



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 19 No. 1

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

January 2004

Military Here Has Global Role By Charles Ota

Charles Ota is the Chamber of Commerce's vice president for military affairs.

Recent letters to the editor suggest that the reason military units are stationed in Hawai'i is to help sustain the state's economy, and that Hawai'i's senior congressional delegates are flexing their influence to funnel defense dollars here to boost the state's economy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The reason for the military presence in Hawai'i is because of the continuing threat of terrorism and aggression in all parts of the world, and internal conflicts within some Asia-Pacific nations. Terrorist operations threaten regional security and the lives of Americans serving abroad and in Hawai'i, Alaska and on the western shores of the Mainland. These conditions threaten global stability, as well as the security of our homeland. The unstable relations between North and South Korea, China and Taiwan, and India and Pakistan are examples of conditions that pose threats

to the United States and the rest of the world.

The forward presence of strong military forces in the Asia-Pacific region demonstrates that the United States recognizes these threats and is prepared to respond quickly to any act of military aggression. It effectively deters aggressive actions by any nation, and enables us to strike back quickly and decisively. The threat of another "Pearl Harbor," this time with weapons of mass destruction, is very real and we cannot afford to ignore it.

The policy of deterrence has and will continue to be the preferred means of preventing wars and other conflicts. It avoids the costly and devastating consequences of a war.

On a broader scope, the policy of deterrence allows for peace and stability

throughout the world. It provides economic security for all nations, allowing them to freely and openly participate in global trade and commerce. Hawai'i's economy is heavily dependent on the benefits of today's global economy.

It doesn't take much to visualize the tremendous impact a war would have on the global economy. It would permeate our economy, affecting thousands of local businesses that rely on imports and exports.

Can you imagine the effect a stoppage of trade and commerce with China and Taiwan would have on the local economy? Or from South Korea or the Philippines? It would devastate thousands of businesses and hundreds or even thousands of jobs would be lost. We can ill afford this disruption in the global economy. (Continued on Page 2)

JANUARY

**3 Jan (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) (1000)
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.**

9 Jan (Fri) LAVA Mtg., Hickam O'Club (1130)

**14 Jan (Wed) Personal Affairs Com,
Hickam O'Club (1130)**

16 Jan (Fri) Excom Mtg, Hickam O'Club (1200)

17 Jan (Sat) Hilo Satellite Mtg., Café 100 (1200)

**22 Jan (Thu) Luncheon Mtg., Sea Breeze (1130)
Preventing Identity Theft - Better Business Bureau**

**31 Jan (Sat) MOAA Party Bridge (1900)
For reservations call Robbie Gee at 255-4558**

FEBRUARY

6 Feb (Fri) LAVA Mtg., Hickam O'Club (1130)

**7 Feb (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) (1000)
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.**

20 Feb (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1200)

21 Fwb (Sat) Hilo Satellite Mtg, Café 100 (1200)

**28 Feb (Sat) MOAA Party Bridge (1900)
For reservations call Robbie Gee at 255-4558**

MARCH

**19 Mar (Fri) Mardi Gras Time (1800)
Banyan Club, Pearl Harbor Nava Base**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Commander Jack Miller, USN (Ret.)



The Christmas party at the Hale Koa was a blast – awesome as our kids say. We had over twenty couples on the dance floor swinging to the music of the Tropic Lightning Jazz combo. The speaker, Colonel Champoux USA from the 25th Infantry Division, was sincere, proud of his soldiers and inspirational. You might say the evening was an upbeat patriotic event and we all were left with a warm feeling that the soldiers of the 25th are professional, well-led and well-trained. It was a nice start for the Christmas season. We thank Judith and all who helped make it happen.

At our annual Chapter meeting, the key accomplishment was the Member approval of the by laws for the Hawaii Chapter, MOAA. This will be included in the 2004 Chapter Directory which is under preparation. Please spread the news to check your mailing label to see if your dues are current for we want you in the 2004 Directory. It is also a good time to recruit new members – active duty officers, reserve officers and any patriotic former officers of the Armed Forces or a widow of a former officer. George Montague is our hard-working membership chair and ready to help recruit. Call George at 239-4222.

The Ben Porter ROTC award is now a reality. Ben gave leadership and support to the Chapter for many years. The generous donations by Chapter members have made it possible to honor Ben with a \$500 leadership award in his name to a ROTC graduate at the University of Hawaii. We plan that this will be an annual event.

The Chapter has had a very good year in 2003 and I thank all of the members for their support. May each of you have a healthy and happy New Year! God Bless America!

