

***Aloha – I'm back. What started as a summer vacation lasted way too long. I had a few personal things pop up that took a little more time than I first thought.***

**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. 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 [yoshimotg004@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:yoshimotg004@hawaii.rr.com) and I will remove you from the Retiree News mailing list.

**2. Business.**

- **Governor Linda Lingle** pinned **Brig Gen Ray Starling** with his major general stars in August. General Starling serves as the ANG Assistant to the USAF Judge Advocate General. There is a short article and picture in the following link – you need to scroll down to get to the article.

<http://www.hawaii.gov/gov/news/enewsletter/2007-newsletters/July28-August3%2C2007>

If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- **Col(S) Chris “Sock” Sakamoto**, Commander of the **154<sup>th</sup> Operations Group**, conducted a change of command ceremony for the **204<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron**. **Lt Col Stephen Su’a-Filo** assumed command from **Lt Col Scott Kimsey** on September 9, 2007. Scott did an outstanding job as the commander during the C-17 Globemaster III spin up. Steve will continue that high standard set by Scott and probably raise it. Congratulations to both Scott and Steve!

- In September, **Governor Linda Lingle** and **MG Robert G.F. Lee** bid aloha to 16 soldiers from the **Hawaii Army National Guard** and **United States Army Reserve** who are deploying to Afghanistan to train and mentor the Afghanistan National Police as an embedded training team. There is a short article and picture in the following link – you need to scroll down to get to the article.

<http://www.hawaii.gov/gov/news/enewsletter/2007-newsletters/September15-28%2C2007>

If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- **Lt Col Joseph Garnett** is the new **201st Combat Communications Group** commander effective October 5, 2007. He assumes command from **Lt Col Craig Ishizaki**, who is on his terminal leave and will formally retire at the end of the year.

Craig started as an airman and was commissioned an officer in the 80s. He was instrumental in the relocation of the then **297<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic Control** Flight back from Kona to Barbers Point. He served as the senior ATC technician, and later the detachment commander and finally the commander. During his tenure at Barbers Point, he worked on new facility after surviving the old quonset hut for several years. He also was the commander as the full time ATC mission started there. He later moved to the **201<sup>st</sup> combat Communications Group** and will retire as the group commander. A great career and a well deserved retirement!

Joe leaves his position as the Commander as the commander of **293rd Combat Communications Squadron**. He served his initial years in the Air Force and joined the Guard after his tour at Hickam AFB. I know Joe will do a super job!

- The new Chair for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Hawaii is **Maj Gen (Ret) Albert "Putt" Richards**, former commander of the 154<sup>th</sup> Wing. Putt assumes the chair from **MG (Ret) Kelly Lau**, who served as chair for the last six years. Another important change is the Ombudsman Director **Mr. Gil Hough** is leaving after several years' service. Gil worked for the Department of Labor before retiring and starting his volunteer work as an ombudsman. Replacing Gil is another familiar name, **Lt Col Clarence Fukumoto**, who served as the Executive Support Staff Officer (ESSO) at HQ HIANG for many years.

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization. It is a staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, which is in itself a part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The ESGR Mission is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve

- Military Night Special at Warriors Game. In honor of Veteran's Day, members of each branch of the Armed Services will be honored during a special "Military Night" halftime ceremony at the Warrior game against Fresno State on Saturday, November 10, 2007. For that game, all active, reservists, and retired members of the military will receive two tickets for the price of one (maximum of eight). A valid military identification card is required when purchasing tickets at the Aloha Stadium Box Office in advance or on game day. This discount is available at the Stan Sheriff Center Box Office in advance only. Tickets are in special sections and are limited. Other restrictions may apply. Information taken from the Advertiser website.

