted to protect was built upon the sacrifices of those who came



before them. For Cav Velarde's sisters: Maredel, Vida, and Claire, the ceremony provided a lasting affirmation that their brother's service has not been forgotten. No recognition can remove the pain of losing a loved one, but the permanent presence of his name in the province where

he served offers a meaningful testament to the life he devoted to his country.

In a deeply symbolic sense, he has found a permanent home in Davao Oriental. His name will remain within the camp. His story will continue to be told. His sacrifice will be remembered by generations of soldiers who will serve there. And perhaps that is one of the greatest honors that can be given to a fallen warrior: not simply that his name is engraved on a marker, but that his life becomes part of the values and conduct of those who follow.

#### THE JOURNEY OF THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE

After 36 years, 4 months, and 22 days in uniform, a proud Philippine Marine closes a remarkable chapter of service with gratitude, humility, and no regret of **Cav Edwin Joseph H. Olaer**. There was a time to dream, a time to train, a time to serve, and now, a time to retire from active military service.

The journey began in Iligan City, where childhood experiences and the presence of soldiers inspired an early



dream of becoming a military officer. That dream eventually led him to the Philippine Military Academy, where hardship, discipline, friendship, and perseverance shaped the young man who would later volunteer for the Philippine Marines.

For more than three decades, the Marine Corps became more than a profession. It became a home, an identity, and a way of life. Through countless assignments and challenges, he learned that leadership is not defined by rank alone, but by competence, character, courage, and the trust of the people one leads. He remains grateful to the commanders, mentors, colleagues, and fellow Marines who guided and supported him throughout his career. Above all, he considers the privilege of leading Marines among his greatest accomplishments. For him, success was never measured simply by rank or position, but by the people he had the opportunity to serve and lead.



Behind every successful military career is a family that shares the sacrifice. His wife, Dr. Maria Lourdes Magpayo Olaer, stood faithfully beside him throughout the years, while their children: Elaine Jannie, Matthew Louis, and Elisabeth Jean, grew alongside his demanding military career. His parents, Eleuterio Murillo Olaer and Elena Lagapa Hormachuelos, provided the values and foundation that guided his life.

His journey was likewise enriched by lifelong friendships from UPIS Batch 86 to his PMA Class of 1994 brotherhood, the PMA 94 Ladies, and the PMCOSAI. These relationships became enduring reminders that no military career is ever traveled alone.

As he passes the torch to the next generation, his message is simple: guard the reputation of the Philippine Marine Corps, take care of your people, remain competent and courageous, and remember that the uniform represents responsibility, not privilege.

Retirement is not goodbye. The uniform may be removed, the position may be turned over, and active service may end but the values, memories, friendships, and brotherhood remain.



*He leaves the uniform, but not the values it represents.*

*He leaves the position, but not the memories.*

*He leaves active service, but not the brotherhood.*

After 36 years of honorable service, he steps into a new chapter with gratitude and pride, knowing that he gave his best years to something greater than himself.



Once a Marine, always a Marine. And so, as one chapter closes, there is no bitterness and no regret only gratitude. Gratitude to the commanders and mentors who guided the way, to the colleagues and Marines who shared the hardships, to friends who preserved the memories, and most of all, to the family who made the sacrifices bearable.

Same as with **Cav Alex V. Gianan** formally concluded a distinguished career dedicated to the Philippine Navy and the Filipino nation. More than a retirement, the occasion marked the culmination of a life defined by determination, dedication, leadership, camaraderie, sacrifice, and love of country.

Cav Gianan's journey began unexpectedly. Originally dreaming of becoming a doctor after earning his degree in Medical Technology from the University of Santo Tomas, he took the Philippine Military Academy entrance examination



and was eventually accepted. On April 1, 1990, he entered Fort Del Pilar and embarked on a military career that would span more than three decades.

A principle he wrote in the PMA Bantay Laya Class of 1994 Swordbook became the guiding philosophy of his career: *"Success can be attained through strong determination and dedication to one's work."* These words remained relevant throughout his demanding assignments and leadership responsibilities.

