



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 20 No. 10

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

October 2005

USS MISSOURI MEMORIAL COMMEMORATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN'S SURRENDER



On September 2, 2005 a commemorative ceremony was held on the decks of the USS Missouri recognizing the 60th anniversary of Japan's surrender on these same decks in Tokyo Harbor ending the Pacific War. General Douglas MacArthur accepted the surrender and signed on behalf of all allied forces.

Adm. Nimitz signed for the U. S. There were several speakers at this year's ceremony including Col. Ben Skardon USA who told his story of surviving with the help of

many comrades, three years and four months of Japanese prison camps in the Philippines, the 10 day "Bataan death march", "hell ships" enroute to Japan and POW camps in Japan and Manchuria. This 88 year old hero received two Silver Stars and two Bronze Star medals.

The consulate corps of Honolulu, including Consul Generals from Philippines, Korea, New Zealand, Australia and Japan, presented a wreath shown in the picture above.

Admiral Gary Roughead was

the day's principle speaker and he paid tribute to the many veterans of the Second World War in attendance, and he specifically recognized the delegation from America's "close friend and longtime ally Australia."

LtCdr. James Starnes, 84, also spoke and recalled, "Sixty years ago, on Sept. 2, 1945, I stood here on the deck of this ship, as officer of the deck, and participated in and witnessed the formal surrender of the Japanese Empire to the Allied forces of the world,"

Coming Events October

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

2 Oct (Sun) Oktoberfest 1800 Hale Koa

21 Oct (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club 1130

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

Coming Events November

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

**13 Nov (Sun) Brunch, Annual Meeting
Hickam O'Club 1100**

14 Nov (Mon) PAC Meeting, Wright Brothers 1200

18 Nov (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club 1130

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



YOUR PRESIDENT'S Perspective
Colonel John Harms; U\$ Marine Corps (Ret.)



CHAPTER RECRUITING
OR "GIVE ME 10" CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The strength of any volunteer organization is continuing to recruit new members so more people will actively participate and new ideas are provided to strengthen the mission and activity of the organization. Or more simplified, when we get a bit "long in the tooth", get "new blood" on board so the organization grows and does not stagnate. National MOAA reflects the same issues of growth or stagnation, as do the Chapters, so they have started this campaign to recruit 4200 new members by year's end. Here are the details; each participating Chapter will receive \$10 for every new paid member, and after they recruit 10 members the Chapter receives an additional \$100 bonus or total of \$200 to our Scholarship fund. As in any "enticement" campaign there will be additional monetary prizes as \$1,000 is to be awarded to the top Chapter in each size category, every person who signs up a new member will be entered into the \$1,000 sweepstakes, and each new member and who is associated with the sweepstake recruiter winner will get a life membership to National MOAA plus \$500. So, since my secondary duty after Chapter President is Post Office Box mail "picker upper", any application I receive from a NEW member qualifies. PLEASE WRITE THE NAME OF THE RECRUITER who encouraged you to join on the application so I can fill out the forms for National to give you a "sweepstake" chance. Please pick up the telephone, visit with former friends, retired, active duty, reserve, and Guard uniformed service officers and have them join YOUR Hawaii Chapter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I recognize the old military adage, "Do not volunteer for anything" as my Drill Instructor, yelled when handing me the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) to carry which I did not volunteer to carry, they are really very heavy. His clairvoyant comment was "you looked like you were going to volunteer", aye aye Sir. But we do need volunteers for 1st Vice President (basically takes over when I am out of town and assists me if events get a bit hectic), a 3d Vice President (An active duty, reserve, Guard officer who will liaison/promote membership with this group) and an Auxiliary Representative who will represent this extensive membership in our Chapter but have no voice currently on the Executive Committee. PLEASE we are all busy, or we probably would be pushing up daisies at Punchbowl, so please let George Sullivan or myself know if you would volunteer to take one of these positions. We meet once a month at the MCBH Officers Club. So would appreciate your help. *Semper fi, John Harms*



Personal Affairs
Rear Admiral C. Bruce Smith USN (Ret.)

