



HAWAII COMMANDERY

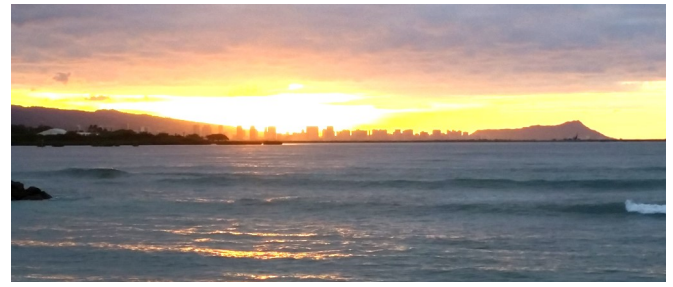
MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS

DECEMBER 2020

**COMMANDERY
NEWS**

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Chaplains Corner

By Dr., Fred Staedel, ThD.

"That morning will come again because no darkness, no season, can last forever." And dear reader "morning" will come again and a new "season" will be realized as we usher in a new year.

Yes, Christmas will be celebrated, but let us add a new approach to this universal acknowledgement of the Christian holiday by prayerfully knowing that there is "light at the end of the tunnel" and such "tunnel darkness" that we are going through with COVID 19 has an end just as the metaphoric "dark tunnel" has an end; an ending into the light again. We seem now to be living in a shadow of darkness, but there is what is called the "Light of Christ" and this is why we have Christmas lights in our December celebrations. I refer you to Matthew 4:16, "The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light is dawned."

We are experiencing the "shadow of death" as we look for the "light" to "dawn" for our return to normalcy. And will the new year bring a "new normalcy?" The answer is yes, as Matthew 4:16 tells us a "light is dawned!" Whether we see this "light" as the coming of the vaccine or as the answer to our prayers, the "Light," or if you will, one's "Christ consciousness" that we may worship and possess has never left because it is a spiritual and perpetual light that never turns off. And all we have to do is turn the "light" on in our own thought and prayerful worship. In other words, let us all turn thought to the "Light of Christ."

So, as we continue our journey in what is a dark tunnel looking for the light at its end, let us know that the Christ and a Christmas consciousness abides in us all and that the "Light of Christ" that never dims will soon be seen for all humankind.

"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns darkness into light." (Psalms 18:28).

Fred

Cover Photo: Schofield Barracks Cemetery. Photo credit Office of Army Cemeteries, <https://armycemeteries.army.mil/>

If you have patriotic photos you'd like to share, submit them for consideration for the cover of our next issue!

Commander's Comments.



Aloha Companions and Friends,

As the year 2020 comes to a close, it is heartening to look back and see how the Hawaii Commandery was able to persevere and overcome the COVID-19 restrictions on assembly to continue operating, and to accomplish the purposes of our Order here in Hawaii. This issue of the *Commandery News* demonstrates how we maintained the bonds of comradeship, while doing so safely.

In support of the 7th purpose of our Order, namely to "foster and encourage the study of American history and particularly of American military history," this issue uncovers the history of the Army Coastal and Air Defense Artillery at Forts Barrette and Weaver, which also appropriately recalls the bravery exhibited by Americans in response to the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. I would ask all Companions as they read our main article on the future of Veterans organizations to think critically about the recruiting and membership challenges all Veterans Organizations face that have been magnified by the pandemic.

Finally, I wish all Companions and their families, of this Commandery, and the Order, a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



"Deus et Libertas"

Curtis P. Manchester III

Curtis "Manny" Manchester III
LTC, USA Ret.
Commander

Hawaii Commandery Recognizes top Youth Challenge Academy Cadets



Although the Graduation and awards ceremony for the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy Class 53, was limited to only Cadets and faculty, the MOFW Bronze Leadership Excellence and Silver Academic Excellence Medals were awarded to the top cadets of the Class on November 25, 2020. The pandemic did have a big impact on the size of Classes 52 and 53, which were much smaller than normal. BG Oliver was the presiding officer, and the limited guests included long-time supporter, Senator Mike Gabbard. The ceremonies were held outside on the academy grounds on a temporary stage with seating under awnings.

Those Companions who have presented in-person in previous years will strongly attest to the importance of this intense military and academic program that provides Youth a second chance to earn a High School Diploma (this one awarded by the Adult Schools Division of the Hawaii Dept. of Education), and a greater sense of responsibility and hope for the future.

