

20080615 Retiree News

I am in the middle of a house move that will cause a change of internet service. This is the last **Retiree News** you will receive from my current Roadrunner account. The next issue should be from my new HawaiianTel.com account (that I need to setup at my new residence.)

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. I publish **Retiree News** 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 galen.yoshimoto@us.army.mil and I will remove you from the **Retiree News** mailing list.

2. **Business.**

- **Anheuser-Busch Offers Free Theme-Park Entry.** For the rest of this year, sitting in Shamu the killer whale's "splash zone" or talking turkey with a big yellow bird are just two activities military members and their families can enjoy free at Anheuser-Busch Adventure Parks. Through its "Here's to the Heroes" program, which began in 2005, the brewing company is offering free tickets to its theme parks for all currently serving personnel - Active, Guard and Reserve - and up to three family members to thank them for all they do in service to the country.

"It's important to us for all the reasons you can probably predict," said Fred Jacobs, vice president of communications for Anheuser-Busch. "[This] is a great way for them to reconnect, particularly if they've been separated."

The only requirement is to fill out a form, which is available online at www.herosalute.com or at the park. Every person over 10 years old must also present a valid military identification. Each pass is valid for a one-day admission per person per year to five of Anheuser-Busch's seven theme park brands.

Visitors may choose Sea World Orlando, San Diego or San Antonio; Busch Gardens Tampa Bay or Williamsburg; Pennsylvania's Sesame Place; Florida's Adventure Island; or Virginia's Water Country USA. Discovery Cove and Aquatica parks are not included in this offer. (This article is from a National Guard of the United States (NGAUS) newsletter)

- **Social Security Military Adjustment.** **CM Sgt Denise Jelinskihall**, the Hawaii National Guard Senior Enlisted Advisor, forwarded this information to me earlier. I believe she got it from **Maj Aaron "Cujo" Keenan**, 199th Fighter Squadron.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) allows extra money [sic] to military members who served between 1940 and 2001. When you apply for your SSA, you need to have ALL of your DD-214's. Reserve members are authorized this benefit. They, too, need all DD-214's at the ready. By pre-planning, you have time to gather your forms, and if you are missing one, you have time to get the forms and put them away for future use. For more details, go to <http://www.ssa.gov>.

- **When a retiree dies,** the surviving spouse, or children are often unsure about what they should do in regard to the military retiree's pay and benefits. A retiree should create a list of names and phone numbers that need to be contacted when he or she dies and inform the

spouse and family members as to what is on the list and where to find it. This list should include the:

- DFAS, Retired and Annuity Pay Center 1-800-321-1080 to stop retired pay, apply for Survivor Benefits, and obtain information about insurance and other allotments
- Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000 for Disability Pay and burial assistance and/or applying for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DICE) for the surviving spouse
- Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213 to discuss Social Security Survivor benefits
- Office of Personnel Management 1-888-767-6738 for retirees who are receiving civil service pensions in addition to military retired pay

(This article came from the Military.Com website)

- Pre-planning Your Funeral. Pre-planning and pre-paying for funeral and burial can make the grieving process easier for surviving family members. The [USAA Educational Foundation](#) provides two booklets that prepare families for the death of a loved one, "[A Guide for Your Survivors](#)" and "[When a Loved One Dies -- Legal and Financial Concerns](#)," also provides forms on their website that allows the user to enter the information needed in pre-planning a funeral. Funeral directors may also provide booklets such as a "[Personal Arrangement Guide](#)" or similar guides where you can list all of this information. Resources such as the site and booklets and support from family and friends are very important to get through the difficult grieving period. (This article came from the Military.Com website)

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
Stanley Keolanui

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses are:

Annarene Napoleon (update)
Kendall Coupland (update)
Glenn Sugarawa (update)
Sandra Hoggan (update)
Alexis Lum (update)
William Ladd (update)

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....

SMSgt Ivan Adaniya, 73, of Aiea, died in Hawaii Medical Center East on June 1, 2008. He was born in Honolulu. Ivan served in the avionics branch of the maintenance complex. A great guy....

