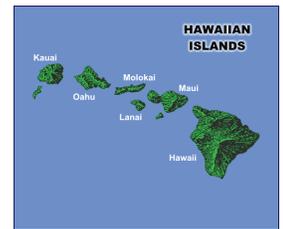




Pau Hana Koa

- The Warriors' Newsletter -
Hawaii State Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



Vol. 24 No. 2

WEBSITE <http://www.moaa-hawaii.org>

February 2009

Aloha President Obama!!

By LtCol Jerry East, USAF (Retired)

Our military community on the Windward-side received a very special holiday treat from our Commander-In Chief Elect and his charming family. During his 12 day Christmas visit to the neighborhood of many chapter members, he often worked out at the Kaneohe Marine Base gym. His wife Michelle, joined him on occasion, as their vacation home on Kailua Beach was only about ten minutes away.

Military personnel and families were allowed into the gym for their usual workouts during these visits and others gathered outside to pay their respects. Outside the gym, casual pictures were allowed and the President Elect was generous with hand shakes, greetings and his famous smile.

He was very neighborly with everyone, but made sure the younger children received his special attention.

Those entering the gym could pursue their personal exercise routines. President Elect Obama made it clear that he wanted no exercise equipment reserved for him



or his wife. It was heart warming to see the military members offering the use of their equipment if he showed the slightest interest. The military and family members were respectful and sensitive to his purpose for visiting the gym.

On the lighter side, one of our MOAA members, Jerry East, stretched out on a gym mat that had just been vacated by the President. A few minutes later, he was surprised to see the President Elect standing beside him smiling. Jerry, of course, offered the return of his mat, which he graciously refused. The President then casually laid down on the cold dusty gym floor and completed his workout. Jerry, a daily visitor to the gym, said the President appeared to be in great shape.

His visits to the gym were a very special experience for all our military families, but especially for our young military personnel, soon to see combat. Hopefully, we'll enjoy his return next year. Chicago winter weather doesn't offer much competition.

Coming Events February

- 7 Feb (Sat) The Users Group (TUG), 1000 OVC
- 20 Feb (Fri) EXCOM Mtg, 1115 MCBH O'Club
- 24 Feb (Tue) Luncheon w/FBI Presentation 1100 Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter

Coming Events March

- 7 Mar (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000 OVC
- 9 Mar (Mon) PAC Mtg, 1100 Sam Sneads
- 19 Mar (Thu) Luncheon, Time & Place TBD
Speaker: VADM Robert K.U. Kihune
- 20 Mar (Fri) EXCOM Mtg, 1115 MCBH O'Club



PERSPECTIVES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by CDR John L. Miller – USN (Ret.)

Pressing On — It's a New Year, a New Administration and It's Our Country . . . So God Bless America!!

Last month we had on the front page of the Pau Hana Koa, President Bush in the Oval Office with our co-editor George Sullivan. So this month we could not resist sharing Jerry East's story relating to the recent Christmas visit of President Obama to Kailua. Our Chapter members do rub elbows with the top. If any Chapter Members attended the Inauguration in Washington, we would like you to share with the membership your experience as a witness to this special moment of history. Just call PHK co-editor Ron Bezanson at 955-4838 for advice on writing your story; limit it to 500 words; and include a picture if possible. It's just that easy.

Two big salutes this month to our new Auxiliary Chair Anna Blackwell and to our new Chapter Surgeon, CDR John Boyer, USN. You can learn more about the talented Anna in this issue, but now a few words about Dr. Boyer.

A few years back, long time Chapter member and good guy, Admiral Joe Vasey introduced me to another good guy interested in joining the Chapter, Dr. Boyer. [John D. Boyer, M.D.](#) is board certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is an Associate of the [American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology](#). Prior to opening his private practice in Honolulu, Dr. Boyer was appointed Dermatology Consultant and Mohs Surgeon for the Office of the Attending Physician at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., serving members of the U.S. Congress, Supreme Court, and Executive Branch.

