



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

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

Volume 17 No 3

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

March 2002

TROA to MOAA

See Presidents Message

2002 Doleman Award Nominations

It is time to submit nominations for the 2002 Doleman Award which we present annually. The Award is named in honor of the late LGEN Edgar Doleman USA (Ret).

Past Honorees are as follows:

1995 LGEN Edgar Doleman USA (Ret)

1996 LGEN Thomas Rienzi USA (Ret)

1997 LtCOL Gayle Gardner USAF (Ret)

1998 GEN Fred Weyand USA (Ret)

1999 RADM Lloyd Vasey USN (Ret)

2000 LtCOL Louis Crompton Jr. USAF (Ret)

2001 LCDR Stanley K. Nicholls USN (Ret)

The criteria for the award are simple and straight forward:

Be a Retired Officer,

Be a Member of National TROA, and

have made significant voluntary contributions to the local community since retiring.

The Doleman Award presentation is a significant event and will be presented at the annual Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Week Keynote Luncheon scheduled tentatively for Wednesday 22 May.

Please submit your nominations to:

LTC George Vickers USA (Retired) 623-9992

95-1094 Leolani Street

Mililani, HI 96789

LTC Vicker's Nomination Committee includes:

CAPT Bob Morrison USN (Retired) 254-2920

CAPT Ralph Niesz USCG (Retired) 373-3619

CAPT George Sullivan USN (Retired) 624-2243

COL Louis Torraca USAF (Retired) 254-3286

BGEN Dick Vercauteren USMC (Retired) 377-1894

Deadline for nominations is 14 April 2002.

TAPS

Lieutenant Fred R. Frizelle Jr. USNR

Lieutenant Colonel Walter G. Cannon USAF

A Political Year in the Islands—2002

Once again we are entering into the political season which will culminate in November with elections for Governor, Offices at the Federal and State level, etc. We even have one of our own members, Representative Bob McDermott in the race for a seat in the House of Representatives — and the Chapter is anticipating hosting a debate in November between candidates for Governorship, which Bill Nations has generously accepted to coordinate and be the moderator.

All the foregoing is to surface and address the realities for possible Chapter's involvement in the months ahead, before problems may occur. One of these areas is advertising in the Pau Hana Koa, which was a subject of concern a few years ago and was tabled as unresolved.

Accordingly the following is extracted from TROA's

“What are the parameters for chapter involvement in local elections? Can a Chapter, for example, accept a paid political ad in its Newsletter? TROA's General Counsel, CAPT Pete Wylie, JAGC, USN (Ret) crafted the following response.

The IRS position is that the acceptance of paid political advertisements in a publication belonging to a nonprofit organization won't violate the political-campaign provision provided:

1. *The nonprofit accepts advertisements on the same basis as other, nonpolitical advertising.*
2. *Advertisements are clearly identified as paid political advertising.*
3. *The nonprofit expressly states that it does not endorse any candidate for political office; and*
4. *Advertising is available to all political candidates on an*

Executive Committee**Elected Officers**

Pres -COL Duke Frey
USA
261-2946/ duke06@hawaii.rr.
com

1st Vice Pres -CAPT John Pe-
ters USN
484-9748/petersj007@hawaii.rr.
com

2nd Vice Pres-
CDR Jack Miller USN
261-4100/carita@pixi.com

Appointed Officers

Secy - COL John Harms USMC
261-2282/JandBHarms@cs.com

Treas - LTC Tim Schroth
USAR 625-7353/
schrotht@yahoo.com

Past Pres - CAPT John Peters
USN
484-9748/petersj007@hawaii.rr.
com

Auxillary - Roxanna Faith
488-0185/
roxyhawaii@juno.com

Legal—COL Terry Thomason
USA
247-5255/turtlealoha@aol.com

Hilo Satellite -
CW3 Kevin Bradey USN
982-7045 /wahanui@gte.net

Kona Satellite -
LtCOL Ed Tessien USAF
329-8334/pc70@cornell.edu

Chair LAVA-
CAPT George Sullivan USN
623-2243/
Alohasully@earthlink.net

Chair LA- LtCOL Tom Smyth
USMC
531-2829/ TSmyth@dbedt.
hawaii.gov

Chair VA-COL Ralph JWK
Hiatt
261-3301/aloharalph@aol.com

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Moving along into March obviously caught me off guard, as am behind in our newsletter with the latest updates from our Legislative Affairs/Veterans Affairs and Personal Affairs Committees—which are important in providing latest information for your use.

