



# Pau Hana Koa

## Retired Warriors

### Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 20 No. 4

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

April 2005



#### APRIL

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

15 Apr (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club 1200

27 Apr (Wed) Chapter Luncheon 1130  
MCBH Staff NCO Club, LtGen Chip Greason, Speaker

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

#### MAY

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

9 May (Monday) PAC Meeting 1200  
Orville and Wilbur Club HAFB

18 May (Wed) Chapter Luncheon 1100  
Hale Ikena Fort Shafter, CPT Adam Wocjik Speaker

20 May (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club 1130

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

# Homecoming – Reserved for Fortunate Few by bob popp

Civilian men and women go on business trips all the time and their return rarely heralds any notice. But a military homecoming, either by a single sailor, marine, soldier, or airman or by an entire ship or unit is never ordinary.

Almost all of us have been there, months away from home, weathering heavy seas, anticipating delicious, so-called Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) or C-rations, enduring steaming jungle heat or hot then cold deserts, facing peril on a near daily basis. Then there are the people who wait at home, spouses, families, lovers who pray for our well being and safe return. Military homecomings have been an American staple since the Revolutionary War. Warriors have made that journey back home for over 200 hundred years eagerly looking for a loved one who is waiting patiently. Nothing else matters to that returning hero, and they all are heroes, than a warm embrace, hugs from children, and a kiss so long anticipated.

On February 17, 2005 this emotional tableau was reenacted again when the “Eyes of Thunder” returned to Wheeler Army Air Field. Field Artillery Detachment (FAD) 2-11, part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division returned to Hawaii after over a year deployed in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. This 37 man platoon is responsible for the care and maintenance of Q-37 radars used in support of platoon’s artillery battalion. Maintaining sensitive electronic gear and keeping personal weapons clean in a desert environment became a full time commitment as the platoon strove to keep a constant readiness level to respond to fire support missions as well as target terrorist rocket launching positions.

When the homecoming day finally arrived after several delays, FAD 2-11 arrived to be greeted not only by their loved ones but by an organization dedicated to reminding our military men and women that they are not forgotten, that America does appreciate and honor their service to this great country, and that warriors from the past appreciate as well as understand their trying experiences. The Hawaii Chapter of Military Officers Association of America, its men and women, remains dedicated to the finest military in the world, not to the organization but to the military men and women who are its flesh and blood. It is your dedication, your professionalism, and your willingness to accept the risks that ensures a grateful nation.

We, who have experienced many homecomings ourselves, welcome you home. We honor you. Well Done!



## **EYES OF THE THUNDER – RETURNS**

Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2005 5:40 AM

Subject: Awesome!

Thank you so much for that incredible greeting! I am downtown enjoying the weekend with my parents. God only knows what a lot of my guys are up to. Either way, we are so happy to be back. I will never stop contributing our safety to the prayers, thoughts and support from home. MOAA was a huge part of that.

THANK YOU.

We have a week of reintegration training, 30 days of leave and then back to the grind.

I will let you all know when we will be doing our beach party with families in April. I hope to get to know you all more and I know my men want to thank you all personally.

Respectfully,  
Adam  
CPT Adam Wocjik





# Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)

by Captain George Sullivan, USN (Retired)



**The following are excerpts from a letter from State Rep. Mark Moses addressed to Jack Miller.**

The House has passed a bill which gives well-deserved state tax credits to Hawaii residents who are members of the National Guard and Reserves. Unfortunately, the bill does not provide these benefits to Hawaii residents who are members of the regular military service. Hawaii Chapter will take a position on this bill.

Dear Mr. Miller:

H.B. No. 329 was heard by the Committee on Finance on February 23, 2005. At that hearing, I objected to the fact that the bill, while providing a welcome benefit to citizen-soldiers called to active duty, excluded active-duty military personnel who are Hawaii residents from the tax benefits given to national Guard and Reservists. The Finance Committee passed the bill without my recommended amendments to correct this inequity. I voted yes with reservations for the bill in spite of its defects, since I had no wish to deprive the National Guard and Reservists of the tax benefit, but I strongly objected to the exclusion of active duty personnel.

On the Floor of the House I again objected, and offered a Floor Amendment to correct the bill. Unfortunately, ...my amendment [did not pass], leaving the exclusion of active duty personnel in the bill. The bill was then passed over to the Senate where, so far...this inequity [has not been corrected]. I believe that this bill does an injustice to Hawaii's military personnel...

I will continue to fight for you and your interests, and I urge you and the other members of MOAA to contact the Legislature and make your feelings known.



## Aloha to three-war Marine hero

On March 2, retired Marine Col. Lyle V. Tope was laid to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Col. Tope loved Hawai'i and had made it his home for the past two decades. I had known Lyle as a co-worker and friend during the 1980s at Pacific Resources Inc. in Grosvenor Center in Honolulu.

Until I read his obituary in the Feb. 28 Advertiser, I had no idea that this quiet, unassuming man was one of the true war heroes of our time. Even though I was a fellow retired military officer, he rarely spoke to me of his wartime experiences. When the Navy chaplain who presided at the services gave the eulogy, most of us were left in awe at what this man had done for his country. My own 25 years of naval service paled by comparison.

