PPALM Quarterly

Pan-Pacific American Leaders & Mentors *Summer/Fall 2016*

From the Chairman's Foxhole

PPALM Chairman (right) with APAICS President & CEO Floyd Mori and U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services at the 3rd Annual APAICS & PPALM Military Leadership Luncheon May 3, 2016.

Greetings, all! The hot summer is gone by and we are off into a much cooler fall season.

I am happy to report that PPALM remains productive and progressive with its mission and tasks this past year. Our two major tasks are to improve our governance and strategic plans for 2017-2021.

We recently completed the revision of PPALM's by-laws since the past version (from 2012) needed to conform with developments we've experienced over the past few years. Key improvements in the by-laws included changes to the Board's structure, clarification of roles and responsibilities of Board members, and enhanced capabilities to deliver support and services to our members.

By improving PPALM's strategic plan for 2017-2021, we will need to maintain our vision but simplify a sustainable set of key objectives for the next five years. The Board recently reviewed the 2016-2020 strategic plan, and we agreed that there were numerous objectives and tasks that did not match our capability or capacity to achieve. For a distinctive non-profit organization like PPALM, the Board must be clear and succinct on maintaining and sustaining PPALM for the future. The Board of Directors decided on a methodology to focus on a few key objectives that will merit high value for 2017-2021. They include:

1. Improving our communications means with members via social media, periodic contacts, announcements of scheduled events, sharing testimonials, visits to chapters, and printed materials.

2. Improving our membership management system through an automated tracking system. This will enable networking and help maintain connectivity with members who relocate, change assignments, retire, or transition.

3. Providing online training and education materials on leadership development, mentoring, and career transition programs.

4. Developing an automated mentor-mentee selection process.

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Board of Directors:

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VP, Information Technology
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General Counsel
Mr. Erick Soriano, Esq., LLP

From the Chairman's Foxhole (cont'd)

5. Developing a PPALM and sponsors association that will lead to long term collaborative relationships.

This will entail innovative ideas and will require funding and resources, but our Board members are willing to undertake the development and execution of these objectives to sustain PPALM in 2017-2021.

Some great news! A group of U.S. Army officers stationed in Germany have started the process of establishing a PPALM chapter. Led by LTC Tito Villanueva and MAJ Scott Basso, this new group of leaders will extend PPALM's networking in Europe. We hope to fully operate this new chapter by the end of this year.

Another chapter in the making is in Colorado Springs/Fort Carson, Colorado. PPALM members in that area will organize an official chapter later this year and we hope to be operational by mid-2017.

In the meantime, please continue to stay in touch, spread the word on PPALM, be safe, and thank you for your support and membership.

MG Tony Taguba
U.S. Army, Retired
Chairman, PPALM

9th Annual General Membership Meeting & Reception

PPALM culminated the year with our 9th Annual General Membership Meeting and Reception on October 2, 2016, when we welcomed more than 150 members and distinguished guests.

The theme, *Mentoring: Path to Developing Successful Leaders*, provided the audience on what it takes for leaders to form their plans for success. Our distinguished guest speaker was Ms. Francey Youngberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Engagement, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She recounted her immigrant roots as a Chinese American born in China and raised by a single mother in the Philippines. Together, they immigrated to the United States and settled in Iowa. Youngberg went on to graduate from Harvard University and eventually become a lawyer. In her remarks, she shared her struggles being discounted as an Asian American early in her career. Youngberg credits her mother as her inspiration and mentor. Her story is one of perseverance, working through alienation, and focusing on opportunities to succeed. We are grateful that she shared her personal story with all of us that evening.

We presented the Chairman's Award for Distinguished Public Service to GEN Eric Shinseki, U.S. Army (Ret.), 8th Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and 34th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. *(In lieu of a physical award, PPALM presented a hula performance by a local dance group from Maryland to remind GEN Shinseki of home.)*

The Distinguished Citizenship & Patriotism Award was presented to the late Congressman K. Mark Takai, U.S. House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii. He passed away on July 20, 2016 after a long battle with cancer. Congressman Takai served in the Hawaii Army National Guard and in the Hawaii State Legislature for more than 20 years.

9th Annual General Membership Meeting & Reception (cont'd)

The PPALM/Robert Nakamoto Foundation Excellence in Mentorship Award was presented to COL Larry Stubblefield, U.S. Army (Ret.). He is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Diversity and Leadership, and currently serves as the Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Diversity, for the Small Business Administration.

We thank PPALM's sponsors and partners who have supported us for many years. They include: Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA), AARP, Knowledge Advantage Inc., TDLS Consulting LLC, Lida Peterson and CIMPA, Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN), Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS), Who's Who in Asian American Communities (WWAAC), the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S Naval Academy, Path Strategies, and the U.S. Army.

NEW Mission: Mentoring

Beginning with this newsletter, PPALM will highlight testimonials of PPALM members to share their experiences as either a PPALM mentor and mentee, occasionally both. We encourage anyone to share their testimonial with us to be featured in our newsletter, Facebook and website. Please send your testimonials to our VP of Communications, Renee Lee, rhl@ppalm.org.