SBP OPEN ENROLLMENT SEASON

The Open Enrollment Season (OES) for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) begins 1 October 2005 and ends 30 September 2006. During this period, retirees who turned down SBP when they retired can enroll. On the other hand, those who participated in SBP for two years and then elected to terminate are not eligible to enroll. Additionally, current SBP participants can increase their coverage.

The bad news associated with the OES is that the costs to enroll or increase the coverage amount are expensive. Space does not permit further discussion. Computer users can go to the MOAA web site at <http://www.MOAA.org> and click on How to Calculate SBP premium and Enrollment Fee for SBP Open Enrollment Season as well as SBP Open Enrollment Season Frequently Asked Questions. Also individual Services' Retiree Newsletters as well as the Services' Retired Activities Offices should be able to assist as information becomes available. Remember Service RAO telephone numbers are listed in your 2005 Hawaii Chapter MOAA Directory.

Aloha, *Bruce*

Board of Directors

Chair, RADM C Bruce Smith USN
 Judith Breitwieser
 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

September was another good month for our members!

Binnacle List

LTC Jay Blanchard, USA is in Queen's Hospital, Honolulu, recovering from back surgery.

Save The Date

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Annual Christmas Party
 @
Hale Koa

Festivities and Cocktails
at 1800
 with
The Marine Forces Pacific Band

Dinner follows
at 1900 - 2000

A five piece Dance Band
will provide Music
 from
2000-2100

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necessarily Hawaii Chapter policy.

SGLI Increases

The Department of Defense began making retroactive death gratuity payments recently to families of service members who have died of combat-related injuries. The retroactive payments will cover service members who have fallen since 1 October 2001, the beginning of actions in Afghanistan as part of the global war on terrorism.

The FY2005 wartime supplemental spending measure increased death gratuities from \$12,420 to \$100,000 and hiked Service-members' Group Life Insurance coverage from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for those killed in a combat zone or who die from wounds received during combat. The provisions of the supplemental expire at the end of September, but the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act provide similar increases in FY2006. The Military Coalition, which includes MOAA, is disappointed that the provisions are applicable solely to those who die in a combat zone or from wounds received during combat conditions, rather than applicable to all service members who die while on duty, regardless of the conditions surrounding their deaths. The Joint Chiefs of Staff also strongly supported this payment to all service members who die on active duty saying that the value of a service member's life should not depend on where he or she serves.

Lanikai Players

The Chapter does not have the Lanikai Players on its event schedule this year; however, we would like to inform our members of the dates of the play.

Filthy Riches

November 4,5, & 6 and 11,12 &13.
Call Debbie for reservations - 262-7549



NEW MEMBERS
"GIVE ME 10"
CAMPAIGN

Col. Jim Gebhard, USAF (ret.), Recruiter, John Harms
 Lt. Col. George Gonsalves, USA (ret.), - Recruiter,
 John Harms
 CWO4 Emiliano Gorgas, USA (ret.) - Recruiter,
 Judith Breitwieser

That is \$30.00 more toward our Scholarship Fund –
Keep Trucken

Isle Pilot Recounts His 8 Days of Rescues

By Gregg K. Kakesako

(Reprinted here with permission of the author and the Honolulu Star Bulletin)



What began as an annual routine flight refresher for Hawaii-based LtCdr. Thomas Meyer developed into the most emotional and demanding moments in the 14 years he has been in the Coast Guard.

Meyer spent more than a week flying an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter up to seven hours a day while volunteering in the New Orleans area. His crew rescued about 200 people from rooftops, balconies, streets, apartment buildings and other high-ground areas during eight days.

“The silence of the air crew spoke for itself,” said Meyer in trying to describe the depth of destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. “The devastation was just cataclysmic. I have never seen anything like it.”