Col. Tope survived being a combat pilot in three wars: World War II, Korea and Vietnam, flying many different types of fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft. He flew 484 combat missions and sorties operating from 13 aircraft carriers.

In Korea, he was shot down, ditched in the ocean and rescued. He commanded a helicopter detachment in the Project Mercury recovery of astronaut Wally Schirra. He served at MCAS Kane'ohe for several years, primarily as C.O. and

Executive Officer of various aircraft squadrons. In Vietnam, he piloted a severely damaged helicopter to rescue a badly wounded Marine sergeant and his combat dog. He was assigned to U.S. Embassy diplomatic duty as the naval attaché in Jakarta during a particularly critical time in that nation's history and its relationship with the United States, and handled many high-level diplomatic assignments. He was assigned as director of intelligence (G-2) for the Marine Corps and was a member of the National Military Intelligence Board.

Among Col. Tope's 23 decorations, medals and awards are the U.S. Distinguished Service medal; Indonesian Jalasena Star medal; two Legions of Merit with combat "V"; two Distinguished Flying Crosses with combat "V"; the Purple Heart medal; 11 Air medals as well as Meritorious Service and Commendation medals.

As I listened to his eulogy, which only touched briefly on his later civilian accomplishments, it occurred to me that this brave man was a cross between a real-life James Bond and Indiana Jones. His life was an inspiration for many of us, and I left Punchbowl walking a little taller and proud to have known this true patriot.

Punchbowl is home to a great many heroes, and I know Lyle will be in good company.

*CDR William J. Moore USN (Ret.)*



Your President's Message
by Col. John Harms USMC (Ret.)

Hopefully spring will really arrive and the rains will let up, and the mainland will "wake up" from the deep freeze of an exceptional hard winter, be it rains in California or lots of snow in the Eastern Corridor. Easter and Passover are now over, but the message they bring is all eternal. No, this is not the Chaplain's corner, but we are truly fortunate to "Live Hawaii" that I thought it appropriate that we review our priorities and what is important in our lives as 2005 moves into its rebirth phase. We have many friends who have passed on this past year and sometimes we wonder, where does time go? We have fond memories of so many great events in our lives, that sometime there is

a tendency to say "ah leave it to the younger generations". Sorry, but I am not ready to pass from the "Golden Age" to the "Brass Age" just yet. Bottom line get involved! Our Chapter offers many great opportunities from Lou Torraca's computer group (TUG - The Users Group) to Robbie Gee's Bridge to Bill Quirk's Chapter Program planning and execution to just name a few. Last week I became a "Dr. Seuss" for Kainalu Elementary School as they celebrated The Joy of Reading Week. Many young service men were there to read to various classes from first to sixth grade. My sixth grade classes were bright eyed and after the reading we discussed what was read, and their questions were intelligent and with depth. You

come away from this experience really rejuvenated. Now many of us have grandchildren or know friends that do. Get involved with them, "talk story" as we say here in Hawaii for they want to experience our love and friendship and we can learn a lot from them. Additionally many of us have the time to devote to developing a relationship with the young folks, for their parents may not, due to the many demands on families today. I did not devote near the time I would like to have to our children growing up, for it was always travel or long hours on the job that precluded many opportunities. Enjoy the "Golden Age" for the "Brass Age" sneaks up on us so very quickly.

Aloha, John

Commander Guest Speaker Series

U.S. MARINES IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Guest Speaker

Lt. General Chip Gregson

Commander Marine Forces Pacific and Central Command

DATE: 27 April 2005 (Wednesday) - LOCATION: Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Club Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe - TIME: 1200; Bar opens at 1130.

BUFFET LUNCHEON - \$16.50

Main Course - Mahi-mahi and Stir Fry Beef

No-host Bar for Beer and Wine

Please make reservations not later than Friday, 22 April 2005

This will be an exceptional opportunity to hear what is not being explained in the public media from a Senior Commander who has been and is continually on site as we execute our war on terrorism.

Please reserve the following number of meals for April Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon Costs: \_\_\_\_\_ 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)



Since I have been asked numerous times for my “secrets” to keeping out of trouble with my PCs and although I have said on numerous occasions I don’t really have any “secrets” I was told last week that it wasn’t really “secrets” that you wanted, but a look at my maintenance stuffs! OK, since you put it that way...here goes...BTW, don’t panic yet, I will give you all the URLs to go to so you can get each of the ones I use at the end of this column!

First, let’s talk about some sort of schedule...when do I do things with my stuffs? That’s a pretty personal thing you will need to decide as to when you want to set yourself up to do each. I like to do most of mine on Sunday afternoon...so, do I do all things each time at that time? Most of the time, yes, I do, except for the ones that are automatic. Also, you need to know I am a RR person so my PCs are on most of the day, all day, every day. If you are a dialer, then you obviously will have to set your schedule accordingly.