- The annual cost-of-living adjustment for military retirees will be 2.3 percent effective Dec. 1, 2007 that will match the increase in Social Security benefits announced Wednesday. The new COLA, which will first show up in January retirement paychecks, means that military retirees will receive an extra \$23 for every \$1,000 in retired pay. The annual COLA is calculated by averaging the inflation rate for the final three months of each fiscal year, July through September. The 2.3 percent increase is one percentage point less than last year's adjustment, and the smallest in four years, mainly because inflation has remained low this year. The increase applies not only to military retired pay but also to disability retired pay and military survivor annuities.

- F-22 Raptor Video. **SMSgt Rolf Oudraad** sent me this Youtube.com link to a F-22 Raptor video. It shows that this airplane had some very good turning capabilities.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyKYw\\_p1Hrc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyKYw_p1Hrc)

If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

**3. Wanted List**. I am still looking for these HIANG members e-mail addresses or their addresses I have for them no longer works. E-mail me their addresses if you can share them.

**Jeffrey Okazaki**  
**Gaylen Benanua**  
**David Paahana**  
**Michael Delmar**  
**Eugene Imai**  
**Bernard Watson**

Among the new or updated e-mail addresses include:

**Hank & Ellen Laguatan**  
**Michael Chow**  
**Bruce Jahnke**  
**Ricky Tucay**  
**Ted Merrill**  
**Wayne Higashi**

#### 4. Retiree Update.

Several Hawaii National Guard retirees passed away in the last few months. Aloha Pumehana to all....

- **MSgt Simano “Sam” Afoa**, 82, passed on September 26, 2007 in Port Orchard, Washington. In my personal recollection, Sam was the first Samoan member in the Hawaii Air National Guard. He worked on the fighter flightline and later in Quality Control with the [154<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron](#). He was also a retired minister from North Windward Baptist Church. His demeanor and actions always presented himself as an elder in Samoan community.
- **MSgt Ralph Endo**, 78, passed on September, 28, 2007 in Honolulu. He was a member of the [169<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron](#), who served as a radar technician at Mt. Kaala.
- **Virginia Okamoto**, 60, passed on September, 29, 2007 in Honolulu. She retired as state library personnel manager, but was the state personnel manager for the Department of Defense.
- **SMSgt Toshio Oshiro**, 77, passed on October 3, 2007. He was an aircraft Quality Control inspector in the [154<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron](#). Toshi was an avid golfer.
- **SMSgt Edward Enovejas**, 64, passed on October, 8, 2007. He retired from the Federal Aviation Administration and Hawaii Air National Guard. Ed was a communications maintenance technician with the [291<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron](#) in Hilo, and earlier at the [169<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron](#).
- **Lt Col John D’Araujo**, 88, passed on September 13, 2007. He was a longtime member of the Hawaii Army National Guard and many said he bled Army green. His son is **MG (Ret) John D’Araujo**, served as the commander of the [29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade](#), and later as the Director of the Army National Guard.
- I added **Capt Roger Moore**’s address when I send out the last issue of Retiree News. Roger sent an e-mail with some information on his history and status. Mahalo for the update!

“I had to leave Hawaii due to Hawaiian Air furloughs in 1967 and went with TWA where I stayed for 34 years then retired from American Airlines after the merger. In the interim, I flew F102 with the Connecticut ANG, F100 with the District of Columbia ANG; O2A with the Maryland ANG then finished flying the U10D and later the HH3 with the California ANG. I currently reside in Wildwood, Missouri and fully enjoy retirement. I fly an experimental aerobatic aircraft named an RV4 for excitement and have the [199<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron](#) insignia on the rudder. Roger A.C. Moore”

- I got an e-mail from **SMSgt Hank Laguatan**, former HIANG recruiter who now recruits for the Air Force Reserve out of McChord AFB, Washington. He wrote that he was going of terminal leave effective August 1, 2007, with a formal retirement ceremony on August 23. His actual retirement date is November 1, 2007. His wife, **Ellen**, is another former HIANG member. Happy Retirement to Hank & Ellen!

