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A New Sound of Heavy Mettle (1st part)

The quickening pace of footsteps on battlegrounds where even mighty men fear to tread... the ambient sound of giggling little children in desolate places... the slowly deadening anguish of a mother with a sick child... the deafening blasts of lethal weapons that

decimate a whole town and the subsequent heartrending cries of survivors in a rising crescendo...

These are the real sounds of heavy mettle. It is "extreme music" with a rhythm full of "soul" that has captured the hearts of the men and women of the 4th Marine

Brigade. Its melodic power is both deep thudding and powerfully haunting that it can reel these warriors into a critical strife – the critical choice between war and peace.

They can engage in war in their pursuit of peace. And they can use their

weapon-wielding arms to carry a helpless child to safety just as they can use their iron fists to hand out the poor's much needed daily bread.

The road often forks for these Reserve Marines. When faced with a choice to take the road to the peace

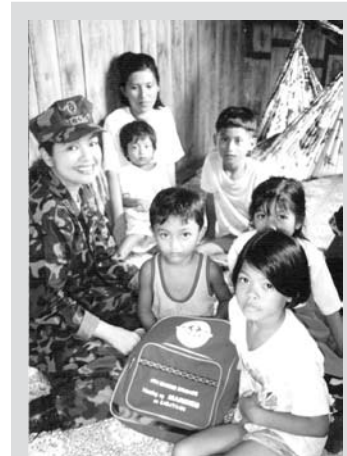
zone and the battle zone, these Reservists follow the beat of their own drum and they have no reservations taking both.

These five men and a lady represent different "genres" of heavy mettle. Each has woven his own

music and developed his own lyrical stance. It's the only music that he can truly call the soundtrack of his life as a Marine. And it's never drawn out even if you play it over and over and over...

Sweet Child of Mine

LT. COL. RODYLYN MANZANO PN (M) (R) (MNSA)



Lt. Col. Manzano winning the hearts and minds of children in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi in 2002

in her own words, "superficial and brand-conscious" until life (real life, that is) gave her a gentle nudge.

"The first time I saw a kid's face light up in a line-up when I handed her a bag of old toys during a CIVAC in Tawi-Tawi was a humbling experience for me. I learned to appreciate what I had after seeing those kids," recalled Manzano.

Funny how a poor, ingenuous little child could teach, in an instant, a highly educated city woman (She's a BS Agricultural Economics graduate from the University of the Philippines with a Master's Degree in National Security Administration at the National Defense College) precious life lessons most of us spend our whole lives learning.

Manzano, an accomplished entrepreneur and real estate broker, was reduced to a neophyte when she first joined the Marines in September 2000. "I used to have people do that for me. But when I became a reservist, I had to do everything myself," she says, recalling the first time she sought the help of friends to solicit old clothes and toys for a CIVAC in Mindanao.

Now she does a lot of things herself for the Corps and has gained a growing appreciation for the value of the reservists. Her new-found independence and self-reliance continues to grow as she steepers herself in civic action.

Manzano's six years in the service is pregnant with life-altering experiences. She transitioned from a high-powered real estate broker to a virtual "peace broker." The sublimation of her brand consciousness into social consciousness led her to patronize the only brand that matters – the brand of human life that promotes dignity, courage, service and sacrifice.

It took a little child to jolt this woman of the world into becoming a woman of greater depth and consequence. She never saw the kid again, but she'll forever be a special child who continues to inspire her in her life as a Marine reservist.

Needless to say, the Corps has taken Manzano as its own sweet child. She's a compassionate woman, a mother, an entrepreneur and a friend to many. She is slowly introducing her son, RJ, to her world, not by duty but by desire. And as she goes about building his character, she can speak of guns and talk about roses and everything else in between.

Taking Back Sunday

LT. COL. ROBERTO EMMANUEL T. FELICIANO (PN) (M) (R) (MNSA)

He refuses to be called a weekend warrior. After all, he did not help develop a major weapons system for the Philippine Marine Corps through occasional weekend all-nighters at the Marine base in Fort Bonifacio.

LT. COL. ROBERTO EMMANUEL T. "BOB" FELICIANO PN (M) (R) (MNSA) collaborated in the development of the 5.56 mm Marine Scout Sniper Rifle (MSSR), a weapons system that revitalized the sniping capability of the Philippine Marine Corps. (complete with a manual and all.) It took the team, headed by then-LT. COL now Brigadier General JONATHAN C. MARTIR PN (M) a good eight months to complete this cost-effective sniper weapon system. Amidst very stringent financial constraints and mounting enemy operations, it was a welcome shot in the arm.

This mild-mannered Marine is not given to blowing his own, well, Marine bugle. And while he has quite a number of reasons to, (he was Project Analyst at the World Bank in Washington, DC, among others) he seems to take the most pride in his contribution in strengthening the scout sniper capability of the Philippine Marine Corps.

