



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 19 No. 11

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

November 2004



Captain Coffee — Hear Him Speak at Our 13 November Annual Meeting



Captain Coffee brings to the platform a wealth of life experiences like no other speaker, especially in the challenging circumstances of today.

He is a highly decorated military officer: 28 years as a United States naval officer and carrier pilot, including combat flights over North Vietnam, multiple deployments to the Mediterranean Sea and low level reconnaissance flights over Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis (His own missions over Cuba for which he received a Distinguished Flying Cross were highlighted in the film, *Thirteen Days* starring Kevin Costner.) Captain Coffee's military exploits are featured in several professional military publications.

He was shot down over North Vietnam, captured and survived 7 years as one of the longest held prisoners in the Communist prisons in Hanoi.

He has been a leader: As a POW, as the commander of an aircraft



squadron, and as air operations officer for the US Pacific Fleet.

He holds a BA in Art from UCLA, a Masters Degree in Political Science from University of California at Berkeley, and is a graduate of the prestigious National Defense University in Washington, DC, where

he studied all aspects of national security.

He authored the highly acclaimed book, *BEYOND SURVIVAL*, which is available on audio cassette and which inspired the award winning three act play, *The Prisoner*. He is currently working on his second book.

He is a frequent talk radio and television show guest, having been on *Larry King Live* twice and *CNN* numerous times. He serves as military expert for Hawaii's NBC affiliate station.

His opinion pieces have been published in various top publications, such as the *Dallas Morning News*, *USA Today*, and *Parade Magazine*.

He has spent 17 years as a professional speaker averaging over 80 presentations a year. He has spoken to tens of thousands of people across a broad spectrum of corporate
(Continued on Page 2)

NOVEMBER

6 Nov (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) (1000)
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.

8 Nov (Mon) PAC Mtg, Hickam, Pikake Room (1200)

9 Nov (Tue) LAVA Mtg, Sam Snead's Tavern (1130)

13 Nov (Sat) Annual Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1130)

19 Nov (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1130)
and MOAA Party Bridge (1900)

For reservations call Robbie Gee at 255-4558

DECEMBER

4 Dec (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) (1000)
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.

7 Dec (Tue) Xmas Party, Hale Koa Hotel (1800)

14 Dec (Tue) LAVA Mtg, Sam Snead's Tavern (1130)

17 Dec (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1130)

18 Dec (Sat) MOAA Party Bridge (1900)
For reservations call Robbie Gee at 255-4558





YOUR PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—GOOD NEWS
by Commander Jack Miller, USN (Retired)

Good news in Afghanistan! On 9 October elections were held. Early returns indicate that President Hamid Karzai will be elected. The real story is the desire of the Afghan people to vote. My source is a 12 October e-mail from the ranking USAF Officer in Afghanistan. He reported stories of lines over a mile long with some standing in the snow from 3:00 a.m. for the polls to open at 7:00 a.m. There were families who pulled their grandparents in oxcarts to vote because they were too old to walk. On a personal experience he reported that the Afghan men who are the cleaners at his office had Election Day off to vote. The next day he asked them if they voted. “They all got excited with wide happy smiles a mile wide and had to show their thumbs with ink spots as evidence of voting and wanted to shake hands and be congratulated on voting.” Wow!! . . . and we take the ritual of voting for granted.

Good financial news for retirees – a 2.7% Social Security raise is on the way. The FY 2005 Defense Authorization Act provides for changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan age 62 annuity which will be raised to from 35% to 40% of retired pay in October 2005, 45% in April 2006, 50% in April 2007 and 55% in April 2008. (Please check the Legislative Affairs write-up on page 4 by George Sullivan.) All Members are welcome to attend the Personal Affairs Committee meeting at the Pikake Room, Hickam O’Club at 1200 on Monday, 8 November. Admiral Smith will address any related questions.

Good news that we have over forty new members so far this year. It is a special honor to welcome aboard LTG Tom Rienzi, Admiral Tom Fargo, General Fred Weyand as a life member, Admiral Ron Hays as a renewal and at the last count we had twenty-six Warrant Officers in the Chapter and twenty-six General and Flag Officers. We must be doing something right to have their continued support.

