

20080115 Retiree News

1. **The Promise.** **Retiree News** will contain information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about retired or former members. There will be no chain e-mail, cute pictures, or sales pitches. **Retiree News** e-mail is published on a random schedule – as topics come up and time permits. If you change your mind about receiving issues of **Retiree News**, send me an e-mail at yoshimotg004@hawaii.rr.com and I will remove you from the **Retiree News** mailing list.

2. **Business.**

- [Do you miss reading the Airman Magazine?](#) Well like everything else, it's now available on line. To view the January/February 2008 issue, just log on to: <http://www.af.mil/news/airman/>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.
- [The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program \(GRAP\).](#) Being a retired Guardmember, you now can register to become involved with the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (GRAP). Below is more information on the program you can go on line to register and get more information. It could be a good way to supplement your retirement income and continue to serve the Army or Air National Guard.

To maintain today's readiness and strength requirements while preparing for tomorrow's challenges, the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program promotes strength from within by recognizing and rewarding those who help the National Guard achieve its goals. National Guard Recruiting Assistants are embedded in their respective communities and are uniquely positioned to identify Potential Airmen in the people they already know. It's the effective way to promote strength from within.

There are different programs for Army and Air Guard recruiting assistants (RA). But basically, each RA will cultivate quality potential enlistees from within their individual spheres of influence. Once a potential enlistee is identified and pre-qualified, the RA will facilitate a meeting engagement with their local recruiter. The triad of recruiter, RA, and potential enlistee will then work closely to process the potential enlistee and move them toward their enlistment.

National Guard Recruiting Assistants can earn additional income assisting recruiting efforts by identifying well-qualified men and women for service in the National Guard. Upon verified enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000, with a second \$1,000 payment upon verification of the recruit's successful shipment to Basic Training. There is another program for each prior service member who completes a 90-day affiliation with the unit.

Qualify to become a National Guard Recruiting Assistant through a simple online process. Take the first step toward earning additional income while assisting the National Guard in meeting future manpower requirements.

www.guardrecruitingassistant.com If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

When the site loads up, there are separate links for Army and Air Guard programs.

The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (GRAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply online to become eligible to serve as a recruiting assistant

(RA). This program is administered by Docupak, Inc. of Alabaster, Alabama. The RA applicant will be verified and hired by a contractor, not the National Guard.

- [2008 NMFA Military Spouse Scholarship Program](#). Thanks to a new partnership between the National Military Family Association (NMFA) and Fisher House Foundation, the NMFA Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program will be able to assist many more deserving spouses. NMFA's Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to military spouses to obtain professional certification or to attend post secondary or graduate school. Scholarships normally range from \$500 to \$1,000 and may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board. Spouses of uniformed service members (active duty, National Guard and Reserve, retirees, and survivors) of any branch or rank are eligible to apply. Applications are accepted online January 15 through March 15, 2008. For more information about the NMFA Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship Program or to sign-up to receive education updates, visit www.nmfa.org/scholarship. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- [Commissary Scholarship Applications Available](#). Applications for the Defense Commissary Agency's 2008 Scholarships for Military Children are now available in commissaries worldwide. The \$1,500 scholarships are for children of active-duty and retired military, as well as children of Guard and reserve Soldiers. Applicants must plan to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2008. The deadline to apply is 20 February 2008. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified candidates. Applications and further eligibility requirements are available in commissaries and online at <http://www.commissaries.com> or at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. If either link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- [VA Home Loan Rules Change](#). In the past, qualified veterans and active duty Soldiers have been able to obtain loans without down payments, but the loan size has been strictly limited. Now, with a down payment of at least 25 percent of the loan amount above the current limit (\$417,000), the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) will permit larger loans. For more information about VA home loans, go to: www.homeloans.va.gov. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- **Correction:** Last issue I reported that Bentley Alana was retiring from the Honolulu Police Department. It should have been **Bentley Alama**. Several readers e-mail in with this correction.

3. Wanted List. I am still looking for these HING members e-mail addresses or their addresses I have for them no longer works. E-mail me their addresses if you can share them.

Jeffrey Okazaki
Michael Delmar
Eugene Imai
Wayne Z. Higa

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses are:

Bernard Watson
Stanley Leong (update)
Judy Ajifu
Max Pacada

**Anthony Olagan
Leonard Higa
David Paahana**

4. Retiree Update.

- I received an e-mail from **MSgt Harold Scoggins**, who retired as the First Sergeant of the 293rd Combat Communications Squadron.

Hope you have a safe and happy New Year. There is a correction to Bentley's name, it's Alama, not Alana. And although he is now retired from HPD, you can find him along with me and several other retired HPD members (but no HIANG members) working at Honolulu International Airport. He is one of the shift supervisors for Securitas Security and I'm the Assistant Manager for Securitas. So in your next travels to the mainland or neighbor island, you just might run into us.