The first utility I use is RegClean. It’s been around a long time, it’s free and it cleans your Registry of unnecessary entries that were created when you installed or uninstalled programs. Next is iSystem wiper which allows you to delete information that windows stores about what you do with your computer, history, temp files, cookies and more. It even clears your recycle bin, if you select that option. AdAware and Spybot are essential and have been talked about extensively at TUG and WINSIG meetings...get them and use them! If you’d like to read an expanded explanation of either or both, just go to the URL list at the end of this column. If you have ever had a bad experience with browser highjacking, you will want to download and use CWS shredder...it will search for and “shred” any of the CoolWebSearch (CWS) versions (there are lots of them).

That’s about it for the manual utilities that you have to do yourself. The auto ones are a combination of free ones and purchase versions. I use AVG anti virus because I was disenchanted with Norton when I first tried it...admittedly, I got it in a bundle with the infamous utilities, which most everyone I know hates! At any rate, I have been very pleased with it, it has found and fixed all viruses it has found and it works to upgrade and scan automatically. I have it on all 3 PCs and my laptop and have never had a problem with it. I also use the free version of Zone Alarm, simply because it does everything I need and again, has never had a problem. One word of advice, invest the time it takes on every program to either watch the tutorial if it comes with one, or read the help file. That will save you lots and lots of time.

The final 2 programs are my favorites; Acronis True Image and Executive Software’s Diskeeper. True Image has saved me on 3 occasions. Setting it to backup your key files, incrementally on a regular basis is a snap. Finally, I use Diskeeper, automatically to keep my PCs defragged. As you know, it’s not always an easy task to perform and often just doesn’t work. I can assure you, if you hate to defrag, the answer is Diskeeper. I use a feature that’s called set it and forget it and it works like a charm. Basically, what it does is defrag regularly, in the background, and never interrupts what you are working on. Because your hard drive(s) is never fragmented, it runs at optimum speed pretty much all the time. I haven’t mentioned price on these, as it’s possible to do some web searching to get the best price. I like pricegrabber.com but there are quite a few others you can use.

OK, that’s the list, now here are the URLs:

RegClean [http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,4666,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,4666,00.asp)

iSystem wiper <http://www.iisofware.net/index.php?clean.html>

AdAware <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>

SpyBot <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>

CWS shredder <http://www.softpedia.com/get/Internet/Popup-Ad-Spyware-Blockers/CWSshredder.shtml>

AVG <http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2/>

ZoneAlarm [www.zonelabs.com](http://www.zonelabs.com)

Acronis True Image

[http://www.jr.com/JRProductPage.process?Product\\_Code=ANS+TRUEIMAGE8&JRSource=google.datafeed.ANS+TRUEIMAGE8](http://www.jr.com/JRProductPage.process?Product_Code=ANS+TRUEIMAGE8&JRSource=google.datafeed.ANS+TRUEIMAGE8)

Diskeeper <http://www.executive.com/coverpage.asp>

That’s it for April and until next time, happy computing. Come see us at one of our future meetings. Visit [www.the\\_tug.homestead.com](http://www.the_tug.homestead.com) for schedules and directions.

*Lou*

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**MEDICARE/  
TRICARE FOR  
LIFE  
UP DATE**

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

There are still some who had not signed up for MEDICARE Part B in the past, but did sign up during the "Special Enrollment Period" that ended on 31 December 2004. As you know a military retiree must have MEDICARE Part B to qualify for the TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) medical program. The issue of concern is that TFL beneficiaries may have doctor/ medical claims DENIED until their current Medicare Part B status shows up in the DEERS system. As of 3 January 2005 beneficiaries can no longer go to a military ID card issuing facility to update their Medicare status.

In order to get the updated Medicare status into your DEERS record, your will have to send a COPY of your Medicare card and a COPY of your Uniformed Services ID card to DEERS, who in turn will contact Medicare and validate the change in their Part B status. If you have a medical/doctors claim against TFL denied, you might request from the provider to refile your claim when your Part B status shows up in DEERS OR you the beneficiary will have to pay the providers costs, and then file a claim for reimbursement .

BUT here is a key element if you are going to pay for the provider's service and file a claim yourself after the DEERS update takes place. Most providers accept "Assignment" that is the published rate for services as established by Medicare. Therefore when paying the provider's bill for services insure they bill you only the "Assignment" costs (show them your retired ID card for justification), for your claim will only cover the "Assignment" charges (combining Medicare and TFL).

Sounds convoluted, but what is new when working with a Federal bureaucracy. Most our members will not have this problem for they have been warned some time ago to get Medicare B to qualify for TFL. But, if anyone has problems contact me at 261-2282. Additionally to stay on top of TFL and TRICARE (Plus, prime, or standard) sign up for the "e-news" from TriWest at triwest.com on the Internet.

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

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**Are You A Member of MOAA?**  
  
**If not, please join  
Hawaii Chapter  
WELCOME ABOARD  
Application below the fold.**  
  
**Front page photos by Carl Hankwitz.**

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Ben Porter Leadership Award, scholarships, USO, etc.

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