TAX HELP FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS

The time is fast approaching for filing 2003 taxes. Fortunately there are three willing Chapter members that work with AARP in assisting seniors in tax preparations. You may contact the members preferably by e-mail for further information on when and where they are doing taxes. We salute and thank the members for their generous offer to help.

- Mililani area – George Sullivan alohasully@earthlink.net Phone: 623-2243
- Aiea area – Jerry Lesperance jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com Phone: 488-5205
- Windward area – Randy Jaycox Phone: 261-2936

Military Global Role (continued) numerous construction projects to forces and combatant commands in Hawaii'i is essential to our national security. This strategy was our policy before World War II and remains the preferred option for the foreseeable future.

On a personal note, there is another important consideration. Hawaii'i is home to generations of immigrants from the Asia-Pacific region. A war or even an internal conflict could result in the loss of many lives and property of our families and friends living in the affected nations. Surely the avoidance of war should be the preferred option.

We are encouraged by pending plans to enhance the military's posture in the Hawaii'i. We also appreciate the military's superb leadership in supporting our local charities, public schools, environmental projects and many other community programs. But these are not the reasons why the military is in Hawaii'i.

It is true that the state benefits from the military's presence. The thousands of troops in Hawaii'i do get paid and patronize our local businesses. Defense projects are essential to fulfilling the military's missions and there are

The U.S. Department of Defense has determined that positioning combat

We must be diligent and avoid the complacency that led to the debacle at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. The consequences today, in terms of national security and the global economy, would be far more devastating.

(Reprinted with permission)

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- LtCol Louis Crompton USAF**
- COL John Harms USMC**
- Maj George Montague USAF**
- LTC HANK Heyenga USA**
- CDR Jack Miller USN**
- CAPT John Peters USN**
- CAPT George Sullivan USN**

Thinning of the Ranks

LT Nelson M. Shreve, USNR (Ret), a former editor of the PHK, died 21 December. He is survived by his wife, Lucile.

WANTED: Ad Salesmen for Directory

All members, please approach your business friends that may wish to place an advertisement in the 2004 Chapter Membership Directory. The ads run from \$250 to \$750 and have a 12 month shelf life. It's a good way to spread the word. Please send the names of prospects by e-mail or phone to Jack Miller and we will do the rest. This is a top priority action and we need your help. Mahalo!

MARDI GRAS TIME - MARCH 19, 2004

**ONLY FORTY TICKETS PURCHASED
SO GET YOUR TICKET EARLY
SO YOU DO NOT MISS OUT!!**

It is a bargain with free parking, dinner and a Las Vegas Revue for \$50 - so splurge for a big exciting night out. Here are the details:

Front row table seats are \$50 and the remainder are \$45 for the annual Mardi Gras Show to be held at the Banyans, Pearl Harbor Naval Base. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m., and Showtime at 8:00 p.m. We have tickets for Friday night, March 19, so please send in your money to Judith Breitwieser, 1403 Onioni St, Kailua, HI 96734. Call Judith at 262-7953 or e-mail at Hawaiijudith@webtv.net on any questions. Checks should be made payable to Hawaii Chapter, MOAA.

Volume 19, No. 1 Pau Hana Koa
Published monthly by: Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 1185
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185
Subscription included in annual chapter dues.
Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily Hawaii Chapter policy.

BRIDGE CORNER by ROBBIE GEE



“HO, HO, HO!” was the joyful sound heard from the winners at the Annual MOAA Bridge Club's awards dinner at the festively decorated home of Les and Shirley Ihara in Kaneohe on 20 December 2003. The awards, initiated to promote consistent attendance, are based on

the highest seven months' scores. To no one's surprise, the first place award of \$50.00 this year again went to Les Ihara who is not only consistent in his attendance, but is also consistent in high scoring. He was joined by Pennie Penterman with a second place award of \$30.00, and Bridge Chair Robbie Gee with a third place award of \$20.00. Many thanks to the Chapter leadership for supporting this activity and sponsoring these awards.

Other members reveling in the evening (but not necessarily reveling in the cards) were: Bob Gee, Wally Barker, Beverly Willms, Gary and Bev Jensen, Doris Rechsteiner, “missing persons” Joan and John Peters, and hostess Shirley Ihara. A delicious dinner, cheery Christmas music, and great MOAA fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Remember to call me at 255-4558 not later than the weekend before to reserve your seat at the bridge table. Nonsmoking players of all abilities are welcome, with or without a partner. This is a fun bunch who are enjoying another opportunity to observe the group's twelfth anniversary and socialize with their MOAA friends and who don't take their bridge too seriously! The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 7pm at various locations around the island on a rotation basis, but watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates, as exceptions do occur, especially during UH Football season, as several members are season ticket holders.