We are fortunate to have both Anna and John in the Chapter and appreciate their willingness to step up and join the Chapter leadership.

Last but not least, a special thanks to those Executive Committee members that diligently and faithfully served the Chapter in 2008. Your contributions are recognized, appreciated and for those moving on — you will be missed.

Aloha, *Jack*

As I See It — Budget “Options” Stir Concerns

By Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF, Retired

A document published by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in December 2008 has been causing understandable consternation on many fronts, including the military and veteran community.

Ominously titled “Budget Options: Volume 1, Health Care” (with more volumes yet to come on other issues), it offers “115 options for reducing (or, in some cases, increasing) federal spending on health care, altering federal health care programs, and making substantive changes to the nation's health insurance system.”

Those options range from authorizing private sector workers to purchase coverage under the federal civilian health plan to raising the Medicare eligibility age to 67 and raising Medicare Part B premiums by 40 percent.

There are several, in particular, that grab the attention of the military and veterans community, including options that would:

Authorize a \$500 annual health care allowance for active duty families but charge them 10 percent of the cost of care and impose a fee for them to use military hospitals and clinics.

Change TRICARE For Life so it would not cover the first \$525 of Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries annual cost-share and cover only half of the next \$4,725. This option also would impose charges for those who use military hospitals and clinics.

Raise TRICARE fees for military retirees under age 65 to more than double the current rates. Annual enrollment fees for TRICARE Prime would be \$550 (single) and \$1,100 (family). TRICARE Standard deductibles would be raised to \$350 (single) and \$700 (family) plus an annual enrollment fee of \$50 (single) and \$100 (family), plus additional charges for those who use military facilities.

End VA health care eligibility for veterans in categories 7 and 8 (nondisabled vets above certain income levels).

Reopen VA health care enrollment to category 8 veterans for five years. *(Continued on Page 5)*

-- CHAPTER SOCIAL EVENTS --

Tuesday 24 FEBRUARY @ 1100

Luncheon w/FBI Presentation

Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter

19 MARCH Luncheon, (Tentative)

Time & Place TBD

Speaker: VADM Robert K. U. Kihune, Trustee

Kamehameha Schools Trust

See Page 5 for details.

Thinning of the Ranks

We are pleased to report that no deaths occurred among Chapter Members during the past month.

Binnacle List

No reports have been received of members who are hospitalized or seriously ill.

Personal Affairs Committee (PAC)

The PAC held its first meeting of 2009 on January 12 at Sam Snead's Conference Room. RADM Bruce Smith has stepped down as PAC Chairman and is replaced by CDR Bill Moore. The Chapter PAC initiates assistance and counsels members who have lost spouses, especially as regards coordination with Federal and State Agencies. Committee members for 2009 are: CDR Bill Moore, Chairman; COL Ron Bezanson, Chaplain; LtCol Lou Crompton, Secretary, Cdr Jack Miller, USN Rep; COL John Harms, USMC Rep; CAPT Jerry Lesperance, USCG Rep; LTC Darrell Large, USA Rep; LTC Tom Seale, USA Rep; Mrs. Anna Blackwell, Auxiliary Rep.

TUG (Continued from Page 6) where the "P" comes from ☺

And finally, there are lots of photo sharing programs around, but I think this may be the easiest I have seen; besides, with Memeo Share you get 1GB totally free, there is no trial and no credit card required. Check it out and download at: <http://www.memeo.com/memeoshare.ph> That's it for this time; stay tuned for more on CES and have fun checking all of the above sites...and remember to keep safe out there in www land. Be sure to read the whole article which will be posted on the web 1 Feb and contains more detail on each writeup as well as pictures visit www.tinyurl.com/363qe Come visit us at one of our 2 monthly meetings. Schedules and directions are at www.the-tug.or Aloha, **LOU**

