



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 20 No. 2

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

February 2005

First Shot Naval Vets to be honored Sunday, 5 June 2005

by CDR Jack Miller, USN (Retired)

“We have attacked, fired upon and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea area.”

Action Report by Commanding Officer, USS Ward made prior to 0700 hours, 7 December 1941 to Naval Headquarters, Honolulu.

At 0645 on 7 December 1941, USS Ward opened fire at an unidentified submarine with No. 1 and 3 guns and began dropping depth charges. One shot was fired from each gun. The shot from No. 1 gun missed, passing directly over the conning tower. The shot from No. 3 gun fired at a range of 50 yards or less struck the submarine. The sunken midget submarine was discovered on 28 August 2002 resting upright on the sandy bottom more than a thousand feet below the surface. The two man submarine of the

Imperial Japanese Navy is 78 feet long, 6 feet in diameter, and was found by the University of Hawaii’s Undersea Research Lab (HURL) several miles east of the entrance to Pearl Harbor.



No. 3 Gun from USS Ward

The submarine had a hole in the conning tower sail on the starboard side made by the USS Ward’s 4-inch guns. The USS Ward was manned by mostly Naval Reservist from Minnesota. After the war, the Ward crew

members formed a “First Shot Naval Vets” club in St. Paul, Minnesota. It took 61 years to verify the claim that the midget submarine had been sunk. The sunken Sub is now a National Marine sanctuary with the exact coordinates classified.

The surviving crew members (less than twenty) have been invited to Pearl Harbor for a plaque presentation on 5 June 2005. The Naval Reserve Detachment aboard the USS Crommelin, the Navy Reserve ship home ported in Pearl Harbor is sponsoring the event. The Chapter has been invited to participate and funds are needed to bring First Shot Vets from Minnesota to Hawaii for the occasion. LCDR Pat Grandelli, OinC USS Crommelin Reserve Detachment may be contacted for more details.

FEBRUARY

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

18 Feb (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O’Club (1130)

19 Feb (Sat) Chapter Luncheon (1130)
Tsunami Relief Efforts, Nehelani Club, Schofield Brks

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

MARCH

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

11 Mar (Fri) MARDI GRAS (1800)
Pearl Harbor Banyans Club

14 Mar (Mon) PAC Mtg, Pohai Nani (1200)

18 Mar (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O’Club (1130)

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



YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
by Colonel John Harms, USMC (Retired)

104 Years Old and Counting!

Not many of us will be able to claim this longevity in life, but our oldest member and possibly the oldest in MOAA celebrated his 104 birthday on 12 January 2005. This is Colonel William Frank Steer, USAF (ret.), and also honorary Major General in the Washington State Air National Guard, who was born in Indian Territory that eventually became the State of Oklahoma. To put this in some perspective during Frank's birth year of 1901, Teddy Roosevelt was our President, the first big Oil strike in Texas occurred at Spindletop, "His Eminence" won the Kentucky Derby, and the Wright Brother's had not even accomplished powered flight yet. Bottom line that was a long, long time ago. Although physically a bit feeble, his mind is still very sharp. His stories as the Provost Marshal in Honolulu after 7 December 1941 would probably not get a PG13 rating, but Hotel Street and China Town were institutions of their own. So if you are of the mind, send him a belated birthday greeting at 618 Paopua Loop, Kailua 96734.

On a more serious side is the return of our soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen from the War on Terrorism in the Middle East. Fortunately most of them are now returning home, a home coming that will be much more positive than some of us experienced when we returned from Vietnam, when we veterans seemed to be pariah in American society. Post Traumatic Syndrome (PTS) is now fully recognized as an ailment that can effect people who have participated or witnessed the horrors of the darker side of man kind as we have seen so often in the Middle East, primarily Iraq and their suicide attacks on anyone and everyone. Our local military medical personnel, especially the Army Medical Center at Tripler, Chaplains and Commanders have a good evaluation and treatment program in place for our returning troops. But when and if you have a chance welcome these young folks home, listen attentively to their stories if they want to share, and express our pride in their performance of duty. A little prayer also goes a long way. America and our freedoms will have a lot deeper and more significant meaning to these young men and women now than before they went off to war. We all have our memories, some can be fond, and others horrible but all positively changed our love and belief in our Country as nothing else could ever do.



