

20080524 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.**

- **Congratulations to the Hawaii Army National Guard's new Command Sergeant Majors.** They are: **Robert Ednilao**, **Virgine Kanoa**, and **Robert Zavala**. The national selection board reviews the records of many sergeant majors and only a few of these soldiers become command sergeant majors. Their selection is a major achievement in each of their careers!

- **Congratulations to SrA Sue Musrasrik-Quiles,** of the **154th Wing Comptroller Office**, who became a naturalized American citizen on January 14, 2008. She took advantage of a special program that expedites the naturalization process and waives all fees (several hundred dollars). To qualify, you have honorably served in the AOR. **SPC Mabel Requiman**, of the **Human Resources Office**, took advantage of this program last year. Congratulations again to both new citizens!

- **A First!** Belated Congratulations to the **154th Medical Group**, who received an Outstanding in their Health Services Inspection (HSI) in January. The Air Force Inspector General Team conducted an extensive inspection and the results reflect the leadership and hard work by all medical group members. Super Job by the commander, **Lt Col Stanley Sato** and his unit!

- The Air Force awarded the **Headquarters, Hawaii Air National Guard**, the **Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (AFOEA)**. The period of service for the award is July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007. This award is the "outstanding unit award" for unnumbered Air Force organizations. I believe this is the second AFOEA that HQ HIANG has received. Congratulations to **Maj Gen Darryll Wong** and the members of the Headquarters!

- The Air Force awarded the **15th Airlift Wing** the **Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA)**. The period of service for the award is November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007. The **154th Maintenance Group** was included in the award as part of Team Hickam. Congratulations to all!

- **Another Guard Benefit Coming.** This year's legislature passed HB 2605 and as we go to press, the bill is awaiting Governor Lingle's signature. It was a long and hard fight to get the bill through, with a lot of support from the officer and enlisted associations and individual Guardmembers; it passed during the last days of the session. HB 2605 provides for the exemption of vehicle weight taxes for one noncommercial vehicle per member of the National Guard or Reserve members. Unfortunately, it does not apply to retirees – but it is a great new benefit for Guardmembers in these tough financial times. It will serve as a great recruiting tool. Mahalo to everyone who worked to get this bill through the legislature!

- **Not Law Yet!** The United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources approved legislation that would allow veterans to purchase a special, discount pass to see America's national parks. The Veterans Eagle Parks Pass Act (S.617) would establish a new \$10 "Eagle Pass" that would allow former servicemembers to visit all national parks for a full

year. The committee amended the bill to also allow active duty, Guard and Reserve members to be eligible for the pass. The bill still has a few more hurdles before it will reach the President for signature.

- Pearl Harbor Historic Sites FREE to Military Personnel, Families this Memorial Day. The Pearl Harbor Historic Sites partners are proud to offer complimentary general admission to all active-duty, reserve and retired U.S. military personnel and their dependants on Memorial Day, May 26, 2008. Qualified visitors must present a valid military I.D. upon entering the historic site or sites of their choice.

Applicable historic sites include the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, Battleship Missouri Memorial and Pacific Aviation Museum - Pearl Harbor. The USS Arizona Memorial and recently dedicated USS Oklahoma Memorial, both operated and maintained by the National Parks Service, already offer free daily admission.

The Pearl Harbor Historic Sites provide a powerful historical journey unlike any other, an experience that has matured and grown far beyond that of a mere single day. These memorials and museums carry forth the legacies of several of our nation's most treasured icons, are enduring tributes to the valor and sacrifices of our veterans, and provide windows into a past era when the future of our nation and the world truly hung in the balance.

Memorial Day, traditionally observed on the last Monday of May, commemorates all fallen U.S. men and women who gave their lives in military service to their country. Its origins began as a tribute to Union soldiers during the American Civil War. Following the First World War, the observance was expanded to include those who died in any war or military action.

- TRICARE Goes Digital. TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries will soon be able to print a copy of their Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from the convenience of their own homes. Starting this month, the only paper EOB's that TFL beneficiaries living in the United States and U.S. territories will receive will be monthly summaries. In February, beneficiaries will have the option to receive an electronic notification every time a claim processes by logging on to the secure website at <http://www.TRICARE4U.com> to view and print their EOB. For more information about the registration process, beneficiaries can call toll-free at 1-866-773-0404 or at the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) telephone number 1-866-773-0405.