However, before getting into Chapter business, you should be aware of important changes on going at the National TROA level—which will be monumental for the future of TROA. On February 5th, Gen Joe-Hoar, current Chairman of the Board, took on a topic which has caused many of us concern in the past , which is changing the name of our organization (TROA) to reflect the reality of our TROA's entire membership base. On that date the Board recommended the name our organization to become "The Military Officers Association of America". Approval/disapproval will be sent to the general membership as a ballot in our August "Retired Officer" Magazine. The other major change — LTG Mike Nelson, whom many met last year is stepping down as President , to be replaced By VADM Norbert R. Ryan Jr. USN. So interesting times ahead.

As for our chapter, the Board of Directors met in February to review our current financial status — and direction for the remainder of 2002. Financially, while we may not be robust, we are certainly healthy and do not anticipate any problem areas under the astute management of Tim Schroth. Both ADM Smith and I both pledge to pursue 12 Issues of our Pau Hana Koa and a social program each month - for those who would like to attend. We are also looking at the possibility of a satellite in America Samoa who has expressed interest—as well as on Maui and Kauai. The Board would also like to develop a Satellite Corner in our Pau Hana Koa—which we will actively pursue.

Check our Current Events on page 3 to be sure you are not missing anything coming up. Kathy and Richard DeLong have set up an excellent program on Thursday the 28th at the Sea Breeze, HAFB. Come early and watch the sun set. If the success of February's Sunday Brunch, hosted by Bruce Smith, is any indication, we will have another fellowship experience and great time. If you want to join in our social program endeavors — in any capacity, contact Jack Miller, 261- 4100

In this PHK , I have addressed a political concern on page one and donation considerations on page 6. All areas I would like to ensure awareness for the health of our Chapter. Mahalo's Duke

Chair Personal Affairs-
RADM Bruce Smith USN
373-3526/ cbrucef@cs.com

Chap - COL Ron Bezanson USA
235-4220/ bezansonrs01@aol.com

Chair Public Affairs
LtCOL Shirley Cavanaugh USAF
236-3715/kele@aloha.com

Chair ROTC -
LTC Hank Heyenga USA
254-2814/ heyenga@aol.com

Chair Community Affairs -
Kathy Delong
486-6942/ rasbma@yahoo.com

Editor in Chief
LTC Bill McGarry AUS
422-1963/
mcgarryw001@hawaii.rr.com

WEBMASTER
Col Ron McClair USMC
395-4232/ mcclairr001@hawaii.rr.
com

Chair Systems Mgt
MAJ George Montague USAF
239-4222/
montagueg001@hawaii.rr.com

Chair Fund Raising
LTC Richard DeLong USA
486-6942/rasbma@yahoo.com

Chair Nominations-
LTC George Vickers USA
623-9992/vick@aloha.net

TUG - COL Lou Torraca USAF
254-3286/ luigi@hawaii.rr.com.

Chair CCRR / Historian -
CAPT Ralph Niesz USCG
373-3619/ ralph@hawaii.rr.com

Surgeon - COL John Sheedy USA
373-1718/ docsheedy@aol.com

Sergeant –at– Arms
LTC Hank Heyenga USA
254-2814/ heyenga@aol.com

Bridge
Robbie Gee
255-4558/
MK-Lady@hawaii.rr.com

**Member of the Month for March 2002
Hawaii Chapter recognizes Marell Malek**

Marell Malak has been steadfast in her dedication, support and leadership for Hawaii Chapter's Auxilliary.

A native of Western Kentucky, an educator by profession, she and her husband left California after a substantial time as an Administrator in the Los Angeles School District for Maui. While there she was active in the Arts, serving as the Board of Director President of the Maui Philharmonic Society. However as the story goes, she and her husband, missed the military experience of his former career and decided a move was in order, to be near military bases and the associated life style.

Leaving Maui in 1977, Major Malak and Marell moved to Oahu and bought an apartment in downtown Honolulu. They joined Hawaii Chapter in early 1978. Unfortunately soon after their arrival Major Malak's health began to decline with his subsequent death in 1984.

Since becoming a Military Widow, Marell



has remained a dedicated TROA Hawaii Chapter member. In early 1985 Chapter President John Parrish and Secretary John Walters invited Marell to become a member of the Board of Directors to

serve in capacity of "The Auxiliary". Her charge was to seek out widows of deceased officers and encourage them to attend meetings and become active Auxiliary members.

