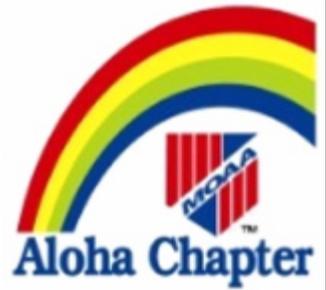


Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2005 Chapter Rating



Chartered January 27, 2000

*Newsletter of the Aloha Chapter,
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*

Volume No. 7, Issue No. 9

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September 2006

Aloha Chapter Members Given Tour of Makua Valley

All of the 23 members of our Aloha Chapter, MOAA, and the 2 guests who took advantage of the tour of Makua Valley agreed that it was well-planned by the staff of the U. S. Army Makua Range. In addition, it was very informative and gave all a sense of pride in the way the Army has preserved both the environmental and cultural aspects of the valley.



Aloha Chapter members (Fiona and Alonzo Robinson in the foreground) listening to the Army presentation on Makua Valley

We were broken up into two groups and transported to various areas of the vast valley to view the archaeological and training areas. Archaeologists from U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii, pointed out habitat, agricultural and religious components within the Reservation. The Army has taken extraordinary measures to preserve these valuable components. They reminded us that Makua Valley was and remains today as a highly sacred place for Native Hawaiians.

We were also treated to a look at the Javelin, a shoulder-type weapon system that can fire a



missile at a target some 2,000 yards away (a nautical mile). Its main target is enemy tanks. The system is manned by a two-man team, but no

missile was actually fired • Javelin Anti-Tank Weapon System • as one missile alone costs about \$72,000.00!

They also showed us a group of snipers and their equipment from the 25th Division. All of the sharpshooters saw combat in the Middle East and will compete in the Army-wide contest at Fort Benning later this year.

It was truly a rare opportunity for our members and guests to be able to go there and be treated to such a cultural and enlightening experience.

Harold



A Bolt-Action, Single-Shell, Load and Lock Sniper Rifle Used in Iraq

Inside September Issue

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President's Message

By **Vernon Von**

YOU DID IT!



A big **MAHALO** to everyone for helping our chapter win the "Five Star Level of Excellence" Award for 2005. Note our updated banner on this newsletter. It takes everyone pulling together and working as a team to gain this level of excellence. Please continue to be involved in the projects and programs of our chapter. **Harold Kuwahara** is doing a good job of scheduling a variety of programs and activities. And don't forget that we are in the midst of the "Give Me 10" membership drive. **Gordon Cho** did a stellar job of helping us win this drive last year (for a chapter our size). We can do the same this year if we beat our neighborhood "bushes" for new chapter & national members. If you need forms or information call **Gordon** or me. We only have a few more months before the drive is over.

Bob Kozuki will be leading our support for the Army Retiree Appreciation Day on Saturday, October 21, 2006. Please call **Bob** for details on how you can help with this activity. Also on October 19th we have scheduled a combined meeting with the Hawaii Chapter to hear Mr. Phillip A. Dyer, CFP from MOAA Headquarters. Read the newsletter for details on this event. We will be the host chapter in planning and implementing this event.

You missed a very interesting and informative presentation by the Army if you did not attend the Makua Valley field trip. Our troops need the valley for training, but at the same time we need to preserve endangered plant and animal species and also protect sacred areas of Hawaiian culture.

Finally, remember, birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live! Accordingly, live so as to have as many as possible.

Vern



MERRIE LADIES' Merry Events

Twenty-three ladies gathered at the Hale Ikena to learn more about make-up and color at our August 14th event. Leona Komine and Kim Kubo demonstrated the Swiss skin-care line, AR-BONNE International, on two of our member models—**Lisa Crompton** and **Charlene Towne**. After the demonstration, Kim shared information and tips on color, the meaning of certain colors and how color can be used to soothe, excite, and suppress emotions. If you missed the demonstration and want to have a free make-up session, you are welcome to call Leona Komine at 741-7020 for an appointment.

Our next *Merrie Ladies* gathering will take place on Monday, November 6th at the Gyotaku Restaurant in Waimalu. We will be making ribbon angel ornaments for the patients at Tripler's Center for Aging for our Christmas community service activity. We need to make 60 angels for the patients and everyone who participates in this project will also be able to make a ribbon angel for themselves. All materials will be provided.

