

## 20090304 Retiree News

1. **The Promise.** **Retiree News** will contain information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about current, 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@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:retireenews@hawaiiintel.net) and I will remove you from the **Retiree News** mailing list.

## 2. **Business.**

- Recommendation to introduce a cost sharing "option" for TRICARE for Life (TFL). The following is a download from the National Guard Association of the United States website - LEGISLATIVE ALERT #09-04, February 27, 2009. This and other cost-sharing proposals from the Congressional Budget Office DIRECTLY affect YOUR retirement benefits! Read on....

The Issue: Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Recommendation for Congress to Introduce Out-of-Pocket Requirements for TRICARE for Life (TFL) Beneficiaries

Action Required: Contact your Senators and Representative and urge them to oppose any legislative effort to introduce out-of-pocket requirements for TRICARE for Life beneficiaries

As a possible means of reducing Department of Defense (DOD) expenditures, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has recommended a cost sharing "option" for TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries.

TFL was introduced in 2002 to supplement Medicare for military retirees and their family members eligible for Medicare. Currently, TFL covers nearly all medical costs not covered by Medicare with very few out-of-pocket fees. The option proposed by CBO would have TFL beneficiaries responsible for the first \$525 of calendar year expenses beginning in 2011, and 50% percent of the next \$4,725 in Medicare cost sharing expenses incurred by the beneficiary. These dollar limits would be indexed to growth in average Medicare costs for later years. CBO also recommends that TLF beneficiaries reimburse DOD for treatment and pharmaceutical services received at military treatment facilities.

NGAUS and other military support organizations have fought hard to expand TRICARE benefits for our retirees who currently must wait until age 60 to qualify for TRICARE benefits. TRICARE for Life also provides welcomed relief to the financial pressures many of our members must bear while they await military retirement pay or medical benefits

For the TRICARE for Life benefit to remain meaningful to military retirees, Congress must not burden TLF beneficiaries with the out-of-pocket costs as is being proposed as an option by CBO.

Contact your congressional delegation and urge them to oppose any effort to introduce the cost sharing option recommended by the Congressional Budget Office.

## TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

By using the "Write to Congress" feature on the NGAUS Web site at [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org), you can immediately e-mail your Senators or Representative. A sample letter is included in our "Write to Congress" feature. You can e-mail the pre-written message or edit the sample letter as you

desire. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. Also, contact your friends and family and urge them to "Write to Congress" as well.

For more in-depth information and background visit our web site at: [www.ngaus.org](http://www.ngaus.org). Please direct any questions concerning this issue to Pete Duffy, Deputy Legislative Director and NGAUS Joint Programs Manager at 202-454-5307 or via email: [pete.duffy@ngaus.org](mailto:pete.duffy@ngaus.org).

- Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) Website. Department of Defense sponsors the Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) website. It provides eligible service members a VMET document (DD Form 2586) on demand.

The VMET data is a portion of a member's career history, which comes from a large database built over the years - with data received from the four service's official personnel and training systems. The site matches VMET occupational and training history data to time-appropriate narrative descriptions to generate the VMET document.

The VMET document was established effective 1 October 1990 as a tool to assist service members who were leaving the military. Therefore, all military members, except coast guard, who were serving on 1 October 1990, were included in the VMET database, and those members who had already left were not included.

This site was down for security reasons after 9/11, but it just came back on line. Information contained in VMET documents is current as of October 1, 2008.

The website: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/>

- Update on Department of Defense (DoD) Identification (ID) Card Initiatives. In late December 2008, the DoD's Human Resources Activity, Defense Manpower Data Center issued a memorandum to update DoD ID card initiatives. The memorandum follows.

During the past several months, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) developed three initiatives that impact ID card production and usage: Social Security Number (SSN) Reduction, the Civilian Retiree Card, and a pilot program for the Logical Access Card for Volunteers otherwise known as the Volunteer Card Pilot. The SSN Reduction initiative involves the phased removal of SSNs from DoD ID cards in an effort to reduce the risk of identity theft to the DoD ID card population. The Civilian Retiree card initiative will provide a standardized DoD identification card for civilian employees who are retired from the DoD. The Volunteer Card Pilot applies to certain DoD volunteers, who in support of their duties, require a credential for DoD network access. These initiatives result in either change to an existing DoD ID card or the addition of new DoD ID card types. Implementation for all of these initiatives will begin in the near future.

Reducing the use of the SSN on DoD ID cards will occur in three phases. In Phase One, beginning December 2008, dependent SSNs will be removed from the printed surface of the ID card (sponsor SSNs will remain visible). In Phase Two, anticipated to begin by the end of calendar year 2009, all SSNs will be removed from the printed surface of all ID cards, with the exception of Geneva Conventions ID cards. The Geneva Conventions ID cards will retain the last four digits of the SSN. Phase Three will be implemented during calendar year 2012. In this phase, SSNs embedded in barcodes will be removed from all DoD ID cards. This means that any applications that read the SSN from the barcode will have to be modified prior to 2012. To

reduce workload at the ID card issuance sites, cardholders will be encouraged to wait until their current card expires prior to getting a new card that will include the changes identified above.

Issuance of a new DoD Civilian Retiree card will began in late December 2008. This chipless card can be used to establish identity and affiliation with DoD. It will provide retired DoD civilians with a uniform photo ID card that may be used to authorize use of local installation facilities. Possession and presentation of this card does not guarantee civilian retirees access to DoD bases or facilities. Installation Commanders establish the user population for their MWR facilities for reasons such as local demand, facility capacity, and security concerns. DMDC is working, in conjunction with Civilian Personnel Management Service (CPMS), to manage customer expectations regarding the card usage, and to minimize ID card facility impact. Issuance of this card will be by request of the retiree only – its issuance is not mandatory with the retirement of a Civil Servant.