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2009
CHAPTER DONATIONS
 AS OF 25 JANUARY 2009 - GOAL IS \$6000
 Received to date \$ 750.00

GOLD CONTRIBUTORS (\$100 OR MORE)

R.L. and Kiyoko Vonier (x2), Richard and Beverly Lynn Meiers, Ralph and Clara Cook, Trish Kubach

SILVER CONTRIBUTORS (\$50 TO \$99)

Tom Smyth, Thomas J. Wells, Lynn Alward-Bingman, Clint Churchill

BRONZE CONTRIBUTORS (\$25 TO \$49)

Regina Foster, Gerda Lippincott

If you donated in any of these categories and your name is not present call me, John Harms at 261-2282



1ST LIEUTENANT JONATHAN BROSTROM
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
\$4,685.00 AS OF 18 JANUARY 2009

Colonel Hiatt and the Brostrom family continue to coordinate the administration and implementation of this scholarship. If any members desire to donate to this Memorial Scholarship Fund, please so indicate in your donation submission to the Chapter Treasurer.

The following donations have been received:

Gold Level (\$100 or more): Brianne Clark, Ilene Brostrom (x5), Dale and Ferne Brostrom (x5), Jan and Ed Smith, Bryan and Penelope Brown, William R. Liggett, Amanda Lindley, Thomas Action, H. William Burgess, Ronale Whittington, Richard and Aldine Vos, Bernard A K S Ho, Edward and Linda Tseu, George and Susan Krueger, Kurt and Marcia Andrews, Morris and Judith Tamanaha, Damien Memorial Schools, Personnel Boeing Aircraft, Seal Beach, CA (x7.5), Antonio and Debra Taguba, George and Roberta Sullivan, Bruce and Cali Smith, Ralph Hiatt, Damian & Christina DiNicola, Thomas and Sarah Fargo (x2.5)

Silver Level (\$50.00 to \$99.00): Brett Sowell, Hawes Home & School Assoc., E V Aguirre Jeffries, Marcella and Michael Young, Sheeli Fernandez, Roberta and Steve Watanabe

Bronze Level (\$20.00 to \$49.00): Elizabeth Kamida, Wallace and Suzanne Bonds, Alan Iwase, Ronald and Cecelia Cambra, David and Rosemarie Tom, Dorothy Zahnow, Gary and Grace Fujii

Veterans' Important Phone Numbers

submitted by John Harms

VA Benefits 1-800-827-1000

Health Care 1-877-222-8387

Education 1-888-442-4551

Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477

Debt Management 1-800-827-0648

Mammography Hotline 1-888-492-7844

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf,

(TDD) 1-800-829-4833

CHAMPVA 1-800-733-8387

Headstones and Markers 1-800-697-6947

Special Health Issues: Gulf War, Agent Orange,

Project 112/Shad 1-800-749-8387

VA Home Page www.va.gov

VA Health Care www.va.gov/health_benefits/

Returning Vets ... www.seamlesstransition.va.gov/

Survivors www.vba.va.gov/survivors/index.htm

Facilities ... www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp

VA Forms www.va.gov/vaforms/

VA Benefit www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/

Education Benefits www.gibill.va.gov/

Home Loan Guaranty www.homeloans.va.gov/

Life Insurance www.insurance.va.gov/

Voc Rehab www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm

Burial/Memorial Benefits www.cem.va.gov/

Vets Employment and Training . www.dol.gov/vets/

Federal Jobs www.usajobs.opm.gov/

Veterans Preference www.opm.gov/

veterans/index.asp

Records www.archives.gov/st-louis/

military-personnel/

Department of Defense www.defenselink.mil/

As I See It — Budget “Options” Stir Concerns *(Continued from Page 2)*

First things first: It’s important to understand that this book of options is nothing new. CBO puts out similar lists of options at the start of every Congress, and previous option books have included these or similar proposals. Some of the cuts were, in fact, put in the Bush administration’s annual budgets, but they were rebuffed by Congress every year.

