



From the Commander's Desk



Dear Members and Friends of Cathay Post.

Asian Heritage Month is coming up soon in May. I like Cathay Post to continue participating in the Asian Heritage Street Fair which is the largest Asian event in the city of San Francisco on May 19th. I am looking for volunteers for the color guards and volunteers to participate in the cultural parade in wearing our cultural attire.

The mayor's Asian Heritage celebration will be on May 7th at the War Memorial Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Ave. Cathay Post has always been a supporting sponsor for this event for the past 6 years and will continue to be part of this great celebration.

I am also happy to report that I had met with a donor today for lunch and acquired a

\$900.00 donation for Cathay Post. In a tough economy as it is today it is always a challenge to get any donations. Thanks to Commissioner Benny Yee and the Chinatown Neighbors Association for their generous donation to Cathay Post.

See you at the next Cathay Post general meeting on March 10, 2012.

**Ron Lee,
Commander**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, March 10, 2012 @ 1100 hours. All Cathay Post members and supporting friends are welcome.

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Cathay Post. No. 384
American Legion

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From the 1st Vice Commander

At the January's meeting/luncheon, many thanks to the large number of contributors to the Post's Spring donation during Chinese New Year's, commonly called "Heung Yu." As many of you know, Spring Donations help support the Post's worthwhile programs and services to our members and to our



community. Other than the office space at the War Memorial Building, the Post receives absolutely no funding from any government sources. We are a self supporting, non-profit organization and rely on volunteered labor. More importantly, it is with your support that we can continue the legacy of Cathay Post #384, into the many generations ahead. Your donations are 100% tax deductible. The Post is a tax exempt veterans organization under the IRS code 501 (C) (19). Cathay Post has become one of the most successful veterans organizations in the State of California. As many of you know, the annual membership collected by the Post is shared with the American Legion Department of California and the

Legion's District Eight region of San Francisco. What is left for Cathay Post does not cover for the operations and maintenance of this organization. A list of contributors is posted on the board outside of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Meeting Hall. Thank you donors, you have once again come thru for Cathay Post #384.

Frank Lem, one of the officers at Veterans of Foreign Wars of United States, Post 4618 has transferred his American Legion life membership over to Cathay Post #384. Welcome to our Post, Frank!

Golden Gate University has a

Yellow Ribbon Program that can be taken advantage by Veterans. This educational institution is in the top 15% nationwide of colleges and universities who have committed to a large dollar grant to the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program is for our country's Veterans to start or complete their educational goals.

Golden Gate University will award a grant up to 50% of tuition costs not to exceed \$6,900 per trimester to eligible Veterans. The Veterans Administration will match the other 50% so that an eligible Veteran may incur no tuition costs out of pocket. GGU is listed on the VA GI Bill Web site as a Yellow Ribbon Program participant. For more information, you may contact GGU directly or myself, and I will refer you to the appropriate department head.

See you All at the next meeting on Saturday, March 10th.

David Y. Wong
1st Vice Commander

From the 3rd Vice Commander

As most of you know, Cathay Post #384 has been one of the strongest supporters of the JROTC program here in San Francisco. We believe the program helps to built character among our youths, it teaches them the value of team work, leadership, and most importantly, discipline.

Ever since the Citizens of San Francisco passed Proposition V to reinstate JROTC in the school district back in 2008, the

politicians on the left have been trying every which way possible to torpedo the program. While we've managed to defeat most of their attempts, some of their underhanded methods have found their targets and are inflicting pain to one of the best programs in the school district.

The current crisis has been brewing for awhile and it finally came to a head this past month. The school board has refused to grant PE credits to the students who participate in JROTC. In doing so, they managed to limit the number of students who

have shown an interest to join. Most Freshman students simply do not have time in their schedule to take PE and enroll in the JROTC program. This despite the Department of Educa-



tion of the State of California has written letters to confirm that JROTC can be used as a substitute for PE credits. Approximately 75% of the schools with JROTC programs grant PE credits to their students in California. It is not hard to see that some members of the school board are hoping for the program to slowly choke itself to death. To the surprise and consternation of these school board members, even though JROTC has to maneuvered all these obstacles placed in their way, the program has miraculously

ly increased in size albeit at a slow pace. As the number of students increased, the need for the minimum of two instructors per school site became more pressing. The US Army holds a signed

contract with the San Francisco Unified School District and is demanding for the city to abide by her contractual agreement. Which brings us up to the present dilemma.

