

## 20080910 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](mailto:retireenews@hawaiiantel.net) and I will remove you from the **Retiree News** mailing list.

## 2. **Business.**

- **Lt Col Randy Tom** forwarded these comments from **Col Joseph Lengyel**, Commander, Air National Guard Readiness Center, announcing the passing of a legendary Guardmember.

On behalf of Lt Gen McKinley, it is with profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of **Chief Master Sergeant Paul Lankford**. He passed away on August 22, 2008 at the age of 89. As you all know, Retired Chief Master Sergeant Paul Lankford was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and spent 42 months as a prisoner of war during World War II in the Philippines in 1942. After his ordeal, Chief Lankford continued his service to our country and retired in 1981 with 40 years of service. He served as the first enlisted commandant of the Professional Military Education Center at McGhee Tyson ANGB and has been inducted into the U.S. AF Enlisted Heritage Hall Museum.

I think **Lt Gen John Conaway** (*former Chief, National Guard Bureau*) said it best when he stated, "Chief Lankford was a great American, legend, WWII hero, Guardsman, and friend to all who knew him - someone who epitomized the greatest generation in our nation's history. We were extremely fortunate to have him attend and speak at Business and Industry Day in May, and he will certainly be missed."

Lt Col Tom added his comments about Chief Lankford's passing.

Some of you retirees may have attended courses at McGhee-Tyson ANGB, Tennessee during your career. The former enlisted NCO Academy dorm was named for him. In Lankford Hall, every state and territory had a special room that was decorated and maintained by its graduates. I got to view the rooms; they were spectacular and really represented the best of each state and territory. Although I never met the Chief, I am thoroughly convinced that everyone who crossed paths with him had high praise for him.

- **CMSgt Denise Jelinski Hall** sent the following link to the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association (HNGEA) - <http://www.hngea.net/>. The site is still new and construction continues. The HNGEA continues to work for more benefits for Hawaii Guard members. Membership is open to retirees and applications are online at this site.

During this year's legislative session, the HNGEA worked with the Hawaii National Guard Association (the local National Guard officers association) to support House Bill 2605. The bill eventually passed and Governor Lingle signed it into law. Effective October 1, 2008, it provides for the exemption of the vehicle weight taxes for one noncommercial vehicle per member of the National Guard or Reserves. This exemption does not apply to retirees but is another excellent recruiting tool and benefit for current members.

- Information for Tricare Beneficiaries Available by E-mail. The Tricare military health system's 9.2 million beneficiaries now have an easy way to receive the latest newsletters and stay informed about changes in coverage, pharmacy updates, and other news.

A new electronic delivery system is up and running. Tricare officials said subscribing is fast and secure by clicking on the "little red envelope" on Tricare's Web site, [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

"We're excited to offer beneficiaries a chance to sign up for the Tricare benefit news they want and need," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of Tricare Management Activity. "We have offered some limited e-mail delivery options in the past, but this new subscription service enables anyone interested in Tricare news to sign up for a wide range of topics. It's one-stop shopping."

Subscribers can choose alerts by topics or beneficiary category. Delivery is safe and secure. An e-mail address is the only information collected. Subscribers also have a unique page they can manage any time and they can choose to be notified as soon as news or benefit changes are posted or get updates daily, weekly, or monthly.

The new subscription service also links users to similar alerts available on other Military Health System (MHS) Web sites, including [www.health.mil](http://www.health.mil), which features MHS news and other information.

"One of our highest priorities is communicating with our beneficiaries and providers," Granger said. "E-mail is now the method most people use to receive news and that will only continue to increase. This new service helps us take advantage of the technology."

Partnership subscription options with other health-related Federal Web sites include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and [Disabilityinfo.gov](http://Disabilityinfo.gov).