In less than a year she added over 100 Auxiliary members to the roles. At this time the Chapter was also in the throes of planning for the 1988 TROA National Convention to be held in Honolulu. In preparation for this event, in 1986, she, with TROA wives and widows attended the National Convention in San Antonio — the purpose being to learn "the How to Host a National Convention". Marell was selected to Chair the Annual Ladies Breakfast and the rest is history. In 1988 she starred in her breakfast production as well as representing the National Auxiliary members at the memorial held in Punch Bowl.

Since then, she has extended herself in her participation with the Military Widows and such organizations as the Oahu Veterans Council.

Mahalo Marell

Board of Directors

Chair -RADM C Bruce Smith USN
373-3526/ cbrucef@cs.com

Recorder- CDR Chris Nintzel USN
484-1829/ canintzel@webtv.net

CAPT Robert Dickieson USN
236-0047/ bob50thst@aol.com

COL Duke Frey USA
261-2946/ duke06@hawaii.rr.com

MAJ Jan-Sue Heverly
USANG
488-8742/ jsjaloha@aol.com

CAPT John Peters USN
484-9748/petersj007@hawaii.rr.com

LTC Tim Schroth USAR
625-7353/ schrotht@yahoo.com

CAPT George Sullivan USN
623-2243/alohasully@earthlink.net

BG Dick Vercauteren USMC
377-1894/ dvercauter@aol.com

COMING EVENTS

- 12 Mar (Tues) - Kailua-Kona Satellite Meeting (Pot Luck) — Kohala
- 13 Mar (Wed) - PAC Meeting (1130) - HAFB O-Club
- 14 Mar (Thur) - LAVA Meeting (1130) - HAFB O-Club
- 15 Mar (Fri) - Executive Committee Meeting (1200) - HAFB O-Club
- 16 Mar (Sat) - Hilo Satellite — Club 100 Hilo
- 16 Mar (Sat) - Pacific War Memorial Dedication K-Bay MCB
- 23 Mar (Sat) - Party Bridge-Reservation-Call Robbie 255-4558
- 28 Mar (Thurs) - SAIL ALONG TO THE SEA BREEZE –HAFB
- 6 Apr (Sat) - The Users Group (TUG) Bishop Museum
- 9 Apr (Tues) - Kailua-Kona Satellite Mtg (Huggo's Restaurant in Kailua-Kona
- 13Apr (Sat) - Hilo Satellite — Club 100 Hilo
- 17 Apr (Wed) - Tripler Hawaii Regional Beneficiary Advisory Council/Health Consumer Committee Meeting –TAMC
- 18 Apr (Thur) - LAVA Meeting (1130) - HAFB O-Club
- 19 Apr (Fri) - Executive Committee Meeting (1200) - HAFB O-Club
- 25 Apr(Wed) - April Social Program—Hale Ikena
- 27 Apr (Sat) - Party Bridge-Reservation-Call Robbie 255-4558

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Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA) Captain George Sullivan USN



Concurrent Receipt Besides....It's The Principle of Fairness

All the arguments for and against Current Receipt the fact is that retired veterans and federal annuitants receive different treatment. The latter are permitted to draw their federal retired pay concurrently with VA disability compensation.

If service members who went on to complete a full military career had instead completed a career in another branch of the federal government, such as the Post Office or the IRS, their retirement pay and disability pay would remain untouched. We need to ensure that a consistent message regarding the importance and the fairness of funding for concurrent receipt is being sent to Congress.

What's Wrong With This?

It's another Tax.... "Over my Dead (?) Body"

President George W. Bush has sent to Congress as part of the VA's fiscal year 2003 budget a plan that would allow the VA to charge Category 7 veterans a \$1,500 deductible. 1.7 million veterans are presently enrolled in PG-7, which means they have no VA-rated disabilities, or non-compensable, zero-percent rated disabilities, and have incomes above the VA "means test" level of \$24,000, \$28,000 if married. What's wrong with an annual deductible of \$1500? *It's a Tax* and besides, for more than three years, the VA has aggressively recruited PG-7 veterans into VA health care and they now make up 22% of total enrollees. The VA has used this group to justify increased healthcare budgets, build hundreds of new community-based outpatient clinics, and preserve aging infrastructure. Now a victim of its own initiatives, it is contradictory to change the rules so abruptly especially after just recently lowering outpatient co-payments for this group and impose such a high tax on the very group that helped contribute to VA's improvements in health care. Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ), the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, blasted the proposal in a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget for FY 2003 before his Committee. "Congress should not endorse a policy designed to discourage veterans from obtaining health care from the VA. . . this proposal is a non-starter and I will oppose it." Instead of imposing deductibles, the administration should instead request sufficient funds for all veterans enrolled in VA health care.

