

1. **Business.**

- **COLA/Locality Pay Class Action Suit Update.** On June 22, 2005, federal employees in Hawaii and Alaska filed a class action lawsuit (Matsuo vs. United States - Locality Pay Disparity (Hawaii and Alaska)) in the U.S. District Court in Hawaii against the Federal Government challenging "locality pay" policies that unfairly and irrationally discriminate against Federal employees who work and reside in Hawaii and Alaska. The lawsuit seeks locality pay for federal employees who work in those jurisdictions. Lead counsels in the case are Greg McGillivray of Woodley & McGillivray, and Margery Bronster of the Honolulu law firm of Bronster, Crabtree & Hoshibata.

The lawsuit covers Federal GS employees who were working anytime from January 1, 1994 to the present. Locality pay began on that day across the nation –except Hawaii and Alaska. While there are working for a retroactive settlement, there is no guarantee. To check the latest status of the lawsuit, go to: <http://www.wmlaborlaw.com/COLA/Case%20Profile.htm>. If the link does not work, copy it to you internet browser.

- **Reducing Reserve Retirement Age.** Two bills have been introduced in the 110th Congress to amend Title 10 to reduce the eligibility age for National Guard and Reserve retirees to receive military retirement pay. Congressman Jim Saxton (NJ) introduced H.R. 690 which would simply lower the eligibility age to 55 years. Identical Saxton bills introduced in previous sessions failed to pass because of their estimated cost. Senator Saxby Chambliss (GA) has introduced S. 548 which would reduce the eligibility age below 60 years by three months for each aggregate of 90 days of active duty performed by a member of the Ready Reserves after September 11, 2001 with the eligibility age not to be reduced below 50 years. Under the Chambliss bill, active duty service qualifying for the reduction would include orders for active duty in support of a contingency operation during a war or national emergency under sections 101(a) (13)(B) and 12301(d) Title 10 or section 502(f) of Title 32. Chambliss' office estimates that this bill, if passed, would cost \$400 million over five years. (NGAUS Legislative Update - February 23, 2007)

- **Food Recall:** The manufacturer of Oscar Mayer/Louis Rich Chicken Breast is voluntarily recalling approximately 52,650 pounds of fully cooked chicken breast strips that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, an uncommon but potentially fatal disease. Healthy people rarely contract listeriosis. However, listeriosis can cause high fever, severe headache, neck stiffness, and nausea. Listeriosis can also cause miscarriages and stillbirths, as well as serious and sometimes fatal infections in those with weakened immune systems, such as infants, the elderly, and persons with HIV infection or undergoing chemotherapy. The front of each package bears the establishment number "P-19676" and with a "Best When Used By" date of 19 APR 2007. Consumers with questions about the recall should contact Kraft Consumer Response at 800-871-7117 or Public Health at 448-2268. (As reported in the Hickam AFB daily e-mail)

- **Windshield Decals.** **Col William Spillane** send in an Air Force Times article the Air Force stop issuing windshield decals for cars. According to the article, base commanders will set an implementation date after March 15. Hill Air Force Base in Utah and Robins Air Force Base in Georgia have already stopped issuing decals. Cost savings in materials and personnel to run the program were the reason given for implementing this action.

So what's happening in Hawaii? I went to [Col Stanley Osserman](#) for the scoop. His reply follows.

It's an Air Combat Command (ACC) directive, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) is considering it, but most of the feedback from PACAF units is to keep the decals. The two main reasons: Unless DoD makes it apply to everyone, we will have too many problems with access to other bases (for example, if we don't have decals, but Navy requires them, then they will have to man Porter gate to enforce their requirements), plus, most of us will go to other bases to get decals so we don't have to wait in line at the front gate every time we want to go to the Kaneohe commissary. The second issue has to do with locating owners of vehicles. When the Security Forces folks run a decal number, they know exactly where the individual owning the vehicle lives (even in a dorm). If they have to use Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to track a license plate number, they don't get the detailed locator and unit information, and they have to pay HPD for the information.

- **TRICARE**. This part of the TRICARE website shows the maximum allowable charge tables, listing the most frequently used procedures (more than 300 of them), and the amount TRICARE is legally allowed to pay for them. These charges are tied to Medicare allowable charges, effectively making them a federal standard for health costs.
<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/news/news.aspx?fid=226> If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- **Atterbury Circle Renovation Project** sponsored by the Hawaii Air Force Association, Chapter 138. This is not only a base beautification project, it provides an opportunity to express gratitude or pay tribute to a supervisor, commander, or loved one(s). Individual pavers inscribed with rank, name, org, and dates of service are available. For more information, visit the AFA Hawaii chapter website at http://www.afahi.org/documents/Legacy_Brick_Order_Form.doc. POC: Project Lead, Lt George Allen, 448-1320 or AFA Hawaii President, Col Tim Saffold, 449-0119. (Taken from the AFA Hawaii Newsletter)

- **Top Ten 2007 Security Problems: Predictions**. You all have a computer and/or if you own a "smart phone" – read this article. <http://www.esecurityplanet.com/article.php/3650151> If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

2. **Wanted List**. I am still looking for these HIANG members e-mail addresses.

