

1. Business.

- **NGAUS Legislative Update (March 2, 2007).** CNGR Delivers Requested Report. Last year in the National Defense Authorization Act, Congress directed the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves to research and report back on the legislation known as the "National Guard Empowerment Act." On Thursday, March 1, the Commission announced its findings.

Commission Chairman Punaro announced the 23 recommendations contained in the report. Eight of which Punaro said would require legislative changes. The recommendations include the elevation of the National Guard Bureau chief from a three-star to a four-star general and consideration of Guard and Reserve officers for senior leadership positions (including deputy commander and commander) at the U.S. Northern Command. The Commission did reject one key provision of the "Empowerment Act" legislation that would have made the National Guard Bureau chief a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The report also recommends that the National Guard Bureau be made a joint activity of the Department of Defense, rather than remain a joint bureau of the Army and Air Force and that the charter of the National Guard Bureau be re-written to make the "Chief of the National Guard Bureau a senior advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and, through him, to the Secretary of Defense on matters related to the National Guard when not in active federal service. These are only a select of few of the recommendations found in the CNGRs in-depth report. You can download and view the entire report by going to www.NGAUS.org and clicking on the CNGR emblem.

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

Gaylen Benanua
David Gilbert
Donald O'Day
Myles Nakastu
David Paahana
Robert Kodama

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

Allen Shinsato
Leonard Oliveira
Michael Rawlings
Ronald Mau

3. Retiree Update.

- **Lt Col Gerrit Osborne** sent an e-mail with some sad news. **Lt Col Carl Thoene** has a rapidly spreading cancer and has only few months left. Carl was the then **154th Fighter Group's** executive officer in the late sixties. Carl and his wife, Cathy, reside in Pu'u Anahulu.

- **SMSGt Aurora Lee** sent an e-mail saying she is retiring and returning to Hawaii. She has been at the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. for many years, serving in the ANG mobilization section. It's been many years since she served in the **154th Mission Support Flight** and earlier at the **199th Fighter Squadron**.

- I got an e-mail from **Warren Chung**. Warren last served as the **154th Supply Squadron** commander. He went to work from State Civil Defense after retiring from the HIANG, and retired from the state a year or two ago. Like most retirees, Warren says he is busier than ever.

- Great News. I got an email from **Roy Iwamoto**, who served with the **Headquarters, Hawaii Air National Guard**. Roy also worked fulltime for the Guard as a State employee in the engineering section. Roy received his kidney transplant last November. Although there's a 20% chance of rejection, he says everything looks good. Roy closed by asking everyone to consider becoming an organ donor because it saves people's lives. (I signed my donor card in the 80s – don't know if anyone wasn't parts for an old guy). Great hearing from Roy!

- The HIANG held its annual **Launa Ole awards ceremony** at the F-15 hanger during the March UTA. HIANG retirees remember honoring our outstanding members during the annual **HIANG Awards Banquet**. The venue changed several years ago so more members could be present to see the awards presentation. The following are this year's award winners. You can send congratulatory e-mail using this format: firstname.lastname@hick.ang.af.mil

Airman of the Year:

SrA Pulepule Lauofo (full-time)

SrA Ryan Yung (traditional)

Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

TSgt Richard Costa (full-time)

SSgt Rita Miller (traditional)

Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year:

MSgt Shawna Gaskins (full-time)

MSgt Peter Kwok (traditional)

First Sergeant of the Year:

SMSgt Vernon Palomares

Company Grade Officer of the Year:

1st Lt Jason Matsuoka (full-time)

Capt Brian Abrigo (traditional)

Field Grade Officer of the Year:

Maj Mark "Odie" Ladtkow (full-time)

Maj Vern "Fister" Sasaki (traditional)

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

- 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. (Information taken from the flyer)

- 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, March 17, 2007). HNGA President, Dave Molinaro, is extremely excited to welcome all to this sponsored event. (Submitted by **Lt**

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Col Peter Ching, HNGA Vice President, peter.ching@hihick.ang.af.mil) I talked to the HNGA President, **Lt Col Dave Molinaro** and the meeting is open to retirees, so come on down.

- There will be a retirement party for **MSG Harry Miller** on Saturday, March 24, 2007. The party will begin at 1100 at Bellow AFS pavilion (near the tennis courts). The cost is for adults are \$10.00 + \$5.00 for the gift (optional). Children are free. Contact **2LT Todd Yukutake** more information: 672-1019 or todd.yukutake@us.army.mil. Please join us to celebrate MSG Miller's retirement after 35 years of dedicated service to the HIARNG. (Information taken from the flyer)

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.