Over the years, he was entrusted with various commands, including BRP Cebu, BRP Rajah Humabon, BRP Rizal, and BRP Ramon Alcaraz. His experiences at sea strengthened his belief that effective leadership is not simply about rank and authority, but about serving people, accepting responsibility, and earning their trust.

He also expressed deep gratitude to the mentors and senior leaders who guided his professional development, as well as to the officers, enlisted personnel, civilian employees, and shipmates who shared his journey. For him, the people

he served with were among the greatest treasures of his naval career.

A significant part of his journey was the enduring brotherhood of the PMA Bantay Laya Class of 1994. Through promotions, assignments, challenges, and triumphs, the bond among the Mistahs remained strong a reminder that while military service eventually comes to an end, the friendships forged in the Academy endure.

Behind his years in uniform was his family—wife, July, and their children, Jonas and Julla. They shared the sacrifices of military life, endured long separations, and remained his constant source of strength. His retirement therefore stands not only as a personal achievement, but also as a milestone shared with the family who supported him throughout his career.

Cav Gianan also witnessed the transformation of the Philippine Navy from an organization operating largely with vintage vessels to a more modern and capable maritime force. Having commanded ships that were eventually decommissioned, he experienced both the nostalgia of the Navy's past and the pride

of seeing newer platforms emerge. For him, this transformation represented the continuing passing of the torch from one generation of sailors to another.

As he leaves active military service, Cav Gianan's legacy will not be measured solely by the positions he held or the ships he commanded. It will be remembered through the people he led, the sailors he inspired, the mentors who shaped him, and the institution to which he devoted 36 years of his life. The uniform may be set aside, but the values of service, honor, and commitment remain.

As he signs off from active duty, Cav Gianan carries with him a legacy of leadership, friendship, sacrifice, and honor, while embracing a new chapter beyond the Navy.

*"Fair winds, clear skies, and following seas to us all."*

With these words, a Navy skipper closes one chapter but never truly leaves the service he has loved for more than three decades.





**RHOSSEL R DUQUE**  
President  
**CHARLIE L TIU, JR**  
Writer

### Echoes of Honor: Where Legacy Lives On

Not every legacy is written in history books. Some are carried in ordinary mornings, in familiar voices, and in traditions that continue simply because someone cared enough to keep them alive. They are passed from one person to another without ceremony, often unnoticed until years later, when someone realizes they have become the very example they once admired.

For the Golden Marilag Officers, this is perhaps the most meaningful chapter of their journey.

There was a time when their days were measured by missions, responsibilities, and decisions that demanded unwavering resolve. Every action carried weight, and every choice reflected a commitment larger than themselves. Today, life moves differently. The pace is gentler, but the purpose remains. It has simply found a quieter expression.

The golf course has become one of the places where this quiet inheritance unfolds.

It is where old friends continue conversations that began decades ago. Where stories once told in barracks or command offices are now shared beneath open skies. The victories are no longer counted in completed operations but in mornings spent together, in health preserved, and in friendships that continue to withstand the passing of time. What makes these gatherings remarkable is not the game itself but the people who return to it.

Each player carries a lifetime of experiences, moments of triumph, sacrifice, disappointment, and resilience. Yet none of these are worn as burdens. Instead, they are carried with humility, softened by years and balanced by gratitude. There is an unspoken understanding among them that every new day is a privilege, every round another opportunity to enjoy the company of those who understand the road they have traveled.



Perhaps that is why younger generations find themselves drawn to their presence.

They see individuals who have learned that confidence does not need to be loud, that respect is earned through consistency rather than recognition, and that true leadership is revealed in how one treats others when there is nothing left to prove. These are lessons no classroom can fully teach. They are absorbed through quiet observation, through shared conversations, and through the simple act of walking beside those who have lived them.

The Marilag officers rarely speak about leaving a legacy. They simply live in a way that creates one.

It is found in the encouragement they offer without expecting acknowledgment. In the patience they show when the game does not go their way. In the laughter that reminds everyone that joy grows stronger when shared. Even after years of service, they continue to build communities not through authority, but through kindness, generosity, and genuine friendship.



