

20080802 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.**

- **ID Card Renewals.** Because of increasing operational requirements and decreased fulltime technician authorizations, the 154th Mission Support Flight only issues ID cards on UTA weekends. During the week, members and retirees can go to one of the authorized ID Card/DEERS facilities on Oahu.

U.S. Army at Fort Shafter
Building 330, Room 109 (Aloha Center)
Office hours are Monday through Friday; 0730-1530, first-come first served walk-ins
Phone: 438-1757

U.S. Army at Schofield Barracks
Building 750, Room 103 (Soldiers Support Center)
Office hours are Monday through Friday; 0730-1530, first-come first served walk-ins
Phone: 655-4104

U.S. Army Reserve Center, Fort Shafter Flats
1557 Pass Street, Building 1557, 3rd Floor
Office hours are Monday through Friday; 0800-1130 and 1300- 500
Phone: 438-1600, ext. 3195

U.S. Army at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC)
Oceanside Entrance, 2nd door on right
Office hours are Monday through Friday; 0730-1530
Phone: 433-9166 or 433-9167

U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor Naval Station
4827 Bougainville Drive (next to the Moanaloa Shopping Center)
Office hours are Monday through Friday
-- 0730-1600 for first-come first served walk-ins
-- 0800-1500 for appointments, appointments are preferred
Phone: 471-2405 ext. 5207

U.S. Air Force at Hickam Air Force Base
624th Regional Support Group, Hanger 7, Room 2
Office hours are Monday through Friday, 0800-1600; by appointment only
Phone: 449-3393

U.S. Marine Corps at Camp Smith
Camp Smith, Building 1, Room 111
Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays only; 0730-1630, by appointment only
Phone: 477-8907

U.S. Marine Corps at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (Kaneohe)
Phone: 257-8861

U.S. Coast Guard, Honolulu
Sand Island Administration Building, 2nd Floor
Office hours are Monday through Friday, 0800-1430, by appointment only
Phone: 842-2062 or 842-2063

• Air Guard's Training Center Turns 40. The Air National Guard marked the 40th anniversary of its Training and Education Center (TEC) this week at McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base, Tenn. Several events Wednesday and Thursday honored the installation where men and women earn commissions as officers and where airmen learn to be noncommissioned officers.

Among those attending were Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the current Air National Guard director, and the first faculty members of what is now called the I.G. Brown Training and Education Center.

The TEC's first faculty members and students started the Air National Guard's six-week NCO Academy in a gymnasium at McGhee Tyson. The school expanded rapidly and added the NCO Leadership School, the precursor to the Airman Leadership School, in 1970, along with an officer preparatory academy.

The NCO school was the first of its kind to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for credit toward an associate degree. The preparatory academy, today's Academy of Military Science, became the Air Force's fourth commissioning center in 1971.

The academy was the first Air Force commissioning school to fully integrate male and female students in the same flights.

"Today it's referred to as the crown jewel of the Air National Guard," said retired Col. Edmund Morrissey, commandant of the first NCOA class and the center's first commander.

At least 44,000 students have graduated from the center's programs. Forty-three academy graduates have become general officers and two – Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, Kansas, and Maj. Gen. Cindy Kirkland, Nevada – serve today as state adjutants general.

Today, the center runs an average of 18 professional military education courses throughout the year. (Article taken from the August 1, 2008 issue of NGAUS Notes)

In the spring of 2003, I attended an officer graduation at McGhee Tyson. The base facilities have changed dramatically – all the World War II wooden buildings were gone, replaced by modern red brick buildings. (Except the club – but that's another story) The training center now looks like a small college campus.

While there, I did get to talk to Col Morrissey. He was the commander of the training center when I attended officer school in 1977. He still looked like he could return to active service. He relayed his fond memories of all the "Hawaii Guardsmen – both officer and airmen" who he got to meet over the years. He especially remembers the luaus that the Hawaiian students and

visitors did over the years. I wonder whatever happened to the luau rocks that somehow "appeared" in Tennessee for the imu pit.

- The United States is spending more money on veterans than anytime in modern history. The following is part of an article appeared in USA Today on July 23, 2008.

WASHINGTON - The Federal government is spending more money on veterans than at any time in modern history, surpassing the tidal wave of spending following World War II and the demilitarizing of millions of troops.

Expenditures hit \$82 billion in 2007, because of the rising cost of health care, the expense of caring for an aging population of mostly Vietnam War veterans and a new crop of severely wounded troops from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That exceeds the \$80 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars spent in 1947 after most of the 16.1 million Americans serving in World War II left the service, according to a Congressional Research Service report submitted to Congress last month.