Col. Bud Day Class Action Suit Returning to Court

The class action lawsuit brought by Air Force Col. Bud Day will be heard on March 6, 2002 in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington D.C. In February 2001 a 3-judge panel ruled that the federal gov-

ernment broke its promise to military retirees who joined the military before June 7, 1956 and were guaranteed free medical care for life. The U.S. moved for a rehearing, which was first denied, and then referred to the (11) member panel, U. S. Court of Appeals. If Col. Day wins again, participants could potentially receive up to \$10,000 in compensation from the government.

Housecleaning Services Credit for the Elderly

A bill currently residing in the State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, mentioned in the February edition of the Pau Hana Koa, that would provide a reimbursable tax credit up to \$13,000 for housecleaning services to persons age 100 or more was considered by the LAVA Committee. For reasons of fairness the committee elected not to testify in support of this bill.

Commissary Funding

An Issue To Watch This Congressional Session

The President's Budget for FY2003 envisions cutting commissary funding by \$137 million compared to 2002, including elimination of more than 2,600 jobs from stores and Defense Commissary Agency headquarters. Official DOD statements indicate the cuts would entail no loss in service to the customer. This is hard to believe. \$137 million represents a 12-percent cut in the commissary subsidy. And the jobs being cut include meat and produce managers, shelf-stockers and cashiers—people whose work has a direct impact on customers. Such reductions have the likelihood of reduced operating hours, less stock on store shelves, and longer lines at the check-out counter.

Warner, Davis Health Premium Tax Break...

Another Issue of Fairness

Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA) introduced bills (S. 1022 and H.R. 2125) that would amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow active duty and retired military members and Federal civilian annuitants to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis. Current Federal employees enjoy these pre-tax benefits under a Presidential directive issued two years ago. The proposed legislation would establish parity. This proposal could result in a savings of 35 percent or more on premiums. **Space A Travel**

When thinking about Space A travel, access to such information over the Internet has been a real boon to travelers. One place to get comprehensive information is at www.militaryliving.com. You can also go to one of the Air Force Space A terminals to get information, depending upon which terminal you intend to use. By typing in the last name of the air force base in between www.af.mil most of them have a Space A site. Cont on Page 5.

KAUAI, PRINCEVILLE: Pu'u Po'a

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Personal Affairs Committee (PAC)

Colonel John Harms USMC



TRICARE FOR LIFE continued

Personal Action Committee
(PAC)

I have received numerous telephone calls relative to my last article on TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL) and it seems that our members have been able to transfer to TFL as their primary secondary medical insurance after Medicare B with little difficulty. Also no complaints received that the programs was "not working", so I guess surprise a government implemented program can work with a lot of thought and work by people such as Health Net our TFL program administrators.

TRICARE FOR LIFE and related telephone numbers

I know we are inundated with telephone number lists, but thought the below numbers would be of assistance. Cut/tear out and file it with your telephone directory or some such file.

Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
(DEERS) Support Offices – HI	1-800-527-5602
TRICARE Senior Pharmacy	1-877-363-6337
TFL/Health Net Services & Info	1-866-835-7422
TFL/Senior Pharmacy Customer Service- Hawaii	

532-2215 or 532-2218

Off Island Claim/Information	1-866-835-7422
Medicare A Administrative Offices	1-866-264-4990
Medicare B Administrative Offices	1-800-444-4606
Retire Delta Dental Plan	1-888-838-8737

TFL Website www.tricare.osd.mil

Address for TFL Hawaii/Alaska Administration
 PGBA/TRICARE – Regions 9/10/12
 TRICARE FOR LIFE
 PO BOX 7059
 Camden, South Carolina 29020-7059

