

1. Business.

- The **Army & Air Force Exchange Service's** (AAFES) "We'll Match It!" initiative has been updated to allow authorized shoppers to compare prices between the exchange and "warehouse clubs." "We'll Match It!" works in two ways: (1) shoppers who see a price differential of less than \$10 can tell the cashier who will match it on the spot; (2) customers who report a price difference of greater than \$10 need only to bring a current local competitor's ad to receive the reduced price. The merchandise being compared must be identical. The "We'll Match It!" policy applies to all AAFES retail stores including main stores, Shoppettes, Class Six, Car Care and troop stores. Complete details concerning the price-matching program are available online at <http://www.aafes.com/>.
- **Xerox** has set up a website where you can send a free Thank you card to military men and women serving in Iraq. There are several "canned" comments or you can write your own. The card gets printed and sent to those in country. You can't choose who gets it. Go to: www.LetsSayThanks.com. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. **Lt Col Blaine Tsugawa** sent in this information.
- The **Air Reserve Personnel Center** (ARPC) released the 2007 Guard and Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/pa/fact/factsheet.asp>. The fact sheets offer information on a variety of subjects including pay charts, promotion and retirement information, entitlement benefits, and assignment information. ARPC Contact Center counselors are available, 0600 to 1800 Mountain Time, Monday- Friday; 0730 to 1600 Mountain Time the first weekend of each month. Call 800-525-0102, or e-mail arpc.contactcenter@arpc.denver.af.mil.
- The Department of Defense is back to **anthrax immunizations**. A new policy memo recently requiring the DOD begin mandatory anthrax vaccinations for individuals remaining in the high-threat areas (primarily CENTCOM AOR or the Korean Peninsula) for 15 or more consecutive days. Additionally, personnel in designated special mission units, regardless of location, are also subject to mandatory Anthrax vaccinations.
- **Air Force Uniform Updates**. Air Force officials are moving forward with the Airman Battle Uniform rollout. The new ABU, designed to eventually replace both the Battle Dress and Desert Combat Uniforms worn by Airmen, is currently in full production. The ABUs are not the ugly blue shaded ones previously seen in news articles. The ABUs will be very similar to the ones the Army is transitioning to right now. ABUs will start making their appearance later this year – starting with deployers and new Airmen at Basic Training. (Why we don't have ONE combat uniform for all services escapes me for some reason!) The Air Force is also moving forward with plans for a new service dress uniform – more to come on that one. (One of my Army friends once said the Air Force seems to change uniforms every time the AF Chief of Staff changes.)
- Meanwhile... the Army is eliminating uniforms. Both the Army's Class A (service dress equivalent) and Class B (short sleeve shirt equivalent) uniforms are being retired. After the transition period, soldiers will have two uniforms: ACUs - Army Combat Uniforms and their "Blues" – The service dress uniform that looks like a cavalry uniform. Green versus Blue – blue makes sense because in the Revolutionary War, the British wore red and the Continental Army wore blue uniforms.

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- **SMSgt Carol Service** sent me this DFAS website. Retirees should visit and check it out – some interesting features. <http://www.dod.mil/dfas/index.html> If the link does not work, copy it to you internet browser.

2. **Wanted List.** I am still looking for these HIANG members e-mail addresses or their addresses I have for them no longer works.

Gaylen Benanua
David Gilbert
Myles Nakastu
David Paahana
Robert Kodama
Michael Delmar
Bernard Camacho
Bruce Jahnke
Michael Wong

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses are:

Donald O'Day
Herbert Takeya
Wayne Iha
Ronald Katto

3. **Retiree Update.**

- Sad News. **Lt Col Gerrit Osborne** reported that **Lt Col Carl Thoene** died last Sunday. Funeral and service arrangements are pending. Aloha Pumehana

- **BG Mert Agena** sent me an e-mail with this sad news. **CSM (Ret) Bill Duncan's** wife (May Duncan) passed away on Friday, 9 Mar 07. CSM Duncan was the Hawaii Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major a few years ago. Funeral Services are scheduled on 1000 on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at Borthwick Mortuary; burial to follow at 1300 at the State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe.

