



FY 2008-09

# 442ND RCT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

## Foundation Focuses Support on 442<sup>nd</sup> Archives & Learning Center

The 442<sup>nd</sup> Archives and Learning Center (Archives) was established to collect, preserve and interpret items related to the history of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Its collection consists of artifacts, photographs, publications and documents from World War II and includes postwar memorabilia relating to the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club.

The Archives is administered by the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club and is housed in two apartments in the 442<sup>nd</sup> clubhouse building located at 933 Wiliwili Street in Honolulu. In November 2009, a contractor began making minor improvements to the two apartments, including installation of air conditioning, boarding up jalousies, weather stripping back doors, and replacing old interior (hollow core) doors with solid ones.

A minimal staff of one full-time and one part-time person is responsible for cataloging, storing and organizing the materials in the collection, as well as creating indexes and finding aids. The staff accommodates visitors and responds to inquiries from the public.

Some current Archives projects include:

1. Digitizing National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) documents, a joint venture with the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). There are approximately 30 linear feet of documents that need to be scanned. This time-consuming project also involves taking a physical inventory and creating an index for reference purposes.
2. Digitizing the Archives photograph collection, which consists of over 20,000 wartime and postwar images. Postwar photos are mainly of 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club activities and events. Laura Hirayama (S&D) began volunteering in July 2009. Hirayama volunteers on



*Shigeyuki Yoshitake (E Co./MIS) assists a visitor to the Archives. Yoshitake volunteers one or two days a week and is currently helping to organize the Archives photo collection. Photo courtesy of 442 RCT Archives & Learning Center.*

Saturdays and assists with the scanning of wartime photos, amongst other tasks.

3. Transfer of NARA documents to the Hamilton Library, University of Hawaii at Manoa, was completed in 2005. Other items from the Archives collection remain to be transferred. This process involves scanning photographs, and photocopying and digitizing of select documents.
4. Work continues on the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club website ([www.442.us.com](http://www.442.us.com)), which was launched in March 2008. The webmaster is a volunteer, and Archives staff provides information and digitized images for the site.

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**THE 442<sup>ND</sup> RCT FOUNDATION** is an IRC Section 501(c)(3) private, non-profit corporation, registered in the state of Hawaii. It is based at the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club headquarters in Honolulu.

Please direct questions and correspondence to:

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**933 Wiliwili Street**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96826**

**Phone: (808) 949-7997**  
**Fax: (808) 949-1539**

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Trustees, which also reviews and awards grant support to individuals and organizations whose efforts serve to further the mission of the Foundation.

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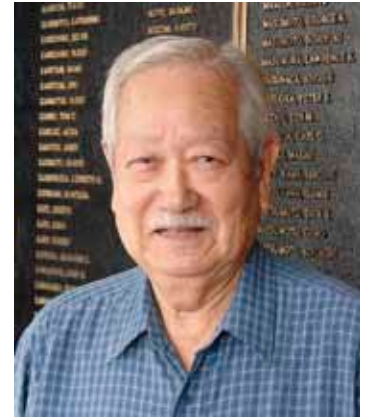
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**Our Mission:**

*"To promote, preserve and perpetuate the spirit and dedication of the men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT."*

## President's Message

**W**ith the ending of FY '09, it seems timely to review our recent past and, in particular, what happened to our charitable educational program during these unstable economic times. Many non-profit institutions and foundations, including ours, have felt the impact of the financial and credit crisis. For example, our list of supporters and donors shrank much more than it had in the past. Thus, it challenged our Board to exercise prudent judgment in managing our limited resources.



*George Nakasato*

During the past year, the Foundation continued to focus on the 442<sup>nd</sup> Archives and Learning Center (Archives), providing sound financial support to effectively administer its archival and public outreach programs. Current challenges addressed by the Archives include the need to further upgrade and improve its digital technology in order to store and retrieve documents, as well as to better serve the public.

The Archives, together with the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), actively collects digitized files pertaining to the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C. This is an important linkage to preserve historical documents. The Archives also maintains a partnership role with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Japanese American Veterans Collection (JAVC). The Foundation has provided support for JAVA and JAVC, as well as other organizations and community groups. We recently partnered with the Go For Broke Educational Center, Hawaii Office, by supporting its teacher training program for state Department of Education teachers.

All in all, it was a sober but active year!

This year, more than any other, we appeal to you and seek your continued support. Your gift, in any amount, will definitely strengthen a common bond to sustain our Foundation's core mission.

You have been a loyal member during the past years, and we hope to uphold such a relationship in the years ahead.

Mahalo nui loa,

George M. Nakasato, President  
 442nd RCT Foundation



## 2009 Hawaii Teacher Training Institute

The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation provided financial support to the Go For Broke National Education Center's (GFB) teacher-training workshop titled, "Looking Like the Enemy: The Case of Japanese Americans in World War II." Jointly developed with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii for high school teachers, the workshop was held October 8, 9 and 10 at Roosevelt High School.