Chasing a dream
By Jonathan Ung

I first learned about PPALM in the late spring of 2011, after meeting Major General Tony Taguba at an event where he presented a scholarship for leadership and courage at the University of Maryland. At that time, I was an Air Force ROTC cadet, but had recently learned that I was not going to be receiving my commission upon graduation. After dis-enrolling from the program I was unsure about my path ahead, but still felt a strong desire to serve the United States. After approaching Major General Taguba for advice on next steps, he suggested I join PPALM and seek mentorship from its members.

After joining, I was paired with Major General Taguba, who provided me with great insight on my journey to gaining my commission to finally serve through the United States Marine Corps. Since graduating from the University of Maryland in 2012, my journey took four years, during which I actively kept in touch with Major General Taguba and volunteered at PPALM events. Attending the general membership meetings allowed me to connect and network with other mentors who offered thoughtful encouragement and insight. Along with providing numerous opportunities to learn about my personal and professional goals, my participation in PPALM has only further reinforced the importance of community in developing leadership skills, professional growth, and increasing diversity in the U.S. military.

Without Major General Taguba's guidance and mentorship, I would have not been able to fulfill my desire to serve. Since successfully completing USMC Officer Candidates School in early 2016, I am thrilled to begin a new journey, this time as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps.

Jonathan Ung serves on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is currently a student at The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico. After graduation, he will be a student naval aviator at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. (Photo: Lieutenant Ung stands next to Major General Taguba, third from right.)

Mission: Mentoring (cont'd)

Paying It Forward
By Rochelle S. Ruiz Pressley

All my life I've always helped others and strived to contribute to my community. I first learned about PPALM when I was a student at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 2013. I was intrigued by its positive contribution to the community. A fellow soldier and college ROTC friend was a PPALM member at the time and encouraged me to not only join, but to volunteer as the president of PPALM's Fort Leavenworth chapter. During my tenure as the chapter president, I networked to gain senior mentors for our organization and gained wisdom from them and their life and professional experiences.

During a recent deployment, I experienced both personal and professional challenges. I was grateful to lean on one of my PPALM mentors during that overwhelming time, as he talked me through my priorities and work-life balance. I now find myself drawn to other soldiers in similar situations. I have walked down the beaten path, and I can share my experiences with others and help them grow.

As I also grow into my career, I find mentoring to be very rewarding. It's not about what I've achieved myself, but rather the satisfaction I receive when I pay it forward.

Rochelle S. Ruiz Pressley is an active duty major in the U.S. Army. She currently serves as a battalion executive officer in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Mission impossible without mentors
By Jeric Mibale

I believe that mentorship is very important, especially for those new to the military or any industry. There is a lot that we don't know when starting a new career so having a mentor allows us to fill the knowledge gap.

I started my first formal mentorship session when I was in college. I met regularly with my academic advisor and ROTC instructor. I remember talking about how I felt overwhelmed with balancing my priorities, and both of my mentors were willing to provide assistance when I had a lot on my plate. By building rapport and trust through our continued meetings, they were able to offer me more personal feedback, which helped reduce my stress. They always encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams, and they were an integral part of my support system. They helped me achieve my goal of graduating and commissioning in the military on time.

Currently on active duty, I meet regularly with mentors both inside and outside my chain of command. Since my current project involves many moving parts, meeting with my supervisor and seeking understanding of my job duties is critical. Knowing that I can always go to my supervisor for help or to provide understanding of a topic I'm not familiar with makes the job more manageable. Apart from discussing work duties, my supervisor also gives me great advice on leadership, career planning, and writing performance reports.

Additionally, meeting with my mentor outside my chain of command allows me to gain broader insight. Since my mentor outside my chain has a different career background from my supervisor, I'm able to get a second opinion on career planning and general officership topics. I find that meeting with different mentors allows me to gain understanding of different perspectives on handling situations, which ultimately guides my own decision-making process.

Mission: Mentoring (cont'd)

I find myself sharing helpful things I've learned from my mentors with other young officers, whether it's through shared anecdotes or through other professional organizations.

I found out about PPALM through Major General Taguba. I believe that mentorship is most effective when you have mentors who have had similar career paths. By being a part of PPALM, I hope to find mentors who can provide career guidance and networking opportunities that will help me achieve my goal of working as an acquisitions professional in Washington, D.C.

Jeric Mibale is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He is an acquisition officer and currently serves at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif. These are his own individual sentiments.

ON THE HORIZON IN 2017

(May 18, 2017) APAICS-PPALM Military Leadership Luncheon — Save the date! PPALM will partner again with the Asian Pacific American Institute of Congressional Studies (APAICS) for our fourth annual military leadership luncheon in Washington, D.C. In 2016, we welcomed U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Gina Grosso, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, as our keynote speaker, and we welcomed about 200 attendees from across the U.S. Government and various industries.

(May 2017) PPALM and the U.S. Historical Foundation will host an Asian American and Pacific Islander Soldiers Stories event in May 2017 at the Association of the U.S. Army Exhibition Hall in Arlington, Virginia. More information is forthcoming!

A NOTE FROM IT

Please visit https://ppalm.org/Sys/Profile and update your PPALM Profile. This profile is critical to the mentorship team so they can find you a mentor/protégé. Additionally, you can search through the profiles of other PPALM members in good standing here: https://ppalm.org/directory. Your data is secure, and feel free to ask VP of IT Jason Yee (**jyee@ppalm.org**) anything or offer your suggestions!

(GEN Shinseki addresses the attendees of the 9th Annual General Membership Meeting & Reception on October 2, 2016.)