Second, these are “options” put forth by CBO, not “recommendations.” In many cases, the papers acknowledge there are downsides to the proposals, such as the likelihood that higher fees will deter beneficiaries from seeking needed care.

Are we saying you shouldn’t be concerned? Definitely not. For one thing, the incoming budget czar for President-elect Obama has been the head of CBO – the agency that prepared the budget options list.

It’s a complete unknown at this point what the new President might put in his first budget proposal to Congress – expected sometime this spring. We’ve seen no indication at this point that the new Administration will share the perspective of the last one that more costs ought to be shifted to DoD and VA beneficiaries. But there’s certainly no guarantee the new budget won’t include any such proposals.

What we are confident of is, whether or not this year’s budget proposes any of these or other benefit cutbacks, it’s only a matter of time before the attacks will come again.

With the nation in such a deep economic funk and skyrocketing annual budget deficits as far as the eye can see, every area of the national budget will be coming under scrutiny for possible cutbacks.

With the nation at war, there remains considerable sensitivity in Congress to imposing additional penalties on the military and veterans community that already has borne such a disproportional share of the nation’s wartime sacrifice.

But once those wartime headlines start to fade, watch out.

So watch for your February issue of MOAA’s *Military Officer*, which will provide you four tear-out letters to send key Hill leaders, urging them to sustain a defense budget that will fully fund both personnel and weapons needs and protect beneficiaries against unfair cost-shifting.

About the Author: Col. Steven P. Strobridge, USAF-Ret., joined MOAA’s Government Relations staff in 1994 and was appointed director of Government Relations and elected co-chair of The Military Coalition in March 2001.

**LUNCHEON and FBI PRESENTATION
HALE IKENA OFFICER’S CLUB, FORT SHAFTER
FEBRUARY 24, (TUESDAY) 1100 HOURS**

Acting Special Agent in Charge, Kendrick Williams, of the Honolulu based Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will provide a mission overview of the local FBI office and its interface with local agencies and Home Land Security. Look forward to an informative presentation to include a question and answer period for you to learn more about the FBI operations in Hawaii.

PARADISE LUNCH BUFFET, SALAD, BAKED CHICKEN, BLACKENED CATCH OF THE DAY WITH LEMON BUTTER, DINNER ROLLS, RICE OR GARLIC MASHED POTATOES, SAUTEED VEGETABLE MEDLEY PLUS BROWNIES FOR DESERT , HOT TEA OR COFFEE.

COME AND ENJOY! COST: \$21.00 PER PERSON

CUT AND MAIL

FORT SHAFTER EVENT — Respond Not Later Than February 19

YES _____ I (WE) PLAN TO ATTEND NUMBER IN PARTY _____

NAME TAG(S) TO READ _____

ENCLOSED CHECK FOR:

Luncheon \$ _____ Scholarship fund \$ _____ Community Service \$ _____

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: HAWAII STATE CHAPTER – MOAA
MAIL TO: PO BOX 1185, KAILUA, HI. 96734-1185**



TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)
CES SCORES ANOTHER HOMERUN!