As seasons change, familiar faces may slowly become fewer, and new ones will inevitably take their place. Such is the rhythm of life. Yet the spirit that has long defined the Marilag community will remain. Every handshake, every shared story, and every tradition carried forward becomes another thread woven into its enduring fabric.

In the end, what they leave behind will not simply be memories of distinguished careers or remarkable achievements. It will be a culture of fellowship.

A reminder that strength can be gentle, that discipline can walk hand in hand with compassion, and that the greatest measure of a person is not found in the rank once

worn, but in the lives quietly enriched long after the uniform has been folded away.

That is the inheritance they continue to give. Not one built of monuments or medals, but of character.

And like every meaningful legacy, it will continue to live — not because it is remembered, but because it is practiced.



**Tony de Vera** as the Lead Secretary and **Cav Leo Dimoc** as the Lead Treasurer. Mabikas 1996 will continue its mission of promoting the general welfare of its

members and families, the enhancement of camaraderie, and support the PMAAAI and PMARAI objectives and programs.

#### A. New Mabikas 1996 Flight and Element Lead:

Exactly captured using the cadets' lingo, **Mabikas Class 1996** is now under the control of the Air Force Group. **Cav Del Gabriel** is the Flight Lead steering the throttle for the year 2026 until 2028. His wingman are: **Cav Art Laylo** surveying the skies and the Air Force Lead, **Cav Frank Molina** surveying the land and the Army Lead, **Cav Jun Rosario** surveying the coast and the sea as the Navy/PCG Lead, and **Mat Seballos** as the Associates Lead. Providing mutual support are **Cav**



## B. Flying High with Momentum:

With the gains and successes of Mabikas gathering during the February 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming, the class navigates momentum by consolidating the Mabikas Brats into a Messenger chat group as a starting point for future endeavors. The brats may not share in the never-ending stories of reception, front-leaning rest, and late lights of their fathers, but their shared groups may lead them to other opportunities. Challenged with the small successes or failures, differences and struggles, there is always an assumption of transcendence to hope for in any diversity.

### Mabikas Brats of Cav Natividad, Blanco,



*Dimla, and Patricio from hiking plans to bowling, dining and chilling-out.*

As a second act, Mabikas will also try to avoid demerits by being awake during Class Call by popping-out and sharing the presence of our Cavaliers who have significant and rich journey in different field of endeavors across the country and continents. Suffice it to say, Mabikas has too many graybeards and master aviators. The third order of the day was the Mabikas Official telegram created to further consolidate Mabikas in official discussion outside of the ever-reliable and congested Mabikas Viber group.

## C. Stars Symbolizing Excellence:

Through decades of government service, shining stars continue to bless Mabikas bugs with four (4) generals from the Philippine Coast Guard, four (4) from the Philippine Air Force, and two (2) from the Philippine Army. Wearing the new chevrons of excellence in the active service were:

### Vice Admiral Genito Basilio

Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC), PCG

### Rear Adm Marco Antonio Gines

Commander, Coast Guard Logistics Systems Command, PCG

### Rear Adm Weniel Azcuna

Commander  
Philippine Coast Guard Fleet, PCG

### Brigadier General Pedro Agapito

Deputy Commander, Air Education, Training, and Doctrine Command, PAF

### Brig Gen Ronnie Cabingas

Wing Commander  
420<sup>th</sup> Supply Wing (Providers), PAF

### Brig Gen Alfredo Antonio



*Mabikas Brats in a huddle in Baguio City.*

Wing Commander, Tactical Operations  
Wings Norther Luzon (TOWNOL), PAF  
**Brig Gen Arthur Laylo**  
Wing Commander  
Presidential Airlift Wing, PAF  
**Brig General Ramir Redosendo**  
Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G3  
Philippine Army  
**Brig Gen Gremel Brual**  
Commander  
601<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade, Philippine Army

After hurdling the mountains of Baguio and reaching his first destination to be awakened only that welcome reception is not about hearty meal but the start of confusion and grueling mechanical movements, it is worth to mention that **Cav Jun Rosario** was the first Mabikas who completed the mandatory retirement age and rejoined the land of the free on June 2026. Humbled by life experience, Jun said being and retiring as a Rear Admiral in the Philippine Coast Guard are all gifts and bonuses. His current engagement

## D. Going back to the Land of the Free:





in non-governmental organization works might well give him a good start towards a well-adjusted retirement routine.