Meyer, an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter pilot assigned to Barbers Point Coast Guard Air Station, conducted interviews with the news media after his return yesterday. Meyer was in Mobile, Ala., ready to begin a week of refresher training Aug. 27 when the hurricane warning was posted for the Gulf Coast. There are still 14 other Hawaii-based Coast Guard members in the Gulf Coast area.

“There were zero questions that we would be in the city and operating as quickly as possible after the storm passed,” he said.

He said that from the beginning, Homeland Security officials “made it clear what our mandate was.” Before the eye of the hurricane passed the shoreline, Coast Guard aircraft and crews were ready to move in, he said. Coast Guard air crews from the Baton Rouge area, Meyer said, “were some of the first aircraft into the city (New Orleans).”

They were joined by Coast Guard rescue personnel from Mississippi and Alabama soon after Katrina’s winds decreased. More than 4,000 personnel responded

to the disaster. The Coast Guard reports that its crews saved more than 23,909 lives between Aug. 29 and last Thursday.

Meyer said Coast Guard aircraft were in constant communication with each other and two airborne communications centers—a U.S. Customs P-3 Orion and a Navy E2 Hawkeye surveillance aircraft—that were flying around the clock over the storm-ravaged area.

In a few cases, people refused Coast Guard help.

“There were two people wandering,” Meyer said. “It looked like a father and son with their dog. We took the basket down to them.

“This was an area where you could barely see the street since it was littered with lumber. They looked at the basket and they walked the opposite way. I still wonder what happened to them,” he said.

His first search-and-rescue mission was on the night of Aug. 29, after the Category 4 hurricane ripped through the Gulf Coast and several breaks occurred on the levees protecting New Orleans.

He said the unified command center in Mobile was getting reports of people trapped by the rising waters.

“But their locations were reported by street addresses, which doesn’t help me since I can’t see street signs when I am flying,” Meyer said.

That information had to be translated to latitudes and longitudes by a computer.

Meyer had been stationed at Mobile for four years before his Hawaii assignment and was familiar with the Mississippi-Louisiana Gulf coastal region. He said the magnitude of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina really hit an emotional note with him and pilots from the region with whom he flew throughout the week.

“These were not houses that were damaged. They were homes that no longer existed. They were apartment complexes that were down to the slab. Cars strewn all over ... cars strewn in the Gulf of Mexico. It was just unbelievable. The bridge on Highway 90 ... well, there wasn’t a span that existed anymore,” he said.

“It was also very stressful,” Meyer added, noting that there was not only the danger of hovering and hoisting people out of dangerous situations, but also an increasing number of rescue aircraft to deal with.

“We were operating in high-density traffic where there were at least 30 to 40 other aircraft within a 2- or 3-mile radius. It was hard not hitting another plane out there.”

MOAA Lists Priorities for House Leadership

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan (USN-Ret) and Government Relations Director Col. Steve Strobe (USAF-Ret) were among a group of association leaders invited to the Capitol this week to discuss legislative priorities with Majority Whip Roy Blunt (MO), the third-ranking Republican in the House.

Common themes to virtually all of the association inputs included the importance of fully funding VA health care, "seamless transition" of care for returning wounded in switching from military to VA health systems, and the need to provide fairer compensation and protections for disabled veterans and retirees.

VADM Ryan highlighted several additional issues:

*The need for a larger defense budget and a larger Army, rather than continuing to scrimp on money and manpower when the requirements are so obviously overstressing the current force. "For the Office of Management and Budget to ask Congress to impose a moratorium on any further military benefit improvements when our troops are suffering the full brunt of war is outrageous," Ryan said. "Congress needs to take the lead on these issues and do the right thing, as it has done in the past."

*The importance of providing permanent health coverage for all drilling Guard and Reserve members.

*The urgent need to fix remaining problems with the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), including the unfair deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP and the inordinate delay in implementing paid-up SBP coverage, which inflicts a 30% premium penalty on "Greatest Generation" retirees.

*The need to end disability offset to retired pay for retirees who have been rated "unemployable" by the VA.

