



# Pau Hana Koa

## Retired Warriors

### Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 20 No. 3

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

March 2005

## BATTLES REMEMBERED – TARAWA

(20 November 1943) by Colonel John Harms, USMC (Retired)

As our troops are now returning to Hawaii, it may be time to reflect on some of the key battles that have occurred during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century whose veterans are now becoming fewer and fewer each day. I understand that at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) they average 7 to 8 burials a day. The battle for Tarawa was such a battle, approximately 5000 killed including both American and Japanese in three days, on a landmass about the size of the Pentagon parking lot. Many changes in Amphibious Warfare came about from the lessons learned from Operation Galvanic to include more intensified and longer beach preparation by US Navy battleships and other support vessels, the use of the Landing Vehicle Tracked (LVT) to haul troops ashore as well as equipment, the development of Underwater Demolition Teams/units to eliminate underwater mines on beach approaches and the first time the home front people in America

saw on their theater newsreels the true cost of war, as vivid pictures of dead Marines were shown floating in the surf and on the beaches of Betio, Tarawa. Robert Sherrod, a battle field correspondent was asked should these pictures be censored as had been done with previous battles and he stated words to the effect that the American people must see the cost of war. President Roosevelt eventually authorized these first pictures.



Betio Island, Lagoon middle right, with airstrip in the middle of Island

It was the problematic tides of the Betio lagoon that were the most

troublesome. Landing boats ground out on the reef about 1000 ft. in front of well dug-in Japanese Marine machine gun emplacements.

Never before had a ground commander Col. David Shoup, issued that solemn message "Issue in Doubt". The cause of these erroneous tide predictions were not fully understood until an article published in 1987 by Dr. Donald Olson, Physics Professor at Southwest Texas State University, in the "Sky and Telescope" magazine "The Tide at Tarawa".

I became involved in the battle many years later in 1985 while working for then Pacific Resources Inc. (PRI) the Hawaii Independent Petroleum Refinery. I was out in Tarawa to discuss and develop a fuel supply contract with the Republic of Kiribati Government. Only one plane a week, on Wednesday came in and out of Bonriki, another island in the Tarawa Atoll where the "international" airport was located.

(continued on Page 2)

### 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

### APRIL

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

15 Apr (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1130)

16 Apr (Sat) 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



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

By the time you read this message this "Eyes of Thunder" artillery platoon will be safe home here in Paradise after probably a life changing experience of deployment in a war zone, called Iraq. The Adopt A Platoon program organized by our past present Jack Miller, and guided by Roxanne Faith and Joanne Hauge has been a significant success as evident by the thank you notes from their Unit Commander, Capt. Adam Wojcik – US Army for packages sent by our Chapter members to his unit and the pictures of his men in their off duty (if you are ever off duty in a war zone) activities he sent us via the Internet. Many of us who have been in combat, on the sea, land or air remember how much this experience changed us forever. Our love for life itself, our God, Country, and oh such much our family. We find out a lot about our self also as I did the first time I got shot at. I was leading a section of four Landing Vehicle Tracked, Howitzer 6 (mounted with a 105 mm howitzer) to a firebase at Thung Duk in Vietnam. All of a sudden out of nowhere 82mm mortars started landing all around our convoy. Immediately my more seasoned troops started counter battery fire with our guns, and the maintenance men and other support units took up defensive positions. I just stood there in the open, for about a minute and it was all over. My 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant walked over and simply stated "Major, that was the bravest or dumbest stunt I have seen in a long time just standing in the open in a mortar attack". My reply that it was the later and then the incredulous statement "1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant they were really trying to kill me!" to his reply; "yes Sir we are at war you know". That and many other experiences over that year plus taught me a significant amount about myself. These soldiers will now be reflecting on their experiences; good, bad, and neutral and they will realize as well as their loved ones they have changed. Possibly more reflective now, different priorities, and a realization how fortunate they are for they could leave the war zone, the Iraq families cannot. Hoping to get Capt. Wojcik out to our May luncheon meeting to give us his first hand account of their experiences in the mid East during this deployment. God Bless them and all our service men and women, and God Bless America.



Aloha, *John*

**TARAWA** - (cont'd from Page 1)  
Sand causeways mostly connected the Tarawa Islands, with the primary exception of Betio, where you had to take an old US Navy landing craft over to the Island.  
During discussions with Government officials, they advised that the British monument dedicated to the US Marines for the Battle of Tarawa was being removed for a Japanese fish cold storage plant. A diabolical twist of fate! With nothing much left to do til my plane left in a few days, I traveled over to Betio on the old LCU, and saw the reef where the landing craft had grounded out and the Marines had to walk through

the surf into the face of withering Japanese machine gun fire. It really struck home the courage and sacrifice it took to "keep going" or as one Marine allegedly put it "you're going to die someday, so at least here it is with Marines". In the center of Betio was a Japanese "Peace Park" dedicated to the battle, but with the removal of the British obelisk, US presence would not be noted. Got home to Hawaii, notified the 2d Marine Division Association at Camp Lejeune, NC, and a task force was put together very quickly to remedy the situation.

