

**20080704 Retiree News**  
**Happy Independence Day!**

**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 [retireenews@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:retireenews@hawaiiantel.net) – **NEW ADDRESS**, and I will remove you from the **Retiree News** mailing list.

**2. Business.**

- **Bush signs new military tax breaks into law.** President Bush signed a military tax bill containing a combination of new tax benefits and the extension of existing benefits into law Tuesday. The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008, or HEART Act, includes a provision allowing military families to receive the \$600-per-person economic stimulus rebate even if a spouse does not have a Social Security number. Also, through the law:

- Survivors of people who die on active-duty are now allowed to put all or part of death gratuity payments into a tax-deferred savings or retirement plan, even if this puts them over the annual limit for contributions.

- Mobilized National Guard and reserve members may make penalty-free withdrawals from their personal retirement plan, which especially helps those with financial troubles caused by military service.

- Guard and reserve members who contribute to an employer-provided flexible spending account can get refunds of contributions at the end of a calendar year, rather than lose the money, if they have been mobilized, since mobilizations could interfere with their ability to spend money as expected.

- Small businesses employing Guard and reserve members may receive a \$4,000 tax credit to make up salary differences for employees who are mobilized for military duty.

- When calculating aid for military families, the Social Security Administration will not use combat-related pays to disqualify a family for disability or health benefits.

- **Rules of Engagement (ROE).** Periodically, someone e-mails me requesting the e-mail address of another retiree. I forward the e-mail with the request to the retiree for their action. This preserves the privacy of the retiree and their e-mail address.

**3. Wanted List.** I am still looking for these Hawaii National Guard 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**  
**Wayne Z. Higa**  
**Byron Kim**  
**George Galasinao**

**Eugene Imai**  
**Darryl "Yobo" Chung**  
**Benjamin Ormita**  
**Jeffrey Thiem**

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses sent in by the individuals or others are:

**Miles Tamura** (update)  
**Stephen Uyehara**  
**Justin Fo**  
**Susan Morishige**  
**James Morioka**

**Stanley Keolanui**  
**Darryl Ho**  
**Greg Kakesako**  
**Myron Tong** (update)  
**Nathan Higa**

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

- **CSM William Leialoha Duncan, Jr.**, 80, passed away on June 16, 2008 at St. Francis West Hospice. CSM Duncan was the first Command Sergeant of the Hawaii National Guard. He is survived by his children, Sylvia Perreira, James Duncan and Debra Guernsey; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Herbert, Harold and Adam; sister, Gladys Nakoa.

**5. Retiree Update.**

- The Adjutant General, **MG Robert G. F. Lee**, hosted a promotion ceremony for **COL Gary M. Hara** on Thursday, July 3, 2008 in the Governor's Ceremonial Room at the State Capital. **Governor Linda Lingle** and **Mrs. Diane Hara** pinned on his new brigadier general stars. BG Hara hosted a reception in the senate hearing room after the ceremony.

BG Hara will now serve as the **Assistant Adjutant General, Army**. His office will remain in Building 306 at Ft. Ruger. Send congratulatory e-mail: [gary.hara@us.army.mil](mailto:gary.hara@us.army.mil)  
Congratulations to **BG Gary Hara**!

- Aloha to two State employees who are moving with the **Hawaii Army National Guard** as the HIARNG completes their move to Kalaeloa. Both have worked here in the Headquarters building for many years.

**Emlovytte Maikui-Grambusch** works in a support position in the **HIARNG's Chief of Staff Office**, one of the last offices to make the move. Emmy worked for many years for **Hq Hawaii Air National Guard** before taking the position with the HIARNG a few months ago.

**Colleen Aiwohi** has supported the department's Staff Judge Advocate for several years. Her position will not be moving, but she just moved to her new home in Kapolei. She exchanged positions with **Vicki Tom**, who works in the HIARNG's **G3, Plans, Operations & Training office**. The G3 office is moving to Kalaeloa but Vicki lives in the Kaimuki area. The approved job exchange benefits both individuals.

Special Thanks to **Carolyn Taketa, Hq Hawaii National Guard**. She organized a going away potluck luncheon for Emmy and Colleen. It was a warm sendoff for both of them.

- Additional information about some items reported in the last issue of **Retiree News**.

Effective July 3, 2008, **COL Arthur "Joe" Logan** will be the **Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) HIARNG, Chief of Staff (CofS)**. COL Logan's office will be physically located in Building 1785 on the Kalaeloa campus. New members of the Chief of Staff office will be **Ms. Dora Ama**, the new secretary to the CofS and **MAJ Brooks Akana**, the new Executive Officer. Send

congratulatory e-mail: [joe.logan@us.army.mil](mailto:joe.logan@us.army.mil) and [brooks.akana@us.army.mil](mailto:brooks.akana@us.army.mil).  
Congratulations to the new Chief of Staff team!

**BG Joseph Chaves**, Commander, Hawaii Army National Guard, has also relocated to Building 1785 on the Kalaeloa campus.

- Attention to Orders: The Secretary of Defense approved the FY09 ROPMA list on June 10, 2008. These are the Hawaii Air Guard officers selected. Congratulations to all!