- TRICARE to Cover Lap-Band Procedure. TRICARE beneficiaries whose weight poses a serious health risk now have a new surgical alternative available. For those who medically qualify, TRICARE now covers laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, also commonly called Lap-Band surgery. Although TRICARE just made the policy change, coverage is retroactive to February 1, 2007. Read the full article at Military.com. <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,160148,00.html> If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- To learn more about TRICARE, visit <http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- Commissaries Offer Online Dietician. The Defense Commissary Agency's (DeCA) dietitian is available to help the retiree community lose weight, get in shape, and maintain good health. Maj. Karen Fauber offers a weekly online column, "The Dietitian's Voice," and a discussion forum, "Ask the DeCA Dietitian" on the [DeCA website](#). Just click on the "Healthy Living" tab in the top navigation bar to find the link to the DeCA Dietitian page. Visitors to the site will find

suggestions for eating healthy, such as a variety of nutrition tips and meal choices. People can also submit questions to the major, and participate in an online forum to discuss healthy eating and shopping ideas.

- The Air Force Will Stop Issuing Car Decals. In keeping with Air Force directives, the [154th Security Forces Squadron](#) will no longer issue installation vehicle decals as of July 9, 2008. The squadron currently has a limited supply of decals that they will continue to issue until they are exhausted. If you have the need to enter any other military installation - Pearl Harbor, Schofield or Marine Corps Base Hawaii - the squadron recommend you register your vehicles with that installation since this is an Air Force policy only. Otherwise, if you don't have a decal, you will have to get a visitors pass. Other DoD branches will continue to issue decals.

- Beginning November 10, 2007, [Air Force Basic Military Training \(BMT\)](#) will increase from six to eight weeks. The additional two weeks will include field and combat training to reflect the current world situation.

- Airman Magazine. To view the March/April 2008 issue of Airman Magazine, just log on to: <http://www.af.mil/news/airman/>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

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](#)
[Darryl "Yobo" Chung](#)

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses are:

[Richard Hastings](#)
[Laura Matsuda](#)
[Moises Felipe](#)
[Vicky Ah Quin](#)

4. Retiree Update.

Condolences. These Hawaii National Guard retirees passed away in the last few months. They all served honorably and added something to our unique culture here in the Guard. Aloha Pumehana to all....

- [Col \(Dr.\) Walter W.Y. Chang](#), 78, passed away on January 24, 2008. "Doc" Chang served as the medical unit commander and later as the State Air Surgeon. Many Air Guard members, past and present, attended his services, honoring a good friend and fellow Guardmember.

- [Ann Marie Fujimoto](#), 72, passed away on January 28, 2008. Ann-Marie served in several enlisted positions within the 154th Wing. Because she served as a nurse on active duty, her rank reverted to lieutenant upon her retirement. On the civilian side, she was a registered nurse at the Tripler Army Medical Center.

- **COL Melvin Allencaster**, passed away on January 03, 2008 in Las Vegas. He served in various positions in the HIARNG throughout his military career. His son, **SSG Timothy Allencaster**, continues the family Guard tradition.
- **CMSgt George Sato**, 77, passed away on April 12, 2008. He served as the air operations supervisor in the 199th Fighter Squadron for many years. His last assignment was as the Senior Enlisted Advisor (now called the Command chief) at HQ, HIANG. The chief has a crusty demeanor but had a heart of gold.
- **CSM Clement Hew**, passed away on May 6, 2008 at Kuakini Hospital. The retired HIARNG Command Sergeant Major was an avid baseball enthusiast and former baseball coach at Iolani School. A Super soldier!
- **CMSgt George Oshiro**, 77, of Honolulu, away on May 5, 2008. The Chief was the front office guy for **Col James Ashford** and **Col John Lee**, when they were the wing commanders.
- **CMSgt Brian Tom**, of the 154th Wing Comptroller Office, recently retired after many years of service. He retired as the superintendent of the Financial Management (FM) section. Not one to stay home, the Chief has taken a position with the Board of Water Supply. The Chief hosted a small private retirement party to celebrate his retirement. The Comptroller office staff did a super job supporting this event. Among the many retirees present were: **Lt Col Keith Kunichika**, **CMSgt Stanley Gomes**, and **Lt Col Alvin Satogata**.
- Congratulations to **MSgt Carlton Tajiri** who is the new FM superintendent. Since he started as a technician several years ago, he has quickly learned the comptroller operation and will definitely do a super job!
- Congratulations to **Taison Tanaka**, who pinned on his lieutenant colonel insignia in February. Taison has made many process improvements in the Comptroller office since his assignment. He even served as the bartender at Chief Tom's retirement party,
- Senator Daniel Inouye selected **Col Walter Kaneakua**, who retired as the 154th Wing Vice commander, as his new executive assistant for military affairs. He replaced **MG Alexis Lum**, the former TAG, who recently retired. Congratulations to Col Kaneakua! The following is the press release announcing the appointment.