It has come to my attention that as of 31 December we have 170 members whose dues are past due. Please check your PHK mailing label, and if the date showing above your name reads 2004, you are one of the 170. Your prompt submission of the renewal form with your dues payment will be much appreciated.

Aloha, John

Are You a Potential Fraud Victim? by LtCol Lou Crompton, USAF (Retired), PAC

The U.S. Postal Service has put together several questions to help citizens evaluate offers before they respond and possibly become a fraud victim. Ask yourself these questions before you decide to enter a sweepstakes or mail your money in response to a telemarketing offer:

1. Do I have to pay to receive the "prize" or enter a sweepstakes? You should never have to pay to receive a prize or enter a sweepstakes contest. If you do, it's illegal.
2. Am I a "guaranteed" winner or told "no risk is involved"? If you're told you're a guaranteed winner or that no risk is involved, be very skeptical.
3. Is the lottery offer from a foreign country? Any lottery that involves a foreign country and is conducted through the mail is illegal.
4. Charity or sweepstakes— or both? Legitimate charities don't ask for donation in conjunction with a contest. The problem is that many phony charities use names that sound or look (Continued on Page 5)

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THINNING OF THE RANKS

CWO4 ROBERT A. LEIGH, USA (Ret) died January 11 at the St. Francis West Hospice Center. He is survived by his wife Pauline. Inurnment at National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

Auxiliary Member, **OLGA J. HODDER** died 14 December.

Active Skeet Shooter Wanted

One of our auxiliary members has always wanted to learn how to shoot skeet. She lives near the KoKo Head firing range, and is looking for someone to teach her. She does not have her own shotgun yet, but will purchase shells and clay pigeons for the instruction as needed. If anyone is interested to help please contact John Harms at JandBHarms@aol.com or 261-2282 for the rest of the information.

Thunder Update by CPT Adam Wojcik

We have officially crossed the 365 day mark of our deployment in support of Iraqi Freedom II. We look forward to flying away from this oil fire polluted, goat infested, mud covered nation of slowly changing people hesitant to embrace democracy but anxious to know a better life. Please continue to pray for our safety. We are ready to be home. See you very soon.

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MEDICARE/TRICARE FOR LIFE UPDATE

by COL John Harms, USMC (Retired), PAC

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, you 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 that the provider refile your claim when your Part B status shows up in DEERS, *OR* you, the beneficiary, will have to pay the provider's costs, and then file a claim for reimbursement yourself. *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 retiree ID card for justification), for your claim will only cover the "Assignment" charges (combining Medicare and TFL). Sounds convoluted, but what else is new when working with a Federal bureaucracy?! Most of our members will not have this problem for they were 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.

Heads Up - - Our April meeting will feature LtGen. Chip Greason, Commander Marine Forces Pacific, speaking on "Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan" at MCBH Officers Club, Saturday, 16 April at 1130.

Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)

Congressional Committee Assignments Announced



Congressional leaders are filling key leadership positions for the 109th Congress. There are few changes to Senate committee leadership posts apart from Sen. Thad Cochran's (R) (MS) assignment to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, replacing Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska. Sen. Robert Byrd (D) (WVA) will continue as ranking member. The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will be chaired by Sen. Larry Craig (R) (ID). Sen. Daniel Akaka (D) (HI) will serve as the panel's ranking member.

House leadership tapped Rep. Jerry Lewis (R) (CA) to serve as chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, replacing Rep. Bill Young (R) (FL) who stepped down due to term limits. Young, who is a strong supporter of military personnel and benefit enhancements, is expected to again be selected as the influential chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. Rep. John Murtha (D) (PA) is likely to continue as the panel's ranking member.