Lieutenant Colonel Selections with effective dates

**Maj John “Kazi” Hall**, 199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron – September 8, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [john.hall@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:john.hall@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Maj David Kashiwamura**, 292<sup>d</sup> Combat Communications Sq. – January 5, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [david.kashiwamura@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:david.kashiwamura@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Maj Brian “Punchy” Kilty**, 199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron – January 5, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [brian.kilty@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:brian.kilty@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Maj Joyce Merl**, 297<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic Control Squadron – May 1, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [joyce.merl@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:joyce.merl@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Maj Wade “Ninja” Oganeku**, 199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron – May 1, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [wade.oganeke@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:wade.oganeke@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Maj Jo Ann Rapoza**, 169<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron – February 20, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [joann.rapoza@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:joann.rapoza@hihick.ang.af.mil)

Major Selections with effective dates

**Capt Dana Lee**, 204<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron – October 1, 2008

Send congratulatory e-mail: [dana.lee@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:dana.lee@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Capt Dana Uehara**, 199<sup>th</sup> Weather Flight – February 20, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [dana.uehara@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:dana.uehara@hihick.ang.af.mil)

**Capt Jason Van Loan**, 297<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic Control Squadron – January 24, 2009

Send congratulatory e-mail: [jason.vanloan@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:jason.vanloan@hihick.ang.af.mil)

- Congratulations to **LTC Robert W. Leshner** who assumed command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 487<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery from **LTC Lionel A. Payes**. The change of command ceremony took place on Tuesday, July, 1 2008 at the Wheeler Army Air Field.

Send congratulatory e-mail: [robert.lesher@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.lesher@us.army.mil) [lionel.payes@us.army.mil](mailto:lionel.payes@us.army.mil)

- Congratulations to **MAJ(P) Keith N. S. Yoshida** who assumed command of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion from **LTC David "Duke" Kahanu, Jr.** The change of command ceremony took place on Tuesday, July, 1 2008 at Building 282, Rainbow Hanger at Kalaeloa.

Send congratulatory e-mail: [keith.yoshida@us.army.mil](mailto:keith.yoshida@us.army.mil) [david.w.kahanu@us.army.mil](mailto:david.w.kahanu@us.army.mil)

- Double Congratulations to **LTC Kenneth Hara**! First, he just graduated from the in-resident Army War College course – a tough curriculum. After completing the ten-month course of study in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, he traveled cross-country with his family, visiting friends and family. He must be glad to be back in Hawaii. Second, the commander of the **29th Separate Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT)**, **COL Bruce Oliveria**, has selected Kenny as the brigade's **Deputy Commander**. Send congratulatory e-mail: [kenneth.hara@us.army.mil](mailto:kenneth.hara@us.army.mil)

- I got an e-mail from **SMSgt Aurora Lee**. She worked in the **199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron** and the **154<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Flight** before taking a tour and then some at NGB JP1 in Washington D.C. Nice hearing from Aurora!

I did retire last year ~ 31 May and had a little vacation here at home. My boss called to see if I was interested in doing the 1095 Project for three months. I left in September ~ did the three and then extended for six more. They extended it till the end of FY08, but I decided to come home. So I'm home again until I call my old boss back and ask her to bring me back to DC to do another contract project.

- Eating lunch one day, I ran across **CMSgt Darryl Ho**, who served as the NCOIC of the **CBPO – Consolidated Base Personnel Office** for you youngsters. The CBPO evolved into the **154<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Flight** several years ago. The Chief retired about 15 years ago and remains “retired” retired. He looked in great shape and he did mention he had lost a few pounds along the way. Of course, he did have that “retiree smile”... The chief said to, “Give my regards to all the hardworking old timers.” Great seeing the Chief!

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

- The **154<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron Family Support Group will host a No-Tap Fundraiser Bowling Tournament**. There will be trophies for the top five place teams and the top three male and female bowlers; cash prizes will be for the top two bowlers per game. There will be a \$1.00 a ticket raffle for two round trip inter-Island tickets on Hawaiian Air. And there will be door prizes. The tournament specifics follow:

- When: Wednesday, August 6, 2008
- Time: check in at 1600, bowling starts at 1630
- Where: Hickam AFB bowling lanes
- Costs: \$20.00 per bowler, which includes the bowling fee for three games
- Checks made out to: **154<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Sq.**
- Suspense: Monday, August 4, 2008
- POC: for information and entry forms
- SMSgt Ray Duropan, 448-7262, [ray.duropan@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:ray.duropan@hihick.ang.af.mil)

- Save this Date! The **Departure Ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team** will again be at Aloha Stadium. The ceremony will be on Saturday, August 16, 2007 – this is a change from Sunday as previously reported. More details as the event planning evolves. We need to fill Aloha Stadium that afternoon to honor these deploying soldiers!

- The next **DOD Retirement & Service Award Luncheon** is coming in August. The Hale Koa kitchen renovations are over, and they are open for lunches again. The luncheon specifics follow:

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- 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 Saturday, December 13, 2008 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
- Time: 1700-2100
- Where: Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
- Costs: TBD
- POCs:
  - HIARNG: [LTC Laura Soares](#), 672-1321
  - HIANG: [Maj Sharnell Valeho](#), 733-4230