Further details will be announced in our October newsletter or you may call **Esther Takenaka** at [456-7822](tel:456-7822); **Nari Hamlin** at [486-7159](tel:486-7159) or **Marion Von** at [732-3908](tel:732-3908).

Marion



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 17, 2006**— **1300, Bridge Group Party, Colannade on the Green, Aiea**
(Sunday)
- Sept 21, 2006** — **C-17 Globemaster Briefing and Tour, 535th Airlift Squadron Building, Hickam AFB**
(Thursday)
- Sept 22, 2006.**— **Golf Outing, Leilehua Gof Club, Shofield Barracks**
(Friday)
- Oct 19, 2006** **Luncheon Meeting with Hawaii Chapter**
(Thursday)
- Oct 21, 2006** **Army Retiree Appreciation Day, Schofield Barracks**
(Saturday)

Notice

This Newsletter is published monthly as an official publication of Aloha Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 19267, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817-8267. Views expressed herein are not necessarily chapter policy.



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The Hale Koa welcomes all active duty and retired military, Reserve/National Guard members and dependents, current and retired Department of Defense civilians and sponsored guests.



TRICARE FOR LIFE Pharmacy Benefit Change

As stated in a Tricare for Life news release, dated June 22, 2006, "Effective immediately, Tricare beneficiaries with other health insurance no longer have to file paper claims for prescription filled at most retail pharmacies. Retail pharmacist can immediately submit electronic claims to Tricare when a beneficiary purchases medications."

The article goes on to say, "Previously, Tricare paid claims for beneficiaries with other health insurance through a manual process. Tricare required the beneficiary to mail a claim form and their receipt to Express Scripts INC., the pharmacy contractor. The new policy allows a pharmacy to receive Tricare payment before requesting a co-payment from the beneficiary. In many instances, the beneficiary can leave the pharmacy with lesser out-of-pocket expenses and no requirement to file a claim.

Bob



SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN Enrollment Ending

The Survivor Benefit Open (SBP) Enrollment period ends Sept. 30, 2006. If you're considering making an election—that is electing SBP or increasing your participation—you need to gather the information to make that decision now. What coverage, if any, do you have now? What would an open season election cost you? What benefits would it bring to those you enroll? Visit the special open enrollment section at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/SBPOpenEnrollment.asp> for more information and, most importantly, links to calculators that will help you estimate costs and future benefits. If your questions are not answered on the homepage, you may contact your Retirement Services Officer (RSO).

Note: The RSO at Schofield Barracks (808 655 1514) will provide information to all branches of the Military.

Bob



GALLERY OF HEROES CEREMONY

UNITED STATES ARMY MUSEUM OF HAWAII, FORT DERUSSY

For several years, the Hawaii Army Museum Society (HAMS) has sponsored an Induction and Memorialization Ceremony to honor individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross for their heroic and valorous actions in combat.

Today, we have twenty recipients of the Medal of Honor and forty-seven recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, which includes two recipients of the Navy Cross, who are memorialized in the Gallery of Heroes of the United States Army Museum of Hawaii located on Fort DeRussy, Hawaii.

On Friday, October 27, 2006, Captain Humbert R. Versace, deceased, a recipient of the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Vietnam War, will be inducted and memorialized in the Gallery of Heroes. The West Point Class of 1959, of which

Captain Versace was a former member, is holding their annual reunion in Hawaii during October 22 to October 29, 2006. We feel it is appropriate to honor Captain Versace with his Induction and Memorialization in the presence of his relatives, classmates and friends during the reunion of the Class of 1959 in Hawaii. Accordingly we have selected October 27, 2006, as the date to honor Captain Humbert R. Versace.

You are invited to the Induction and Memorialization ceremony to honor Captain Humbert R. Versace scheduled at 1:00 p.m. on October 27, 2006, at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, Fort DeRussy. Your acceptance to attend the ceremony may be submitted by completing the form below and mailed as indicated or you may respond by e-mail to Mr. Howard S. Okada at: okadahs@lava.net. Please submit your response by October 10, 2006. Should you desire additional information, please call Mr. Howard S. Okada at 523-9026.

Howard



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Troops to Teachers



GALLERY OF HEROES CEREMONY

ACCEPTANCE FORM

I (we) accept the invitation and will attend ceremony to honor Captain Humbert R. Versace at 1:00 p.m. on October 27, 2006 at Fort DeRussy.

