



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

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

Volume 17 No 6/7

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

June/July 2002

HURRICANE SEASON 1 June – 30 November

As we head into the Hurricane season we shouldn't forget what we learned from Hurricane "INIKI". We can't just stand by and wait for someone else to help us. Each individual is responsible for his/her safety. Now is the time, before the hurricane hits us to come up with plans for evacuation to a safe shelter. Look in the phone book for a list of things to do to ensure your survival. Get a radio that covers the Weather Bands so you can stay abreast of the storm.

Prepare a "survival" kit to include an extra supply of **prescription medicine**, pet food, a three day supply of non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, candles, personal hygiene items, etc. Remember you may have to stay in the shelter for 3 or more days. Check the white pages of the current phone book for instructions on Disaster Preparedness Information. Listen to the radio and obey the instructions as they are received. Here is a refresher of the terms used: if a "**Watch**" has been issued, the hurricane is expected to strike in **36 hours**. A "**Warning**" means it is expected within **24 hours or less**.

The National Weather Service has predicted "EL NINO" will cause more hurricanes than usual to be generated in the Pacific this year.

MEMORIAL DAY MEMORIES (Ltc Louis Crompton, USAF)

So where were you ?

I attended the candlelight memorial service Sunday at sunset up at Punchbowl - National Cemetery of the Pacific. Every one of the 32,000 graves plus the thousands of repositories for urns and the two monuments for MIA all had a plumeria lei placed on them. The speaker was a BG on active duty with the Reserve. He joined the Army as a private, then went to OTS, to Vietnam, to Ranger school, and back to RVN since they missed him the first time. He got out - or they probably would have sent him back for a third try - and taught high school, but re-joined the Army as a drilling Reservist before going on duty as a full time Reservist. So he is one of the few still on active duty wearing the RVN campaign ribbons. Can't be too many left for sure. He was talking about the many people he thinks about on Memorial Day and it was very emotional for him to do so. His voice wavered several times and he was in tears. He spoke of several men in his companies that were KIA; a chopper crew that came in to a one ship LZ in the middle of a fire fight to rescue 14 severely wounded - that cost the lives of a door gunner and the pilot; he mentioned an unknown B52 crew who diverted from an Arc Light mission drop their ordinance a couple hundred yards from the company point at a crucial time for them; he recalled two men who commandeered a Jeep, drove him 60 miles to Bien Hoa, and scrounged up \$200 in US cash for him when he took emergency leave because his father died; he remembered a man from his company in RVN who drove a couple hours to visit him in a hospital in the US - after hearing that the Drs said no alcohol and no spicy food, but the bed ridden ex Co wanted some, the old sgt went out on the town and came back with beer and a pizza which they ate together for supper in the hospital room. Then they did a flyover of helicopters in their version of a missing manformation. A flight of four choppers came in, but one peeled off to the left. After the 3 flew over, the lone ship came back hovering in front of us with his searchlight on as though looking for an MIA, before extinguishing his light and roaring away. This candlelight service was sponsored or hosted by the local Vietnam Vets chapter. Hundreds of motorcycles paraded through the streets and arrived about 6 pm up at the cemetery in their Rolling Thunder exercise. Plenty of huge Hawaiians / Samoans, etc, with receding hairlines on those Harleys. Looked like those motorcycle clubs told anyone under 6'4 and 270 lbs and whose bike cost less than \$20,000 to stay home. Quite a sight. Only saw Shirley Cavanaugh and Walter Ozawa that I knew. Aloha, Lou

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As Yogi Berra said, this feels like déjà vu all over again. I am delighted to serve the Hawaii Chapter again as President and I wish Duke a speedy recovery. I have a few goals, which you will remember from my last term. The events should be fun and what the Members want. The Pau Hana Koa, and any time sensitive thing should be timely and on time.

We have a Questionnaire in this PHK to help us learn what YOU WANT. Please complete and mail it.

I apologize for any errors in the Directory and want to hear about them all for an ERRATA. We'll print one and send it to all Members to add to your Directory.

George Montague volunteered to take over 1stVP and Membership effective June 1, 2002. Please help him by reporting any change in your data and renewing your membership before it expires. The Expiration Date is on your PHK label. Thanks George.