We are currently fighting two battles. The first is

the task of raising \$60,000 immediately to facilitate the hiring of two instructors (one for Lowell & one for Galileo) in order to forestall the closure of the program in the named schools come September of this year. Under current school board president Norman Yee's guidance, the school board has passed a resolution that prohibits the school district to fund the JROTC instructor positions knowing they are in violation of the contractual agreement with the US Army.. The

(Continued on page 4)

From the 3rd Vice Commander

school board used the shrinking budget as its reason for not funding these positions. Both of the named schools only has one instructor and have been placed on probation by the US Army. The people on the left are hoping the Army will shut down the programs in those schools and thus, they can not be blamed for not following the voters mandate.

In addition to not funding the positions, Norman Yee inserted a requirement that all future JROTC instructors must have in their possession, a PE teaching credential prior to being hired as an instructor. Where would you find a retiree from the military with that type of credential?

The Friends of JROTC, the group that successfully campaigned to reinstate JROTC, is mobilizing once again. First, with the assistance of Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, we are trying to raise \$60,000 by June 30th of this year so that two instructors will be hired, and thus, keep the Army from closing down the program. We will need to follow that up with another effort to raise an additional \$60,000 by September 1

to keep these positions funded till July of next year. As of this writing, we have raised approximately \$16,000. just through words of mouth.

Mr. Norman Yee has announced he is running for Supervisor in the 7th district. We will be meeting with him soon to let him know we expect him to withdraw those unreasonable stipulations or face a hard campaign against his election.

Your help is urgently needed to save the JROTC once again. Please contribute what you can so that the kids will continue to benefit from one of the best programs in their school. Your con-

tribution is tax deductible (Federal ID#94-6000416). Please make your check out to "San Francisco Unified School District" and include "JROTC" on the memo line. Mail your donation to: Save JROTC, PO Box 16236, San Francisco, CA. 94116 or go to <http://sfusdbrigade.webs.com> to donate by credit card.

Nelson Lum
3rd Vice Commander



Celebrating UCSF's Diversity on Lunar New Year

Cathay Post continues to support the Joy Luck Tree, New Years fundraiser in support of free Hep B Testing clinic at UCSF for the Asian Community.



An Honor Guard for WW II veteran Richard Chen

On Wednesday 22 February 2011 we received an email from the Board of Supervisors requesting an Honor Guard funeral ceremony for 100 year old Richard Chen, a veteran who served with the Flying Tigers in China during World War II, defending against the invading Japanese Imperial Army Air Force. The funeral ceremony was to take place three days later on Saturday, 25 February at Green Mortuary. The only good news was that the services would be held around the corner of our Post, which made it convenient for our Post volunteers to provide the service. But, such short notice meant that at least seven of our Post veterans would have to change their personal plans for Saturday, in order to participate in this noble and honorable formation. Commander Ron Lee blasted out an email to all of our members and by Friday noon, we had an Honor Guard team ready to honor veteran WWII Richard Chen. His son was a lifetime member of our Post.

For those who have never served, or trained, to perform the noble Honor Guard memori-

al ceremony, practice is necessary for team work and coordination. Eight Post volunteers led by Commander Ron Lee, 1st Vice Commander David Y. Wong, 2nd Vice Commander Jigg Pon and Board members Ed Wong, John Li, Richard Ow, and George Yen assembled an hour before the funeral memorial and practiced marching together, proper coordinated saluting, and the special procedures for folding the flag and presentation to

"Cathay Post, Thank you such for your tribute to a great man. I just asked the Board of Supervisors to adjourn in Richard Chen's memory. He was a true American hero."