#### E. Golf Course Journey, the Meeting Ground, and Swinging Clubs until Twilight Years:

The **Class 1996 Golfers Viber Group** as a simple social group have continuously produced a lot of memorable stories. Mabikas bugs varying strokes from hitting fat, chunks and whiffs are memorably treasured by single handicappers but more so by those who are just enjoying the greens and storytelling in-between. From active to dormant golfers, from dropouts to beginners. and for the forever beginners, the golf course has always provided the venue for "bolahizing" and boodling for Mabikas bugs, brats, and friends, as well as forever "kayahan" when swinging their clubs against senior and junior classes. Capturing a few of the too many to pictures in various golf courses.

#### F. Blessed to celebrate their Birthdays for



the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2026 are:

#### July

- 02 Ronald Genete
- 04 Boyet Dulay
- 07 Jo Carpio
- 18 Jun Matias
- 23 Alfredo Antonio
- 25 Lino Nierves
- George Galza
- 26 Cromwell Danganan
- 27 Lev Albarece
- 28 Julius Bacosa
- 30 Del Gabriel
- Soy Torrenueva

#### August

- 12 Dex Adecer
- 15 Erwin Pecson
- 27 Henry Claveria
- 31 Sherwin Respeto

#### September

- 06 Rico Dingle
- 07 Inyong Hernandez
- 12 Jun Rosario
- Neil Sinel
- 14 Mel Somera
- 15 Gerry Bahia
- Ric Manalastas
- 19 Ernie Bautista

Jason Buerano

Dennis Mangcoy

20 Gem Arrogante

23 Gently Armedo

#### G. Heroism of the Highest Order:

Remembered during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter is a heroic Mabikas cavalier, our late Capt Aniano Amatong, we fondly call as "Junie", born on 23 July 1974, and considered a high-timer pilot having logged more than 1,000 flying hours then. Junie made the ultimate personal sacrifice on 24 January 2006 by ordering his co-pilot to eject and be rescued by the residents while he maneuvered the damaged plane away from a residential area in Bulacan.



Swingers above from left to right: Vic Malaya, Deng Busog, Alvin Dimla, Jeff Cauquiran, Noel Pablo, Randy Campos, Neil Sinel, and Julis Bacosa.



Swingers above are: Jason Buerano, Justin Gallen, Mark Tayamen, Wendel Pallalon, Aldrin Orejudos, Benjie Tapnio, Leo Dimoc, Jun Rosario, and Mat Carido.



**CHRISTOPHER P AGBAYANI**  
President  
**WILFREDO B MANALANG III**  
Contributor

What an eventful quarter it has been for our Class both for personal and professional growth.

### Look up, stars are falling!!!

We now have eight Flag- and Star-rank Generals! Firstly, Doods Meniado was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in the Philippine Coast Guard and it seems that his rise will not end with two-stars alone. Next, a deluge of Navy promotees! The onslaught was started by Commodore Elmer Toriado as the Senior Military Assistant to the SND; followed by Commodore Jim Razo as Commander, NAVSOG; next is Commodore Oliver Reforba as Commander, Littoral Combat Force, Phil Fleet; then Commodore Nerry Martinez as Commander, Air Warfare Force, PN. Awaiting their formal promotion orders after their assumption are Bladimer Caluya as Chief of Staff, Joint Sustainment Command, AFP and Michael Barrion as AJ10 AFP. Not to mention BGen Rhad Peña as Deputy Commander, Air Defense Command. Congratulations, mga Mistah, we are proud of you!!!