An 11% hike in spending to \$91 billion is slated for this fiscal year, and the Department of Veterans Affairs has proposed \$94 billion for 2009. And still more is needed, says U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who is seeking another \$3.3 billion for the 2009 budget proposal.

"While we are spending more than in previous years, we are still not meeting many of the health care and benefits needs of our veterans," Murray says.

Last month's passage of a new G.I. Bill will add \$100 billion in education benefits for veterans over the next 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office says.

Also, medical costs could climb because of unanticipated long-term problems from wounds such as traumatic brain injuries, which remain little understood, says Adrian Atizado, assistant legislative director with the Disabled American Veterans.

Annual costs for a severe head injury can reach \$400,000, according to a RAND Corp. study released this year.

About 1.6 million Americans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 325,000 of those veterans use VA health care, records show. There are 5.5 million veterans of all ages now receiving VA health care and 2.9 million receiving compensation. Those populations overlap and the VA does not have a current figure on total number of veterans served.

Costs soared in 1947 because of a massive exodus of troops from the military, all entitled to education, training, and loan guarantee benefits under the then-new G.I. Bill, the report says. Actual dollars spent in 1947 were \$8.4 billion, the report says. Then, health care was only 12% of the veterans budget, says Dan Tucker, deputy assistant secretary for budget at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Now health care costs make up 44% of the budget.

Costs fell precipitously after 1947, surging slightly in 1975-76 because of Vietnam-era veterans, the report says. Roughly a third of the nation's 23.5 million veterans served in Vietnam.

- Veterans History Project allows people to share experiences. The Veterans History Project collects and preserves the remembrances of American war veterans and civilian workers who

supported them. These collections of first-hand accounts are archived in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress for use by researchers and to serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

The program is designed to preserve the legacies of America's aging veterans who are dying at the rate of about 1,500 a day.

"Getting these oral histories now is important, because once they are gone, their stories are gone forever," said Steve Hollingshead from the Department of Veterans Affairs' Media Services Division.

The project collects remembrances of veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War (1990-1995), or Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present). Citizen civilians who actively supported war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, defense contractors, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

Interviews taped through the program go on file at the Library of Congress, where they are available for researchers, and the veteran gets a personal DVD copy, Mr. Hollingshead explained.

But while the program initially focused on older veterans, Mr. Hollingshead said, he is increasingly seeing veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan participating in the project.

The younger veterans' stories are different from those of earlier generations, Mr. Hollingshead said. They served in different wars, carrying out different missions and applying different kinds of warfare. Their wounds are different today, with traumatic brain injuries and amputations more prevalent than in the past.

But despite these differences, Mr. Hollingshead said, he sees a common thread among the veterans he interviews. Whether they served in World War I or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or in some conflict in between, all recognize that "they were there, fighting for their country," he said.

"All of them love their country and are here for all the right reasons," Mr. Hollingshead said. "The patriotism you see in these people is just phenomenal."

All Americans, including students and grandchildren, can participate in documenting the lives of the nation's war veterans, Mr. Hollingshead said.

The history project relies on volunteers throughout the nation to collect veterans' stories on behalf of the Library of Congress. These stories are made available to researchers and the general public, both at the library in Washington and via the VHP Web site at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>.

The U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation (Public Law 106-380), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives, and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President Clinton in October 2000. (Article taken from Air Force Retiree News Service Release No. 07-08-08, July 31, 2008)

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

3. The 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.

Wayne Z. Higa
Eugene Imai
Kenneth Enoki
Jack Uhrig

Royden Horibe
Jeffrey Okazaki
Randy Solomon
Byron Kim

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.

Clyde Nagata (update)
Benjamin Ormita (update)
Bert Shimasaki (update)

Joe Spatola (update)
Darryl "Yobo" Chung (update)

AND – I am still looking for more Hawaii National Guard members. Since I started my State job working at Ft Ruger, the **Retiree News** distribution list has increased dynamically. The address total just passed 700+ members. A majority of the increase is from the Hawaii Army National Guard members who added their e-mail address to the list. Be sure to ask your fellow retirees that you meet if they receive **Retiree News**. If not, send their e-mail address to me. Mahalo!

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....

SMsGt Harold Hewett III, 50, passed away July 27, 2008 after his long battle with kidney cancer. He served his long HIANG career in the **154th Wing**'s maintenance complex. He is survived by his wife, Ann; daughters, Christa and Casey; mother, Melvia; brother, Thomas; sister, Malia Epenesa. Visitation will be from 0900 to 1100, Friday, August 8, 2008 at Our Lady of Good Counsel; Mass 1130; inurnment 1300 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. No flowers. Aloha attire.

