



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

The Retired Officers Association P.O. Box 1185 Kailua Hawaii 96734

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WEBSITE <http://www.troa-hawaii.net>

April 2002

PACIFIC WAR MEMORIAL

Kanehoe Marine Corps Base 16 March 2002



Under war sunny skies Pacific Warriors , then and now gathered to celebrate the dedication of the Pacific Memorial to the Marines, Sailors, Coast Guardsman, and Soldiers who took part in the assault and taking Iwo Jima, symbolized with the raising of the Stars and Stripes on Mount Surabachi. Hawaii Chapter went on record in December 2000 in support of this project and many members as individuals were



key to its success, Dick Vercauteren and Swede Olson were on the Pacific Memorial Board of Directors and Chip Parker, K-Bay's former Commander was the catalyst for the Memorials Site selection. As a Chapter we have a brick, as do many of us have individually, to show our grand children. Once again our Chapter has played a significant role with our visible support to Hawaii's Military community.

TAPS— CAPTAIN TED DABAGH USNR

Who are these happy, smiling faces ? None other than Lorraine and Terry Archibald, owners of Flag n' Things who supported our November General Membership meeting at the Hickam Officers Club. For those of you who were not among the 100 plus participants that memorable day, Lorraine and Terry



turned out, donating national , state, and holiday flags for Roxanna Faith's silent auction. As she we say Mahali Nui Loa to Terry and Lorraine for your contribution toward Hawaii Chapter's Food Bank initiative — and Mahalos to Roxanna and the Auxiliary for this annual project.

Executive Committee**Elected Officers**

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Alohas — we move into the month with a con-
tinuation of our unusual weather in the hope that
“April Showers will bring May Flowers”.

Hawaii Chapter moves right along, having an-
other fun social program at the “Sea Breeze”, on
Hickam Air Force Base. As promised Kathy and Rich-
ard Delong, fulfilled the promised of a fabulous Sunset
over the Pacific, a choice of menu, and interesting
topic, as evidence by those folks who sought out the
speaker at the end of her presentation. We will con-
tinue in Chapter tradition of offering to those—who
choose to participate — and interesting social pro-
gram that offers both an opportunity to be with our
fellow officers, their spouses and auxiliary as well as
presentations of interest to the membership. For the
month of April, we have a program at the Banyans on
Wed, the 25th — which will feature two presentations,
one on the opportunities available at the Kiluea Mili-
tary Camp—and the 2d associated topic, will be from
a speaker representing the National Pars Service. In
the month of May on Sat the —, we will move to Lani-
kai Community Park, to enjoy another Lucille and
Nelson Shreve production put on by the Lanikai Play-
ers. So — for the social set, put that on your calendars.

On news from my end, Nancy and I have once
again been invited by the TROA National organiza-
tion to attend the Council President’s Seminar 10-12
April. As part of Thursday’s “Storming the Hill”, a do
have scheduled appointments with Senators Inouye (a
Hawaii Chapter Life member) ,Akaka, and Represent-
atives Abercrombie and Mink. Should you have any
subject you would like me to convey, please let me
know your concerns, at your convenience. TROAs fo-
cus for discussion will be “Concurrent Receipt of Mili-
tary Retired Pay and VA Disability Compensation.

As to other news in the Chapter, John Peters
has completed a 100% scrub of our membership—and
sent out letter to folks whose memberships have ex-
pired. Accordingly, by the end of the month we will
have an accurate membership picture for the remain-
der of 2002 .

We are also working with Mapu Jamias in
American Samoa on starting another satellite to com-
pliment are satellites at Hilo and Kailua– Kona. We
would also like to reach out to members on Kauai and
Maui who may have an interest in sharing our Cha-
pter fellowship and professionalism.

I will draw to a close — with a reminder for
your nominations to the Doleman Award Committee -
which will be presented during May’s Military Week
activities. Mahalos Duke

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SUNSET AT THE SEA BREEZE MARCH 28,2002

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COMING EVENTS

- 6 Apr (Sat) - The Users Group (TUG) Bishop Museum
- 9 Apr (Tues) - Kailua-Kona Satellite Mtg (Huggo's Restaurant in Kailua-Kona
- 17 Apr (Wed) - Tripler Hawaii Regional Beneficiary Advisory Council/Health Consumer Committee Meeting –TAMC
- 18 Apr (Thur) - LAVA Meeting (1130) - HAFB O-Club
- 18 Apr (Thurs) - Executive Committee Meeting (1300) - HAFB O-Club
- 20 Apr (Sat) - Hilo Satellite Meeting (1200) Club 100
- 24 Apr (Wed) - *April Social Program—Banyans*
- 27 Apr (Sat) - Party Bridge-Reservation-Call Robbie 255-4558
- 4 May (Sat) - The Users Group (TUG) Bishop Museum
- May (Tues) - Kailua-Kona Satellite Mtg (Huggo's Restaurant in Kailua-Kona
- May (Sat) - Hilo Satellite — Club 100 Hilo
- May (Thur) - LAVA Meeting (1130) - HAFB O-Club
- May (Fri) - Executive Committee Meeting (1200) - HAFB O-Club
- 18 May (Sat) - Hilo Satellite Meeting (1200) - Club 100
- May (Wed) - *April Social Program—Hale Ikena*
- May (Sat) - Party Bridge-Reservation-Call Robbie 255-4558