- **CSM Wendall Hatami** recently retired after a long career. I understand there was quite a party in Hilo for him. Happy Retirement!

- Glad to see **Lt Col Randall Tom** back at work! He had a medical misadventure but is back stronger than ever. Randy continues to manage the many changes in the personnel arena. Many things now require the service member to log on and deal directly with the personnel computer system.

- **MSgt Ricky Tucay**, one the HIANG recruiters for many years retired recently. He is working in the mortgage and real estate industry. In a recent e-mail, Ricky said, "My family is doing great, in fact my son **Brandon** is the full-time drummer for Kapena." Happy Retirement Ricky!

- The Hawaii Air National Guard has another new recruiter **TSgt Valeri Fortin**. She served as a technician with the **154<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight**. She joins the other HIANG recruiters at their Aiea Shopping Center office. The off base site has been quite successful and recruiting remains great. But all the recruiter still need your assistance – your referrals. Whenever you refer a potential recruit, it makes the recruitment process move even faster.

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

- It's time to "Par-Teel!" **CMSgt Alwyn Yoshimura** has completed over "fore-tee-one" years with the Hawaii Air National Guard! You are invited to join Al's family and friends at his Retirement and 60th Birthday Celebration. RSVP by October 25, 2007.

- When: Sunday, November 11, 2007

--- 1600 Pupus

--- 1730-1830: Dinner, Hawaiian Food

--- 1900: Program

- Where: St Timothy's Episcopal Church

98-939 Moanalua Road

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

- Costs: \$25.00, gift only: \$5.00

- POC: **SMSgt Leilani Moniz**, 448-7300, [cp.154wg@hihick.ang.af.mil](mailto:cp.154wg@hihick.ang.af.mil)

Checks payable to "Edgar Alexander"

- The **204<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron** is honoring their recent retirees with a retirement party: The honorees are **Lt Col Scott Kimsey**, **Lt Col Milt Davis**, **Lt Col Neal Ernst**, **SMSgt Thomas Narvaez**, and **TSgt Tony Ilagan**. RSVP by November 6, 2007

- When: Friday, November 16, 2007, 1800-2130

- Where: Tropical Buffet and Bar at the Pacific Air Museum, Ford Island

- Costs:

--- O4 and above: \$45.00

--- O1-O3: \$40.00

--- E6-E9: \$35.00

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- E1-E5: \$25.00
- Retirees: \$30.00
- Spouses/Family: price of sponsor
- POCs:
  - **Capt BJ Itoman** 449-1233 / blythejeanne.itoman@hickam.af.mil
  - **Maj Bo Masuyama** 449-2233 / bo.masuyama@hickam.af.mil
- Make checks payable to: "204 AS"

- The **154<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron** is organizing a retirement party for **MSgt Fernando Mendoza**. He retires after a long HIANG career. The specifics are:

- When: Saturday, December 8, 2007, 1200-1600
- Where: Wah Kung Seafood Restaurant
- Costs: \$30.00 person, \$5.00 gift only. BYOB
- POCs:
  - **Capt Paul Maedo** 448-7032
  - **SMSgt Ross Hoopai** 448-8440
  - **SMSgt Nathan Koide** 448-8433
  - **SMSgt Russell Ducosin** 448-6449
  - **TSgt Kenneth Miike** 448-8441
- Seats are limited; final headcount by November 16, 2007

- **SAVE THE DATE.** The Hawaii National Guard will host a **National Guard Birthday Ball**. The ball is open to all members of the Hawaii Army and Air National Guard, including retirees. The event chair is **LTC Clara Furabayashi**. Contact her at 672-1394 if you need more information. The specifics are:

- When: Saturday, December 22, 2007
- 1700 no-host cocktails
- 1830 dinner
- Where: Sheraton Waikiki Hotel Ballroom
- Costs: TBD
- Attire:
  - Military: Best Dress
  - Civilian: Coat & Tie / Formal