- Speed Limit Change on Hickam AFB. On September 2, 2008, the speed limit in both directions on O'Malley Blvd between the overpass and Apollo Avenue will be decreased to 30 MPH from the existing 35 MPH. This change is being implemented in an effort to enhance overall traffic safety. All motorists please note that the speed limit on either side of this area will remain at 25 MPH. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dennis Yee, Traffic Engineer, at 449-3130. (Taken from the Hickam BASE E-NOTES, 26 AUG 08 Edition)

- National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The United States traditionally observes National POW/MIA Recognition Day on the third Friday of September. However, this year, the commemoration day will be on September 19, 2008. The theme for 2008 commemorates the [National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific](#).

Federal law allows the flying the black POW/MIA flag over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations on that day. For more information, visit the [Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office](#) website.

- New Static Displays at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island. If you didn't see or read the press coverage, there was a transfer of one of the Hawaii Air National Guard's F-15A Eagles to the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island.

Originally headed for the aircraft boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona, the Eagle, tail number 76-0063, is now part of the Pacific Aviation Museum. Museum President

**Clint Churchill**, who retired as the Commander, **Hawaii Air National Guard**, spearheaded the transfer efforts. The Hawaii Air National Guard's other historic fighter aircraft; the F-86E Sabre, F-102A Delta Dagger and F-4C Phantom II, will eventually become part of the museum.

The nonprofit aviation museum currently operates out of Hangar 37 on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. The museum's ongoing fundraising goal is to raise \$83 million over and above the \$17 million already raised to continue the museum's expansion. The money raised will renovate and open hangars 79 and 54 with full displays and for the restoration of the iconic red-and-white-striped control tower.

- 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.

**Dennis Hui**  
**Roy Kudo**  
**Ron Biho**  
**Wayne Z. Higa**  
**Eugene Imai**  
**Byron Kim**  
**Jack Uhrig**

**Roger Clissold**  
**Katherine Asato**  
**Richard Kudo**  
**Royden Horibe**  
**Jeffrey Okazaki**  
**Randy Solomon**

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

**Milford Chang**  
**Dennis Vigue** (update)  
**Peter Espiau**

**Craig Iwase**  
**Kenneth Enoki** (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 750+ 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....

**MAJ Gregory Lanihuli Burgess**, 59, passed of 'Ewa Beach, away on September 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Irene; sons, Amory and Gregory "Pili"; mother, Edith; sister, Judith "Maile." Greg was a long time member of the Hawaii Army National Guard and was a federal technician from 1978 through 1998 at G4 (Logistics). He retired as the Organizational Maintenance Officer in the G4 section.

His services are set for Thursday, September 11, 2008 at Kawaihao Church, 957 Punchbowl St. Viewing begins at 1730 with services starting at 1830.

His graveside burial begins at 1000 at the State Veteran's Cemetery, 45-349 Kamehameha Highway in Kaneohe. There will be a luncheon at the Koolau Ballroom following the graveside service. The family requests you contact **WO2 (Ret) Rich Hargrave** at 234-8016 or by e-mail [rahargrave@gmail.com](mailto:rahargrave@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance to the lunch.

## **5. Retiree Update.**

- A Big Mahalo goes to **TSgt Craig Makiya**, who continues to add retiree e-mail address to the **Retiree News** mailing list. Craig retired out of the maintenance operations center (MOC) a few years ago, but still works on Hickam AFB as a contractor. Thanks for your continuing support Craig!
- Retiring this past weekend was **Col William "Pirate" Benton**, the Director of Logistics at **HQ Hawaii Air National Guard**. Initially, Pirate flew F-4C Phantoms and transitioned to F-15A Eagles in the **199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron**. He later transitioned to the KC-135R Stratotankers with the **203<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron**. Just prior to moving to HQ HIANG, Pirate served as the 203 ARS commander, receiving the highest grades in both the operational and management effectiveness inspections during his tenure. Happy Trails to Pirate!
- I had a too short telephone conversation with **TSgt Fred Takara**, worked in the parachute shop for many years. He is fully retired and enjoying life. Nice catching up with Fred!
- While doing a supply run at the Home Depot, I ran into **CMSgt Kenneth Morimoto**. The Chief remains "fully" retired and enjoying life. (*Why do all the retirees say that?*) Anyway, he still slim and trim and looks like he still runs a lot. Great seeing the Chief!
- Long distance congratulations to **Maj Pichi Welsh**. She was on the Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel promotion list, and her promotion is effective October 1, 2008. She originally started with the **251<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Group** in Ohio, and later transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Currently, Pichi does her military duty at the Reserve Component Integration Office at Barksdale AFB. Her husband is another old friend, **Col Michael Welsh**, who retired late last year. Mike served in various positions in the 251 CCG and at various locations, working for the National Guard Bureau.
- While shopping at the Navy Exchange this week, I met **CMSgt Clifford Ono**. He still works for Siemens, the company who maintains the security equipment at airports in the Pacific Rim area. It was great catching up with the Chief!