Congratulations to Cadets Jerard Alexander and Zechariah Ibrahim!!



YCA Awards recipients Class 53 MOFW Bronze Jerard Alexander MOFW Silver Zechariah Ibrahim

From the Secretary

With the start of a new year approaching, expect notifications for your annual dues to be sent out via e-mail and post card, if annual dues of \$35 are not received by mail at the Oahu Veterans Center address by February 1, 2021. Upon receipt of your dues, a Hawaii Commandery Membership Card will be sent to you in the mail, or presented at a Commandery meeting.

The Youth Challenge Academy graduation closed out our 2020 Cadet Awards Program, although we may see a presentation event for the Civil Air Patrol in the early part of the year. We typically purchase our ROTC/JROTC medals in December, and we'll submit our order to the MOFW Quarter Master General, once our grant funds arrive from our sponsors.

Please volunteer to re-start our Vietnam Veteran Volunteer Medal presentations by engaging with the many Veterans Organizations identified at our last meeting on September 18th. The points of contact are in the meeting minutes, and we need volunteers to reach out to request nominations.

Arthur N. Tulak

Arthur N. Tulak
COL, USA Ret.
Secretary



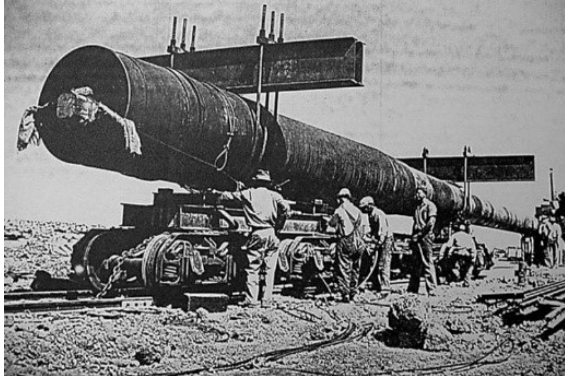
Hawaii Military History:

Historical Fort Barrette and Fort Weaver

By Arthur N. Tulak

This article is part of a continuing series focused on Hawaii's rich military history.

Fort Barrette. Originally named Kapolei Military Reservation, the installation was re-named in 1934 for Brig. Gen. John Davenport Barrette, who commanded the Hawai'i Separate Coast Artillery Brigade and the Hawaiian Division on a temporary basis.¹ The fort was constructed between July 1931 and late 1934, and handed over to the Coastal Artillery next year to defend the south west coast of Pearl Harbor. Completed



In this picture the 16-inch Mk II gun on a railroad truck (a.k.a. railway bogie) as it was being installed in the battery. Source philippine-sailor.net/philippine-sailor.net/

in 1935, the Kapolei fort's two 16-inch guns could hurl a 2,240-pound shell 25-28 miles out to sea. Each gun weighed 12 tons, and a special spur line had to be created off the Oahu Railway.²

The 16 inch Mk II guns at Fort Barrette were significantly larger than the main guns of U.S. Battle Ships of the time, and were in open air firing positions, until casemated in 1942.³ The two guns comprised Battery Hatch. During the Japanese aerial attack December 7, 1941, Cpl. Joseph A. Medlen, with the Coast Artillery Corps, was killed at Fort Barrette.⁴ Following the end of the Second World War Fort Barrette hosted one of the 4 National Guard Anti-Aircraft batteries.⁵ In the Cold War, the fort was used for a support base for a nearby Makakilo Hawaii National Guard Nike Hercules missile battery during the Cold War.⁶



BG John D. Barrette (1862 -1934), Commander of the Hawaii Separate Coastal Artillery Bde. Hawaii Army Museum Photo.

Fort Weaver (1922-1948)

Near to Fort Barrette is the historical Fort Weaver situated at the mouth of Pearl Harbor in present-day Ewa Beach, opposite of Army Fort Kamehameha (now encompassed by Hickam Air Base). At the time it was selected for the new battery Fort Weaver was still "Iroquois Point Military Reservation" and there were no facilities on the site and no garrison.⁷ The installation was re-named as Fort Weaver in 1922, by Army General Order 13, in honor of Major General Erasmus M. Weaver Jr., Chief of



MG Erasmus M. Weaver Jr. (1854-1920), first Chief of the Militia Bureau, and later Chief of the Army Coast Artillery Corps.