The Doleman Award was made on May 22 at the 17th Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon. It was an impressive event and the active duty personnel honored were superb young Americans. The services are in good hands. Start thinking NOW about who should be nominated for the 2003 Doleman Award. WHICH MEMBER has done the most for our local community since retiring? If you need help writing the letter, just ask for help. I would like to have the committee forced to choose between a dozen superb candidates next year.

Hank Heyenga has completed another round of ROTC awards and scholarships to some really splendid young citizens. Please consider being a donor to the ROTC and Scholarships for next year. There is a real need to encourage and to recognize these fine young men and women.

Ron McClair has updated the WebPages and John Harms has made a real improvement in our printing and mailing of the Directory, PHK, etc. I thank you both very much. Look at all our volunteers' names on this page and THANK THEM.
Aloha John

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COMING EVENTS

15 June (Sat) Hilo Satellite Meeting (1200) Café 100
21 June (Fri) LAVA Meeting (1130 HAFB O-Club
21 June (Fri) Executive Committee Meeting (1230) HAFB O-Club
29 June (Sat) Part Bridge Call Robbie 255-4558
19 July (Fri) EXCOMM Meeting (1230) HAFB
25 August (Sun) Annual TROA picnic at Bellows AFB, Noon
19 September (Thur) Dinner and visiting at the Bowfin Museum at 1800
5 October (Sat) "Oktoberfest" at Waikiki Yacht Club at 1800.

Board of Directors

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One Vacant

SOCIAL EVENTS

August 25TH – Sunday 12:00

Summer Picnic at Bellows The traditional Chapter Picnic will be held the last Sunday in August at Pavilion 5A. It should be a grand event – with or without bagpipes! It is a potluck with the bar and huli huli chicken ready for some customers. Roberta and George Sullivan are the Co-Chairman for the event and have the able support of Hank Heyenga, Ben Porter, Bill Nations, Lucille Shreve, Bob and Nora Reed and our picnic expert Judith Breitwieser! See RSVP form on page 6.

September 19th – Thursday 6:00 p.m.

Dinner Program at the Bowfin This popular event will be repeated again with the same bargain of dinner and drinks for \$25.00 per person. We are fortunate to have on the program a recognized military historian from the National Parks Service, Daniel Martinez. The presentation "Sacred Ground: America and its battlefields" with slides should be very interesting.

October 5th – Saturday night 6:00 p.m.

Oktoberfest time Frau Judith has once again arranged for the "Edelweiss" German band, and the traditional Bavarian feast at the scenic Waikiki Yacht Club for the October 5th event. So get ready to lock arms, click mugs and do an eins, drei sofa!! For the athletes, there will be a chance to polka as well.

November 16th – Saturday 10:45 a.m. – Doors open!

Food Bank, Elections, Annual Meeting, Silent Auction, Music, Speaker etc.!

Remember this date – a big day for the Chapter. Roxanna Faith and Jan-Sue Heverly once again will coordinate a big day for the Chapter at the Hickam Officer's Club. Last year we collected well over 1000 pounds of food and over \$1000 dollars for the Food Bank. Stay tuned – more to come!

December 18th –Wednesday 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Party The Hale Koa Waikiki Ball Room is booked again for the Chapter Annual Christmas Party. The cost this year for pupus, dinner and entertainment is \$30.00 per person. Plan to attend!

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Dr. Marvin Baum, L/C, USAF Ret
Optometrist
 Eye Exams/Contact Lenses
 Tricare Prime Accepted
Fashion Eyeware (at PX prices)/Laser Vision Correction
 Phone 422-9411/Moanalua Shopping Center
 Near Hickam, Pearl harbor, NEX

Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)
CAPT GEORGE SULLIVAN, USN

Medicare Patients

There is growing discontent among Medicare providers over the declining amounts the government pays them for treating Medicare patients. Doctors are angry that Medicare reimbursement rates often are not sufficient to meet their office operating expenses. Recently an increasing numbers of physicians are declining to accept new Medicare patients. This has serious implications for TRICARE beneficiaries as well, since TRICARE reimbursements are tied by law to what Medicare pays. Lawmakers are responding to doctors' discontent. Sen. Jim Jeffords (I-VT) and Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) have introduced bills in the Senate and House, that would set more realistic fee. Jeffords' S. 1707 has 80 co-sponsors, and Bilirakis' H.R. 3351 has 343. But this overwhelming co-sponsorship support needs to be translated into action.