Last First MI Rank or Title

Last First MI Rank or Title

Telephone: _____

Please mail your response to:

Mr. Howard S. Okada
4300 Waialae Avenue, #1202-A
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Chapter August Bridge Party

The Chapter's Party Bridge session in August, magnificently hosted by **Dick and Charleen Towne**, was held on Sunday the 20th at the Fahrni Realty building in Aiea. Participants were awed by the delicious and varied goodies (as evidenced by an accompanying photo) they offered for these increasingly popular party bridge sessions. There were 6 tables for this session, the most since the program began in 2004!



Co-Host Charleen Towne with some eager bridge players ready to taste the elaborate spread of goodies

The 24 participants were chapter members and spouses: **Mitzi Austin, Anna Blackwell, Bill & Trudi Ernst, Len & Helen Fahrni, Sam Heard, Helen Hubbell, Les & Shirley Ihara, John Kim, Mel Kuwamoto, Dave & Lois Luehring, Ken & Lillian Patterson, Dick & Charleen Towne, and Vernon & Marion Von.** Potential members were **Les Kodama** and his wife, **Mitzi**, and **Harriet Weisman**. Invited guest was **Hazel Theodore**.

The top 6 scorers were, in order: **Char-**



THE WINNERS OF THE PRIZES AWARDED

Seated, left to right: Helen Fahrni, "Duce Prize" winner, and Charleen Towne, the top scorer.

Standing, left to right: Les Kodama-2nd, Vernon Von-Chapter President, Hazel Theodore-5th, Harriet Weisman-3rd, Lillian Patterson-4th & Trudi Ernst-6th.

lene Towne, Les Kodama, Harriet Weisman, Lillian Patterson, Hazel Theodore, and Trudi Ernst.

A great big MAHALO to **Dick & Charleen Towne** for being such generous hosts!

The next party bridge session will be held at the Colonnade on the Green beginning at 1 pm on Sunday, September 17th. Co-hosts will be **Mitzi Austin, Sam Heard** and **Helen Hubbell**. Those interested in playing on that date but have not signed-up are asked to contact **Mitzi** at [486-0900](tel:486-0900) NLT Wednesday, September 13th.

Shirley



Aloha Chapter Golf Report For August

By Norm Fujiwara

This month's golf outing had couple of first time events. First of all, after months of calling the golf course to cancel one or two reserved tee times, this month I had to call the golf course to add an additional tee time to accommodate our all-time high participation of 29 players, including 5 wahine, 8 guests and 16 regular players.

For our 7 tee times, all of the participants had a beautiful day on the course weather-wise; there were several walkers, who were able to withstand the humidity and warm temperature—how they did it is beyond me—you will have to ask **Barbara Chong** and husband **Cedric**. I am generally a walker, but I chickened out and rode a golf cart.

All 29 players were ready and willing to play as requested, prepared to tee off after the preceding group of golfers teed off. As usual the groups were led by **Allen Ono** and **Bob Kozuki**, who teed off promptly at 9:30AM.

There were 10 players that not only had a good time playing but were compensated by sharing the mega jackpot. There were five winning pairs

determined by drawing numbered chips; partners were determined by matching numbers. There was a three-way tie for third place so a tie breaker was instituted. In fifth place **Doug Kohl** and yours truly, in fourth place were **Roy Hatada** and **Bob Nagao**, in third place were **Yoshi Nakamura** and **Vernon Von**, in second place were **Mae Uemura** and **Jerry Wong**, and the grand champions were **Walter Kinoshita** and **Ed Hasegawa**. In the also ran group were **Joe Kuroda**, **Marvin Baum**, **Howard Okada**, **Honey-jean Katsarsky**, **Cedric Chong**, **Alice Fujiwara**, **Leroy Perry**, **Marilyn Tagawa**, **Ken Yamada**, **Jack Bohman**, **Mel Soong**, **Allen Ono**, **Ken Munechika**, **Ira Tagawa**, **Kevin Wong**, **Clarence Agena**, **Barbara Chong**, **Bob Kozuki**, and **Reggie Kunimatsu**.

As chair for the golf program, I wish to convey a big "Mahalo" to all of the participants for making our August golf outing such a successful outing.

Next month's schedule is at Leilehua Golf Course; first tee time will be at 9:06AM, Friday, September 22nd

Aloha and a hui hou kakou,

Norm



Recruit A New Member in 2006!