My next trip to Tarawa, about seven months later, I met up with Tom Hennese a writer for the Long Beach Telegraph newspaper who was doing articles of WW II Pacific battlefields. I told him about the plane schedule which he disregarded, loaded his suitcase on the old and falling apart mini buses used in Tarawa and was told at the Air Tungaru office (Kiribati Airlines flew by Air Naru) no plane till Wednesday and this was Friday. Back to the Odina Motel and many Foster's later, he agreed that with his newfound

(continued on Page 5)

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**THE BRIDGE CORNER** by Robbie Gee

The New Year started off right at the January 29 meeting of the MOAA Party Bridge group at the home of Bob and Robbie Gee in Hawaii Kai. The Bridge group is celebrating its 14th anniversary this year and welcomes new members, so if you're looking for a relaxing sociable evening with some military folks, this is for you.

High scorer Gary Jensen will tell you that the year was off to a very good start for him! Trying to catch up to him were Peg Hurless in 2d place, and Robbie Gee close behind in 3d place. Other members enjoying the evening were Wally Barker, Beverly Willms, Marian Davis, Ginny Fine, Bob Gee, Bud Hurless, Les and Shirley Ihara, and Bev Jensen.

Remember to call me at 255-4558 not later than the weekend beforehand to reserve your seat at the bridge table. Nonsmoking players of all abilities are welcome, with or without a partner. This is a FUN bunch who enjoy another opportunity to socialize with their TROA/MOAA friends and who don't take their bridge too seriously! The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 1900 at various locations around the island on a rotation basis, but watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates, as exceptions do occur.

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 necessarily Hawaii Chapter policy.**

**Words to Live By — —**

selected by Chaplain Ron Bezanson, USA (Retired)

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes,"

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things -- your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions-- things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else -- the small stuff,"

If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you." Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.

Play with your children/grandchildren. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house, and fix the disposal.

Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand,"

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked," he said. "It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room to have coffee with a friend. (Author Unknown)

# Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)

by Captain George Sullivan, USN (Retired)

## OAHU VETERANS CENTER BREAKS GROUND



Ground breaking ceremony for the new Oahu Veterans Center was held on Saturday, January 22, 2005 in Foster Village. Attending the ceremony were Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Lt. Governor Duke Aiona, several Hawaii State legislators including Senator Norm Sakamoto. (Congressman Ed Case (not in picture) also attended.) The Oahu Veterans Council and many of the Veterans in the picture worked for 10 years to finally see this memorable day become a reality.

## USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Arizona Memorial Museum Association has established the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund to raise \$34 million to build a new Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center. (The current building is settling beyond structural soundness and will soon be unusable.) As part of the fund raising plan, a request for a \$3 million Grant has been submitted to the State of Hawaii. Senate Bill SB 1649 has been introduced by Senator Norm Sakamoto and has moved to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The Arizona Memorial Museum Association would appreciate your help in supporting this Bill by meeting with, calling or writing to the following Senators: Brian Taniguchi, Chairman; Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chairman; Will Espero, Gary Hooser, Lorraine Inouye, Brian Kanno, Donna Mercado Kim, Russell Kokubin, Clarence Nishihara, Norman Sakamoto, Fred Hemmings, Sam Slom, and Gordon Trimble. The address is: Hawaii State Capitol, 415 So. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813. Telephone numbers can be found in the new Chapter Directory.

House Bill HB 1631 introduced by Rep. Ken Ito is not yet scheduled for a public hearing.

The Hawaii State Legislature appropriated \$350,000 or 8.5% of the construction cost in the late '70s for the existing Visitor Center. A Grant from the State will demonstrate Hawaii's support to honor and remember those who fought on December 7, 1941.



## TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)



Because we didn't have 12 newsletters last year, a couple of columns I did for the TUG newsletter, didn't make it into the PHK, so I have redone them with what I think is the most useful info, for the March PHK:

If you have grandkids at home, you probably know all about the little music players that they all seem to have stuck in their ears, most of the time. Actually they are pretty good and have some really impressive features. The number one seller seems to be the latest version of the iPod the mini iPod, but at \$250 or so, it's out of a lot of folks budgets.

I do think however, one of the best lower priced models is the Sandisk Cruzer Micro MP3 Companion. You can find it on the net for around \$50 but of course you need to buy a Cruzer thumbdrive device. You can get a huge capacity 512mb one for around \$70, so for about \$120 you're in business, so to speak.

The Cruzer Micro MP3 Companion is an add-on to the Cruzer Micro thumb drive device. If you don't have one of those, you'll have to get it separately as the player doesn't come bundled with one. It has to be the Sandisk "Micro" brand; as their other thumb drives are not compatible (they don't fit). File capacity depends on what size thumb drive you get, what bitrate your audio files are encoded at, length, etc. You can probably get about 100 songs encoded on a 512mb micro drive. In other words, about 8 albums. You can probably fit more if you use the Microsoft WMA audio format, which this player also supports. On a side note, the thumb drive is also handy to transfer software or data files between computers so it's not just limited to mp3s. The Cruzer companion add-on is what turns the drive into an MP3 player.