- Thanks to **Lt Col Ken "Dusty" Sussel**, 199th Fighter Squadron, for connecting me up with **BG Bernard Watson**, who retired from the Hawaii Army National Guard a few years ago. I believe both of them fly for Hawaiian Air.

- I got an e-mail from **MSgt Ted Merrill**, who retired from the 154th Wing, where he served as the Wing historian. He reports he still with the Honolulu Police Department at the Wahiawa station. He is on the third watch now after working many years on the fourth watch. He is getting close to retirement eligibility – about two more years. Great hearing from Ted!

He really worked hard at the historian program and really got it moving forward. It is truly unfortunate that the Air National Guard decided to eliminate the position in all the ANG wings. I believe that our history will be lost with the historian job being done as an additional duty.

5. Upcoming Events. Listed by event date, the events remain posted until they occur.

- The Hawaii National Guard Human Resource Office is organizing a retirement luncheon for **MSG Michael Sato**. Mike retires after a long military career. The specifics are:

- When: Friday, January 25, 2008, 1100-1400
- Where: Hale Ikena, Ft. Shafter
- Costs: \$20.00 per person, \$5.00 gift only
- Checks made out to: **Vivian Tsutsumi**
- POCs:
 - **SFC Scott Nomura**, 672-1240
 - **MSgt Vivian Tsutsumi**, 672-1241
- Seating is limited, final headcount by January 15, 2008

- Joint Retirement Party. The maintenance folks, lead by **MSgt Michael Cadang**, will host a joint retirement party for **SMSgt William Pimental**, **MSgt Norman Kaleo**, and **MSgt Gregory Makishi**. All three retired at the end of 2006.

- When: Sunday, February 24, 2008, 1700-2100
- Where: Empress Restaurant in the Chinese Cultural Center
- Costs: \$35.00 per person, \$5.00 gift only
- Checks made out to: **Michael Cadang**. Payment is due not later than February 10, 2008

- POCs:

- F-15: **MSgt Mike Cadang**, 448-7207
- F-15: **MSgt Jason Koga**, 448-7742
- KC-135: **MSgt Ron Mori**, 448-7922
- C-17: **TSgt Stuart Hino**, 448-8454
- BYOB welcome.

● [Hawaii National Guard Association Annual Business Meeting](#). The HNGA will hold its annual business meeting. The agenda will include election of officers, and a review of national and local legislative action for the upcoming year. Retirees are welcomed to attend.

- When: Saturday, February 16, 2008

--- 0830-

--- Business Meeting

- Where: Hickam AFB Officer's club

- Costs: No charge (provided by corporate sponsors)

- POCs:

--- Army Guard: **MAJ Brian Peterson**, 672-1254, brian.peterson2@us.army.mil

--- Air Guard: **Lt Col Dennis Matsuura**, 655-7068, dennis.matsuura@hihick.ang.af.mil

● [Hawaii National Guard Association Sweetheart's Ball](#). The HNGA will hold its annual banquet as a Sweetheart's Ball. This brings back a tradition from several years ago. Another Valentine Day gift for your significant other. Retirees are welcomed to attend.

- When: Saturday, February 16, 2008

--- 1730-1830: No host cocktails

--- 1830-1930: Dinner (music by the Air Force Pacific Show Band)

--- 1915-1930: Awards Presentation

--- 1930-2030: Na Hoku Hanohano Award Winner, Raiatea Helm

--- 2030-2300: Entertainment by the Air Force Pacific Show Band

- Where: DeRussy Room, Hale Koa Hotel

- Costs: \$30.00 per person (after subsidies by corporate sponsors)

- POCs:

--- Army Guard: **MAJ Brian Peterson**, 672-1254, brian.peterson2@us.army.mil

--- Air Guard: **Lt Col Dennis Matsuura**, 655-7068, dennis.matsuura@hihick.ang.af.mil

● [150th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron Pau Hana Pa'ina](#). Retirees, non-retirees, members, families and friends of the [150th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron](#), Kokee Air Force Station are invited to rekindle fond memories and make new ones during a 150 ACWS reunion April 11 – 12, 2008. There will be two nights of ono food (estimated: \$50 per person/per night). Please RSVP as soon as possible to **Lester Matsushima** 245-2255/652-1733, **Napua Sugai** 341-3317/625-4445 or **Jean Dobashi** 245-6828/336-0309.

Form your teams for two days of fun by calling the respective POC for the following activities:

Friday Activities: (fees to be determined by POC)

- Golfing: **George Koga** (335-5376), **Susan Honjiyo** (651-2969)

- Fishing: **Lester Matsushima** (652-1733)

- Pa'ina at Kauai Vet Center 6:00p.m.

Saturday Activities: (fees to be determined by POC)

- Golfing: **George Koga** (335-5376), **Susan Honjiyo** (651-2969)

- Softball: **R. Javier** (651-4269)

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- Bowling: **M. Nishimura, Susan Matsunaga** (639-8507)
- Tennis: **B. Kato, J. Lorenzo** (635-0713)