David Chiu, February 28, 2012

the family. Commander Lee had to practice the proper procedure to final fold the American flag and the proper presentation of our flag to the representative of the Chen family. The flag is presented in the name of the President of the United States.

The Chen family was most appreciative of the Honor Guard for their Patriarch Richard

Chen. Chen has a large family including 7 children, 21 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren. We were very proud to have honored this military veteran who had served during WW II and our community for a century. We received an email from David Chui, President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors for our Post's service for Mr. Richard Chen, a member of our Community.

It will not always be possible for our Post to quickly assemble an Honor Guard for veterans who pass away in the future. When we can provide a Honor Guard ceremony, the reputation of our Post becomes a beacon for the American Legion.

Roger S. Dong
Post Newsletter Report

Our Cathay Post volunteers prepare for honor Guard duty



Assembling the team for training, folding procedure.



Vice Commander Pon explains the flag



Ed Wong provides his knowledge and advice



Commander Lee practicing in the funeral home to get it right.

Where Are They Now?

Cathay Post members,

If you will recall, in the past two years our Post visited and/or hosted several US Navy warships when they were in town, or during Fleetweek. Two of the Navy ships we visited were the USS Bonhomme Richard and the USS Makin Island, both are amphibious

assault ships that pack a lot of punch. Today, both ships are busy on assigned missions in the Pacific theater. The unclassified report below from two weeks ago described generally where they are and what missions they are currently supporting.

Great to know that our US Navy is out in force defending our Nation and making all of us proud.

Roger S. Dong
Post Newsletter Reporter

U.S. Naval Update Map Feb. 15, 2012



ATLANTIC CARRIERS

Ship	Home port	Last update	Status
CVN 65 Enterprise	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	Returned to home port
CVN 69 Dwight D. Eisenhower	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	In home port
CVN 71 Theodore Roosevelt	Norfolk, Va.	9/29/09	Undergoing a three-year refueling complex overhaul in Newport News, Va., until late 2012
CVN 75 Harry S. Truman	Norfolk, Va.	3/25/11	Undergoing a docking planned incremental availability (DPIA) maintenance period
CVN 77 G. H. W. Bush	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	Returned to home port

PACIFIC CARRIERS

CVN 68 Nimitz	Everett, Wash.	12/16/10	Undergoing a DPIA maintenance period in Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash.
CVN 70 Carl Vinson	San Diego, Calif.	2/15/12	Conducting maritime security operations and support missions in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR
CVN 72 Abraham Lincoln	Everett, Wash.	2/15/12	Conducting maritime security operations and support missions in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR
CVN 73 George Washington	Yokosuka, Japan	2/15/12	In home port
CVN 74 John C. Stennis	Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash.	2/15/12	Under way in the Pacific Ocean, returning to home port
CVN 76 Ronald Reagan	San Diego, Calif.	1/20/12	Undergoing a DPIA maintenance period in Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash.

BIG-DECK AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE SHIPS

LHA 5 Peleliu	San Diego, Calif.	2/15/12	Under way in the Pacific Ocean
LHD 1 Wasp	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	Returned to home port
LHD 2 Essex	Sasebo, Japan	2/15/12	In home port
LHD 3 Kearsarge	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	Returned to home port
LHD 4 Boxer	San Diego, Calif.	12/14/11	Undergoing repairs and upgrades expected to be completed by May 2012
LHD 5 Bataan	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	In home port
LHD 6 Bonhomme Richard	San Diego, Calif.	2/15/12	Under way in the Pacific Ocean
LHD 7 Iwo Jima	Norfolk, Va.	2/15/12	Under way in the Atlantic Ocean conducting carrier qualifications
LHD 8 Makin Island	San Diego, Calif.	2/15/12	Supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR

Refueling Complex Overhaul (RCOH-32 months) Planned Incremental Availability (PIA-6 months) Docking Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA-11 months) Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA-6 months)

*Plotted locations represent approximations. Based on available open source information.