In addition, Rep. Christopher Smith (R) (NJ), the highly regarded chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee in the 108th Congress, was sacked in favor of Rep. Steve Buyer (R) (IN), due in part to Smith's support for increased spending for VA health care programs despite opposition from House leaders. Buyer, a colonel in the Army reserves, previously chaired the House Subcommittee on Personnel.

Earlier Elimination of Paid-up SBP

— maybe

Legislators are preparing to put the 109th Congress in high gear. Combined bills addressing two of MOAA's top issues for 2005 - repealing the law that requires reducing Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for VA death benefits in cases of duty-related deaths and moving up the 2008 effective date of 30-year, paid-up SBP coverage.

Sen. Bill Nelson and Rep. Henry Brown, sponsors of legislation to eliminate reduction of SBP by the amount of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments for the past four years, plan to introduce new bills combining the issue with paid-up SBP. Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ) and Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ), who have previously sponsored bills to accelerate implementation of paid-up SBP, have agreed to cosponsor their respective bills.

About 53,000 widows currently have some level of SBP offset and about 135,000 retirees would benefit from an earlier effective date of paid-up SBP.

Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation Act

The Crosby-Puller Combat Wounds Compensation bill will be re-introduced in the 109th Congress.

That measure would ensure a recuperating service member the continuation of special pays and allowances associated with his/her service. The bill seeks to delay cuts in special pays and allowances until the service member is either reassigned for duty or discharged from the Armed Services. Currently the common practice is to eliminate combat pay and benefits to a member of the armed forces if the person is evacuated from a combat zone.

Increased Benefits for Military KIAs

Senator Jeff Sessions (Ala.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, will introduce legislation that would dramatically expand death benefits for military survivors. Senator Joseph Lieberman (CT) is a chief co-sponsor of the bill.

Senator Sessions stated that the bill would increase the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) maximum benefit to \$400,000 from its current maximum of \$250,000. The legislation would also raise the death gratuity from \$12,420 for military personnel killed in combat to \$100,000. Also of import, the death gratuity increase would be retroactive to cover those killed while deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)

It was rainy, it snowed and boy was it cold...no, I was not in Illinois or Michigan, I was in Las Vegas! All the locals assured me it was never like this in January but it seemed to have no effect on the 2005 International Consumer Electronics Show which I attended.

The show set several major show records including number of attendees (142,585), exhibitors (2,550) and exhibit space (1.531 million net square feet). International attendance also grew to more than 23,028, up from 18,000 at the 2004 CES. And I gotta tell you, it seemed that most of the time, they were all going in the opposite direction, I was headed in!

The show featured a bunch of exciting product and technology announcements, many of which provide consumers with control over when, where and how they watch movies, listen to music, view their digital photos and access other information, education and entertainment content. The show floor not only featured the latest developments in display technologies but a variety of products and innovations that build upon HDTV, such as wired and wireless connections to stream HD video throughout the home and new HD recording devices. Everywhere you looked there was a huge LCD or Plasma display. The latest in digital imaging, digital audio, satellite and HD radio, plasma and LCD displays, home video production, in-vehicle entertainment, VoIP, Ultra-Wideband and more was all there. Almost everywhere you turned there was a digital something to catch your attention.

I was specially taken with the house that was setup in the big lot across from the convention center entrance. The futuristic house also was loaded with big-screen TVs and electronic wall-menus for controlling heating, lighting and security alarms. Of special interest was a new wrinkle: Several home-networking vendors have integrated their wares with the software running Microsoft's media center computers. That means if you buy a fancy new security or lighting system from, say, Home Automation Inc., then the controls for dimming your chandelier or opening the kitchen blinds can show up on the main menu of a Microsoft media center computer, right beside controls for playing music and recording TV. The setup suggests Microsoft's media center operating system is looking at bigger things than just zapping music and movies around the house.