Good news that the State of Hawaii does not tax our retired military income. In some states retirement pay is taxed, so let’s keep our lobby strong and speak with one powerful voice so it does not happen here in paradise. By the way, have you noticed in Honolulu that the cranes are back – that is the lifting industrial cranes. This has to mean good news for the state’s economy.

Last, we hope you will remember during the holidays, the platoon in Iraq that our Chapter has adopted. It doesn’t take long to get a goodie in the mail or bring a gift to the annual meeting. Carita and I hope to see you at both the annual luncheon meeting 13 November and at the Hale Koa for the Christmas Party on 7 December.

God Bless America!!

Jack

Captain Coffee (Continued from Page 1)

America – AND to international groups as well – holding the *National Speaker’s Association’s highest rating of CSP and membership in the Speaker’s Hall of Fame.*

In a poll of corporate meeting planners, Captain Coffee was selected as one of the Top Ten Speakers in America.

The prestigious Million Dollar Round Table selected him as one of its top twelve most popular, highest rated main platform speakers of the past 20 years from a field of over 80 speakers.

Captain Coffee’s background, experience, positive message, and skill to convey that message enable him – perhaps uniquely – to address the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual challenges life presents. He, like few others, can – with authenticity – put the terrorist attacks on America and our war on terrorism into perspective.

Captain Coffee resides in Aiea, Hawaii with his wife, Susan. His lanai overlooks Pearl Harbor and Camp Smith where a giant American flag dedicated to America’s POWs and MIAs waves 24/7.

Captain Coffee is a member of our own Hawaii Chapter, MOAA. Sign up today to hear him speak.

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 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

CAPT Robert W. Dickieson, USN (Ret) died in his sleep on 3 October, at the end of a long and brave battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Alice. Captain Dickieson was the first commanding officer of KAMEHAMEHA (SSBN 642) and a former member of the Hawaii Chapter, MOAA, Board of Directors. A Memorial Service was held on 28 October at St. John’s by the Sea, Kaneohe. He is to be buried at sea by the Submarine Service. Donations can be made in his name to support the scholarship program of the United States Submarine Veterans Charitable Foundation, Inc.

COL Robert L. Jackson, USA (Ret) of Haleiwa died on 16 October. He is survived by his wife Jo Anne. Inurnment at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

LtCol David C. Mills, USMC (Ret) of Kailua died on 5 October. He is survived by his wife Peggy. Interment at Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe.

BINNACLE LIST

LTC Bill McGarry, AUS (Ret) returned home at the end of August where he continues his rehabilitation under the watchful care of his bride Ellen and the TAMC doctors and therapists.

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 Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not
 necessarily Hawaii Chapter policy.**

**HAWAII CHAPTER MOAA SUPPORTS
 LOCAL ROTC UNITS**

Scholarship Program Enters Its 24th Year
 By LTC Hank Heyenga, USA (Ret)

Hawaii Chapter MOAA has supported local ROTC units for over twenty years

Since 1981, Hawaii Chapter has presented 472 individual ROTC awards at high schools and colleges in American Samoa, Guam and the State of Hawaii. The total value of the ROTC cadet scholarships awarded through donations by Chapter members since 1993 is \$21,000. The normal annual distribution is one medal award to a cadet in each JROTC unit each year. The annual scholarships are three \$500 Scholarships to distinguished JROTC cadets and two \$250 scholarships known as the Ben Porter Leadership Award to cadets in the College ROTC program.

Hank Heyenga has administered the program for the Chapter since 1991 and has a thick file of sincere thank you letters from many grateful ROTC Cadets.

Chapter members have been very generous in their donations to support this ongoing program to help future Military Officers. The presentations are made by Chapter members in uniform or aloha attire, normally in May, at the various unit awards ceremony.

As a Chapter, we strongly endorse the MOAA ROTC awards program. It is always an uplifting experience to witness the pride and sharpness of the graduating cadets as you shake their hand and encourage continued excellence as a military leader.

Take pride America, future leaders are on the way!