Rep Blunt said that the House leaders are committed to making sure the VA has the funds it needs. He also agreed that, "We need to treat the Guard and Reserve better in every way. That means getting the current force right-sized and refocused. We've shifted too much responsibility to the Guard and Reserve."

"Last year, you told us that fixing the SBP age-62 benefit was an important priority," Blunt told the group.

"We took that to heart, fought hard for it, and won. I'm listening just as hard this year."

"Attention All Hawaii Chapter Members"

This is the one time in the calendar year that the Hawaii Chapter asks the support of its members through attendance at our

"General Membership Meeting"

- Sunday, 13 November 2005 -

Hickam Officers Club

Brunch is open from 1000 to 1300.

We ask all members to arrive by 1100.

The program will begin at 1200 and consist of a local prominent speaker,

the election/reelection of three members of our

Board of Directors, an Activities Report & Financial Statement for 2005.

Clip and mail to Bill Quirk by November 9, 2005

I (we) will attend!! Brunch Fee (\$18.95 each)

Brunch Costs: \$18.95 x (X) _____ Scholarship Donations _____

Total ENCLOSED: _____ Name Tags to Read: _____ / _____

Make Checks payable to: Hawaii Chapter MOAA

Mail Checks and reservations to: Bill Quirk, 95-219 Aua Place, Mililani, Hawaii 96789

TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)



VISTA—A NEW OPERATING SYSTEM

I am beta testing the new windows operating system, Vista, which is expected to be on the retail shelves, late next year. I attended a computer user group conference in San Diego recently, where I learned quite a lot from a Microsoft presentation and from other info I have been reading on Vista. I was pretty impressed with the MS presentation watching the various new features as they sped across the screen. And I did check to see if they were using any special, super-souped-up stuff in their laptop...they weren't! So for one thing, it looks like Vista will in fact be faster than XP. That is also my first impression on installing the beta copy I received on my computer.

What follows are some observations on what Vista looks like now, but keep in mind, it's a long time to the actual release supposedly at the end of next year, so lots of changes will no doubt still happen. I'll tell you more about it next month as space is limited!

When Windows Vista starts for the first time, you'll get to see the new Aero-style. Of course, you can also choose to run in a "Classic" style. BTW, Microsoft does not expect to have recommended hardware specifications for Windows Vista before summer 2006. The only broad guidelines Microsoft currently provides are:

- * A modern, Intel Pentium- or AMD Athlon-based PC
- * 512 MB or more of RAM
- * A dedicated graphics card with DirectX® 9.0 support

The taskbar in Windows Vista hasn't changed much from previous versions, but on a laptop computer you'll notice two new icons in the Notification Area. First a power management icon, which when you hover the mouse over it shows you the status of your battery(s) and when clicked, launches a dialog with more information. The second new icon is a Presentation Settings icon, which enables you to adjust your screen behavior when giving a presentation (over a wireless network using any standard network projector such as Jim uses for our meetings).

Two new desktop backgrounds are included in Beta 1

The Start menu has changed quite a bit since Windows XP. First you'll notice a search box built into the Start menu. From there you can quickly search for programs by just typing their name. As you type each letter, the list of programs displayed is immediately limited to those that match your search string, displaying the list on the left side of the Start menu, replacing the "recently used" programs list that normally displays on the left side of the Start menu.

The next change you'll notice is what happens when you click the "All Programs" link. It no longer expands a sub menu, but instead the "All Programs" sub menu is displayed in place of the "recently used" programs list that normally displays on the left side of the Start menu. If you click on a folder, the list expands to show the contents of that folder, which will trigger an in-place scroll bar if the displayed list gets too long.

BTW, right now there is still a mix of Windows Vista & Windows XP style icons, but according to MS, these should all be changed to the Windows Vista style icons.