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- The **Deputy Adjutant General, BG Gary Ishikawa**, retired militarily earlier this month. He will remain as the DAG in a retired military status. Happy retirement!
 - Double Congratulations to **COL Gary Hara**. He currently serves as the **Hawaii Army National Guard Chief of Staff** but will retire from this civil service position to become the **Assistant Adjutant General, Army**. He just received his promotion orders to brigadier general. The scheduling of his pinning ceremony is an open item. More to come....
 - Congratulations to **COL Arthur "Joe" Logan**, who will assume the **Chief of Staff, Hawaii Army National Guard** position, replacing Col Hara. He just returned from his deployment to Afghanistan. Joe did a super job heading the Guard's Drug Interdiction Program and I know that he will do same as the Chief of Staff!
 - Belated Congratulations to **COL Stephen Logan**, who assumed command of the **103rd Troop Command**, headquartered in Pearl City. This is an M-Day assignment and he continues to serve as the State Army Aviation Officer (SAAO) as a technician. He will raise the already high standards set by previous Troop Command commanders.
 - COL Steve Logan replaces **COL Stanley Keolanui**, who has retired. COL Keolanui was an achiever throughout his military career. He did an outstanding job wherever the command assigned him. **BG Joseph Chaves** mentioned a long list of these achievements during his change of command speech – it was an impressive list! Happy Retirement to a true officer and gentleman!
 - China Earthquake Mission. The Hawaii Air National Guard received a lot of favorable press recently as a Hawaii-based C-17 Globemaster III with a HIANG crew delivered relief supplies to China. The May 12 earthquake divested parts of China leaving many areas severely damaged and thousands of Chinese homeless. The mission as completed within days of the earthquake. Crewmembers from the **204th Airlift Squadron** successfully delivered close to 100,000 pounds of food, tents, blankets, and tools as part of "Operation Caring Response." The crewmembers were: **Maj Anthony Davis, Maj Troy Cullen, Capt John Tucker, Master Sgt. Kurt Uchimura, SSgt Scott Oshiro, SSgt Nathan Chee, and SSgt Jacob Ness**. Another Great Job by the **204th Airlift Squadron**!
 - **Maj Gen Darryll Wong**, **Commander, Hawaii Air National Guard**, hosted about 20 retired Chiefs earlier this week. The general briefed the Chiefs who attended on the status of the HIANG and where the organization is evolving to in the near future. The Chiefs I talked to during a break were impressed with all the things coming down the road for the HIANG. Hopefully, the general can do this again to get more Chiefs in the loop!
- The Chiefs present at the briefing were a mixture of recent and long time retirees. The HIANG's first Chief, **Robert "Bobby" Choi** was there. Other long time retirees present were: **Harold DeMello, Al DeRego, Stan Gomes, Kozen Kaneshiro, Ken Morimoto, Leo Nakano, Thomas Sato**, and **Calvin Yoshimoto**.

- Attention to Orders: Among the recent officer promotions in the Hawaii Air National Guard were:

Lt Col Charles Anthony – Hq, Hawaii Air National Guard
Lt Col Susan Richards – 154th Medical Group
Lt Col Craig Tsutsui – 169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron
Maj Ryan Endo – 154th Medical Group
Maj Jamie Jicha – 154th Medical Group
Maj Phillip “Budda” Mallory – 199th Fighter Squadron
Maj Kristof “Jag” Sills – 199th Fighter Squadron

Send congratulatory e-mail using this format: firstname.lastname@hihick.ang.af.mil

- You may have noticed that I have not listed enlisted promotions in the last few issues. These enlisted promotions are in the monthly issues of the **Kukailimoku**. If you are receiving **Retiree News**, you should be receiving the **Kukailimoku**. If you are not getting the **Kukailimoku** by e-mail, contact me at galen.yoshimoto@us.army.mil.
- Aloha and Happy Retirement goes to **Cindy Yee**. “Mama” has worked in the [Human Resources Office](#) for many years and retires at the end of June. Maybe she’ll do more karaoke singing now....
- One of my favorite former University of Hawaii football players, **Lt “Brit” Komine** graduated from undergraduate pilot training in May. Talking to his proud Mom, **SMSgt Bridget Komine**, he is at the C-17 school and graduates in August. Then it’s back to Hawaii and the [204th Airlift Squadron](#).
- Got another e-mail update from **Chaplain Mark Chong Lee**. He was in Columbia, South Carolina for his advance training for the past four months. He and his family are back in Washington State, where he will start a yearlong Clinical Pastoral Education residency program at the Madigan Army Medical Center at Ft. Lewis. He mentioned that he hoped that he could remain at Ft. Lewis as his follow-on duty station. Know the Chaplain will do a super job wherever the Army assigns him.
- Congratulations and Happy Retirement goes to **CMSgt Kendall Coupland**. The Chief serves as the [Command Chief for the 117th Air Refueling Wing](#), Alabama Air National Guard. The Chief and I were part of our BMT Flight G176 that graduated on December 7, 1968. In our email exchanges, we agree that he is the last member of our BMT flight still serving in uniform. My personal best goes to him as he retires in July.
- **Lt Col William “Hammer” Ladd** send in this update on his personal status after Aloha Airlines shut down. Bill retired out of the [199th Fighter Squadron](#) a few years ago. His China opportunity sounds great – Best of Luck to Hammer!