GOOD SAMARITAN—WANT AD

Auxiliary Member Anna “Chris” Walters will be 90 on 17 November. She’s a very active/sharp lady who just gave up driving and still has her “sold” car in the garage waiting for the new owner to remove it. Chris will be appreciative of some calls/offers of a ride to commissary and our monthly activities, etc. now. She’s too proud and independent to beg, so members are asked to initiate calls/offers. Let’s not let our older/live alone members fall through the crack. Chris lives in Kalihi, just off the Likelike Highway. She can be reached at 841-6392.

Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)
Captain George E. Sullivan, USN (Retired)



Widow Tax Eliminated

It will take a few years to fully take effect, but the Survivor Benefit Plan has finally been restored to where many of us thought the benefit would be when we retired. As our Chapter President said in his message on page 2, the age 62 annuity will be raised, in stages, to 55% in 2008. This is a major victory for the military, both active duty and retirees, and will be a significant help to those planning for their family's future. We must thank all of you who participated in the campaign to convince the congress that this was the "right thing to do". The Office of the Secretary of Defense opposed this to the very end, yet we believe the President will soon sign the National Defense Authorization Act, which is where SBP legislation is contained.

We also want to recognize the major role of MOAA National and the National Military Coalition played in ushering this legislation through congress. The Senate was far from committed to this change to the widow's benefit. In fact, as many of you know, the Senate only reluctantly included a 10 year phase-in of the increased annuity. But it appears that this long awaited change to provide a slightly better retirement for the most deserving of all—the Military widow will soon be enacted.

Older Spouses, Survivors Get Permanent IDs

As a part of the National Defense Authorization Act, (NDAA) Congress also adopted MOAA's suggestion to ease the burden of ID card renewal for older spouses and survivors. Beginning in 2005, retiree spouses and survivors age 75 and older will be able to obtain **permanent** ID cards. Implementation details (how, where, when to get a permanent card) are not yet available.

Commissary Benefits in Law

The NDAA also specifies the commissary benefit in law, and authorizes a test of expanding the list of items for sale in the commissary. The new law will clarify that the purpose of the commissary and exchange programs is to enhance quality of life for military members, retirees and family members and to support military readiness, recruiting and retention. It will authorize consideration of Reserve members' quality of life in any assessment of whether to close a commissary.

RAO Pearl Harbor on the Web
by RADM Bruce Smith, USN (Ret)

For those of you that use or have access to a computer, the Retired Activities Office (RAO) at Pearl Harbor can be contacted by addressing the website: www.greatlifehawaii.com. This opens the home page of "The Quality of Life." You then click on the link "Fleet Support" or "Families," and from the ensuing dropdown menu, click on "Retired Activities Office." This opens a screen that defines the RAO's mission, location, and events/subjects of interest. Since this is a recent undertaking, your comments, suggestions, and or questions are welcomed. You can reach us by e-mail by clicking on the "contact" button that is shown in any of the links, or simply by mail as follows:

Retired Activities Office
Department of the Navy
Fleet and Family Support Center
820 Williamette Street
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-5108

MAIL IN PROGRAM RESERVATION TODAY!!!

The Chapter has scheduled two programs for November and December that we hope you will attend. Please mark your calendars and send in your reservation with a check made out to Hawaii Chapter MOAA.

November Program: The 45th Anniversary Luncheon will be held at 1130 hours, 13 November 2004 at the Marine Corps Officers Club, Kaneohe MCB. This will be combined with the annual meeting and be a gala affair with distinguished Chapter member Captain Jerry Coffee as our guest speaker. It will be a buffet lunch and the cost to you is only \$5.00, yes that's \$5.00, but we do need your check not later than 8 November. This will be a special event in a beautiful location with a highly respected nationally known speaker. We'll see you there! Dress: Aloha attire.