A total of 21 teachers from Oahu, Maui and Hawaii Island took part in the three-day workshop, which included information and training on the nisei soldiers' experience and Hawaii internment camps.

The workshop's goal was to give modern Hawaiian history and social studies teachers the knowledge and resources they need to teach the Japanese American WWII experience in Hawaii. Participating teachers were given the opportunity during the workshop to create their own lesson plans. They left the workshop with content, teaching strategies, and resources for classes, including access to more than 700 video oral histories of veterans talking about their World War II experiences.

The last day of the workshop culminated in a field trip to the Honouliuli Internment Camp site and a visit to the nisei soldiers exhibit at Central Pacific Bank (CPB) in downtown Honolulu. CPB hosted the teachers for lunch along with veterans from the 100th, 442nd and MIS vet-



*Part of the group of 21 teachers gathered for a group photo at Roosevelt High School.*

*Photos courtesy of Go For Broke National Education Center.*

erans clubs.

"Thanks to the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation grant, we were able to provide each of the participating teachers with a variety of resources," reported Pam Funai, GFB's Hawaii Regional Office Director. These resources included:

- *A Tradition of Honor*, DVD and curriculum binder
- *Okage Sama De*, DVD of storyteller Alton Chung's performances of Nisei soldiers
- *First Battle*, DVD by Tom Coffman
- *Every Grain of Rice*, by Rita Goldman
- *The Hawaii Herald*, one-year subscription

"We are very grateful for your belief in our work," Funai added. 🙏



*Teachers visit the historic site of the Honouliuli Internment Camp.*



*Nisei veterans share their experiences with teachers at the exhibition hosted by Central Pacific Bank.*



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*Mahalo to all supporters of the 442nd RCT Foundation*

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# Dedicated Team Keeps NARA Digitization Project Going



*Chosei Kuge and Fumi Yamamoto at NARA.  
Photo courtesy of Chosei Kuge.*

**T**he National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Digitization Project is a joint effort of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Archives and Learning Center in Hawaii and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). The project's goal is to digitize all relevant documents pertaining to the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service. The research team has completed marking all

the relevant boxes of 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> documents that NARA archivists Richard Boylan and Martin Gedra provided. The research team had started to mark MIS documents when a decision was made to stop that effort and concentrate on the digitizing of 100<sup>th</sup>-442<sup>nd</sup> documents.

The co-chairs of the NARA Digitization Project are Ted Tsukiyama and LTC Dave Buto, USA (Ret), also JAVA webmaster. The arrangement calls for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation in Honolulu to provide the equipment and funding for expenses and JAVA to provide the manpower. JAVA has paid for some financial shortfalls and bought a set of laptop and scanner to replace a set that was stolen. The research team utilizes two laptops and two scanners.

The three digitizers are Akira Yoshida, Chosei Kuge and Dwight Gates. Yoshida is a veteran who lives in Philadelphia, Penn. He visits Washington, D.C. for months at a time, staying with his daughter who resides near the Dulles Airport area. When in D.C., Yoshida goes to NARA every day it is open, including Saturdays. Kuge goes to NARA once a week and Gates less frequently depending on his job and family requirements. Fumi Yamamoto, who began this project with her late husband Richard "Sus" Yamamoto many years ago, heads the research team and coordinates the digitizers. In addition, she helps Kuge and Gates at NARA.

The database will be archived at both the JAVA website and at the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club Archives. The project is designed so that the database can be searched electronically for dates, names, events and other information from anywhere in the world. Presently, the researcher must physically travel to Washington, D.C., go to NARA and look for documents that could be stored in any number of places.

Fumi Yamamoto estimates that as of the end of November 2009, a phenomenal 11,105 pages have been digitized. 📄

## Scanning Documents Takes Time and Effort

*Dave Buto, co-chair of the NARA Digitization Project, prepared the following report explaining the process of digitization.*

**A**t NARA, the digitization team must scan each document one page at a time, with each page comprising a single file. A 10-page memo, for example, requires scanning 10 pages separately. Each file is given a unique name that must convey the subject, date, number of pages, and person who scanned the document. This allows someone looking for a document to more easily find it based on content. The digitization team also lists the number of the page and how many total pages are in the document. This helps the reader know the order of the pages and if all the pages are there.

Since 10 pages were scanned separately, someone reading the document would have to find the 10 pages and open and read each one separately, and in the correct order. This would be time-consuming and difficult, especially considering some of the documents contain 20-30 pages.

My job is to collate the related pages, assemble them

*Continued on page 7*



## M.I.T. Conference Focuses on Digital Collections

The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation assisted Kapiolani Community College (KCC) cybrarian Shari Tamashiro to attend a conference titled, “Media in Transition 6: Stone and Papyrus, Storage and Transmission,” April 24-26, 2009, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass.