Your Aloha Chapter is always looking for new members—active duty, retirees, and auxiliary members, all are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of the Aloha Chapter. Make it your goal to recruit at least one new member in 2006. For more information, contact **Gordon Cho**, **Vernon Von** or any member.

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C – 17 Tour

We have finally received word that our tour of the C-17 transport plane has been approved. It will be held on **Thursday, September 17, 2006**. All attendees are asked to be at the 535th Airlift C-17 Squadron Building at 9:15am and the actual tour will begin with a briefing at 9:30am. This building is on the Diamondhead-side of the Air Mobility Command (formerly known as MAC) Terminal on Hickam AFB. If you get to the AMC Passenger Terminal, you can't miss it.

Recently, two C-17s evacuated everyone from Wake Island before Super Typhoon Ioke swept over it on August 31st.

Right after the briefing, we will be taken to view the exterior and interior of this huge transport, which will be parked just outside the building.

Please send in your reservation using the form on this page to the upper right as soon as you can.

For those who choose to have lunch on Hickam AFB, we have made arrangements to have lunch at Wilbur & Orville's Restaurant. This restaurant is located next to the Hickam Officers Club, which will still be under renovations at that time. You will have a choice of hot lunches or sandwiches.

Harold



Membership Application

Name _____
 Branch of Service _____ Rank _____
 Retired Active Former _____
 Reserve National Guard Auxiliary* _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Chapter Name Aloha Chapter, HI
 Chapter Recruiter _____

**Surviving spouse of eligible officer.
 Dues to MOAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to MILITARY OFFICER magazine.*

RESERVATION FORM

C-17 TOUR

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Hickam AFB

9:15 am to 12:00 noon

Member: _____ Spouse _____

Guest(s): _____ Transportation ____ (check, if needed)

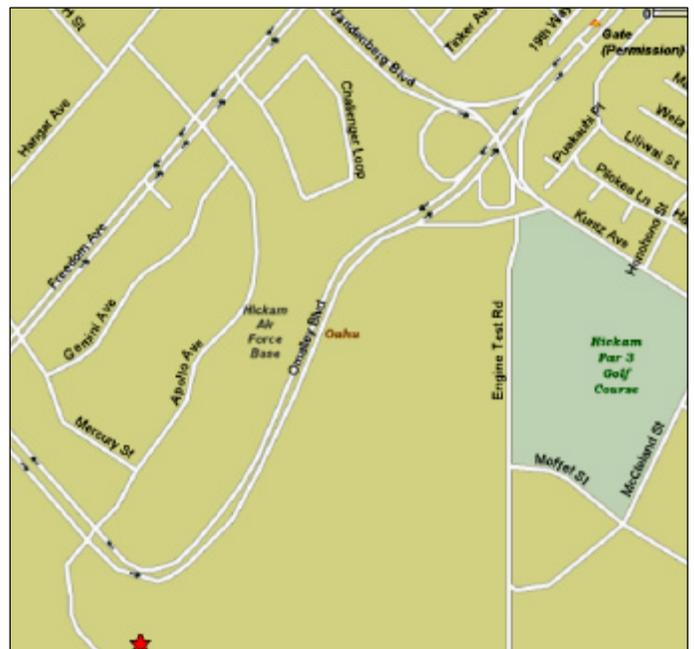
Please send in your reservation by Friday, September 15, 2006 to:

Aloha Chapter, MOAA
 P. O. Box 19267
 Honolulu, HI 96817

Note: You may also make your reservation via e-mail – harold@hele.net or by phone – 944-4010



Boeing C-17 Globemaster III and Diamond Head



535th Airlift Squadron Building is near RED STAR

Aloha Chapter
 Military Officers Association
 Of America
 P.O. Box 19267
 Honolulu HI 96817-8267



MOAA Seal

Aloha Chapter



Awards

- * 2000 Outstanding Chapter Runner-Up
- * 2000 3-Membership Recruiting Awards
- * 2001 Outstanding Chapter
- * 2001 Membership Recruiting Award
- * 2002 5-Star Chapter
- * 2002 Excellence in Recruiting Award
- * 2003 Honorable Mention Newsletter
- * 2003 4-Star Chapter
- * 2004 Winner Best Website
- * 2004 2nd Runner-Up Electronic Newsletter
- * 2004 4-Star Chapter
- * **2005 Winner-Cat VII "Give Me 10" Recruitment Campaign**
- * **2005 5-Star Chapter**

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