[Gaylen Benanua](#)
[Richard Furuno](#)
[David Gilbert](#)
[Donald O'Day](#)
[Myles Nakastu](#)
[David Paahana](#)
[Michael Rawlins](#)
[Ronald S. H. Mau](#)
[Robert Kodama](#)

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses added recently are:

[COL George Sheridan](#) (from [Lt Col Fred Fogel](#))
[Col Phillip Skains](#) (from [Col Bill Spillane](#))

3. Retiree Update.

- Got an e-mail from **Lt Col Alexander “Blackie” Bell**, a Deuce era pilot. He gave me some feedback about visiting the **199th Fighter Squadron** recently. Like all retirees, he noticed all the changes to the facilities, personalities, and squadron culture. Very soon, all three flying squadrons will be in associate squadron situations, and the meeting of the Air Force and Guard cultures will be an important factor in their operational success.

- Joining the retiree ranks is **MSgt Mo Collette** who just retired from the Air Force Reserve. Mo spent many years with the **154th Services Flight** before transferring to the Reserve. Prior service folks need to get “20 years before 60 years” to enlist. If my memory serves me correctly, Mo had no days to spare when he enlisted and made his 20 years a day prior to his age 60. **Brig Gen Edwin “Skip” Vincent** presided over Mo’s retirement ceremony. Happy Retirement Mo!

- I talked to **Lt Col Clarence Jim** on a very short telephone conversation. I got a lead on him from **MSgt Bob Onekea** and was following up on an e-mail address. Clarence had been living in Arizona for a year or so, but does not have an e-mail address yet. I didn’t get much more info – may be later....

- I saw **Lt Col Alvin Satogata** in the Mililani Longs parking lot. Al returned to a State job after retiring from his Federal job with the **154th Civil Engineer Squadron**. He works in the State Department of Transportation trying to get the remaining years to qualify for his State retirement. He is still an avid golfer. He also mentioned golfing with **Lt Col Allen Shinsato** on the weekends. Allen recently retired from his State job at the University of Hawaii. He served many years as the **HIANG Comptroller**. Hey Al, I need your new e-mail address since you were using your UH address.

- I get an occasional e-mail from **SMSgt Carol Service**, who now lives in Palm Springs, California. If you don’t recognize the name – it’s Carol Keanini. Carol got married about three years ago before she retired in 2006. If I remember it correctly, she and her husband Rick were high school classmates, when they attend school in the Philippines. Another classmate was **MSgt Scott Coffin**, a retired member of the **292^d Combat Communications Squadron** on Maui. A very small world....

- I ran into **Col Melvin Honda**, while waiting in line for lunch. Mel is retired from Aloha Airlines and now volunteers twice-a-week teaching English to immigrants. I got his updated e-mail address. Nice seeing Mel!

4. Upcoming Events. I list the events by the date of the event and they remain posted until they occur.

- The **Ku Wela Ka Hao Family Readiness Group** will host their 1st annual golf tournament. The money raised will support the members and families of **Company B, 1-171 Aviation** – formerly **Charlie Company, 193d Aviation**. Points of contact are: **Mrs. Keoho Asato** @ 221-9632 and **1SG Russell Wong** @ 277-6032.

When: Monday, March 12, 2007

Where: Leilehua Golf Course

Time: 1000: Check in; 1200: Start

Format: Shotgun, 4-man rotation team, best ball, no handicap

Registration fees include green fees, polo shirt, lunch, and heavy pupus to follow
\$100.00 individual entry fee; \$400.00 team entry fee
Optional costs: greenies, mulligans, and longest drive

- There will be a retirement lunch for **MSG Kenneth Manual** and **SSG Keith (Joe) Enanori** on Friday, March 16, 2007. The Japanese buffet luncheon is at the Nihon Restaurant in Hilo and the cost is \$25.00 per person. Contact **SSG Jamie Imai** for more information: (808) 933-0931 or jamie.imai@us.army.mil.

- The 58th Annual Meeting of **Hawaii National Guard Association** (HNGA) is fast approaching. The meeting will be at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island this year. As usual, we will have free registration and breakfast. Many corporate sponsors will be present and are interested in meeting with senior leaders and end users. There will be voting on resolutions presented and election of new council officers. There will an awards presentation. Entry into the museum after the meeting is also free. Please show your support by attending this once a year (half day) event. Mark your calendars (Saturday, 17 March 2007). HNGA President, Dave Molinaro, is extremely excited to welcome all to this sponsored event. (Submitted by **Lt Col Peter Ching**, HNGA Vice President, peter.ching@hick.af.mil) I talked to the HNGA President, **Lt Col Dave Molinaro** and the meeting is open to retirees, so come on down.

5. 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. Retiree News e-mail is published 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 or call me at **672-1221**, and I will remove you from the Retiree News mailing list.