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Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA) Captain George Sullivan USN



Concurrent Receipt Funding possible...Limited to highest disabled

It is looking like there may be some funding this year for Concurrent Receipt. Both the House and Senate Budget Committees approved partial funding in their respective Budget Resolutions. Nothing is certain and should it become law, it will probably be limited to veterans with the highest disability. In another matter, the House Budget Committee rejected the Bush Administration's proposal to charge a \$1500 deductible for Category 7 veterans when they seek health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Guard and Reserve Activations Surge
Defense Department officials who testified before a Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) on March 13, 2002 reported there are now more than 85,000 reserve component members on duty supporting Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, including 7,000 Army and Air National Guard servicemembers on Title 32 active duty protecting domestic airports.

Air Force Women Officers Associated Joins Military Coalition.

The Military Coalition, a consortium of military and veterans' organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community including active duty, National Guard / Reserve servicemembers, military retirees, family members and veterans, approved the application of the Air Force Women Officers Associated as an Affiliated Member at its February meeting. Formed in 1975, AFWOA represents the interests of more than 900 active duty, National Guard / Reserve, retired and former officers of the U.S. Air Force. One of the purposes of the organization is to preserve the history and promote recognition of the role of military women.

Col. Bud Day back in Court

Col. George "Bud" Day, USAF (Ret), wearing the Medal of Honor awarded for his heroism as a Vietnam prisoner of war, did a fourth round of battle with Justice Department lawyers at a hearing on March 6, 2002 of the Class Act Group's health care lawsuit before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In the first round in September 1998, a Florida district court "regretfully" ruled for the government. Col. Day won the second round in February 2001, when a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the government had effectively made a contract to provide free care and hadn't kept it. In the third round last June, federal lawyers convinced the full Court of Appeals to rehear the case. A court clerk cautioned afterward that a judge's final decision can't always be predicted from his or her hearing questions during oral argument. But the tone of the hearing and the fact that three of the judges previously ruled for the retirees certainly can't hurt the prospects of a favorable outcome. Court sources indicate that it may be as little as a few weeks or as long as a few months before the court issues its ruling in the case.

Commissary Funding

The House panel responsible for overseeing commissary and exchange operations and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs held its only hearing of the year on March 12, 2002 and received testimony from The Military Coalition (TMC) representatives, including TROA's COL Frank Rohrbough, USAF-Ret., Service witnesses, and the Commander of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA). Panel Chairman Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) stressed in his opening remarks that "the value of on-base retail and MWR programs are even more important to support [military] families in times of heightened security." TMC witnesses stated, "The Coalition appreciates [the commissary agency's] continuing commitment to maintain or improve customer service while achieving greater efficiencies, but cautions against moving too aggressively so as to negatively impact customer service, store operations and employee morale.

Personal Affairs Committee (PAC)

Colonel John Harms USMC



TRICARE FOR LIFE continued

Personal Affairs Committee
(PAC)

TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) – Some interesting positive nuances have evolved with this program since the last article so please read all elements carefully. Many times my mind knows what I want to write, but somehow it does not get down on paper the same way.

First - Reissuing of military ID cards reflecting eligibility for TFL has been the subject of a few telephone calls this month. One item I incorrectly wrote about last month. For retired military personnel under "Medical" on the back or reverse side of the ID will read "Civilian – yes" "Effective date - your 65 birthday" and "Expiration Date – Indefinite". The mistake I made is that for dependents of military personnel there WILL be an expiration date and that is the date your ID card expires. As we know dependents have to renew their ID cards on a periodic basis. Hope that clarifies that issue.

Second – March TROA National Magazine had an article in it that stated a retired military/dependant DID NOT have to get a new ID card reissued to reflect TFL. Technically they are correct, but realistically they are INCORRECT. According to National TRICARE the two largest problems that have been identified in TFL claim settlements have been expired ID cards as well as medical doctors/service agencies not accepting a person for TFL because their ID card is an old one that states on reverse of ID card "Medical – Civilian – No". This occurs mostly when traveling and when an emergency room visit is required or you are seeing a new doctor during your travels. They do not know you and will not take the chance of non-payment so you have to pay the 20% Medicare A or B does not cover as a co-payment at the time of treatment. Then the individual retiree files for payment of this 20% when they get home directly with TFL. The second biggest problem area is retirees/dependents not advising TFL that they have dropped their previous Medicare supplemental

insurance in a timely manner or at all. We have beaten this drum enough in the past, and I have had no telephone calls on this issue for some weeks now.