December Program: The Chapter Annual Christmas Party will once again be held in the Waikiki Ballroom of the Hale Koa Hotel. This year the program starts with cocktails at 1800 and a sit down dinner at 1900 on Tuesday evening 7 December 2004. The Pacific Fleet Dixieland band is on request to play 1800-1930. The talented Pianist who has entertained for many years at the Hale Koa, Tahitian Lanai, and La Mariana Sailing Club, Ron Miyashiro, will perform from 2000 to 2130, so plan on a fun evening to put you in the Christmas spirit. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Dress: Festive – Jackets OK

Please be advised that there will be assigned seating at all tables for the Christmas Dinner Party. If you want to reserve a table of ten, or simply sit with another couple, please let Judith Breitwieser know, preferably in writing, with your reservation or by e-mail to: Hawaiijudith@webtv.net. It should be a very festive happy musical night. So round up your friends, car pool, and have some fun.

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL

Mail Reservations ASAP with Checks to: Judith Breitwieser, 1403 Onioni St. , Kailua, HI 96734

NOVEMBER Yes for the 13 November Luncheon – Please reserve ____ seats @ \$5.00 each for:

DECEMBER Yes for the 7 December Christmas Party – Please reserve ____ seats @ \$30.00 each for:
(Please note dinner choice of Filet Mignon or Vegetarian Linguine)

Name	Menu Selection
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Reminder: Donations to the Chapter ROTC program are always welcome. Mahalo!

Amount Enclosed:

November Luncheon	_____
December Xmas Party	_____
ROTC Contribution	_____
Total:	_____

TUG by Col Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)



Thanks to Mike McCurdy (with some help from his wife Lucy) who showed us how to use Family Tree Maker as a first step into Genealogy. Pretty fascinating stuff...As you can see, I immediately went home and dug up an earlier picture of me when I had a lot more hair!! Actually, it reminded me of something I have been putting off doing...transferring all my 45, 78 and 33 1/3 records onto CDs or DVDs! Gotta admit, that's a slick segue into my topic for this month {-} I did some searching and here is what I came up with.

Technology is available that will not only enable you to turn your hot wax into digital tracks, but will also let you clean up the static that separates your favorite Harry James bootleg from its glory days.

To turn LP's into CD's, you will need some hardware: specifically a turntable, a preamplifier and a computer. You will also need software to digitize the analog signal, edit the digital recording, clean it and burn it to a CD or DVD.

Any turntable with a line-out connector will do, although you can also digitize other analog sources, like a radio broadcast, reel-to-reel tape or 8-track player (if you rescued yours from the Gremlin before you sold it).

To record from a turntable to a computer, the signal must first go through a preamplifier that will boost it to a recordable level. You can use a stereo receiver (most have preamp-out or phono-out connections), or you can buy a no-frills phono preamp for about \$30 at an electronics hobby shop.

You will also need to connect the preamp to your computer. The most common way to do that is with an adapter cable with two male RCA plugs at one end that attach to your preamp and a one-eighth-inch stereo phono jack at the other that connects with your computer. But different equipment makers use different connectors, so you might need another kind of adapter.

If sound quality is a big concern, consider investing in a preamp with an audio-to-digital converter. These devices incorporate a computer chip dedicated to converting analog signals to digital ones. In theory, the computer's main processor is always busy carrying out other tasks, so using a separate chip for conversion delivers better sound. In practice, the degree of improvement will vary with the quality of the converter. One such device is a preamp sound card, like the Phono PreAmp from Terratec (\$100, www.terratec.net), which puts a preamp with an analog-to-digital converter chip inside your computer.

Some LP restoration software suites, including Pinnacle Clean Plus (\$100), come with an external preamp that plugs into a USB port and works with your existing sound card. (My choice as I have a good sound card.) There is also the iMic from Griffin Technologies (\$40, www.griffintechnologies.com), a small input device that converts analog signals to digital outside of the computer, eliminating the possibility of electronic interference from other computer components.

Once the signal has been amplified and digitized, your computer takes over. Recording the signal and cleaning it up require extensive processing, so a powerful chip is needed to do it efficiently. The makers of most cleaning software recommend at least a 500-megahertz processor.

You also need lots of hard-drive space, because sound files occupy about 10 megabytes per minute; that would be almost a gigabyte for a 77 minute record set.