Anyway, the device itself is very easy to use. Just plug the Cruzer Micro drive into your computer USB port and drag some MP3 or WMA files onto it. Then slide it into the MP3 companion. Hold down the play button for a couple seconds to turn it on, the micro drive blinks that pretty blue glow and your songs begin to play. Of course the beauty of the thumb drive is that you can reuse it over and over. Get tired of the songs you have on the drive? Plug it into the computer and replace the music with new tracks/albums you have stored on your computer.

The display is small but effective. It's also backlit. The play/pause button is on the left of it. Naturally the display shows the song title. It'll show the name of the MP3 file first, and then if there is an ID3 tag that will be shown. Since the screen is very small, it scrolls the info across it.

There is a battery indicator which tells you how much battery life you have (1 AAA lasts about 7 hours). The icon of your current play-mode is displayed. An indicator for Play and Pause is available. A timer on the top right corner keeps track of how far along the song is. There is a current/total song count indicator, so if you've got 100 songs on there you'll see 100 on the bottom and the number of the current song in line playing above it. Your equalizer (rock, pop, dance, etc) setting is displayed at the top above the song title. Last but not least, the volume status is displayed when you adjust it. The MP3 companion measures volume from 0 to 40, with 40 being the loudest. For all the details visit: <http://www.sandisk.com/pressrelease/20040108a.html>

Those of you who actually read my column faithfully {-) will recall my report on what I consider the best back-up program out there, Acronis' True Image. Well, Acronis has done it again with a program suite named Disk Director Suite 9.0. This is made for those of you who are running Windows 98 and want to try XP but still keep 98!

Here's what it does:

Think of disk partitioning like drawers in a filing cabinet. Drawers make large cabinets easier to use and the contents easier to access; disk partitioning works the same way. Dividing your hard drive into individual partitions for your operating system, programs, data files, music, and images provides better organization and, most important, much better data safety in the event of a drive crash.

Acronis Disk Director Suite 9.0 allows you to automatically or manually resize, copy, and move partitions without losing data. It also lets you reorganize the hard disk drive structure; optimize disk space usage and much more.

If you use your computer for different purposes or wish to try a new operating system, it is safer and more convenient to use an operating environment that is completely separate from your business applications, entertainment, children's files and other data. Acronis Disk Director Suite 9.0 provides a powerful, reliable, and easy-to-use way to manage booting of multiple operating systems on a single PC. This one is probably the best feature, in my opinion: In the event of the accidental loss of a partition, Acronis Disk Director Suite 9.0 allows you to automatically recover any deleted or lost partition with any file system by booting from a special recovery CD or diskette, even if your operating system fails to boot.

This probably applies to Jim only {-) For the expert user, Acronis Disk Director Suite 9.0 provides the ability to access data at the sector level. You can edit or copy sector data manually. This capability is critical when specific data has been lost and partially overwritten or when you need to back up, copy, or recover important data areas of a hard drive.

In summary, I think this is the best disk management system I've seen! . Come see us at one of our 2 monthly meetings. Visit our web page [www.the\\_tug.homestead.com](http://www.the_tug.homestead.com) for schedules and driving directions.

Happy Computing,

*Lou*

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## Mardi Gras, 11 March 2005

All MOAA reserved tickets have been sold, 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.

**CORRECTION** - - It has come to our attention that the lead article in the October PHK (Volume 19, No. 10) entitled "Our Military Wives (non-issued)," in addition to the commissary encounter portion by Paige Swiney, contained a verbatim copy of an article by Steven S. Arrington, Col, USAF (Retired) entitled "The Difference." This article begins with the paragraph "Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses. . . how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too." We regret this mis-attribution.

### 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.

### THUNDER UPDATE from CPT Adam Wojcik

Thank you so much for that incredible greeting! I am downtown enjoying the Presidents Day 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 attributing 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 we're 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

### THINNING OF THE RANKS

LtCol ALBERT H. M. CHANG, USAF (Ret) died 31 December 2004. He is survived by his wife, Linda Mae.

COL LYLE V. TOPE, USMC (Ret) died 16 February 2005.

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**ATTENTION:**  
  
**MARDI GRAS**  
**Banyans Club, Pearl Harbor**  
**Friday, 11 March, 1800**  
  
**E-MAIL :**  
**info@moaa-hawaii.org**

**HAWAII CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**New Membership Application and/or Current Member Dues Payment**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female   
                    Last                      First                      MI

**New Member Application**  **Currently a Regular Member**  **Currently an Auxiliary Member**

**New members:** Complete next items and Regular or Auxiliary Member section. Enter remittance at bottom.

**Current members:** Complete any items that have changed and enter your remittance amount at bottom of form.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ National MOAA membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**