### Navy updates

Atty Ariel Halasan is now the Deputy Commander, PGMCA AFP and at the same time the President, PMAAAI-Navy Chapter; Welmer Base is the Deputy Commander, Naval Forces Central; Joel Bonavente as DepCom for Marine Opns, Naval Defense Command; Ramil Densing as DBC, 1MBde, PMC; Monching Ramon as Acting Deputy Commander and Ex-O/CS, PKOC AFP; and JJ Sumpay as Ex-O, OSSSM AFP. All others, hopefully we will have updates on your new designations soon.

### Army updates

Our foot soldiers are moving away from desk jobs and back to field positions. Vicky

Blancaflor is the new Group Commander, NCRCDG, RESCOM; Willy Borgonia as IG, 11ID; Charles Calucag as U8, NOLCOM; Ralph De Mesa as DBC, 903IBde, 9ID and at the same time as President, PMAAAI-Army Chapter; Gel Gabi as Chief, OIMA; Arnold Gasalatan as Group Commander, 9RCDG, RESCOM; Eugene Lague as Director, RDC, SPTCOM; Wiliboie Manalang as CUCS, NCRCOM; Gerald Monfort as Deputy Commander, CMOR; Japoc Palma as the new G4, PA; Atong Pascual as Commander, 2IR (P); Papa Pecs Pecson as IG, ETC, PA; Totoy Pereña as DBC, 2MIBde, AD, PA; Esjay San Juan as Director, CFWDC, ETC, PA; and Jonas Templo as Army Adjutant. Hopefully by next update will have one or two Army Generals already.

### Airforce updates

Our Class President, Randy Bance is now the CCS, PSC AFP; Melvin Banua is the new A10 PAF; Jonathan Gastardo

as Deputy Wing Commander, 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing and concurrent Acting Asst Chief of Staff for Operations, A3; Ken Manglicmot as CCS, AIBDC PAF; and Jerome Santiago as Deputy Wing Commander, 580th Aircraft Control and Warning Wing. Bonbon Nunag-Castillo was also elected as the new President, PMAAAI-Airforce Chapter. Hopefully, by the time of publication, Gubi Gubantes has already completed his stint as DAFA Israel and is currently relaxing and busy reconnecting with his family and friends back home.

### Other updates

The contributor, *ehem*, recently graduated at the Bicol University for the degree Doctorate in Philosophy for Peace and Security Administration (PASA). As Doctor, I may not be able to treat life and death cases; however, I am eligible to ask, "but have you truly lived?"





**NOEL A LAURIO**  
President  
**BEN C DOMINGO III**  
Secretary

As we get closer to being the (most) senior host, here is an update to the Masinags...

**ARMY:** **Leviste** - IG, SPTCOM, CGSA, Tarlac City; **Garrido** - GC, 2LSG, SPTCOM, Malagutay, Zamboanga City; **Domingo, B** - GM, AFPCEs, CGEA; **Altre** - SJS, AFP, CGEA; **Malik B** - Cmdr, TF Zamboanga; **Romel V** - CUCS, WMC; **Banjo** - DBC, 103Bde; **Jooney** - DBC, 901Bde; **Taboodles** - DBC, 502Bde; **Jim Jimenez** - IG, JSOC, AFP; **Delamide** - IG, RESCOM, PA; **Hugo** - Deputy Chief Engineer, AFP; **Rabara** - Dir, Land Warfare Center, ETC, PA; **Hindang** - IG 2ID; **Ley** - U4 SOLCOM; **Mateo** - CS, 11ID; **Gotico** - Cmdt, Artillery Trng School, AR, PA; **Banaag** - Deputy Rgmt Cmdr, SFR(A); **Valdez** - DBC, 1003Bde, 10ID, PA, Davao City; **Dilag** - DBC, 503Bde, 5ID, PA, Tabuk City; **Romero** - Chief ISOD, J3; **Pajarito** - DBC, 1BCT; **Alvaran** - Chief PPD, OJ1; **Vingno** - Ex-O, OJ5; **Banatao** - Ex-O, OJ7; **Mendoza** - IG SR, PA; **Lugtu** - PhilDAFA-MY; **Nepomuceno-Ang** - 1SC; **Bumidang** - 2SC; **Titot** - 8, SC; **Kalahi** - Dep FCPA.