The Consumer Electronics Show erupted like the volcano at the Mirage, and I, along with a 1000 or more media attendees, were there to watch and learn about all the new goodies. The official opening was on Thursday 8 Jan but CES always does what the entertainment industry calls a "soft" opening on Tuesday. Continuing during the week with press events like PEPCOM, ShowStoppers and Lunch at Pieros. Then there is press day on Wednesday where all the big press conferences, like Samsung, Sony, Cisco, and Casio happen. These are really huge and that's why the smaller ones which feature a much smaller number of exhibitors and allow for time to check out the new stuff are usually more productive. So, with all that to see and sort out, what I have done is pick items I personally like having seen them and talked with folks from the companies. I've generally used some of the info provided and then, made my own comments. Next time, I'll have some additional picks after I have a chance to check out some additional ones on their way via the USPS. First up is one of my continuing favorites, **Diskeeper**. No substitute for keeping your PC running smoothly...here's what they say: The one investment that pays for itself many times over in restored performance and hardware life is Diskeeper with InvisiTasking. Once installed, Diskeeper invisibly and automatically maintains performance from that day forward. www.diskeeper.co Next, after you keep your PC running like a champ, what about the old saw, backup, backup, backup? The best solution (read easiest) I have seen is the series of **ClickFree products**. These consist of several options which include hard drives that go as big as 1TB! My personal favorite is a little purple fella... It lets you use your own HD and works the same way as the other media ...plug it in and it does the job automatically, so you now have no excuse for not backing up! Check out the features at www.goclickfree.co.

DLink had quite a few products including the latest, fastest home routers, but I liked the wireless cameras for security. The **D-Link Wireless G Internet Camera** (DCS-920) connects to an Ethernet or wireless network to enable remote high-quality video recording. 802.11g wireless technology allows you to place the DCS-920 in places that were previously inaccessible such as ceiling and walls. Access and control the DCS-920 using any Java-enabled browser, then instantly take snapshots or record directly from the Web browser to a local hard drive. www.dlink.co This one surprised me...I hadn't thought about locks, but this story got my attention: The other day I missed the repairman as I was held up at the doctor's. And, as I suppose many of you know, it's hard enough getting these people to come by in the first place, let alone a second! My husband and I struggle to juggle these commitments as we're not comfortable giving out our keys to strangers. But sometimes you just *have* to. But I don't want the cleaners going into our bedroom and my husband doesn't like strangers going into the office room. What's the solution? We can't put locks on every door, for there's always the danger of my child unknowingly locking himself in or us out! The solution is **Schlage Locks** who have recently developed an ingenious solution to this problem by creating an electronic keypad lock and deadbolt for our homes, both indoor and outdoor. The keypad allows access via a four-digit code that can be customized so members of your family, guests, nannies, and service providers can all access your home using different codes! Each code (up to 19 on each lock!) can be easily set up for a new person or deactivated if you no longer want someone to have access to your house. No more keeping track of spare keys, sending your children to school with a key around their necks, or changing the entire lock if you have a flame out with a nanny. Schlage Electronic Keypad Locks also provide relief from the rare occasions when you are locked out of the house or your child arrives home unexpectedly - without you there. They also have a model that allows you to open your lock via your cell phone or laptop! <http://consumer.schlage.com/electronics/default.as> I grew up looking at **Rand McNally maps!** But over the years as I started to use a computer, I kind of forgot about that brand...turns out, they have a lot to offer when it comes to finding a route...matter of fact they just happen to have the most extensive library of maps for anywhere you might want to find...more than google or yahoo would you believe. So next time you are looking for directions, try them. <http://www.randmcnally.co>

I have been using a **Lexmark all-in-one printer** for a long time and was interested in seeing the new wireless X7675 at the Lunch at Pieros event. I want one! If your in the market for a new wireless machine, take a look at the X7675... Lots of info on this particular model as well as others at www.lexmark.co I've been using **Skype** for free calls around the world, computer to computer for several years. I also subscribe for \$29.99 a year, so I can call any phone in N America. This includes video calls. The quality of these calls has always been excellent. Now, Skype has expanded with mobile service. www.skype.co Small is good! **Asus** continues to stay in front of the pack, IMHO, with their 8.9 inch net books. There are lots out there; I haven't had a chance to try one of these Asus models for any length of time, but hopefully I will in the near future. I'll keep you posted. Here is a product description: Embrace easy, excellent and exciting computing with Eee PC 904HA. Specifically designed for those who are constantly on the move and require a portable productivity companion, the Eee PC 904HA delivers a generous storage capacity in the form of 160GB SATA hard disk drives. The 8.9 display provides comfortable viewing, and a full QWERTY keyboard makes for easier typing and relaxing usage. Built-in camera ensures users stay in touch with the important ones. User friendly XP is pre-loaded. ZBD Guaranteed for best quality LCD. Content includes Eee PC, battery, AC adapter, sleeve case, manual and recovery CD. www.asus.co