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye is pleased to announce the appointment of retired Air Force Colonel Walter Kaneakua as his new Honolulu-based Executive Assistant for Military Affairs.

Kaneakua, an Air Force command pilot, retired after 27 years of active duty service with both the U.S. Air Force and the Hawaii Air National Guard. He commanded the 9th Airborne Command and Control Squadron and the start-up 203rd Air Refueling KC-135 Squadron. His last assignment was as Vice Wing Commander for the 154th Wing at Hickam Air Force Base. Most recently, Kaneakua flew as a Captain for Aloha Airlines.

Kaneakua replaces retired Army Major General Alexis Lum, who faithfully served as the Senator's Executive Assistant for Military Affairs from 1991 to 2007, when he retired to spend more time with his family. Prior to his service with Senator Inouye, Lum served as the Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii. He retired from that position in 1991 with

more than 43 years of decorated service to the U.S. Army and the Hawaii National Guard.

Senator Inouye said: "Alex Lum is a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. He is a decorated warrior. He represented me well with the military and veterans throughout Hawaii. He was an advocate of service members and their families. Alex provided me with wise counsel and guidance on matters of importance to the military, veterans and civilian communities. I am happy that he is relaxing and spending more time with his lovely wife, Momi, and his family."

The Senator continued: "I am pleased to welcome Walt Kaneakua to my team. Walt will carry on where Alex Lum left off as a working liaison to the armed services in Hawaii. I have also asked Walt to reach out to both the military and members of our Native Hawaiian community in an effort to find compromise and common ground. Walt will also be responsible for civil defense, veterans' affairs, and homeland security matters. I have a robust agenda for which I have no doubt Walt will add insight and wisdom to our collective efforts for the benefit of the people of Hawaii."

- Interesting connections. In trying to run down the e-mail address for **SMSgt David Paahana**, I discovered that his daughter is the local radio personality, **Sista Sherry**. She does a super job every morning on "Krater 96", KRTR 96.3. In our e-mail exchange, she told me that Dave is doing great in retired life. I also discovered her uncle is another HIANG retiree, **MSgt Ron Cozo**. It's a small island....
- Congratulations to **Col Brett "Doogie" Wyrick**, the former HIANG State Air Surgeon. Doogie will become the Air National Guard's Air Surgeon in Washington, D.C. He starts the yearlong USAF School of Aerospace Medicine in early June. Doogie currently runs a medical training location for the ANG in Texas. Doogie will do a great job in Washington, bringing common sense to medical decisions.
- Another retiree joins the ranks – sort of. **CMSgt Preston Nishie** retired technician-wise in January after a 37-year technician career with the **169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron**. He retired as the Chief Enlisted Manager – Operations. His military retirement will start in August 2008. "Pres" must still like the job because he returned in mid-January as a senior systems analysis with ARINC – a defense contractor. His job will include future planning for the air defense mission. Double congratulations to "Pres"!
- I had some e-mail dialog with **Gary Hirata**, a former member of the **201st Combat Communications Group**. He transferred to the Air Force Reserve many years ago. In civilian life, he is an educator and currently serves as a vice principal at Makalapa Elementary, next to Radford High School. Gary is a member of group of former 201st members who meet occasionally for lunch – just to keep up. Great catching up with Gary!
- I recently received an e-mail from **Chaplain Mark Chong Lee**, who served in both the **154th Wing** and the **201st Combat Communications Group**. Chaplain Lee left the Guard, following a calling and joined the active Army. Since then, he has served a yearlong tour in Iraq with his Ft. Lewis battalion. He is about to finish his advanced course in South Carolina.