**NAVY:** **Fabian** - CO, HHSG, PN; **Musil** - IG, WMC; **Bogñalbal** - Acting Superintendent, MCFDC, PMC; **Santos** - DC for MarOps, NCNL/C, PMRF-NCR; **Grasparil** - Commandant, CGSC; **Facundo** - DBC, CSB (Incoming DNSSM); **Gonzalez** - N2; **Rotoni**



- N4; **Angdason** - DN5; **Robles** - N8; **Sales** - N9; **Cabungcal** - N10; **Cartin-Domine** - DNMO; **Hechanova** - DIOFC PN; **Laurio** - D OSSM (Incoming N5); **Rodriguez-Gonzalez** - CPMC PN; **Buted** - CLC PN; **David** - DC AWF PN; **Barcelon** - DC PS AFP; **Ibañez** - C IMF-C; **Dela Calzada** - C IMF-NCR; **Sergio** - AFLO USPACOM; **Salvilla** - MA to Usec for Strategic Assessment and Planning, DND; **Mangahas** - MA5, PMA; **Tadulan** - EXO, J8.

**AIR FORCE:** **BGen Templonuevo** - WC, 5FW; **Bautista** - DWC, 220AW; **Madarang** - DC, OESPA; **Ordoñez-Basco** - C, AFPAO; **Gerodiaz** - OTIG; **Casuncad** - C3, ALC; **Bodegon** - A1; **Patrimonio-Antig** - A5; **Ablog** - A6; **Baterina** - Dep, A10; **Macatingrao** - Dep, A3.

**TAS:** **Simon** - Head, TSS, Academic Group, PMA; **Torbela** - Director, CLPE, PMA.

**POLICE:** **Castro** - Assistant Chief, PNP Command Center; **Recinto** - Camp Crame.

**COAST GUARD:** **Capt John A Barrameda**, Chief of Training Staff, Coast Guard Education, Training and Doctrine

Command; **Sarmiento** - Coast Guard Intelligence Command.

**INACTIVE/RETIRED:** **Lazaro** - Project 8, QC; **Domingo, Lope Jr** - Pastor, The Great Commission Full Gospel Fellowship, Inc., Lamut, Ifugao; **Mundo** - Farmer, People's Republic of Cebu; **Santiago** - ATR Capt, CEBGO/Cebu Pacific; **Pingen** - Director for Security Operations, CAT Security Group; **Navales** - Security Manager, Shangri-La The Fort Manila; **Gallardo** - Captain, Cebu Air; **Ferrer** - Head of Training, Airworks Aviation Academy, Lapu-Lapu City; **Remante** - Captain, Sun Group Airways; **Cuenco** - US District Court, Northern District, California; **Escaniel** - Security Heade, Palm Concepcion Power Corporation; **Tangonan** - Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat; **Tocloy**, Petrofuel Logistics Inc.; **Roderos** - Villasis, Pangasinan; **Pepito** - Kidapawan City, Cotabato; **Javier Jr.** - Head of Operations, Peninsula Aero Club. Victoria, Australia; **Gucyam** - Captain B777, Philippine Airlines; **Pacis A** - Captain, Cebu Pacific Air Inc.; **Verzosa** - A320/321 Capt, Cebu Pacific; **Aquino N** - EastWest Bank; **Villacrucis** - Captain, Philippine Airlines; **Callanta** - AGFSAC; **Aquino C** - Tarlac City; **Hate** - Captain, Etihad Airways, Abu Dhabi; **Sale** - Cebu; **Monjardin** - Antipolo; **Tupas** - Cagayan de Oro; **Pascua** - Security Head, British School Manila; **De Ramos** - Captain, Boeing 777, Philippine Airlines; **Ilagan** - Global Aerospace Logistics, Abu Dhabi, UAV Instructor.

**LAST TAPS:** **Pacis J**, **Halasan**, **Que**, **Tamano**, **Divina**, **Gay-ya**, **Nunez**, **Dimaculangan**, **Villareal**, **Satumba**, **Saturno**, **Castillo** and **Buyucan**.