5. Retiree Update.

- The **154th Wing**'s **Command Chief Master Sergeant Robert S. K. Lee** announced that **Major Duke Ota** has selected **MSgt Ramon "Maui" Quizon** as the new **154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron** First Sergeant. Maui replaces **SMsGt Vernon Palomares** effective September 1, 2008. SMsGt Palomares will be transferring to Moffitt Field, in Sunnyvale California. Send congratulatory e-mail: ramon.quizon@hihick.ang.af.mil Congratulations to Maui!

SMsGt Palomares leaves big shoes to fill as he garnered the 2007 HIANG Launa Ole First Sergeant of the Year award as well as the 2007 PACAF/ANG First Sergeant of the Year. Send congratulatory e-mail: vernon.palomares@hihick.ang.af.mil Best of Luck to Vern in his new job!

- Welcome home to **all the members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 207th Aviation**. These soldiers just returned from the Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment. They completed their

demobilization processing at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin and returned to Hawaii in late July. Their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters are going through reset at Wheeler Army Air Field before returning to the Hilo aviation facility. Mahalo to each soldier for their service to America!

- Congratulations to **MAJ Brooks Akana**, who is retiring from his AGR position at **103^d Troop Command**. He has done a super job in every assignment during his HIARNG career. But he's not done. He will serve as HIARNG's Executive Officer during the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment. **MAJ Brian Peterson**, the current executive officer, will deploy with the brigade. Send congratulatory e-mail: brooks.akana@us.army.mil Know Brooks will do another great job in the XO position!

- **Mrs. Amy E. Nakachi** retired from Federal service in early July. She served as a budget analyst in the HIARNG's G3 Plans, Operations & Training Office for many years. She retired rather than do the daily commute to Kalaeloa from her home in Kaimuki. She used to say she lived less than 10 minutes from work. She will be missed – Happy Retirement Amy!

6. Corrections.

none

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

- The **Departure Ceremony of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team** will be at Aloha Stadium. The ceremony will be on Saturday, August 16, 2007. The Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will be heading to Kuwait. About 1,700 soldiers will be mobilized for this deployment. The unit is made up of a Headquarters Company, and Cavalry, Field Artillery, Brigade Support, and Special Troops battalions and the 100th/442nd Infantry of the U.S. Army Reserve. The soldiers will provide the security force at several installations in Kuwait and for guard units convoying north to Iraq. We need to be at 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. Many companies and organizations such as The Elks Club, Tri-West, BAE Systems, USO, and Girl Scouts of America will donate bentos and drinks for the deploying soldiers and those present.

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 current world record is 6,623 and was set in Mexico. Participants will need to get into one continuous ring formation for the record to be valid.

- 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

- The [293rd Combat Communication Squadron](#) will host its annual Dining Out in September. The dinner is open to all Guard members, retirees; and their spouses and guests. Reservations close on Friday, August 15, 2008. The Dining Out specifics follow:

- When: Friday, September 12, 2008
- Time: 1830 to 2330 hours
- Where: Hale Koa Hotel, Aloha Ballroom
- Costs: \$35 per person, No-Host Cocktails
- Checks made out to: [293rd CBCS Family Support Group](#)
- Menu Selections: You make your selection when you submit your reservation form
 - Baked chicken breast with curried honey orange sauce paired with a mahimahi filet topped with seafood stuffing and glazed lemon rice pilaf, seasonal fresh vegetables
 - Top sirloin and marinated jumbo shrimp on sweet corn and cheddar soufflé with tequila Serrano chili sauce seasonal fresh vegetables
- Attire:
 - Military members: Mess dress or semi-formal uniform
 - Civilian men: Business suit or tuxedo
 - Civilian women: Long or short dress
- POC: CMSgt Nolan Kanekuni, 448-7601, nolan.kanekuni@hihick.ang.af.mil
- Suspense: close of business, 1600, August 15, 2008

- 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.

- When: Sunday, September 28, 2008
- Time: starts at 1700 hours
- Where: Empress Chinese Restaurant, 100 North Beretania St., Chinese Cultural Plaza
- Costs: \$30 per person, No-Host Cocktails; \$5.00 gift only
- Menu: Chinese chicken Salad, Scallop Soup, Oyster Sauce Chicken, Kau Yuk and bun, shrimp with Honey Walnut, Steamed fish Fillet, Crispy Gau Gee Cake Noodle, Steamed Rice, Dessert.
- POC:
 - **Lt Col Tim Fujino**, 448-7912, timothy.fujino@hihick.af.mil
 - **Mrs. Carolyn Taketa**, 733-4232, Carolyn.taketa@hihick.af.mil
- Suspense: August 16, 2008

● 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