Three basic steps are necessary to get the digitized music ready and onto a disc. A recording program, sometimes called a ripper, captures the sounds. You can edit the digital recording, reducing static and other analog noise with filtering software and trimming excess lead-in time and adding fade-ins and simple effects with a wave form editor. Then you need a burning program to put the final product on a disc.

There are hundreds of individual sound-editing programs, from \$15 shareware to professional-quality software costing \$1,000 and up (see www.hitsquad.com for a list). Most consumer software costs \$40 to \$150, and often everything you need is bundled in a single suite. PC users can choose all-in-one products like Audio Cleaning Lab from Magix or Clean from Pinnacle, both of which are good for importing and cleaning.

To commit your work to CD, you need burning software. One program is about as good as the next, although there are subtle differences that will mean something to the technologically advanced.

One word of caution: not all burner software plays well together. If you use a software package that adds new burning software to your computer - like some of the suites discussed here - the new burner software may fight with the old software for control of your CD drive. Sometimes the program you want to use loses, and you cannot burn a disc. The simple solution to this problem is to get rid of all the burner programs except the one you like best. Uninstall the rejects carefully, though, so they will not leave behind pieces that could continue to be a conflict.

Cleaning up digitized recordings can take some practice. But the result will surely be worth the effort and bring back some nifty memories. Finally, if you decide to start this project, be sure to do your homework. There is lots of helpful info on the 'net. That's it for Nov. Until next time, happy computing and have a happy Turkey Day. Be sure and come see us at one of our monthly meetings. Visit www.the_tug.homestead.com for driving directions and schedules.

Lou

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ADOPT-A-PLATOON UPDATE from Roxy

Yes, "Eyes of Thunder" – there is a Santa!

HOLIDAY CHEER FOR OUR PLATOON CANDY, COOKIES, OR CASH WELCOME!

**PLEASE BRING A TIN OF COOKIES OR CANDY TO
THE ANNUAL MEETING TO HELP FILL A STOCK-
ING ... SHOW YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT**

**SANTA 'S HELPERS WILL MAIL THE COOKIES,
CANDIES AND STOCKINGS !**

**DIRECT SLEIGH TRAFFIC OVER FIRE ZONE
WILL BE DETECTED !**

Our Platoon—The 25th Field Artillery Detachment, called the "Eyes of Thunder", is still on duty in Iraq maintaining the Q-37 radars. Please brighten their holiday with a Christmas package. You may make a donation through Santa's helpers at the 13 November Annual Luncheon Meeting, or mail a card, letter or package direct to:

Captain Adam Wojcik, USA
25th Field Artillery Detachment (2/11 FA)
25th Infantry Division (Light)
APO AE 09347-9998

CALL 488-0185 TO SPEAK WITH SANTA'S HELPER

Update on Luana Koa by Ralph Niesz, USCG (Ret)
On 5 October, the Luana Koa Residents Council met with representatives from Kisco Senior Living at a luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Kisco team members to the Luana Koa Council. Kisco and Brookfield Homes Hawaii will be developing and operating Luana Koa beginning in November. Kisco gave a power point presentation on their company, which was well received. There was the opportunity to ask questions on both sides. Mitch Brown, Kisco's Executive Vice President said that Kisco is based in Carlsbad, California and manages 24 senior communities of various types all across the country. He said his company and their partner, Brookfield Homes are excited about carrying out the vision that Hawaii Village Associates (HVA) created in the new town center of Kapolei for a campus model CCRC. When asked when units would be ready for occupancy, he replied, "in the next 2-3 years". He further related that they would be in touch with all priority members to schedule a meeting with them as well as other interested residents very soon. HVA President, Nancy Schoocraft, said that Kisco was the finest of all the contenders for the Luana Koa project. For more information, contact MOAA member, Jerry Abbe, the Luana Koa Marketing Coordinator at (808) 681-3461.

Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
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Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185



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with its
Four-Star Excellence Award—2003

ATTENTION:

**Annual Meeting, at MCBH O'Club
13 November, 1130**
**Annual XMAS Party, Hale Koa Hotel
7 December, 1800**

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.

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