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Analysis

The Naval Update Map shows an approximation of the current locations of U.S. Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) and Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs), based on available open-source information. No classified or operationally sensitive information is included in this weekly update. CSGs and ARGs are the keys to U.S. dominance of the world's oceans. A CSG is centered on an aircraft carrier, which projects U.S. naval and air power and supports a carrier air wing (CVW). The CSG includes significant offensive strike capability. An ARG is centered on three amphibious warfare ships, with a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) embarked. An MEU is built around a heavily reinforced and mobile battalion of Marines.

Carrier Strike Groups

The USS Abraham Lincoln CSG with CVW 2 embarked is under way in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) conducting missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts.

The USS Carl Vinson CSG with CVW 17 embarked is under way in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR conducting missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts.

The USS John C. Stennis CSG with CVW 9 embarked is under way in the Pacific Ocean, returning to its home port of Bremerton, Wash.

Amphibious Ready Groups/ Marine Expeditionary Units

The **USS Makin Island ARG** with the 11th MEU embarked is under way in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOR supporting maritime security operations and conducting theater security cooperation efforts.

The **USS Bonhomme Richard** is under way in the Pacific Ocean for its new home port of Sasebo, Japan, to replace the forward deployed USS Essex.

The **USS Peleliu** is under way in the Pacific Ocean after participating in the bilateral Iron Fist 2012 exercise with the Japanese Self-Defense Force.

The **USS Iwo Jima** is under way in the Atlantic Ocean conducting carrier qualifications.

A note from deployed Colonel Garrett Yee

Cathay Post members and friends,

A local Army officer is now serving in Afghanistan. He is US Army Colonel Garrett Yee. Shortly after arriving on station he sent us a note with photos of his assigned post and other deployed colleagues. He has been on station now for about 6 months. We have his military AFP/FPO address and will be sending him a package of goodies from home.



Since most of us don't know Colonel Yee, here's a brief synopsis of how he has served our community.

For the past 22 years, Garrett

has served our country and our community in various capacities, eventually leading to a leadership role in many instances. In addition to serving on the Ohlone College Board for the past six years, Garrett has served as President of Citizens for Better Community, a local influential community service organization; District Chairman for the Boy Scouts of America, which represents over 1500 youth members; Chair of the Fremont Library Advisory Com-

A note from deployed Colonel Garrett Yee

mission; and President of the South Bay Chinese Club of Southern Alameda County. He has been recognized locally and nationally for his service. The Argus newspaper named Garrett as one of "10 People to Watch in



2003"; Citizens for Better Community named him the "Citizen of the Year" in 2005; the Wall Street Journal featured Garrett and his family for their patriotism in 2006; the Boy Scouts of America named him "Scouter of the Year" in 2007; and the Indo American Community Federation named him "Citizen of the Year" in 2007.

Wishing Colonel Yee a safe and rewarding tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Dear Family and Veteran Friends,

It's two days after celebrating Thanksgiving and I'm finally sitting down to write my first letter home after deploying to the Middle East. I'm sitting at an airfield in Kandahar, Afghanistan waiting for a flight headed north. This year, I spent Thanks-

giving with my Kandahar Team where we dined at the "American" style dining facility named Niagra. Five years ago to the day, I spent Thanksgiving in Iraq and it seems like it was just last year.

I will say that spending Thanksgiving while deployed really makes me feel thankful for what I have. I am thankful to be married to Maria for over 25 years and for my family.

We said our last good bye and took my last photos with Maria



and the family in mid-October just prior to heading to Fort Benning, Georgia. Let me just say that saying good bye does not get easier. Fort Benning brings back lots of memories--I attended Airborne School at Fort Benning in 1986 as well as my Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses in the late 1980's and early 1990's. My father trained at Fort Benning in the 1940's prior to his deployment to Korea. Over 60 years later, it feels strange to find myself training at Fort Benning prior to my deployment.

Just prior to our flight overseas, we transitioned to the "lock down" phase where we awaited our final transportation overseas. During this time, our commanding general visited our team and bid us fare well.