DONATIONS COUPON
Hawaii Chapter, MOAA

The Chapter Honor Roll recognition is given based on total contributions by a member for the Calendar Year. Categories: Bronze over \$25; Silver over \$50; Gold over \$100. Please help the Chapter carry out our ROTC and Community Service projects by making a generous donation. Mail this form with your donation to: Hawaii Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734.

Donations may be earmarked as follows:
Ben Porter ROTC Leadership Award \$ _____
JROTC Scholarships \$ _____
USO \$ _____
Community Service General Fund \$ _____
MAHALO!!

**Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)
Captain George E. Sullivan USN (Ret.)**



Senator Landrieu Introduces SBP Reform Measure

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) recently introduced the Military Survivor Benefit Improvement Act of 2003 (S. 1916), a measure that would phase out the offset experienced by Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiaries when they reach age 62. The bill, would eliminate the SBP annuity reduction over a 10-year period and would also offer an open enrollment season for military retirees who are not currently enrolled in the SBP program. Open season enrollees would pay an additional premium penalty based on the number of years since retirement.

Medicare Premiums = Means Test

Beginning in 2007, Medicare premiums will be based on income. Individual beneficiaries with annual earnings of more than \$80,000 (\$160,000 for couples) will pay higher premiums for Part B coverage. There will be further higher premiums on a graduated scale for those earning over \$100,000 (\$200,000 couple), \$150,000 (\$300,000 couple) and \$200,000 (\$400,000 couple).

Our Servicemen and Women Get Pay and Benefits Increases—Some Long Overdue

The FY04 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Bush includes a 4.15 percent average pay hike and much more well-deserved benefits for our active duty personnel.

They will see an increase in housing allowances (BAH) in the coming year reducing average out-of-pocket housing costs from 7.5 percent to 3.5 percent; increases in Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS); increases in family separation, hostile fire/imminent danger, and other specialty pays through 31 December 2004; and a high-tempo allowance to service members who deploy frequently and/or for long periods of time.

The measure also includes full replacement value for personal property damaged in government-ordered moves for active duty personnel.

Other key provisions include:

* Unlimited commissary access for Guard and Reserve personnel and "gray area" retirees.

* Reservists who qualify for retirement, but have not yet reached age 60, are now also eligible to participate in the federal long-term care insurance program.

* Tax deductions for Guard and Reserve members' overnight travel, meals and lodging expenses incurred on travel of more than 100 miles from home to attend training.

* Authority for \$35 million in Impact Aid for school districts that educate military children. Of these funds, \$5 million is set aside for educational agencies that serve dependents with severe disabilities.

* Both members of dual-military couples (with no dependents) are now eligible to receive BAH when both are assigned to sea duty.

Borgnine Speaks at Dec 7 Ceremony



Ernest Borgnine was the guest speaker at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center ceremony on December 7. He recalled his days in the Navy before the "Day of Infamy", his reaction to bombing of

Pearl Harbor and his career in Hollywood. He talked about his role as Sergeant "Fatso" Judson in the movie *From Here To Eternity* which was set at Schofield Barracks. But his main theme was "never forget the men who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor."

God bless our troops and their sense of humor

Have you heard what the t roops are calling the helicopter Hillary Clinton used on her Iraq tour? "**Broomstick One**"

Hawaii Chapter, MOAA

Chapter Luncheon at the Sea Breeze – Hickam AFB

Thursday, January 22, 2004 – 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: Anne Deschene, CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Hawaii

Subject: “Protect Yourself from Indentity Theft”

Reservations are being taken by Judith Breitwieser by:

Phone: 262-7953 or E-mail: Hawaiijudith@webtv.net

Regular mail at: 1403 Onioni St., Kailua, HI 96734

Please reserve by January 19th. Pay at the door \$10.00 for the gourmet lunch buffet. See you there!!!

LATE FEBRUARY ACTIVITY

We are planning a Walking Tour and Luncheon on the Battleship Missouri.

A flyer, with details as to cost, date, and time will be distributed

at the Sea Breeze Luncheon on 22 January.



Christmas Party Memories - A Good Time Was Had By All!

TUG by Col Lou Torraca, USAF (Ret.)

Wow! What happened to 2003. Hope you all had a great holiday season and got all the toys you asked Santa for...computer ones that is. I promised to tell you about my trip to COMDEX in Las Vegas in November so here goes.