the Coast Artillery Corps from 1911-1918. Fort Weaver hosted both Army Coastal Artillery and Air Defense Artillery units. Two four-gun 3-inch AA batteries were built in 1927. Also located here were Batteries Williston (active from 1924 - 1948), and Weaver (active from 1934 - 1944). Battery Williston was named after BG Edward Bancroft Williston (July 15, 1837 – April 24, 1920), who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the American Civil War. Construction on Battery Williston began in October 1921 and was transferred for service on 19 Sep 1924. This was a two gun 16" all round fire (ARF) battery emplaced in the open on circular concrete pads. These guns were mounted on M1919 long range carriages that elevated to 35 degrees for maximum range.⁸

The weaponry of these batteries included four Panama mounts (a gun mount developed by the U.S. Army in Panama during the 1920s for fixed coastal artillery positions), Anti-Motor-Torpedo-Boat (ATMB) Battery #1 (1943 - 1945). The AMTB 90mm gun M1 fitted on an M3 mount was developed in 1941 to provide a



One of the two 16 inch ARF guns situated at Fort Weaver, at the mouth of the entrance to Pearl Harbor Naval Base. Photo Source: http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Weaver

weapon that was effective against fast torpedo boats, aircraft, and land targets.⁹ One set of four of the Panama mounts was relocated to Fort Barrette in the 1930's. In 1934 "Battery 155 - Fort Weaver" was emplaced in front of Battery Williston. This battery consisted of four 155mm GPF guns on mobile carriages emplaced on fixed concrete Panama mounts.¹⁰ Coastal Artillery Fire-control station "F" was also located at Fort Weaver. Nearby to Fort Weaver was Naval Antiaircraft Shore Battery No. 3 (1942 - 1944) with four 5-inch naval guns.

Marines here manned three batteries of .50-cal AA machine guns when the Japanese attacked in 1941. On December 7, 1941, several enemy planes were downed by the AA guns of the Fort Weaver batteries.¹¹ As with Fort Barrette, Fort Weaver reported one casualty from the Japanese air attack, 1st Lt. William G. Sylvester, of the 97th Coast Artillery (AA), killed while driving his car on Hickam Airfield.¹² The Fort remained in military use through 1948. After a short period of inactivity, this area was developed for military housing in the 1950's, adjacent to the present-day USMC Pu'uloa Rifle Range. The Fort Weaver property is still owned by the Navy, and the homes are now leased to a property management company to run on a for-profit commercial basis.



BG Edward Bancroft Williston (1837 - 1920). Recipient of the Medal of Honor for distinguished gallantry in action on June 12, 1864, while commanding Horse Battery D, 2nd U.S. Artillery.

Current preservation efforts.

Fort Barrette is now the site of an archery range and garners little public attention to its important past. The "Save Ewa Field" preservation effort has also worked to draw attention to preserving Fort Barrette. In 2009, a proposed Hawaii State House Resolution (HR 87) would have changed the name of Fort Barrette Road to Kualaka'i Road. The Oahu Veterans Council, and a good number of Veterans submitted testimony opposing this, and the road is still named after the Fort. At the time, there were plans to restore parts of the fort as a museum, which would have preserved "Hawaiian Coast Artillery history, National Guard Nike history and ancient Hawaiian Military history"¹³ A joint ceremony was held at both Ewa Field and Fort Barrette in 2010, which was attended by several dignitaries (see photo below). There are no visible remnants of the batteries of Fort Weaver today and no efforts to preserve its history as an important site for coastal and anti-aircraft artillery units.



Fort Barrette and the casemate today

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Photo of the Dec 5, 2010 ceremony, held in conjunction with ceremony at Ewa Field <http://ewafield.blogspot.com/2013/07/>



Poppy Appeal Nov 9, 2020 at Camp Smith

By Companion Arthur Tulak

On November 9, 2020, Companions Manchester and Tulak conducted a Poppy Appeal and fundraiser at the Marine Corps Exchange Mart aboard Camp H.M. Smith. After setting up the tables, according to plan, rain storms forced a move under cover outside the entrance to the MCx Mart. The Commandery was the first organization to be given permission to conduct a fund-raising event at Camp Smith since the Pandemic shut down all such operations. Approval required instituting the procedures now common in stores and businesses, with no-contact distribution of poppies to passersby, and collection of donations from those who wished to support the Commandery's missions.