TROA members should contact their legislators to urge them to back up that co-sponsorship with action by passing this important legislation.

TROA offers two ways to do this:

a. Visit <http://capwiz.com/troa/home/> and click on the "Increase Medicare Reimbursements" Action Alert link at the top of the page, then enter your ZIP code to view a TROA-prepared message to your senators and representative.

b. Use TROA's toll-free hot line to Capitol Hill (1-877-762-8762). Ask the Capitol operator to connect you to your legislator's office and tell the legislator's staffer that you want your senator/representative to pass S.1707 and H.R. 3351 to provide fairer Medicare payments to doctors and reverse the trend that is driving so many of them to refuse Medicare and TRICARE patients.

Concurrent Receipt

Funding for concurrent receipt is included in both the House-passed Fiscal Year 2003 Budget Resolution and the Senate Budget Committee's FY03 Budget Resolution. The amount in both resolutions is \$516M in FY03 with a five-year cumulative total of \$5.8B. The funding is based on projected costs of implementing full concurrent receipt gradually for disabled military retirees rated 60 percent and above from 2003 through 2007. The White House expressed concern about the cost of enacting the concurrent receipt plan. A win this year is far from assured!!

Senate Considers VA Subvention Bills

Two recently-introduced Senate bills would authorize Medicare reimbursement to VA hospitals for treating certain Medicare-eligible veterans. Sen. Craig Thomas (Wyo.) introduced the Medicare Equity for Veterans Act of 2002 (S.2233), and Sen. Mark Dayton (Minn.), introduced the Veterans Health Care Reimbursement Act of 2002 (S.2232). Both bills were forwarded to the Senate Finance Committee.

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

More than 220,000 active duty and reserve personnel have enrolled in the military's 401(k)-style Thrift Savings Plan during the first open enrollment season that ended on January 31, 2002. During the next open enrollment season (May 15 to July 31, 2002) service members may contribute from 1 to 7 percent of their basic pay and from 1 to 100 percent of any special, incentive or bonus pays up to \$11,000 per year. The contributions and earnings are tax-free until they are withdrawn from the plan.

QRMC Released

The Department of Defense recently announced the release of the ninth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC). The report analyzes the affects of the military pay system upon recruiting, retention and force management. The findings include:

- Today's pay rates are not high enough to retain the members of the military who are more educated than previous generations of men and women in uniform.
- Pay for mid-level enlisted personnel has not kept pace with compensation levels in the private sector.
- Pay should reflect the demands of military life and should be set above the average levels found in the private sector. Accordingly, additional targeted pay raises will be needed.
- Additional support is needed for military spouses, as frequent moves and other circumstances cause higher unemployment and lower spousal earnings compared to their civilian peers.

Colonel Clyde Friar, USA



Tripler Army Medical Center's Outpatient Pharmacy will be switching to a new and improved point of service dispensing system on or about May 6. Beginning this day, there will be a new process for patients picking up new prescriptions at the Outpatient Pharmacy, which is located on the 4th floor, G wing. The Re-fill and Hardcopy Civilian Prescription Windows will not be affected by this change.

Computer-generated prescriptions entered by health-care providers will not be filled until the patient reports to the Outpatient Pharmacy. Patients will first push a button on a console representing the type of prescription to be filled. A numbered claim ticket will be generated with an estimated waiting time. When the number is called, the pharmacist will access the patient's medication profile and review the prescriptions that were ordered. The prescriptions will then be filled and dispensed while the pharmacist counsels the patient. With the new system, however, Graham said waiting times could be affected by the number of patients who appear at the pharmacy at the same time. He said the Outpatient Pharmacy's busiest times are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon. In order to avoid longer waits, he said patients might want to plan ahead to pick-up their prescriptions at times other than these.