Tamashiro’s paper, “The Hawaii Nisei Story: Creating a Living Digital Memory,” was accepted for presentation at the conference, which focused on digital media. Due to State budget cuts, however, KCC’s freeze on travel funds would have prevented Tamashiro from participating. “Thanks to a generous grant from the 442 Foundation, I was able to attend and present at this prestigious conference,” Tamashiro said. “Digital communications have exponentially increased the speed information is distributed – in the near future, we should be able to transmit the ‘entire printed contents of the Library of Congress in under five seconds.”

According to MIT conference organizers, the event addressed such questions as, “What challenges confront librarians and archivists who must supervise the migration of print culture to digital formats and who must also find ways to preserve and catalogue the vast and increasing range of words and images generated by new technologies? How are shifts in distribution and circulation affecting the stories we tell, the art we produce, the social structures and policies we construct?”

“Having the opportunity to attend this conference enabled me to connect with and learn from specialists from around the world,” Tamashiro added. “It was exhilarating and I was greatly inspired by the sessions I attended. We started at 9 a.m. and ended at 9 p.m., with 20 minutes between each session and lecture. No lunch break, either! My presentation was very well attended and received with great enthusiasm.”

In recent years, Tamashiro has worked on such nisei veteran projects as the “Hawaii Nisei Story” (<http://nisei.hawaii.edu>) and the “Hawaii Memory Project” (<http://memory.hawaii.edu>). According to Tamashiro, “The Hawaii Memory Project will continue to share stories of Hawaii, as well as make available the thousands of photographs

and manuscripts we have been digitizing, cataloging, indexing and publishing online.” Anyone with questions on how to preserve and protect photographs and manuscripts can email [hawaiiemory@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiemory@gmail.com), or call (808) 734-9562.



*Shari Tamashiro*

“By funding me to attend this conference, the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation enabled me to increase my expertise in digitization and digital storytelling. They enabled me to improve my efforts to preserve and share the nisei story, which is something that I am committed both professionally and personally to continue doing. I am deeply grateful for the support,” Tamashiro concluded. 🇺🇸

### Scanning Docs/*Continued from page 6*

the right order, then, out of multiple files, make one. The end result is that when someone opens the single file, he/she can read all of the pages in order.

Presently, many single- and multi-page documents are listed on our website, but the only way you can tell what is in a document is to look at the title. We are building a database that will permit users to search the database based on dates, key words, etc. So, you will be able to ask, “Show me all the documents that contain the key words ‘Ikeda’ and ‘Bronze Star.’” Or, you could ask, “Show me all the documents between Dec 1944 and Jun 1945 that contain the word ‘Manzanar.’” When we are able to publish this capability, searching for documents will become a breeze.

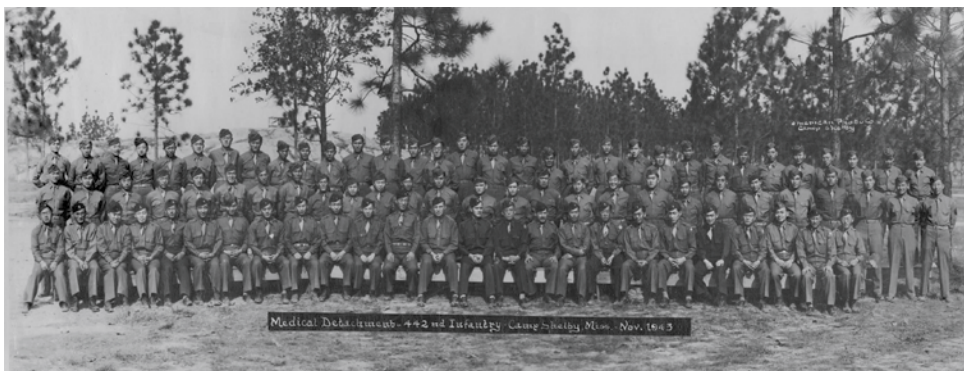




## 442nd RCT Archives, *continued from page 1*

5. The Archives Committee has received the Oral History Program, which includes interviewing and videotaping of World War II veterans from the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers conduct the interviews and man the lighting and recording equipment. The tapes must be digitized, labeled and filed, and interviews must be transcribed.

6. The existing collection of analog (Hi8 and VHS) tapes containing oral history interviews, documentaries and activities must be digitized for preservation purposes.
7. The Unit Photo Project involves the reproduction and mounting of the panoramic photos of all 442 units taken at Camp Shelby, Miss. A copy print of each photo is being prepared by a professional photo lab for display in the 442 clubhouse and used on the



*The Archives is working to duplicate unit photos, such as this one of the Medics, for both display and preservation purposes. Photo courtesy of the 442nd RCT Archives & Learning Center*

442nd Veterans Club website.

In March 2009, the Archives also helped to prepare an exhibit at Central Pacific Bank by locating artifacts for display, creating labels, and scanning images. In October, staff again helped the Archives manager prepare for Central Pacific Bank's Lost Battalion Exhibit.

The 442nd RCT Foundation proudly supports the important work of the Archives by funding its principal costs of personnel, equipment and supplies. 