One of the reasons that HQ MARFORPAC Commandant was inclined to approve our request is that with all the traditional Veterans Day events cancelled, or drastically reduced to key personnel only, the DoD and contractor work force at Camp Smith needed a way to commemorate the holiday, and poppies allow them to do so. This year was the first time that military personnel serving at HQs U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (HQU SINDOPACOM) were authorized to wear a poppy on their uniform, by order of the Chief of Staff, Army Major General Ronald P. Clark.

On the following day, many personnel of the HQs did indeed wear poppies from many sources, including those we distributed the day before, at a ceremony conducted on November 10th in the atrium of the HQU SINDOPACOM, led by MG Clark and MG Suzanne Vares Lum. Companion Tulak distributed additional poppies to participants at that event before it got underway, and remained as part of a small group to observe.

Many of those who took a poppy also gave donations to support our Cadet Awards and Vietnam Veterans Recognition programs, and quite a few asked for more information about the Commandery and took a brochure along with their poppy. Many were surprised to learn that our Commandery meetings are held on base at the Sunset Lanai, making it a convenient walk to join our quarterly meetings.

The success of this Poppy Appeal argues strongly for a repeat again for Memorial Day and Veterans Day 2021, and we now have an inclement weather plan, just in case!



Companions Arthur Tulak and Manny Manchester distribute poppies to personnel at Camp Smith outside the Marine Corps Exchange Mart.

MOFW Veterans Day Observances 2020

By Companion Arthur Tulak

Companions Arthur Tulak and Peter Hirai honored Veterans past at the Schofield Barracks Soldier Cemetery with the presentation of a wreath adorned with poppies and the HI Commandery Seal. Upon arrival, the cemetery looked bare, and there was no indication that this was Veterans Day. At the base of the flagpole, where Veterans usually present wreaths, a simple memorial of combat boots was already at the base when we arrived to present our MOFW wreath. A few visitors tended to the graves of their departed loved ones, but overall, the cemetery was quite still. Compatriot Hirai made the presentation, followed by salutes of respect for the Veterans buried in this cemetery. Schofield Barracks was established in 1909 and the first interment in the cemetery took place three years later in 1912. The cemetery contains graves of soldiers, dependents, civilian employees, Italian prisoners of war, unknowns, and executed military criminals, the latter of whom do not receive honors. Many of the military casualties from the Post and surrounding areas from the December 7, 1941 attack on Hawaii were initially buried at the Post cemetery, with some later re-interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, years later.



Companions Peter Hirai and Arthur Tulak at the Schofield Barracks Cemetery, paying tribute to Veterans past.

Compatriot Manny Manchester represented the Commandery at the unofficial observances held at the WWI Memorial and Natatorium at Waikiki with appropriate social distancing and other COVID protocols to include masks and social distancing. Individuals came on their own accord to place floral arrangements throughout the day to avoid a crowd. Also presenting at the Roll of Honor Stone was Dennis Egge, President of the Hawaii Chapter of the Assn. of Uniformed Services, our local affiliate organization, and Gordon Lee of the Kau Tom Post #10 of the American Legion. Members of the Friends of the Natatorium were on hand to photograph and video the impromptu ceremonies. The American Legion Riders of Post #17 conducted a ride past the memorial at 1100 hours, and the Celtic Kula bagpipers provided appropriate musical arrangements.



Compatriot Manchester presents a poppy wreath at the Roll of Honor Stone, along with presentations from American Legion and the Assn. of Uniformed Services, Hawaii Chapter.

Quo Vadis Veterans Organizations in the face of declining membership?

By COL, Ret. Arthur N. Tulak, Ed.D.



One of the greatest challenges facing Veterans organizations today is the declining pool of eligible Veterans coupled with continuing decline of the existing membership base. The pool of eligible Veterans who might consider joining the ranks of America's storied Veterans organizations is dropping as the U.S.

military has continued to shrink following the end of the Draft in 1973, the end of the Cold War in 1991 and the subsequent pursuit of a "Peace Dividend" that has successively taken a large bite from the Defense Budget, and resulted in a shrinking military. The largest budget item of every one of the military services is personnel, and as budgetary pressures are felt, manpower is an easy solution. As MG Michael X. Garrett, Commanding general of United States Army Forces Command, stated in his Veterans Day 2020 article, "today, less than 1% of Americans choose to serve in the military, and 78% of soldiers come from families who have served."¹ The actual percentage is about 0.5%, according to House Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX).² For comparison, in World War II, 9% of the citizenry served in the military.³ While this low percentage can fill the ranks now authorized by Congress in the Defense Budget, even this small percentage is difficult to recruit, as young Americans grow less patriotic every year as measured by Gallup Polls.⁴