Third – If you are traveling outside the United States or its Territories Medicare will NOT pay for any emergency medical services. TFL WILL pay up to 80% (or what Medicare normally pays) for overseas emergency services once the deductible is met. I believe this is \$150 per individual or \$300 per family per fiscal year, will verify for next PHK. The retiree and/or dependant will have to pay for these services when received at an overseas location then file a claim with TFL for reimbursement when you get back home to the United States/Territories. The question relative to emergency medical air evacuation costs being covered by TFL is being researched and will be in next PHK.

From a TRICARE National level included in the DoD Military Construction Budget Request for FY 2003 includes among other items \$2.7 million for the replacement of the Life Skills Clinic at Hickam Air Force Base. Since this new facility will primarily deal with the sensitive issues of mental health, family advocacy and substance abuse support services, this is provided primarily for your information.

Dr. Marvin Baum, L/C, USAF Ret
Optometrist
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HELP WANTED!!!!

The Annual TROA Summer Picnic needs a coordinator or two or more coordinators to put the picnic together. If you would like the Chapter to hold a summer picnic and are willing to help, please call Jack Miller at 261-4100. Jack will be off-island in August but along with the experience of Ben Porter, we can help to get the details moving. But . . . if there is no interest - no picnic. A go- no go decision needs to be made by June. In the past, the get together has been a lot of fun and a traditional summer event that the members have enjoyed. If you can use the telephone, you can be the coordinator, so please seriously consider volunteering to help your chapter out.

LUANA KOA Update**Continuing Care Retirement Resort Community
Nancy Schoocraft**

Progress is being made! We are 85% there! The development team met with the Kapolei Neighborhood Board in February and received unanimous support and approval for the "go ahead" of the site and project. Application has been made to the City and County of Honolulu for the appropriate zoning. Luana Koa's consultant from the mainland met with the TROA task force on March 21st. He was very impressed with their knowledge of the senior living industry. The consultant will be tightening up the various aspects of the development and we should be close to pre-marketing by the beginning of Summer. We will keep you posted. For any questions you might have, please e-mail them to: hiseniorliving@aol.com.

BRIDGE CORNER

When you talk about being HOT, think of Gigette and Craig Caldwell who absolutely were so hot they sizzled at the monthly TROA Party Bridge gathering on 30Mar2002 at the home of "Hostess with the Mostest" Judith Breitwieser in Kailua. Gigette took home the first place prize for highest score of the evening, and Craig took the second place prize, both with dynamite scores. Not to be outdone, Hostess Judith took third place prize, reaping the rewards due her for a fantastic evening. The person who won the Booby prize for last place shall remain anonymous.

This group truly has a lot of fun and provides another avenue of camaraderie for members of the Hawaii Chapter, TROA, to know one another better aside from just the monthly dinners. Nonsmoking players of various ages and bridge playing abilities enjoy participating, so whether you have a partner or not, join in the fun. Just call Robbie Gee at 255-4558 for further information. The group meets on the LAST SATURDAY of each month at 7 PM.

**PHARMACY CORNER**
Colonel Clyde Friar USA

The pharmacy program DOD and Health Net program have set up appears to be doing very well with only a few minor glitches. Some of these are mentioned below as reminders.

1. The "network" pharmacies now include Longs, Safeway, COSCO, and K-Mart. If no other health insurance (OHI) is involved, 30-day supply of generics is \$3, brand name \$9. Need only prescription and ID card. There is a major difference with non-network pharmacies (e.g. TIMES) where you are involved with the TRICARE \$150 deductible and other potential charges.
2. If OHI is not exhausted, you will have to pay the co-payment or other network pharmacy charges, and file DOD form 2642. Mail it to PGBA, Box 870001, Surfside Beach, SC29587-8701. Be sure to attach the pharmacy receipt showing the amount you paid out-of-pocket and also ask the pharmacist to handwrite the actual cost of the medica-

tion on the receipt. For more information call the DOD Center at 1-877-363-6337. If you are uncertain whether you have been successful in cancelling OHI, call 1-866-835-7422 and press options 1, 2 and 3 to speak to a representative, 3. There have been questions about Camp Catlin refills. Call DOD refill telephone number the day before desired and when prompted, choose #7 the Tripler Consolidated refill site. Pick up the next day except weekends and holidays. No controlled medications will be provided. That refill center will be enlarged greatly and operated in the new Navy Exchange now under construction when completed this fall. More on this later.

If there are other questions or comments, call Clyde Friar at 262-5086 or e-mail clfriar@aol.com.