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

- 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: The Oriental Buffet. A taste of Japanese, Chinese and other Asian delicacies, along with Western foods prepared with the seasoning secrets of the Orient.

Salads: Seasonal greens with watercress and chicory - French, Italian, thousand island, blue cheese and creamy ranch dressing; tofu and salmon, chicken and watermelon, mung bean sprout, spicy noodle, macaroni and potato, namasu, seaweed salad and Cole slaw with kamaboko, sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, haupia and rainbow Jell-O

Cold Selections: Sliced tropical fruit platter, assorted kamaboko and kanten, sushi assortment, swordfish sashimi with wasabi mustard sauce, tako poke, seafood poke, fresh vegetable Crudités with creamy dip selection of imported and domestic cheeses. From the carving station teriyaki roast baron of beef

Hot Entrée Selections:

- Roast chicken with hot and sour mango sauce
- Grilled mahimahi medallions on sautéed spinach with fermented black bean orange vinaigrette
- Stir-fried pork with leafy green vegetables and tofu
- Rice noodles with garlic and herbs
- Steamed rice
- Chinese ratatouille
- Assortment of dinner rolls

Desserts: A selection of tarts, cakes, pies, French pastries, crèmes and Mousses

Beverages: Freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee or tea

- Attire:

--- Military members: Mess dress or semi-formal uniform

--- Civilian men: Business suit or tuxedo

--- Civilian women: Long or short dress

- POC: **MSgt Nolan Kanekuni**, 448-7601, [nolan.kanekuni@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:nolan.kanekuni@hihick.ang.af.mil)

- Suspense: Friday, September 5, 2008

● The 154<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron will host an Appreciation Day later this month. The Appreciation Day will honor the men and women of the **154<sup>th</sup> Air Control Squadron**. The event is open to all Guard members and is free. Those flying in will need to schedule their own airline and hotel reservations.

- When: Sunday, September 28, 2008

- Time: 1000-1400

- Where: Shenanigans Bar & Grill, Barking Sands, Kauai

- Dress: Casual

- POCs:

--- **Ms. Lorna Souza**, [lorna.souza@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:lorna.souza@hihick.ang.af.mil) (808)448-7282

--- **MSgt Rob Lee**, [robert.lee@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:robert.lee@hihick.ang.af.mil) (808)655-7078

--- **MSgt Vance Yamamoto**, [vance.yamamoto@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:vance.yamamoto@hihick.ang.af.mil) (808)655-7732

- Suspense: September 19, 2008

● Mr. Shipyard's Retirement Party. **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 Shipyard are planning a retirement party for Greg on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at the Empress Chinese Restaurant.

- 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
- Checks made out to: [Tim Fujino](#) and mail to:  
Tim Fujino  
98-1824 Kupukupu Street  
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
- 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.
- POCs:
  - [Lt Col Tim Fujino](#), 448-7912, [timothy.fujino@hihick.af.mil](mailto:timothy.fujino@hihick.af.mil)
  - [Mrs. Carolyn Taketa](#), 733-4232, [carolyn.taketa@hihick.af.mil](mailto:carolyn.taketa@hihick.af.mil)
- Suspense: September 15, 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