According to military analyst William Arkin, writing in *the Guardian* newspaper last year, "official military polling shows that fewer and fewer young Americans consider the military as a career or as a transitional step – only some 12.5% – the lowest number in a decade."⁵ Mr. Arkin reports that the Pentagon spends \$1.6bn on recruiting annually, and in 2019 the services offered recruitment bonuses of up to \$40,000, with the Marine Corps offering cash enlistment bonuses. The Department of Defense estimated in 2017, that 71% of the 17- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. would fail to qualify for enlistment, because of physical or mental health issues, low educational scores or major criminal convictions.⁵ As the moral, mental, and physical quality of young recruits continues to drop, the services have been forced to lower their standards, and dramatically increase (by 25%) the number of medical, mental health, recreational drug and misconduct waivers to reach their enlistment goals.⁶ As the manpower requirements of the U.S. military drop, the number of Veterans in the United States is in decline. The U.S. Census Bureau reported in 2019, that there were more than 18 million veterans in the United States.⁷ However, based on current trends of a shrinking military, this number is expected to decline to 14.5 million by 2043.⁸

While the challenge of recruiting new Veterans to the ranks rises, current membership shrinks.

Veteran Service Organizations are experiencing the lowest enrollment in 28 years, as an example, the American Legion experienced a 44% drop in membership over the period 1992-2019.⁹ The loss of members to infirmity or deaths often results in the disbandment and dissolution of many Veterans Organizations when membership drops to the point that the organization cannot function. Examples abound, such as the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association (dissolved 2011), the United States Submarine Veterans of World War II (dissolved 2012), and the F-86 sabre pilots association (organized 1981 and – dissolved in April 24, 2017). The same is true for military professional associations, such as the National Association of the Uniformed Services (NAUS), founded in 1968, folded on December 31, 2017. This also happens at the local level, as Camps, Chapters, and Posts turn in their charters and colors, and sometimes sell off their historic meeting place.

The ranks of many Veterans organizations are graying, with the median age rising. Presently, Vietnam Veterans currently make up the bulk of membership across most Veterans Organizations.¹⁰ After retirement, many Veterans grow more active in their Veteran organization, but as they get older, participation becomes increasingly difficult. Inevitably, if new members are not brought into the organization, membership will decline due to standard attrition and mortality. Military Professional Associations are also feeling the effects of society's changing values, which prioritize leisure time over community service. The Reserve Officers Association (ROA) provides a good example of the challenge facing Veteran organizations, as it faces the same demographic bubble that now has the majority of its members aged 70-79 (31%), with members aged 60-69 and 80-89 comprising together 27% and members over 90 years of age comprising 9.7%

(continued on next page)

Members aged 50-59 make up 13% of ROA membership, which means that younger veterans aged 18-49 make up only 6% of the organization.¹¹ The aforementioned numbers tell the tale of Veterans Organizations across the country. The need to attract new members, and to increase the commitment of current members is striking, but is generally met with apathy among members whose only activity is to read the organization's periodical and perhaps pay dues.

Why is it important for the current members of Veterans Organizations to go the extra mile to keep their organizations growing and active?

According to a Fox News report, Soldiers and Marines are deploying four, five, or even as many as twelve times to combat zones, and that this has become common, wearing them down with the accumulated stress of each deployment.¹² Veterans of combat often report some challenges or struggles in the transition to civilian life after leaving the military. Veteran Organizations and Veterans Service Organizations play a critical role in supporting Veterans after they leave military service and integrate into civilian life. A May 2020 San Jose State University graduate Master's Degree research project by Ben Sok, titled "Veterans Service Organizations' Declining Membership, and How to Fix It," provides a great deal of useful information to help Veterans Organizations understand the importance of remaining active to support future Veterans, and to improve recruitment. According to Mr. Sok, "Veterans can fulfill a sense of purpose by helping [VSOs]" and their mission "of increasing national security, assisting with care for veterans, securing our future by mentoring youth, and empowering social connections through patriotism."¹³ At the same time Mr. Sok points out the many competing priorities for the latest generation of Veterans from recent conflicts that make it difficult for them to join and participate in today's Veterans organizations:

