

20080722 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. 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, and I will remove you from the **Retiree News** mailing list.

2. **Business.**

- The Secretary of Defense, **Robert M. Gates** has nominated **Lieutenant General Craig McKinley** as **The Chief, National Guard Bureau**. The effect date will be set after the Senate confirms the nomination. Lt Gen McKinley currently serves as **The Director, Air National Guard**, starting in the director's position in May 2006. You can view Lt Gen McKinley's current biography at: <http://www.af.mil/bios/bio.asp?bioid=6415>

Lieutenant General H Steven Blum, the current Chief, National Guard Bureau has released the following statement: "Today, the Secretary of Defense announced that Lieutenant General Craig McKinley is the nominee to be Chief, National Guard Bureau and elevated to the rank of General. This is truly a historic and magnificent selection. Craig will provide the leadership that will take the National Guard to the next level. He is a competent, caring, and proven leader. Craig has and will continue to have my complete confidence and full support. I am committed to making the transition period entirely professional and collaborative. This transition must be seamless for the NGB, the Adjutants General, and their states. I am confident Craig's nomination will posture our Joint organizations, the Army National Guard and Air National Guard units to remain ready, reliable, accessible, and essential to our Nation. Thanks for the great work accomplished over the last years to transform the ARNG and ANG from a strategic reserve to an operational force available to our Nation as it faces a period of persistent conflict and challenges here at home and abroad."

- **The State of Hawai'i Unclaimed Property Program** collects and holds, in a custodial capacity, abandoned property from holders (companies, states, state agencies, etc.). As a public service, the state also returns the property to the rightful owners at no charge.

Abandoned property commonly includes dormant (no activity for 5 years) checking and savings accounts, uncashed checks, stock certificates, and contents of safe deposit boxes. This program is administered under the provisions of Chapter 523A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

On your computer, go to: <http://pahoehoe.ehawaii.gov/lilo/app> and type in your name. Maybe there's something you left in an account years ago....

- **Hickam AFB Main Gate Construction.** Construction for bollard installation will begin at the Main gate 21 July 2008 around 0900. The Main gate will have only two lanes open for incoming traffic. The two left lanes as you approach inbound will be closed and barricaded off. Once bollard installation is complete on these lanes, they will be opened and the right two lanes closed. Access to the visitor center will always be available and marked. Please approach the gate with caution and heed all construction signs. Construction will last approximately 30 days. Outbound lane will not be affected. Please contact MSgt Daniel Clark at 448-2803 or TSgt Phillip Parker at 277-0123 if there are any questions or concerns. (Taken from the Hickam AFB Base E-Notes, 17 Jul 08)

- Hickam AFB Kuntz Gate Construction: Construction for bollard installation began at Kuntz gate last week. Kuntz gate will have only one lane open for incoming traffic. The right lane (lane to search pit) will be closed. Access to the search pit will be available and marked after the construction zone. Please heed all construction signs. Construction will last approximately 30 days. Outbound lane will not be affected. Please contact MSgt Daniel Clark at 448-2803 if there are any questions or concerns. (Taken from the Hickam AFB Base E-Notes, 17 Jul 08)

- **MSgt R. Maui Quizon**, the Chair of the [Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association](#) (HNGEA) Legislative Committee, send out the following information about the legislative issues. Also included is a link to the [Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States](#) (EANGUS).

http://www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/LCNG/cpages/legislative/the_call.jsp

Good afternoon Hawaii National Guard Enlisted, above link provided for your reference, EANGUS website with list of national level legislative proposals/initiatives (for instance, the New G.I. Bill, Increased Medical and Dental Benefits, Medicare Rates, Veterans Educational Assistance Act).

EANGUS and HNGEA continue to work on your behalf, if you are not a member, become one, by joining now. Membership is open to National Guard retirees. Contact **MSgt Annette Gagarin**, 733-4229 to become members.

- 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. Help! - 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.

Benjamin Ormita
Darryl "Yobo" Chung
Eugene Imai
Bert Shimasaki
Kenneth Enoki
Jack Uhrig
Joe Spatola

Byron Kim
Wayne Z. Higa
Jeffrey Okazaki
Royden Horibe
Randy Solomon
Clyde Nagata

Following are the new or updated e-mail addresses sent in by the individuals or others – Mahalo for adding or updating your e-mail address.

Jeffrey Thiem (update)
William Ladd (update)
Stanley Miura
George Katsumoto (update)

George Galasinao (update)
Stew Mayes (update)
Joseph Rayray
Edwin Sprout

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....

Lt Col Ross P. England passed away on June 5, 2008 in Reno, Nevada. He was a fighter pilot with the **199th Fighter Squadron**. Among his survivors is **SFC Charles England**, a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard in Hilo.

Lt Col Walter Osamu Watanabe, 78, of Vancouver, Canada, formerly of Kane'ohe, passed away June 25, 2008. He served most of his long career with the **169th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron**. Survived by wife, Joyce; daughters, Denise Horimoto, Rene'e Casares and Teri Duque; former wife, Flora; sister, Jean Tateishi; brother, Allen Watanabe; grandchild, Reid.

5. Retiree Update.

- **COL Edward Chun Fat**, the United States Property & Fiscal Officer for Hawaii announced the following personnel changes within the **United States Property & Fiscal Office** organization located in Kalaheo.