One of the more interesting exhibits, even to Bill Gates, who stopped by for a look-see, was the Roomba booth. A useful and futuristic way to vacuum your house, this little gem does a really great job, all by itself. The latest version is even more efficient than its original model, which my wife gave me almost two years ago. (A hint no doubt, as to the state of my office area.) It falls into the category of personal robots!! Do yourself a favor and visit www.irobot.com Perhaps not surprisingly, this is one reason why many analysts believe personal robots today sit where personal computers did in the early 1980s -- on the mass-market launching pad. No wonder Bill Gates went out of his way to meet the latest Roomba.

It would be impossible to tell you about all the many, many fascinating products on display, but here are just a couple I saw and liked: The best new cell phone feature I saw came from the Samsung booth. There were cell phones with speech-to-text conversion that actually works. You could actually dictate a letter and the text could be emailed or text messaged off to someone. Pretty impressive and more useful than trying to do it with a teeny-tiny keyboard. In the world of entertainment, it seemed every manufacturer is aiming to integrate with the iPod. Pretty much every audio company is hoping to capture more dollars from the iPod generation, which seems to include most of us! For example, Apple recently announced partnerships with several automakers. Of course, Streaming Internet radio in your car might not be too far off with at least three companies at the show, offering car-mounted Satellite systems for in-transit surfing. (We probably will have to wait awhile here in Hawaii to get that service.) If you're a TV junky and want to Tivo all the shows you can't watch live, two bright spots exist, although they only indirectly tie into the time-shift process. Tivo partnered with Microsoft to make recorded content portable from Tivo boxes to various Windows devices which is a much needed step. [Orb-http://www.orb.com](http://www.orb.com) goes further giving you access to any media content on your home PC anywhere on the planet using cell phones, PDAs, or laptops. You can even send images and audio back to your home PC. Lots of amazing stuff, I must admit.

Here's a quote that sums it up pretty well: "The consumer technology industry is in the midst of a rapid shift to digital," ... The International CES reflects this digital revolution." said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association, the producer of the International CES.

After that, all I can say is may all your digital wishes be answered.

Happy Computing, *Lou*

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Last Call for Mardi Gras 11 March 2005

Judith Breitwieser has only 5 reserved seat tickets left for the evening dinner performance starting at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 11 March, at the Pearl Harbor Banyans Club. These are \$50.00 front row tickets. When these are gone, anyone else desiring to attend will need to deal directly with the Mardi Gras ticket office, telephone: 473-1703 between the hours of 1000 and 1300. This is scheduled to be the last Mardi Gras Show directed by Jack Cione, who has directed this Las Vegas style revue for over twenty years.

Tripler Health Consumer Committee

Barbara Stakk is the newest representative for MOAA at the quarterly meetings of the Tripler Health Consumer Committee. She reports highlights from the January meeting as follows: 1) There is no shortage of flu vaccine; it is readily available at all military clinics. 2) The Tripler home page on the internet is now available to inquire about the status of a prescription as well as to order prescription refills; once you are on the home page just click on the patient information page and you will be guided to further options regarding the pharmacy. 3) In the near future an additional 105 parking spaces will be added on the grassy slopes on the makai side of Tripler. 4) Tripler and Schofield Barracks are actively seeking patient satisfaction feedback; they want to hear good as well as problem areas which need correction. Apparently the contractor TRICARE West's continued participation in providing services is contingent on patient satisfaction.

If you have any questions, or issues regarding health care at Tripler and would like them brought up before this committee please let Barbara know via e-mail (bquirk6245@msn.com). The next meeting is scheduled for 27 April and will be attended by the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services, the Chiefs of Family Practice and ER Services, Preventive Medicine, Managed Care, Pharmacy, Provost Marshal, Public Affairs, and the TAMC Executive Officer.

Tax Assistance Available

Again this year members are offering to assist other members who may be in need of assistance to prepare federal and state personal income tax forms. If you need help, contact Jerry Lesperance at 488-5205 or George Sullivan at 623-2243.

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ATTENTION:

Chapter Luncheon Meeting
Nehelani Club, Schofield Barracks
Saturday, 19 February, 1130
RESERVATION DEADLINE: 5 February

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 ____/____/____

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