Under the previous Commanding Officer of the 4th Marine Brigade, Colonel

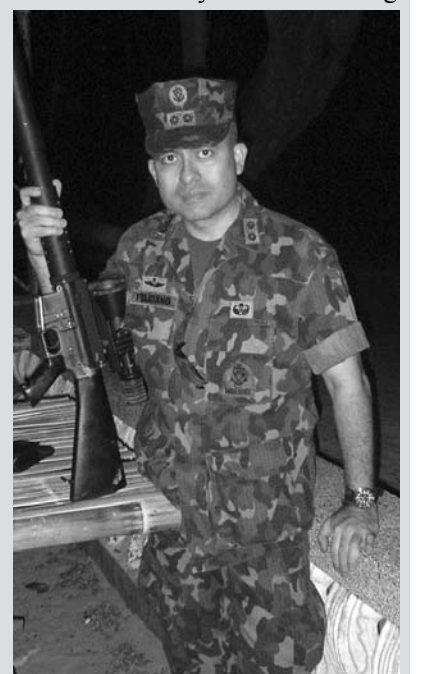
Danilo L. Gamboa, PN (M) (R), Feliciano was the director for the Marine Reserve Advanced Marksmanship Training Unit, the Assistant Chairman of the Marine Scout Sniper Capability Development Committee, with then Lt Col Martir as Chairman.

Feliciano is no stranger to ammo talk. (Count that out, the secret language of the Marines and his witty asides, the man is still a legit polyglot. He was a German language instructor at Hiram College in Ohio, where he earned his dual degree in History and German, and worked in Latin America for the World Bank where he practiced Portuguese and Spanish.)

His uncle, the late Lt. Cdr. Adolfo S. ("Chito") Feliciano, PN (M) was the first commanding officer of the Reserve Marksmanship and Sniper Detachment (RMSD) which when activated in 1969, was the first Philippine Marine reserve unit. The late commander Lt. Cdr. Feliciano died in a plane crash in 1973 while on duty with the Commandant, Commodore Rudiardo Brown PN(M). Under the careful guidance of then-Lt. Col. Martir, the unit eventually became the Marine Scout Sniper School, which is currently the only dedicated sniper school in the Philippines.

Lt. Col. Feliciano's admiration

for his late uncle was obvious and the Marines' was even more noticeable. (and was too conspicuous in fact.) The Marine Corps named the building Feliciano Hall after Lt. Cdr. Feliciano. It now houses the Marine Corps Training Center (MCTC), the 4th Marine Brigade Headquarters, the Marine Scout Sniper School, and the fifty-meter shooting



Nighttime test firing the PN Night Fighting Weapon System (NFWs) at Marine Base Ternate in 2005

range. At the entrance of the Marine Corps Training Center (MCTC) is a plaque plus a photo display recognizing him as the first sniper in Philippine Marine Corps history.

Leave it to his genes to lead the way to the Marine headquarters. Although the journey was > see page 6

The Jester Race

LT. COL. JUAN PABLO NAÑAGAS PN (M) (R) (MNSA)

If there is a Philippine Marine Ready Jokes Brigade, he would be at the frontlines. (He has an ammo box full of jokes and to become the object of his jests is a forbidding prospect.) This gangly medical warrior is decidedly funny but is just as massively serious about his role as a reservist.

When LT COL JUAN PABLO NAÑAGAS PN (M) (R) (MNSA) first joined the Marines in August 2002, he was merely looking for something new to do. "I wanted to do something I didn't know anything about" says the eye doctor who earned his Masters in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines.

Well as it turned out, half the joke was on him. He got into something that was totally new to him but he also unwittingly entered into a very familiar territory when he became a medical warrior.

He's a weekend warrior-on-a-big-bike who cruises at 90 kilometers per hour around Fort Bonifacio on his 800 cc Suzuki Intruder. But when it comes to civic action, the former Undersecretary of the Department of Health (He was the right hand man of former

DOH Secretary Juan Flavio, a jester himself) will jump curbs and zoom into overdrive.

It was not easy juggling his taxing work when he was Administrator and Assistant



Medical Director at Asian Eye Institute in Rockwell and his capriciously demanding role as brigade staff for Plans and Programs of the Marine Reserve Brigade. It can drive any sane man genuinely insane if he doesn't know how to get some laughs along the way.

Nañagas has had a lot of "directorial jobs." He was medical director at Takeo Eye Hospital, Director at the Philippine General Hospital, Director of the University of the Philippines Manila Volunteer Corps and a Director of the Center for Economic Policy Research. And to add an interesting bit of trivia that puts

another glitter yet to his stellar medical profession, he was cast in the recently-launched print ad campaign of Asian Eye where he modeled as a film director.

He has trotted the globe, attending meetings, trainings and conferences in Europe, North America, and Asia Pacific. But perhaps none has been as interesting as his "engagements" with the townsfolk down South. And while he has many funny tales to tell that get him rolling on the floor laughing, it is the spirit of volunteerism that brings the biggest smile on his face.

"The satisfaction of helping others gives me fulfillment. It's a distinct feeling from the satisfaction of studying intraocular foreign bodies and understanding corneal wound healing," says Nañagas rather seriously.

He has put many people under the knife to give them a clear vision. He will "sweat bullets" if he has to, to give them a clearer future.

It is a serious business the "Doc" is in. It is a race for ideals in a not-so-perfect world. And while he may not finish first, this medical warrior will make sure he gets the "last laugh" and a smile.

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