REISSUE OF RETIREMENT MILITARY ID CARDS

There have been some problems on the mainland where medical agencies and/or doctors will not accept a particular persons claim they are covered by TRICARE FOR LIFE (TFL). The reason being is that on the reverse (back) of your retiree military/dependent ID card shows a section "MEDICAL - CIVILIAN – EFF. DATE – EXP. DATE.". The next line states "DIRECT – YES", this means that you can receive "direct" medical services from a MILITARY facility. **The problem area is the "CIVILIAN" where the older ID cards (issued pre TFL) have a "NO" cited if issued AFTER you went on Medicare or 65 years of old.** If before it will show a "YES" but under "EXP. DATE" it will list the month and year you become 65 years of age. It is STRONGLY recommended that if your retiree military or dependant ID card shows anything but "CIVILIAN – YES; EFF DATE – YOUR 65 BIRTHDAY MONTH AND YEAR; and EXP DATE – INDEF" you go to your nearest DEERS office and have a new ID card issued. What happens is that the medical services agency/ doctor photocopies the back or reverse side of your ID card, and if any expiration date is shown then some have been denying TFL status to the person(s) seeking medical services and requiring a co-payment. Hope this is a bit clearer than mud. Call me if you have questions at 261-2282

Cont. from page 4 (LAVA).

It may not work for all bases, but at McChord, Dover, Andrews, Charleston, and Scott Space A information is available. (Be sure to put a period between the base name and af.) ***Space-A Pre-Boarding Being Improved.*** By the end of summer, Air Mobility Command passenger terminals in the Pacific will be speeding up Space Available check-ins and bookings. Under the revised system, passengers may check in and get their documents processed up to 24 hours before flight time. Thirty minutes before the Space-A announcement, the AMC terminal will post a computer printout of registered passengers by priority, and will use the list for a pre-boarding roll call. The system has already been tested at Travis Air Force Base, California and is in use at Yokota Air Base, Japan. It is expected to become a world-wide SOP.

ROTC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This time each year, your Board of Directors addresses two areas which can only be supported through the generosity of the Membership, one being our visible support of the Community in our role with the Hawaii Food Bank and other worthy organizations, and the other—our support of medals and certificates for the JROTC Program (see related article below) and monetary ROTC Scholarships. All rely on donations from the membership.

With our current membership, we have \$2000.00 in our budget to support our High School JROTC Program and for ROTC Scholarship Program. While we will stay within our Chapter budget, this may be the time for a few of us who may have the financial means, to do a little more in support of providing ROTC Scholarships to graduating Seniors. The amount of donations in this area — exceeding over our budgeted figure, would allow us to increase in number and amounts of scholarships for 2002.

We have never had to venture into the area of donations through stock, land, property, you name it — but am sure we would willingly take on the “how to do it”, if this would be an option for you. Along these lines and as another idea, perhaps you would give thought to establishing a scholarship in memory of a former officer, spouse or friend. What a way to honor a loved one! In any event, the foregoing is for your possible consideration.

JROTC AWARDS PROGRAM

This highly visible Chapter program needs your assistance - again this year! The nineteen JROTC high schools on Oahu will each have a year-end awards ceremony in April or May. Our Hawaii Chapter routinely has a representative at each ceremony to present a TROA medal and certificate to a selected honor cadet. It's easy, fun, and a super way to observe and meet some very impressive youngsters!

As in years past the presentations will begin in late April and extend through the month of May. The ROTC Chair, Hank Heyenga, is currently contacting those who have volunteered in the past for a new commitment in 2000. Additional help is always welcome - if you would like more information or to get involved with a ceremony or two, please contact Hank at 484-1829 or online at heyenga@aol.com.

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BRIDGE CORNER

The February meeting of the expanding TROA Party Bridge group was hosted by new group members Bud and Peggy Hurless on Saturday, 23Feb, in Hawaii Kai at the home of Bob and Robbie Gee.

Winning high honors was Bob Gee who was ecstatic since it was his first time to take top prize since joining the group as a charter member seven years ago. Coming in at second place was Bill Martin, followed by Ray deHay in third.

Get to know some of your chapter members on a more regular basis, not just at the monthly dinners. That's the real purpose for this nonsmoking group's existence: fellowship, fun, relaxation, and good social bridge! No partner is necessary, so singles are welcome, as well as couples. If you're "rusty", don't worry. It's like riding a bicycle; you never really forget how. Just bring yourself and \$1.00, but be sure to call Robbie Gee at 255-4558 by the weekend beforehand to reserve a place when you want to play. The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 7PM at various locations around the island on a rotation basis. Watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates.

HAWAII CHAPTER Board of Directors 23 February 2002



SAM SNEAD NAVY MARINE GOLF COURSE

John Peters, Bruce Smith, Duke Frey, Tim Schroth,
George Sullivan, Jan Sue Heverky, Chris Nintzel