For the first few weeks the system is in place, a pharmacy staff member will be in the Outpatient Pharmacy waiting area to help direct patients and answer questions.

For more information, stop by the pharmacy for an informational pamphlet or call the Outpatient Pharmacy at 433-7880. The point of contact on pharmacy matters is Clyde Friar at 262-5086 or cfriar@aol.com

**Cdr Jack Miller, USN
"Dental Insurance"**

Delta Dental's administration of the U.S. military's dental benefit program for uniformed service retirees and their dependents is "exceptional," according to a U.S. Department of Defense contractor performance report. The report by the TRICARE Management Activity says Delta's administration of the federal government's TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) consistently exceeded contractual requirements covering claims processing, payment accuracy, claims coding and timely customer service. The TRDP provides dental benefits to more than 600,000 uniformed services retirees and their families, as well as Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. The program, a 100 percent voluntary program that is the largest such program in the nation, offers affordable dental benefits throughout the U.S., Canada and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, America Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Subscribers obtain covered services from any licensed dentist within the service area, and can limit their out-of-pocket costs when using any one of about 25,000 DeltaSelect USA Network dentists.

The TMA report specifically notes Delta's initiative to quickly develop an enhanced dental benefits package to conform to federal legislation expanding benefits for retirees. "Due to Delta's expertise and sensitivity to retirees' needs, the package evolved into an acceptable offer with premiums within a competitive range," according to the report. "In a short period of time, Delta was able to execute an intensive marketing program and to make the operational changes necessary to implement the new program with no disruption of the existing program."

For info: 415-972-8300, www.deltadentalca.org

(ROTC/JROTC Continued)

were made in the name of the Chapter by LTC Burton A Greene or his representative.

The Hawaii Chapter awarded a scholarship grant of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to each of the following qualified applicants:

Kevin James McArdle, P.O. Box 1917, Honokaa, Hawaii 96727 (grandson of LCDR H. Roy McArdle, member Hawaii Chapter TROA)

Matthew Savage, graduating senior at Kahuku High School. JROTC cadet battalion commander.

CHAPTER ROTC/JROTC ACTIVITIES

LTC Hank Heyenga, AUS

Col. William O. (Bill) Nations awarded the TROA plaque to the University of Hawaii Air Force ROTC cadet, and Col. Ralph J W K Hiatt, a graduate of the U of H ROTC program, presented the TROA plaque to the selected senior Army ROTC cadet. He also awarded a TROA medal and certificate to each of the selected MS111, 11, and 1 Army cadets.

Except for Hilo High School where CWO Kevin Bradley USN of the Kona Satellite Chapter awarded the JROTC medal and certificate, other outer island awards

BRIDGE CORNER By Robbie Gee

The May meeting of the expanding TROA Party Bridge group was hosted by Craig and Gigette Caldwell on Saturday, 18 May, in Hawaii Kai at the home of Bob and Robbie Gee.

Winning high honors, again, was Les Ihara whose consistently good form has taken top prize many times. Coming in at second place was host Craig Caldwell, followed by Wally Barker in third. The party who robbed me of the Booby prize shall remain nameless. Also attending were Gary and Bev Jensen, Bill and Debby Martin, Bob and Robbie Gee, Shirley Ihara, Beverly Williams, Marian Davis, Pennie Penterman, Judith Breitwieser, Ray deHay, and hostess Gigette Caldwell.

Get to know some of your chapter members on a more regular basis, not just at the monthly dinners. That's the real purpose for this nonsmoking group's existence: fellowship, fun, relaxation, and good social bridge! No partner is necessary, so singles are welcome, as well as couples. If you're "rusty", don't worry. It's like riding a bicycle; you never really forget how. Just bring yourself and \$1.00, but be sure to call Robbie Gee at 255-4558 by the weekend before hand to reserve a place when you want to play.

The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 7pm at various locations around the island on a rotation basis. On June 29 it will be held at the home of Jack and Carita Miller. Watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates.