Microsoft has made quite a number of changes to the basics. On the Start menu, the "My" label is gone from items such as Documents, Pictures, Music and others. But the changes in Windows Vista include a lot more. In Windows XP, Microsoft introduced a new concept whereby a user's files are all positioned under the Documents and Settings folder structure. User accounts each have their own folder structure underneath the Documents and Settings folder in Windows XP. In Windows Vista, that has changed. The Documents and Settings folder has been replaced by a Users folder, under which you'll see the individual account-user folders (such as Administrator, You and Public). Inside these folders you'll find folders like: Desktop, Documents, Downloads, Favorites, Music, Pictures, Videos, and Virtual Folders. My favorite "newbie" so far, is the Virtual Folders. It's a concept introduced in Windows Vista that's like the old shortcuts put on steroids. Virtual Folders are not real folders but are XML-based containers linking to other files and folders. For example, the Pictures link from the Start menu is a link to the Virtual Folder All Pictures and Videos which would contain "pointers" to all pictures and videos stored on your system, so that it doesn't really matter where they are stored on your system, you'll be able to find them in this "folder". The advantage of Virtual Folders over the old shortcut is that Virtual Folders are dynamic; they are updated dynamically, so if a document or picture is deleted from the original location on the system, the Virtual Folder will no longer show that document or picture. Windows Vista ships with a number of default Virtual Folders and you can create your own. Virtual Folders are just a "front end" to a database query that contains a list of files on your system, showing you the end-result of the query, i.e. the system queries the file system for all files that are "image type" and "Video type" files when you view the All Pictures and Videos Virtual Folder.

The Computer link on Windows Vista's start menu is the new version of XP's My Computer, and lists any hard drives, CD/DVD drives, Network Drives and removable drives on (or attached to) your system.

All windows display a preview pane, which can be manipulated by right clicking it. By default the preview pane shows at the bottom of most windows, and can be displayed on the right side, or be hidden.

The new address bar gives you the ability to quickly jump around your file system. It features dropdown menus which makes navigating around your system quite a bit faster, giving users the ability to arbitrarily navigate back and forth into the file system from any point.

That's it for part one...come see us at one of our scheduled meetings, visit www.the_tug.hoomestead.com for more info. *Aloha, Lou*



BIG ISLAND HAPPENINGS

Col. John Harms

Meetings were held with our Satellite Chapter members in both Kailua- Kona and Hilo during the first week in September. We had open discussions on issues affecting the Satellite Chapters and how best we the Parent Chapter can support them. The most significant issue with both Satellites was the necessity of setting up some type of Personal Affairs Committee (PAC) action to assist surviving spouses with the myriad of requirements that occur with the death of a Chapter member. A game plan has been put into effect, with much e-mail going back and forth starting to resolve this issue. Additionally the groups expressed a concept that some type of Chapter activity be held on the Big Island annually (or at least every other year) so that these members would feel more a part of the Big Picture. It was decided that the Chapter President would also be the President of each Satellite (at least on an interim basis), that each Satellite would have a primary point of contact, and that recruiting would be a major effort. It was felt that a PAC effort in place on the Big Island would help recruiting. Additionally the Executive Committee has approved one (1) \$1000 JROTC Scholarship to be given to a deserving Cadet in a Big Island High School for academic year 2005-06. Persons attending were:

Kailua-Kona: Ed Tessien, Patrick Callahan, Margaret Duran, Lois Paciello, Jane Fishback and Louis Copman, with many spouses.

Ed Tessien is this Satellite POC.

Hilo: Robert Said, Samuel Kawamura, John Roney, and Kevin Bradley again with many spouses attending.

Robert Said is this Satellite POC



Hilo Satellite Chapter Meeting with President John Harms—photographer.



Kailua-Kona Satellite Chapter at lunch below.



Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 1185
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185



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NOW HEAR THIS
General Membership Meeting
&
Brunch
Hickam O'Club
Sunday 13 November 2005
(see page 5 for details and reservations)

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 ____/____/____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Fax _____

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.

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: Scholarships \$ _____ Community Services \$ _____

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