**LESTER T SINLAO**  
President  
**REY C LABOY, JR**  
Secretary

**THE SANLINGAN DISPATCH**  
Official Publication of the PMA  
"Sanlingan" Class of 2005

*Class Updates and Key Designations*  
*Supplement*

## I. STRATEGIC AND HIGHER MILITARY EDUCATION (CGSC CLASS 77)

The Class of 2005 continues to sharpen its strategic edge and prepare for higher joint defense leadership as mistahs undertake the **Command and General Staff Course (CGSC) Class 77**:

- **Philippine Air Force:** LtCol Joselito Doldol, LtCol Von Ryan Timbang, and LtCol Eures Melody Montejo-Dimayuga
- **Philippine Navy and Marines:** Cdr Domingo Sumayo, Cdr John Paul Raniola, Cdr Rodrigo Viernes, and LtCol Romulo Dimayuga II PN(M)
- **Philippine Army:** LtCol Joseph Aldanese, LtCol Milton Sitoy, LtCol Calvin Macatangay, and LtCol Lemuel Jimeno

## II. NAVAL FLEET AND SPECIALIZED OPERATIONAL COMMANDS

- **Command at Sea (BRP Conrado Yap PS-30):** Cdr Christopher Matammu PN has formally assumed command as **Commanding Officer of BRP Conrado Yap (PS-30)**, leading one of the Navy's premier surface combatants.
- **5th Special Forces (Primus Inter Pares) Battalion:** LtCol Geralfredo C. Andal INF (GSC) PA serves as **Commanding Officer** in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.
- **Specialized Unit Commanders:** LtCol Joe Ryan Manalo, LtCol Voltaire Puruganan, LtCol Rolly Gempesao, and LtCol Almar Macabacyao quietly steer specialized field units as Battalion Commanders.



- **9th Field Service Support Unit (9FSSU):** LTC Jimmy P Guinanoy QMS (GSC) PA serves as Acting Commander.

## III. ACADEMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP (PMA)

- **MA6 (ICT):** LtCol Harold G Ricacho PA (GSC) serves as Assistant Chief of Academy Staff for Information and

Communications Technology (MA6).

- **Headquarters Tactics Group (HTG):**

- **Cadet Mess Department:** LtCol Rizza Mae A San Agustin PA (GSC) serves as Head of Department.
- **Department of Air Warfare:** LtCol Edson Carlo

M Tadea PAF (GSC) serves as Head of Department, succeeding LtCol Roy O. Valdez PAF (GSC), who transitioned to Executive Officer, Office of the Air Force Inspector General (OAFIG).

#### IV. AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND (FAB, LIPA CITY)

- **C-4 (Logistics):** LTC Alvin M Matienzo PAF (GSC) serves as ACCS for Logistics, C-4.

- **C-1 (Personnel):** LTC Michael S Dimaculangan PAF (GSC) serves as ACCS for Personnel, C-1.

#### V. HONORABLE TRANSITIONS AND RETIREMENTS

- **Retirement of Cav Jay Aldin Sabaten:** The Class of 2005 honors Cav Jay Aldin Sabaten upon completing his active military service, wishing him smooth transition into his next civilian chapter.



*"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

## 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. from May 30 to June 3; and at St. Joseph Parish, Camp Crame from June 3 to June 4. Cremation was held on June 4 at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Commonwealth, Avenue, Q.C. He is survived by his wife Esther Santos-Domingo and children: Dr. Martin, Dr. Faye, Francis, Evadine, Paulo, Dr. Alexis and Dr. Adrienne.



## LCDR JUNNAL R ABISO '06

14 Sept 1981 - 30 June 2026

The Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao rendered funeral honors and vigil for the late Cav Abiso from July 6 to July 10 at the NSFA Mortuary, Panacan, Davao City. Interment was scheduled on July 10 at Forest Lake Memorial Park, Panaan, Davao City where final military honors was accorded in recognition of his honorable and dedicated service to the Phil. Navy and the Filipino people.