I hope this email finds you and your beloved well. It's been a long time since I last communicated with many of you; some longer than others. Sorry for not being in touch

more regularly. I've been in Columbia, SC for the past four months and am looking to graduate from my career course and then going back to Ft. Lewis, WA in June.

In the meanwhile, God has graciously blessed us – Kyo Young, Nicole and me – with a beautiful addition to our family. Please help us welcome Lauren Jimin Lee, born on April 20, 2008 at 2020 EDT. She is already showing her strong personality – nothing like her dad of course.

We will continue to pray for your and your beloved for the Lord's everlasting peace, hope, joy and love to abound.

Aloha in Christ,
The Lee family

Great to hear from Chaplain Lee! Hopefully, I can have some time with him when he returns for Hawaii for a visit.

● Congratulations to **Lt Col Tracey Saiki**! She recently started her new position with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as senior strategic planner. Tracey came off active duty and spent a few years with the HIANG before transferring to the Air Force Reserve on Hickam. She had been doing some active duty tours with the public affairs office on Hickam AFB. Know Tracey will do a great job with OHA!

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

● There will be an **Aloha Luncheon for COL Marty Wong** on Friday, June 6, 2008. COL Wong is leaving for Washington, D.C. on a two-year tour with the National Guard Bureau.

- When: Friday, June 6, 2008, 1100-1300
- Where: Chin's Kahala Restaurant 4230 Waialae Ave. (across from Kahala Mall)
- Costs: \$13.00 per person (buffet), \$5.00 for gift only (optional)
- Suspense: Tuesday, May 27, 2008
- POCs:
 - Ms. JoAnne Yamamoto @ 672-1438
 - SSG Julieann Lo @ 672-1801

● The **203rd Air Refueling Squadron** will host a retirement ceremony in honor of **Chief Master Sergeant Gary Pang**.

- When: Saturday, Saturday, June 7, 2008, starting at 1430
- Where: 203 ARS Auditorium in Hanger 13
- POC: **CM Sgt Aaron Vermeer** at 448-8387

● The maintenance folks are putting together a retirement party for **MSgt Roy Matsuoka**. The party specifics follow:

- When: Saturday, June 28, 2008 starting at 1800 (no be late)
- Where: Wah Kung Chinese Restaurant (by the old 99 Ranch in Mapunapuna)
- BYOB – they serve no alcoholic drinks, there will be an empty big cooler with ice
- Costs: \$25.00 per person, \$5.00 for gift only
- Suspense: Friday, May 30, 2008. Seating is limited in the restaurant.

- POCs: **TSgt Craig Oi** or **MSgt Paul Tadaki** at 448-7556 or 448-7564

● Save the Date! The next **DOD Retirement & Service Award Luncheon** is coming in August. The Hale Koa kitchen renovations will be over soon, and they are open for lunches again. The luncheon specifics follow:

- When: Friday, August 22, 2008 starting at 1100, lunch served at 1130.
- Where: Hale Koa Hotel, Banyan Tree Showroom
- Costs: \$28.00 (includes gratuity)
- Checks made out to: **DOD Retirement & Service Award Fund.**
- Suspense: Friday, August 1, 2008
- Important Note: Because the Hale Koa Hotel uses an invoice system, there are no "pay at the door" guests allowed.

- POCs:

- HIARNG: Mrs. Emmy Maikui-Grambusch, 672-1257
- 201 CCG: TSgt Jackie Jakahi, 448-7608
- 154 WG: MSgt Larnette Doi, 448-7441
- HRO: CMSgt Deb Brownhill, 672-1233
- USPFO: Ms. Jeanette Sturges, 672-6310
- State DoD: Ms. Jeanne Hamamura, 672-1206

- Warriors Luncheon Buffet:

- Cold Buffet: Tossed Green Salad, Potato-Macaroni, Haupia & Rainbow Jello, Sliced Tropical Fruit Platter, Fresh Vegetable Crudite w/ Dip, Assorted Cold Cuts, Selection of Domestic Cheeses, Smoked Mahimahi w/ Horseradish Sauce
- Hot Buffet: Braised Chicken with Mushrooms and Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Pan-Fried Mahimahi w/ Bay Shrimp and Lemon Caper Butter, Steamed Rice, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Assorted Rolls
- Desserts: Almond Chocolate Pudding, Tiramisu, French Apple Tart, Key Lime Pie
- Beverages: Freshly brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, or Tea