As some of you know, the weekend before COMDEX begins, the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) has it's fall meeting. TUG is a member so I attend the various events they hold, many of which are sponsored by some of the biggies in the PC business, e.g. Microsoft, AMD, Adobe, JASC, INTEL, LOGITECH, Borland, O'Reilly and the list goes on. If you haven't done so before, take a look at the webpage (www.apcug.org) and see the many things that APCUG does as well as see a list of the sponsors we all benefit from; e.g. Microsoft has a Mindshare program to support user groups and not only do they sponsor one of the dinner programs at the APCUG fall meeting, they provide some pretty generous take-homes. This time, they gave each of the 350+ attendees a copy of Office 2003! During the year, they also send us a quarterly "goodie" care package containing some nifty giveaways as well as a couple top of the line software programs for our use as demos. The other sponsors are equally magnanimous and jointly sponsor a Sunday afternoon fair at the hotel, where they display their wares and give lots of goodies away. I guess I should mention the fact the fall meeting is by no means all sponsor oriented. Sat and Sun are seminar days where those of us in attendance can learn and share with other user group officers.

Sunday night is the real COMDEX opening that Bill Gates keynotes (the Mindshare folks provide us with tickets and priority seating.) Monday is the official opening and again, the biggies are in full view with lots of displays and many of their CEOs making keynote speeches each of the 4 days.

That being said, the big-budget, high-profile Comdex trade shows of the 1990s are clearly no more. This year's show was a much smaller, deliberately scaled-down affair. How much smaller? Consider this: No traffic cops were needed at the main intersection in front of the convention center. Or this: Parking was easily available in the convention center's main lot—for only \$5. The number I heard talked about most often in the press room was 40,000, a far cry from the 250,000 a few years ago when COMDEX occupied not only the entire Las Vegas Convention center, but 3 others around town as well.

The show was also designed to attract more corporate customers than consumers, but I, for one, found an interesting array of consumer electronics. Just a partial list included: M-Systems showed a prototype MP3 player that accepts USB flash memory devices The Smart-Caps MP3 player itself doesn't have any storage space. Its USB port is inside a clear plastic window that flips open to accommodate a flash memory device.

Sony showcased a few of its latest digital cameras and camcorders, among them the Cyber-shot DSC-T1, which Sony says is the world's smallest 5-megapixel camera. The pocket-sized camera is about 0.8 inches thin and 2.4 inches tall. It uses a Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar optical lens that operates within the camera rather than extending out, but it can extend if the user wishes.

The Iomega Super DVD QuikTouch Video Burner is a USB 2.0 external drive for PCs that features an integrated video capture card and one-button video transfer to any industry standard DVD or CD format. Iomega also showed its network hard drive for homes and small offices. The new Iomega Network Hard Drive is an Ethernet-enabled external drive.

Dell announced a 32 inch LCD TV with all the bells and whistles for a mere \$3299, (actually a pretty good price for such a big-screen HDTV-ready model.)

And finally...drum roll please... Trying to ignore your overflowing in-box? The 912, a robot from White Box Robotics, won't let you get away with that—it will follow you into the kitchen and nag until you pay attention. The \$1500 prototype robot is a fully functioning PC with an MP3 player, monitor, and wireless keyboard. It includes sunglasses that double as a monitor while also giving you that suave Men in Black look.

So, to wrapup...what did I like best? Hard to answer, but one program that Microsoft demoed for us at their Monday night dinner has got to be a real winner: Microsoft's new Digital Image Suite 9 is the successor to PictureIt, a nice photo editor now made much better. It has super easy "red eye" removal. Clicking on the "red-eye auto fix" button instantly removes red eye. Another click fixes poor exposures, another straightens the picture, etc. Another click makes a "flip book" of photos and you can send that to anyone. The best feature, in my opinion, is "smart erase." You take the mouse and draw a line around any object you don't want in the photo and then choose "fill in." Bingo, it's gone. All of the things you want to do with a pic are listed to the left of the screen: e. g. add text or pictures, add a frame, resize, crop, watercolor and brush stroke effects, etc. There's no looking at menus, you just pick and click. You can also click to see a color photo in black and white. All-in all a real nifty, easy to use program.

That's it for the first of the year, until next month, happy computing. Come see us at one of our upcoming meetings, visit www.the_tug_homestead.com for schedules and driving directions. lou

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PERSONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (PAC)

By Col. John E. Harms USMC (ret.)

This month will be a potpourri of items that may be of interest to our Chapter members.