- **CMSgt Henry Machado** reports the **MSgt Ed Frost** is out of the hospital and back in hospice at the old St. Francis West. He is doing better, but is still very ill. Henry reports that Ed does not want any visitors at this time. More to come....

- Got word from **Carolyn Taketa** that **Maj Gen Edward Richardson** is home after a short stay in the hospital. General Rick is recovering from a mild stroke. I know he will be back on the golf course soon.

- I received an e-mail from **MSgt Daniel “Blanc” Blancaflor** and shared some of his memories about **Lt Col Alexander “Blackie” Bell**. Blanc now resides in Port Orchard, Washington and keeps himself busy with golf, dancing, and other activities. Ah, retired life...

- I got an e-mail from **Lt Col Donald O'Day**, who said several people mentioned to him that he was on my Wanted List. He said he is doing well in retirement and gets some golf in.... Nice hearing from Don.

- **Lt Col Norman Nitta** sent an e-mail with **MSgt Herbert Takeya**'s address. Norm is working at the Barking Sands. Norm will be trying to round up the Army Guard retirees for me. Thanks for the support!

- I got an e-mail from **Col Elizabeth Josephson**. She was on a NGB tour serving at US Transportation Command. She is now retired and enjoying it, "it's an adjustment but it's the first time in my adult life that I have not had a job. The break is wonderful." Husband **Bill Josephson**, former **203^d Air Refueling Squadron** pilot, is still with America West – now known as US Air since the merger. Great hearing from them.

- Correction: I earlier reported that **Lt Col Al Satogata** worked for the State Department of Transportation. Al works for the State Department of Land and Natural Resources in their engineering division.

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

- 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)

- Mark your calendars for the **DOD Retirement & Service Award Luncheon**. The luncheon is set for Friday, April 13, 2007 at the Hale Koa Hotel's Banyan Tree Showroom. The event starts at 1100 with the buffet served at 1130. The cost is \$26.0 per person for a buffet featuring various salads, Thai chicken curry, and grilled mahimahi fillet. Send your checks, made out to "DOD Retirement & Service Award Fund," to **CMSgt Deb Brownhill** by April 6, 2007. Contact the Chief for more information at 672-1233 or debra.brownhill@ng.army.mil. New retirees to be honored include: **Lt Col Clyde Torigoe, CSM Bert Yanagida, 1SG David Wallace, MSG Mark Shiraishi, MSG James Ballie, MSgt Celia Espinosa, MSgt Benjamin Ormita, SGT Eric Ogata, SGT Fredrick Domingo, Mr. Ashley Hung**. A 40 Year Service Award will go to **CMSgt Alwyn Yoshimura**. (Information taken from the flyer)

- There is **A Golfing Celebration** scheduled for retiring **CSM Vernon Nakasone**. Mark your calendars - Friday, April 20 2007 for a round of golf at the challenging, well-manicured Leilehua Golf Club. Registration begins at 0900; with tee-off at begin at 1200 noon. Special events will include: a putting challenge on the practice green, two longest drive contests, four closest to the pin challenges, and a \$50.00 Hole-in-One Shootout.

There will be an awards presentation and dinner directly after golf at the 487th FA Armory located just down the street at 77-230 Kamehameha Highway. The social gathering to begin at 1700 or immediately after golf play ends.

The cost for the event is by rank. This price includes entry into all special events, 18 holes of golf, riding cart, and social event, or \$15.00 for the social event only. A portion from both collections will be combined and used to provide the CSM with a parting gift.

Military: E1-E5	\$35.00
Military: E6-O3, WO's	\$40.00
Military: O4+	\$45.00
Federal Civilians	\$50.00

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Civilian Guests	\$55.00
Social gathering only	\$15.00

To help us properly plan for this event, please register NLT April 13, 2007. The POCs for this event are:

Mr. Emerick Kaneshi	733-4260
Mr. Bob Zavala	672-1429
LTC Alike Watts	672-1289
LTC Robert Lesher	672-1287

Additional information: Golf attire is required - collared shirts and slacks or shorts. No steel spikes allowed on the course. Tournament Committee reserves the right to adjust handicaps. Worm burners are encouraged to participate.

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.