ANNUAL PICNIC

NOON, SUNDAY, AUG 25, 2002
PAVILLION 5A, BELLOWS AFS

\$10.00 Per Person by AUG 16, 2002 PLEASE

Clip and mail to:

George Sullivan
94-451 Alapoi Street
Mililani, HI 96789

Please call or Email George 623-2243 or Email to alohasully@earthlink.net with any questions or offer to help.

EVERYONE BRING A POT LUCK DISH/PUPU

----- Clip and mail your RSVP-----

I (We) will see you there. Guests are most welcome. Picnic fee is \$10.00 per person.

Checks payable to "Hawaii Chapter TROA"

\$10.00 x () = \$_____ for picnic

Donation: ROTC/JROTC Programs/Scholarship \$_____

Community Service \$_____

Total: \$_____

Names: _____

THE USERS GROUP (TUG) **COLONEL LOU TORRACA, USAF**

Many thanks to Darin Sato for his presentation on Instant Messaging, bulletin boards, news groups and chat rooms. With some of the chat rooms we tried, you could do away with soap operas I suspect!

Thanks also to Jim who gave us a fine primer on backup. In that regard, some of you have asked me about the neat little hard drive I use. It's a Pockey and it holds 20 Gigabytes...as much as my hard drive!

With this easy way to go, If you don't back up your hard drive immediately...don't blame me!

With the Pockey Portable Drive, up to 20GB of files are easy to store and carry.

Most computer users don't want to go to the trouble of backing up their files and storing them in a safe location. That's not smart. And, if you use a notebook, the storage problem is even more complex because the computer usually only saves to low-capacity floppy disks. I knew there had to be a simpler way and I found it with the Pockey.

All your computer files, in your pocket. It's small enough to fit in your shirt pocket, plugs into (and is powered by) your computer's USB port, and delivers a capacity of up to 20GB of storage. (they are now making a 30Gig and a 40Gig model.) Save files from your desktop computer in your Pockey drive and take them to business meetings along with your laptop. Maybe you don't have the problems of a road warrior, but you want an external drive to store and carry digital photos, MP3 files, or even games and movies. Again, Pockey is the answer. I plan on taking my "computer" when I go to the mainland at the end of May and when I get to my son's, I will install the program (very simple and small) and then all I need to do to use all my files is plug the cable into his USB port and there I go... all my pics, files and whatever, without having to carry a laptop. For more info, go to www.pocketech.net

Member Questionnaire - Please Return.

As we change Presidents, it's time to ASK, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

MEETINGS: I prefer DINNER LUNCH BRUNCH Comment _____

I prefer SPEAKER SHOW Comment _____

I want to help with programs. Name _____ Phone _____

SERVICES: I support ROTC Scholarships Food Drives Comments _____

But I would rather have Hawaii Chapter do _____

AWARDS: I know about the DOLEMAN Award ROTC Awards Don't know but want to learn

GOALS: I think the mix of service, social, and other things is: Terrible Great Okay But it would be improved by doing:

AWARENESS: I know when my dues expire because I check the PHK Label I wait for the reminder letter

I'm informed of Programs, Meetings and Events: In plenty of time Too late Seldom

My PHK usually arrives: Early enough Late Way too late I would like it _____

Did you know you can receive the PHK via Email in Color? YES NO Put me on the Email list, my correct Email address is: _____.

WebPages: I use the HI CH TROA WebPages I use the National TROA WebPages

COST: I am willing to pay up to \$ _____ for a good dinner (meal) at a meeting. I won't pay more than \$ _____.

LOCATION: (in order 1, 2, 3...) I PREFER to meet at: Hickam O'Club ___ MB Kaneohe O'Club _____

Ft Shafter Club ___ Sea Breeze Club at HAFB ___ The Banyans (Navy) _____ Bowfin Museum _____ Hale Koa _____

Local Hotel (Name) _____ Other location _____

(Why do you like/dislike any of the above locations?) _____

RECRUITING: We desire to have more active duty officers join our TROA Hawaii Chapter, any ideas on how to accomplish this?

AUXILIARY. The Auxiliary plays a very important part of our Chapter. We need ideas on how they may become more involved in "activities", "program planning", "outreach (new membership)", "community affairs" or other: _____

Mail to: TROA, P O Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734, Or give to a Chapter Officer.