Modern Veterans with families are asked to sacrifice time away from each other to participate in activities such as honor guard, food drives, community outreach, and fundraising. These activities require a lot of time, planning, and preparation that new members must juggle between work, school, family, and social life... Employment and family obligations present a significant barrier to becoming active VSO [Veteran Service Organization] members...62 percent of veterans are employed with almost half of them working full time...This leads to very little time to spend with family, let alone an external organization.¹⁴

In addition, Active Duty personnel, who are eligible to join Veteran organizations are even busier now, more than ever, which is why we need Veterans to step up their game to recruit current military personnel and those separated from the service to obtain the many benefits of membership in Veteran Organizations.

What does this "Younger generation" of Veterans Want?

According to the VFW and American Legion, only about 15% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who are eligible to join a Veteran organization actually do so.¹⁵ Many of this generation's Veterans exhibit an aversion to join the legacy Veteran Organizations established by past generations, such as the such as the MOFW (est. 1894), VFW (est. 1899), MOWW (est. 1919), American Legion (est. 1919), and American Veterans (AMVETS, est. 1944).¹⁶ Writing for Military Connection, Debbie Gregory provided advice that deserves our attention:

[T]he transitioning servicemembers of the Facebook/Twitter/Snapchat/Instagram generation are gravitating towards the groups that they perceive to be a better fit, such as Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the Mission Continues, and Team Rubicon... If veterans' organizations ... want to survive the next twenty years, they need to prioritize women, present a united front pulling from the entire population of veterans and tackle charitable efforts together.¹⁷

According to Ben Sok, "Post 9/11 veterans report the desire to be outdoors and actively participate in their communities."¹⁸ Perhaps the key message Older Veterans need to share with their younger counterparts is to explain that the traditional activities carried out by the legacy Veterans organizations are indeed focused on engendering patriotism, commemorating military holidays, and supporting Veterans in need, and that such activities constitute "participating in their communities" in ways befitting their military background and ethics. A key way to communicate that would be to have younger Veterans in our organizations explaining why they are members. Therein lies the solution—recruiting younger Veterans to join will increase the number of effective communicators to join the recruiting effort. This is not an easy task, however, given the statistics reviewed at the start of this article, it may be the path to success.

End Notes:

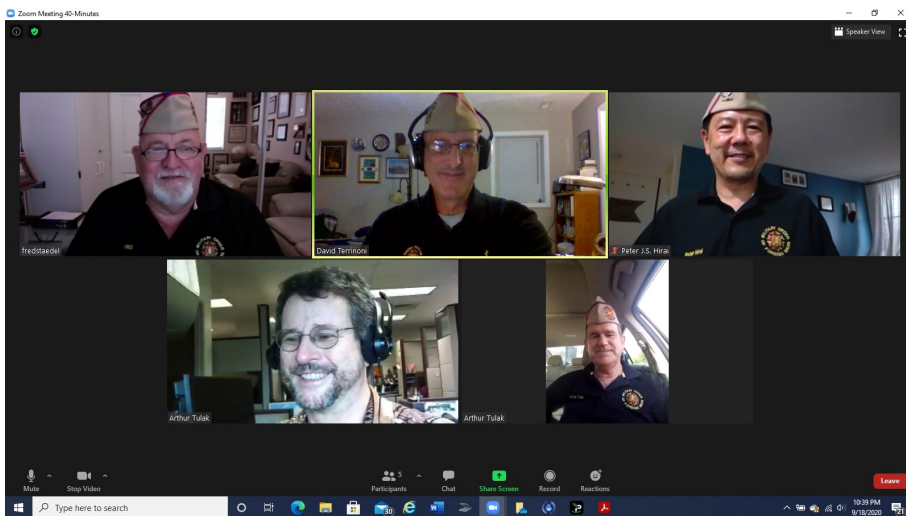
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The campaign medals of the youngest generation of Veterans from OEF, OIF, and GWOT

Commandery Operations

Due to COVID restrictions, our September Commandery meeting was held on ZOOM, but a good time of jovial camaraderie was still obtained. This meeting was held on September 18th, which marked the 73rd Birthday of the U.S. Air Force, celebrating its founding as a separate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Senior Air Force Officer present, Col. Dave Terrinoni led a "socially distant" toast to the Service, as called for in the meeting agenda. If COVID restrictions allow, our next meeting will be on 22 January at the Sunset Lanai.