In that case is even smaller "gooder"? maybe so, as Sony announced at their press conference their new **Vaio P Series** ultra-compact notebook that has some good specs and an interesting design. The tagline is that the P Series is the lightest 8 inch notebook in the world. Here is what Sony says about their latest: The world's lightest 8" notebook, the 1.4-pound VAIO P Series Lifestyle PC does more than you could imagine—with impeccable style. Email at the airport, IM from the park, or just show it off when you want some attention. Traveling to a new city? Turn-by-turn GPS navigation will get you there faster. Best of all, it fits right in your purse or jacket pocket. Pocket or purse, I guess that's

(cont'd on Page 3)



Meet Our New Auxiliary Chair

Anna Derby Blackwell has accepted appointment as Auxiliary Chair for the Hawaii Chapter, MOAA. She is a Life Member of both the Hawaii and Aloha Chapters, and comes to us from service on the Personal Affairs Committee.

Anna was born in Honolulu, a fifth-generation kama`aina. Not strictly a "military widow," Anna married an Army retiree, LTC (ret) Jesse E. Blackwell, who died in December 2003. Except for a year in New Zealand and six years in Seattle, where Jesse's second career in procurement for the Department of Defense took them, she has lived in Hawaii all her adult life. She has five grown children - two non-profit executives, two teachers, and the marketing coordinator for an environmental services firm in California. There are seven grandchildren, and by the time

you get this a fifth great-grandchild should have put in his appearance.

After spending ten years on Maui as a plantation housewife, Anna began a career in non-profit public relations in Honolulu. She served another ten years as the first executive director of Moanalua Gardens Foundation, establishing an environmental education center in Moanalua once the impact of H-3 was removed. She also served as a trustee of Cooke Foundation, Ltd., retiring in 2008 after 19 years to allow the next generation, in the person of her eldest, Caroline Bond Davis, to assume the reins.

In addition to MOAA participation, Anna's current community activities include choral singing (the Symphony chorus and the Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club chorale); Hawaii Meals on Wheels (delivery and board membership) and the Publications Committee, Daughters of Hawaii. She is an active member of St. Clement's (Episcopal) Church and enjoys hula and Hawaiian quilting.

LAST CALL for Directory Ads at Special Member Rates - -

Our Directory advertisers enjoy access to over 500 MOAA members. Plus, all proceeds from advertising benefit J/ROTC student scholarships. Let our members know about your products and services and help contribute to the education of our future leaders!

Member rates: Full page: \$300, Half page: \$150, One quarter page or business card: \$100

New option -- Advertise your logo or business on our Chapter Home page.

Web logo ad with link on Hawaii State Chapter home page (for 1 year): \$150 (with any above Directory ad purchase). Web site home page: <http://www.moaa-hawaii.org/>

For more information, call Tom Marzec at 808-754-8857, or email: adamtm@lava.net.

UPDATE Your Contact Information for Our Directory - -

The Hawaii State Chapter MOAA Membership Directory for 2009 is being prepared. Ensure that your Name (including spouse, if applicable), Rank, Service, Phone, and Email are correct. Please provide a current email if you do not now receive Chaptergram emails. If previous directories had your correct information, your PHK mailing label is correct, and you receive periodic Chaptergrams or other emails from us, then no action is required. Otherwise, provide our Database Manager, George Montague (montague001@hawaii.rr.com) with any changes or updates by February 6.

To read the PHK in **Vivid COLOR**, go online to:
<http://www.moaa-hawaii.org/documents/currentPHK.pdf>

