



September 7, 2020

Commander's Corner,

**Pandemic = Suicide Awareness**

I am seeing more and more Comrades who feel this pandemic will never end! Without a "short-timers" calendar, counting down the days until this crisis ends and our everyday routines return, we need to move forward.

As State Surgeon, in 2016 we did a workshop on recognizing the 5 Signs of suicide awareness. Time for a review; "CHINA".

Change, in personality

Hopeless, feeling this is the new normal

Isolation, and not wanting company

Neglect, of personal hygiene

Anxiety, hyper-awareness/the thousand yard stare

As for myself, I've hit two or three of these marks since March. As I expect many of you have experienced them also. So, continue the mission, call or text a few people to laugh and reminisce. "Not enough?" Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255. A National hotline the VFW helped to establish. *No One Does More for Veterans* is more than a slogan. It is our mantra. Check in on someone. Brighten their day. It helps them and helps you.

So wear a mask, hydrate, take your Motrin and keep your socks dry,  
Ron Lockwood, Commander

1. With the upcoming general election, VFW members are reminded that they cannot endorse or actively campaign against candidates on behalf of the VFW, Department or Posts. Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for or against a candidate; such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors when asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate. This includes using mailing lists obtained while in the VFW to either campaign for or against candidates.



**2. The following National Committee Appointments are hereby made:**

National VFW Programs	Kimberly Blaum	Post 3855
National Veteran’s Service	James Kahalehoe	Post 10154
National Veterans and Military Support	Joseph “Frank” Bragg	Post 12138

**3. The following Special National Appointments are hereby made:**

National Deputy Chief of Staff	Cal Sagara	Post 10276
National Assistant Inspector General	Sean Mattimoe	Post 970
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Kimberly Blaum	Post 3855
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Paul Schoener	Post 3850
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Pita Fa’amuli	Post 3391
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Dale Ross	Post 12122
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Ben Fuata	Post 3830
National Special Aide-de-Camp	Juan Alcon	Post 3870
National Aide-de-Camp	Wayne Yoshioka	Post 8616
National Aide-de-Camp	Russell Cummings	Post 2875
National Aide-de-Camp	Sherman Willis	Post 1540
National Aide-de-Camp	Patsy Takemura	Post 10276

**4. National by-laws stipulate that elected and appointed officers shall not assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and reviewed. Failure or refusal to submit the same within sixty (60) days of election or appointment shall result in the office being declared vacant. Proof of eligibility will be submitted to the office of State Adjutant.**

**5. Posts located in Hawaii are reminded that they must register with the Hawaii DCCA yearly. For further information go to <https://hbe.ehawaii.gov/documents> .**



6. All Posts are reminded that they must file Federal Income Tax yearly. Most Posts should be able to file using the 990 postcard. Check with your tax consultant if you have questions on what forms you are required to file.
7. Post Commanders are reminded that any Post in arrears to Department or National for fees, other financial obligations or administrative requirements including Election Reports will be deprived of representation at the Department Council of Administration.
8. Each Officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of the National By-laws shall be bonded in amount and surety, shall be approved by their respective units. Bonding period runs from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. All names on all Bank accounts must be bonded. Bonds for the 2019-2020 year expire on August 31, 2020.
9. The COVID-19 guidelines allow for electronic signatures for documents submitted to the Department. We need to be able to validate the signatures. Electronic signature programs provide an authenticity or validation certificate. Either this certificate, a screenshot showing the document was signed or an E-mail from the signatories e-mail account stating they signed the document needs to be included with the documents.
10. Post Commanders shall submit Trustee Reports of Audit to the Department Quartermaster for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ending June 30, 2020, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ending September 30, 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter ending December 31, 2020 and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ending March 31, 2021. The deadline for the last Trustee Report will be April 30, 2021.
11. It is recommended that all Posts review their Post By-laws and incorporate language that allows for electronic attendance at Post meetings in accordance with National By-Laws Section 203.
12. The Council of Administration will meet on December 5, 2020. Time 0900 location TBD. Please plan accordingly.
13. The tentative Post Inspection schedule 2020-2021 VFW Administrative year follows. Inspector Assignments and further guidance on procedures, criteria, and documentation requirements will be sent to Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters later in September. This schedule will allow for follow-on training, document recovery and additional inspection visits as required.



Department of Hawaii General Orders # 004

Series 2020-2021

- a. September 2020 Posts 970, 10154
- b. October 2020 Posts 94,110,352, 1540, 3850, 3875
- c. November 2020 Posts 849, 2875, 3391, 3292,3830, 3855, 8616, 12122
- d. December 2020 Posts 10276, 121238, 1572, 3870

If you need to reschedule your inspection contact Department Inspector Sean Matimoe or the State Adjutant George Barlett.

- 14. Submit your Community Service report monthly to the Community Service Chairman Ronald Lockwood. Send it in monthly. Phone number (808)227-3773 or email to [lockwood0849@gmail.com](mailto:lockwood0849@gmail.com).
- 15. New Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Themes:
  - a. Voice of Democracy: "Is this the Country the Founders Envisioned?"
  - b. Patriot's Pen: "What is Patriotism to Me?"
- 16. The State Commander and Adjutant will be informed of all official neighbor island trips.
- 17. The State Commander, State Adjutant and Chief of Staff will be cc'd on all reports sent to National or sent for further distribution.

By Order of:

Ronald Lockwood  
State Commander

OFFICIAL:

George Barlett  
State Adjutant