Our flight from Atlanta to Kuwait made one stop along the way at Hahn, Germany. It is the same place where I stopped on my way to Iraq in 2006. Nothing had changed. In fact, the air base still had the same vinyl sign hanging by the entrance way into the passenger waiting area.

Arriving in Kuwait in October this time felt much more comfortable than when I first arrived in July 2006. For one, it was not 140 degrees on the air field at 2 am in the morning. The mild fall afternoon actually felt nice.



We traveled from Kuwait International Airport to Ali Al Saleem Air Base where our headquarters company commander and first sergeant linked up with us and took us to Camp Arifjan in Ku-

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A note from deployed Colonel Garrett Yee

wait. Upon arrival, we immediately checked into billeting and for the next week we received additional in-theater training before beginning our "right seat ride" with those we replaced.

For the past month, the pace has been non-stop. After spending some time with my team in Kuwait, I found myself on a small C-12 airplane with three of my colleagues en route to Qatar to discuss communications projects for the Southwest Asia region. One of my colleagues, Colonel Rick Meador, is the guy I'm replacing. The timing of this trip worked out well for me since it allowed me to meet with many of the key leaders in the region that I will work with over the next 12 months.



Within a day of my return to Kuwait from Qatar, I took a C-130 airplane to Sather Air Base in Iraq to spend time with my Iraq team. Yes, Iraq. In the midst of the Iraq draw down, one can't help about the historic significance of this event. To spend time in Iraq during this momen-

tous event will remain in my memories for a long time. From Sather, I visited the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory where I had served in 2006. At the height of the Iraq war, the Al Faw Palace had energy and life. As strange as it sounds, I have many fond memories of Camp Victory. The Al Faw now looks deserted. Yes, we are getting out of Iraq. We took our last photo in Iraq displaying the American flag with my Iraq team-another memory that we will have for years to come.

From Sather, we flew via helicopter to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Union III where we support the Office of Security and Cooperation for Iraq (OSCI) with communications. We also traveled to FOB Hammer in Besmaya and to Erbil where the Department of State now has the lead. While at FOB Hammer, I gave an update to the three-star general responsible for OSCI. Getting around Iraq has its challenges let alone security concerns. Iraq remains a dangerous place and we must take extra security precautions as we travel, which means traveling primarily by air. We traveled by air on a variety of aircraft to include Black Hawk, Chinook, and Department of State helicopters as well as a Dash 8 fixed wing aircraft to Erbil. Erbil remains a unique place unlike the rest of Iraq. In fact, those in Erbil refer to their part of the world as Kur-

distan. After spending about a week in Iraq, we flew in a C-130 airplane back to Ali Al Saleem Air Base where we got picked up by our Kuwait team and taken back to Camp Arifjan.

After two days back at Camp Arifjan, I headed back to Ali Al Saleem Air Base, this time to fly to Afghanistan. As luck would have it, I caught at 1 am flight to Kandahar Air Base in southern Afghanistan. Kandahar has much too much dust and the fine grit gets into everything. The terrain reminds me of the southwest region of the United States. Here in Kandahar, my team and I enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner together. Earlier in the day, we visited our storage area where we stood on top of a shipping container and took a photo



of the Kandahar team with the American flag.

Roger S. Dong
Post Newsletter Reporter



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Chronicle Staff

Adjutant Tony Zhang is the Editor and responsible for the publication of the Cathay Post Chronicle.

Post Volunteer Roger Dong is our chief reporter.

Creators of Cathay Chronicle:

Galin Luk - a San Francisco civil trial attorney, Marine Corps veteran.

Michael "Young" Louie - an IT specialist based in San Francisco.

The Editor welcomes article or letter submissions but reserves the right to publish, republish or not publish any submission and to edit articles or letters as appropriate. Submissions must include your name, address, and phone number. The Editor will call to verify authenticity. All submissions should be emailed to the Editor at tzhang85@gmail.com by the 25th day of the month preceding the next month's Newsletter.



Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, Executive Board

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