LTC Gary Littlefield will become the Logistic Management Officer. Gary moves from his currently position as the Financial Manager into the COL Chun-Fat's previous position. He has done a great job during the past few years as the USPFO Financial Manager. Send congratulatory e-mail: gary.littlefield@us.army.mil

Replacing Gary as the Financial Manager (Comptroller) is **LTC Tracey Omori**. Recently promoted to lieutenant colonel, Tracey has been working in the environmental branch, doing a super job. She brings an extensive experience base to this new position. Send congratulatory e-mail: Tracey.Omori@us.army.mil

- Congratulations to my office mate, **Rex E. Jones**, the State Equal Employment Manager (SEEM). He received two awards at the recent **Honolulu Federal Executive Board Awards Luncheon**. The Board awarded him the Federal Executive Mentor of the Year and he received the Hawaii Pacific Diversity Council Award. The awards recognize Rex's hard work as our department's SEEM. Send congratulatory e-mail: rex.e.jones@us.army.mil Super Job Rex!

- Another Guard link. **Sandy Kuioke**, who served in our Human Resources Office for many years, now is the executive assistant to the director of the **Honolulu Federal Executive Board**, **Gloria Uyehara**. Sandy transferred there about a year ago. I know she is doing an outstanding job there!

- Another Guard link. **Lt Col Christopher Jay**, the retired commander of the **199th Weather Flight**, recently started as the personnel officer for the State Department of Labor. He retired as the director of the **Honolulu Federal Executive Board** several years ago. Chris had been with the City and County of Honolulu for several years. Great seeing Chris!

- The State's Contracting & Engineering Officer, **MAJ Neal Mitsuyoshi**, will be leaving for his second Iraqi deployment. He will depart a little earlier than the rest of the brigade soldiers as part of the advance team. Like every military member who deploys, we look forward to his safe return home.

Filling in for Neal during the deployment timeframe will be retired HIARNG colonel, **John Hao**. John did a great job managing the Human Resources Office prior to his fulltime retirement. It will be a near seamless transition.

- Among those promoted at the recent Hawaii Air National Guard Senior Non-Commissioned Officer board were some long time friends.

I believe that **CMSgt Stephen V. Cid** was a charter member of the **203rd Air Refueling Squadron**. As a boomer, Steve has done a super job over the years, and has mentored the younger troops along. Well Deserved!

At the **154th Medical Group**, **SMSgt Dawn Wahinekapu**, and **SMSgt Angela Walls**, both have earned their promotions. Dawn and Angela were the leaders of the team that got the medical group their first "Outstanding" during their last Health Services Inspection (HSI). Their hard work and leadership helped transition the unit into the highly effective operation that impressed the medical inspectors. Great Job!

At the **201st Combat Communications Group**, **SMSgt Don Miyamoto** does an outstanding job as the mobility technician. He started his HIANG career in the communications operations area, but cross training into the mobility area later in his career. I believe that Don has the rare distinction of serving in all three communications squadrons within the group at one time or another. Long time coming!

SMSgt May Agcaoili has led the support functions at the **201st Combat Communications Group** as they transitioned into the technology driven areas they are today. Her leadership made the migration seamless, and made it seem way easier than it really was. Well Deserved!

- Congratulations to everyone involved with the **29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Farewell Golf Tournament** – a lot of hard work. On July 14, 2008, over a hundred golfers took over Leilehua Golf course for a great cause. Proceeds from this event went to the Hawaii National Guard Family Program. The Family Program, in collaboration with various units' Family Readiness Groups, sends "care packages" to deployed soldiers. The primary use of these funds is the postage for the care packages. Great job by everyone involved!

6. Corrections.

In the 20080704 Retiree News, I reported that **COL Arthur "Joe" Logan** will be the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) HIARNG, Chief of Staff (CofS). Col Logan is the **Hawaii Army National Guard Chief of Staff (CofS)**. The effective date was June 26, 2008 vice the reported July 3, 2008.

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

- The **154th 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: **154th Security Forces Sq.**
- Suspense: Monday, August 4, 2008

- POC: for information and entry forms
- SMSgt Ray Duropen, 448-7262, ray.duropen@hihick.ang.af.mil

- The **Departure Ceremony of the 29th Brigade Combat Team** will again be at Aloha Stadium. The ceremony will be on Saturday, August 16, 2007 – this is a change from Sunday, August 17, 2008 as previously reported. We need to fill Aloha Stadium that afternoon to honor these deploying soldiers!

Families and friends, retirees, and the public can enter Aloha Stadium through gates 1, 2, 3, and 4 starting at 0800. There will be a parking fee. All four gates enter the stadium at the South End Zone, where the stadium box office is located. Everyone is encouraged to bring one canned food item for donation to the Hawaii Food Bank. Seating will be in the Makua Orange and Blue sections of the stadium.

The departure ceremony begins at 1100. Following the departure ceremony, there will be an attempt to set a Guinness world record for a group hug. Everyone should remain to participate to get Hawaii another Guinness world record.

- 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 names of the honorees attending will be available in early August; many have not submitted their RSVP yet.](#) 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. [MSgt Greg Ng](#), who retired about a year ago from [Hq Hawaii Air National Guard](#), is retiring from Pearl Harbor Shipyard many years of service. The folks at the yard are

planning a retirement party for Greg on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at the Empress Chinese Restaurant. More details as the event planning evolves.

- 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