After Aloha Airlines shut down, I figured one last chance at flying would be overseas – so I gave it a shot, had a week-long interview with medical testing, written tests and a simulator check ride, and voila! Here I am in Communist China as an airline pilot – flying brand-new Boeing 737-800s and 900s... The family plans a big China trip this summer and we’ll follow that up through the year...

Base is Shenzhen, just north of Hong Kong, weather is like Kona (warm, hazy and a bit humid), so it’s “kinda like home.” We’ll see how long it lasts!!

Thanks! Bill Ladd, Captain, Shenzhen Airlines

- I got some e-mail traffic from **CMsGt Robert Block**, who works in the NGB/XOO shop in Washington, D.C. If my memory serves me right, the Chief started in the **199th Weather Flight** and later cross-trained into life support. **CMsGt Frank Santos** served with the **203rd Air Refueling Squadron** before taking his first tour at NGB.

I get homesick every time I get your newsletters. **Frank Santos** [recently tagging on CMsGt] and I are holding down the HIANG fort while on staff at JP-1. We look forward to having another HIANG member join us and stand by to assist if HIANG visitors need anything. I see **SMSgt (Ret) Aurora Lee** from time to time, as she works at JP-1 on some project. Again, thank you for putting much time and effort into keeping us informed.

- Congratulations to **Col Wade Rupper** of the **251st Combat Communications Group**, Ohio Air National. He pinned on his "eagles" in May. It's a long way from Lt Rupper when I first met him in the eighties.

- **SMSgt Bridget Komine**, the Recruiting & Retention Superintendent, sent out this e-mail about the HIANG's new recruiter, **TSgt Mysti Dowsett**.

Please welcome our newest addition to the HIANG Recruiting & Retention team, TSgt Mysti Dowsett! TSgt Dowsett has been in the HIANG since 2001 and you may know her from her time in the **154th Communications Flight** as a still photographer. She was known as Misti Bicoy back then.

TSgt Dowsett excelled in Recruiting school and won the Top Sales Award. Please keep her in mind when you talk to potential new members of the HIANG. She is working out of the new Kaneohe recruiting office located at Windward City Shopping Center. The office phone is 235-8985.

- Members of the Hawaii National Guard will participate in Vigilant Guard 2008, a multi-state, multi-county disaster response exercise. The exercise runs June 13-20, 2008 in Nevada. The HING's Joint Staff, CERFP, medical and emergency communications teams

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

- 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 this Date! The **Departure Ceremony of the 29th Brigade Combat Team** will again be at Aloha Stadium. The ceremony will be on Sunday, August 17, 2007, starting at 1600. More details as the event planning evolves. We need to fill Aloha Stadium that afternoon!

● 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

● Save the Date. We are celebrating the birth of the National Guard at our Hawaii National Guard Birthday Ball on December 13, 2008 (Saturday) at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. Last year's HING Birthday Ball was a fun and successful event; we are planning to make it just as great! Please mark this date on your calendar. We are looking for volunteers who would like to be a part of our planning committee. This is a Joint Event so we would like both Army and Air volunteers - family members are also welcomed. (taken from the e-mail announcing the event)

- When: Saturday, December 13, 2008, 1700-2100
- Where: Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
- Costs: TBD
- POCs:
 - HIARNG: **LTC Laura Soares**, 672-1321
 - HIANG: **Maj Sharnell Valeho**, 733-4230