COVID-19 Update

by Sr. Vice Commander Peter Hirai

In lieu of the normal report of the Oahu Veterans Council, since the OVC took a recess in November Companion Hirai will update the Commandery on the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination efforts.

The state of Hawaii is set to receive about 0.4% of the first batch of nationwide vaccine shipments produced by one of three manufacturers (Astra Zenica, Moderna, and Pfizer). This amount should vaccinate the first priority group, i.e. healthcare workers and high-risk elderly, sometime in December. The eventual goal is to vaccinate at least 70% of Hawaii's population by June 2021 to achieve "herd immunity", or to have enough of the population immune to COVID-19 to prevent community spread.

The U.S. Department of Defense is planning a concurrent distribution of vaccines to their population, using the same approximate time frame as the civilian sector. The DoD vaccines would be available to active duty uniformed personnel, their dependents, civilians, contractors, and retirees. Their concept is to have the largest possible population inoculated to complement the civilian population efforts.

Will service members be mandated to get the vaccine? Unlike other vaccines such as the annual flu shot, the COVAX will be voluntary so long as it is under Emergency Use Authorization. The DoD hopes that a large percentage will care enough for themselves and their families to get the vaccines. Once the vaccines receive full authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), they may become mandatory for uniformed service members like all other vaccinations.

Will it require more than one shot? Yes, an effective immunity develops with two shots.

Is the vaccine dangerous? Are there side effects? Tens of thousands of subjects underwent the trials to test not only efficacy but also to test possible side effects. No vaccine is ever 100% safe, but COVAX seems to have minimal side effects. According to WebMD, "Vaccines work to fight disease by producing an immune response within the body. And sometimes that means [flu](#)-like symptoms, such as aches, [headache](#) and [fever](#)."

When can I expect to get my first shot? If you are in the first priority (healthcare worker, high-risk elderly) you may receive it in December 2020 or January 2021. Plans are to vaccinate 70% of the entire state population by June of 2021.

If we achieve "herd immunity", I don't need to be vaccinated, right? Wrong. "Herd immunity" only prevents community spread and won't prevent individual cases. If you are at high-risk of being affected by COVID-19 (pre-existing health conditions, elderly), especially with our high visitor populations, you should consider getting vaccinated. Consult your physician.

I'm a military retiree. Should I get the military or civilian vaccination? Monitor the latest news and information, try for the one that offers to vaccinate you first. If you are a high-risk candidate they will prioritize you."

Upcoming events:

- **7 DEC — Pear Harbor Day**, 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- **Christmas Brunch** is cancelled due to COVID-19
- **27 DEC— 126th Anniversary of the founding of the Military Order of Foreign Wars in 1894**
- **22 JAN — Hawaii MOFW Commandery Meeting** at Sunset Lanai, Camp H.M. Smith, 1700 hrs.†† (ZOOM back-up)
- **29 MAR to 02 APR — Judging of Cadet 50th Vietnam War Essay contest entries.** MOFW Companions will judge the essays submitted by JROTC Cadets to determine the top three essays, and runners-up that achieve “best of category” essays not selected for the cash prizes for 1st through 3rd place. Essay judging in cooperation with The Assn. of the United States Army, Military Order of World Wars, and the Reserve Officers Assn.
- **29 MAR — National Vietnam War Veterans Day** at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.††
- **6 APR — Army Day**
- **9 APR — National Former POW Recognition Day**
- **25 APR — ANZAC Day Memorial Service** at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, hosted by the Consulates of Australia and New Zealand, 1000 hrs. Uniform is Class B/Summer White/Blue Dress Delta/Blues. ††
- **Mid APR to early MAY— JROTC Cadet Awards Ceremonies.** Companions are asked to volunteer to present MOFW medals and Prizes for the WWI and 50th Vietnam War Essay contests, as commemoration partners. ††
- **6 MAY— National Day of Prayer** in accordance with our motto “God and Liberty” Companions should say a prayer for the Nation and our Order.
- **15 MAY— Armed Forces Day**
- **27 & 28 MAY— Poppy Appeal** at Camp H.M. Smith. ††



Hawaii Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars
A non-profit 501 (c) 3 Veterans Organization
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Honolulu Hawaii, 96818

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