## BGEN ROMEO S DAVID '56

25 June 1934 – 12 July 2026

Cav David was former President and CEO of the Clark Development Corporation, and was a government executive. He passed away on July 12, 2026, at the age of 92. He also held executive roles as President of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and senior vice president of Philippine Airlines (PAL).

He was married to the former Pilar Z. Macunana with whom he has four children: Annette, Suzanne, Romeo Jr and Shella. Wake was held on July 13 to 14 at Lisbon Room, Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Paranaque City.



## CAPT VICENTE MARCELO C LAMPAS '82

29 Dec 1958 - 20 July 2026

Cav Vicente Marcelo "Boyett" Lampas passed away on 20 July 2026 following an acute myocardial infarction. He was laid to rest at Love Memorial Park, Noveleta, Cavite, on 26 July 2026, with full military honors.

He is survived by his caring wife, Leticia and children Viccia Andrea, Levi Anne, Jan Revo, and Justin Vic.

His remains laid in state at Sangley Point Mortuary, Cavite City. Interment was held at Love Memorial Park, Noveleta, Cavite.



## COMMO PABLO P PEREZ '62

25 Feb 1939 - 24 July 2026

Cav Perez passed away on July 24, 2026, at the age of 87. He notably served as the 5th Commander of the Naval Construction Brigade (popularly known as the Seabees) from December 2, 1985 to March 4, 1986. Following his military service, he held the retired rank of Commodore.

Cav Perez was married to the former Maria Concepcion Jimenea with whom he has four children: Paulo, Carina, Carla, and Chona. Wake was held at the Mortuary, Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on 26 July to 28 July 2026 where he was given a hero's burial on 30 July.



## PBGEN SAMUEL M YORDAN '81

16 Feb 1958 - 30 July 2026

Cav Yordan, a member of PMA Class of 1981 passed away on 30 July 2026. He retired from the Philippine National Police with the Rank of PBGen. After his retirement, he served as a member of the Marawi Rehabilitation Team. Cav Yordan, thereafter went into a quiet retirement.



Wake was held from 30 July to 9 Aug at Zone 6 Riverside, Canduman, Mandaue City. Holy mass was held at Angelicum Garden of Angels, Canduman, Mandaue City followed by the interment procession. He is survived by his wife Aileen Abellana-Yordan and children: Nathaniel and Giselle.

## LTCOL ROMEO D RANAY '74

22 Dec 1952 - 21 Aug 2026

Cav Ranay joined our Creator on 21 August 2026, he was 74. He was regarded as the best signal officer of the AFP for numerous projects he had successfully carried out, such as the restoration of terrestrial microwave of Luzon Visayas Mindanao connectivity and the completion of the plan for the establishment of the AFP satellite communications. His remains laid in state at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, where interment was held on 29 Aug.



## COL MANUEL F FORONDA '71

16 Apr 1947 – 01 Aug 2026

Cav Foronda died on 1 August in Ca, USA. He is survived by his loving wife Tess and children Bryan, Hazel and Michael.



## MAJ MOSES AARON JOSHUA P SANTIAGO '09

27 Dec 1986 – 24 Aug 2026

Cav Santiago, former aide-de-camp of Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. passed away on 24 August. His remains laid in state at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City, where necrological services were held on 27 August.

He left behind his wife Argeline and children: Army and Navy.





**PMAAAI**  
PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

*Duty. Honor. Country.*

## MUTUAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE IN TIMES OF LOSS



Family of the late  
CPT Ruth Angelique R. Pasos PAF



Family of the late  
1LT Cherky E. Embudo PAF



Cav Ricardo A. David Jr. '77, Chairman and CEO of PMAAAI, personally extends **Mutual Relief Assistance** to the bereaved families of the late CPT Ruth Angelique R. Pasos PAF and 1LT Cherky E. Embudo PAF, in solemn recognition of their service, sacrifice, and dedication to the nation.

★  
**WE HONOR THEIR SERVICE. WE SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES.  
PMAAAI STANDS WITH YOU.**



Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc.

[www.pmaai.org](http://www.pmaai.org)