FIRST: I have received some inquires relative to the new Medicare drug prescription benefit recently signed into law and its effect on TRICARE Senior Pharmacy (TSRx). The TRICARE Senior Pharmacy IS NOT a part of this new Medicare legislation. But, to be on the safe side MOAA is supporting House Bill 3390 to guarantee that TSRx remains a separate benefit. For the "legal beagles" in our group TSRx is a Federal Title 10 program and would require Congressional legislation to change the program. Do not believe with the very vociferous and large military veterans lobby that they or DOD would undertake to change this existing law.

SECOND: The Veterans Administration (VA) in conjunction with Veterans Health Care Partners has established a new Internet web site to assist veterans view their VA medical records as well as play a more active role in managing their health. This site is; <http://www.myhealth.va.gov>. Some elements of this new Internet portal is an array of information and interactive tools including a health education library, health assessments, a prescription checker, online prescription refill (for VA provided medications NOT TRICARE Senior Pharmacy), next appointment, view total co-payment balance, and the ability to request and store key portions of their VA health record. This will be a phased in program till the Winter of 2005 with Phase 1 now on line that features one-stop shopping for VA benefits, special VA health programs and centers, VA forms that can be downloaded and printed, news about VA and legislation concerning veterans. Veterans who wish electronic access to their VA health records (Winter of 2005) MUST be registered with our VA Center at Tripler AMC. Log in and have a look around, may be of interest to you.

THIRD: This last item is the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Internet site that really works well. The official site is; <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. As you see the program is "myPay" and when you initially log on you will request a temporary password from the site that will be sent to you via USPS. You will then have 60 days to log in and change this temp password to a permanent one of your choosing. You can view and print your next "Retiree Account Statement", see telephone numbers and contacts at DEFAS to make a personal request or ask a question, manage your allotments and download and print your IRS Income Tax form 1099-R that can be used to file your yearly Federal (and State if retirement pay is taxed) Income Tax. This is really an excellent site to view and manage your retirement pay from DFAS. BUT, be careful to log into this Internet address CORRECTLY. Look-alike sites have recently frustrated myPay customers who have been confused by accidentally finding their way to a commercial site that is no way affiliated with DFAS or the Department of Defense. As the saying goes "Don't provide your personal information to any web site unless you know it can be trusted"!!! The OFFICIAL DFAS site shown above is a trusted site.

Guess that is it for this month. Any questions please contact me at 261-2282.



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Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185



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MOAA Recognizes Hawaii Chapter
with its
Four-Star Excellence Award—2002

ATTENTION
Luncheon Meeting
1130, Tuesday, 22 January 2004
Sea Breeze, Hickam AFB
<http://www.MOAA-hawaii.org>
E-MAIL
info@moaa-hawaii.org

HAWAII CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
New Membership Application and/or Current Member Dues Payment

Name: _____ Male Female
Last First MI

New Member Application **Currently a Regular Member** **Currently an Auxiliary Member**

New members: Complete next items and Regular or Auxiliary Member section. Enter remittance at bottom.
Current members: Complete any items that have changed and enter your remittance amount at bottom of form.

Address: _____ Email: _____

Date of birth: _____ National MOAA membership No. _____ SSN ____ / ____ / ____

Regular Members: Active duty, retired, or former military officers are eligible for regular membership.
Service _____ Rank _____ Active Duty Retired Reserve National Guard Former Officer
Dues: \$15 per year; 5 years for \$60. Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$300; 51-60 \$250; 61-70 \$200; 71-89 \$100; 90 and older is free.

Auxiliary Members: Widows or widowers are eligible for membership whose spouses were regular members or were eligible for regular membership. Rank of spouse: _____ Service of spouse: _____
Dues: \$10 per year; 5 years for \$40; Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$150; 51-60 \$125; 61-70 \$100; 71-89 \$50; 90 and older is free. **Grace period at the old rates of \$9 and \$36 until 31 March 2004.**

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Fax _____

If married, spouse's first name: _____ Last name, if different than yours: _____

Indicate interest in any of the following Chapter activities or Committees:

Personal Affairs Legislative Affairs/Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Program/Social Newsletter Membership Finance
ROTC Scholarship & Awards Fund Raising Community Service TUG(Computers) Party Bridge Golf Tennis

Dues Enclosed \$ _____ Optional Donation \$ _____ for Ben Porter Leadership Award, scholarships, USO, etc.

Total Remittance: \$ _____ Make check to Hawaii Chapter MOAA, PO Box 1185, Kailua HI 96734-1185