Implementation of the Volunteer Card Pilot program will begin in late Winter/early Spring 2009. This card will have DoD Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates and may be used by DoD volunteers who require logical access to a DoD network. This card will not have a photograph and will be used for network access only. Recipients of this card must be vetted with a National Agency Check (NAC) and sponsored by a DoD organization prior to issuance.

- Guard/Reserve Welcomed at Exchanges. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) is reaching out to National Guard and Reservist personnel to remind them that, active duty or not, they are always able to use their exchange benefit. AAFES is sending direct mail as well as placing ads for [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) in National Guard and Reserve publications in an effort to better inform and educate National Guard and Reserve Families about their exchange benefit. With 60 percent of Guard and Reserve Soldiers living more than 21 miles from their nearest exchange, AAFES is emphasizing its website at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) as a way for long-distance sponsors to take advantage of their exchange benefit.

- New Veterans Affairs Website Debuts. Returning Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom servicemembers have a newly enhanced Veterans Affairs website just for them. The Returning Servicemember's (OEF/OIF) website offers tailored information on Veterans Affairs services and programs, as well as video features and a blog.

The website: <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/>

Thanks to **Mr. Gil Hough** for sharing this information. Gil retired from the Department of Labor where he worked USSERA issues.

- TRICARE Management Activity and the Military Health System. TRICARE Management Activity, the Defense Department activity that administers the health care plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.2 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide in the Military Health System (MHS). The mission of the MHS is to enhance Department of Defense and national security by providing health support for the full range of military operations. The MHS provides quality medical care through a network of providers, military treatment facilities, medical clinics and dental clinics worldwide. For more about the MHS go to [www.health.mil](http://www.health.mil).

- Fort Kamehameha Housing Driving Restriction. Effective 20 Feb 2009, only vehicles on official business will be allowed to enter the Fort Kamehameha housing area. All roads entering the area will be barricaded to deter vehicular traffic. (Taken from the Hickam AFB Base Bulletin)

- Road Closure on Hickam AFB. Portions of Vickers Ave, between Atterbury Circle & 12<sup>th</sup> St will be closed to facilitate water main installation work. Construction will start on Monday, February 2, 2009 to June 2009 during normal working hours. Please expect delays as traffic will be detoured in that area. Please be cautious and heed to all construction signs. POC David Arakawa 448-2879. (Taken from the Hickam AFB Base Bulletin)

- 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.

- Disclaimer. The views and opinions expressed in **Retiree News** are those of the editor and do not represent official policy of The Adjutant General or the State Department of Defense.

**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.

Herman Lau  
Chris Wilson  
Haruo Shigezawa  
Tom Gresch  
Edward Uyeda  
Ron Biho  
Wayne Z. Higa  
Eugene Imai

Randy Solomon  
Russell Woodward  
Byron Kim  
Steve Ware  
James "Mike" Doolin  
Katherine Asato  
Jeffrey Okazaki

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.

Donna Hoadley  
Edwin Doi  
Robert Nagao  
Winston Ling  
James Akamine

Wayne Matsukawa  
Timothy Kajiwaru  
Glen Sakagawa (update)  
George Joy (update)  
Sabrina Carreiro

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 **900+** 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....

None this issue

**5. Retiree Update**.

- The Hawaii Army National Guard held their annual HIARNG Soldier and NCO of the Year competition during the February 21-22, 2009 weekend. The nomination and selection process includes a written test, "Warrior Tasks" testing, completing the Army PT test, and meeting a selection board. As usual, it was very competitive.

The HIARNG Soldier of the Year is **PFC Kaanoipono Cabrinha** of **Company B, 777<sup>th</sup> Aviation Support Battalion** at Wheeler AAF. Send congratulatory e-mail: [kaanoipono.cabrinha@us.army.mil](mailto:kaanoipono.cabrinha@us.army.mil)

The HIARNG NCO of the Year is **SGT Adam T. Townleywren** of the **111<sup>th</sup> Army Band**. Send congratulatory e-mail: [adam.townleywren@us.army.mil](mailto:adam.townleywren@us.army.mil)

- The Hawaii Army National Guard has selected **COL Mark Logan** as the new G-3 (Plans, Operations and Training). He replaces **LTC Robert Kauhane**, who retired. He has started the transition from his current positions as Director of Operations Military Support (DOMS). In the interim, **LTC Clara Furubayashi** will function as the G3 as a technician. Congratulations to COL Logan on his new position!

- I received a call from **Lt Col Norman Ault**, who served his long enlisted and officer career in the **154<sup>th</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**. He provided more information of **Col James Ashford**. "Colonel Ashford flew P-47 Thunderbolts (Jugs) in Europe and he joined the Hawaii Air National Guard in the late 50s." Thanks for the additional information.

- Part of my State job is to attend the monthly North Shore Neighborhood Board meetings with the Deputy Adjutant General. At the February meeting, I ran into **MSgt Jere Choo**, who retired out of the Avionics branch many years ago. Jere was there to discuss the Puuiki Cemetery conditions. Jere is enjoying retirement and volunteers on this cemetery restoration. Great seeing Jere!

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

- The United States Property and Fiscal Office is planning a retirement celebration for **SFC Leslie Yamamoto**. Les retires with over 41 years of service. For more information contact **SSG Whitney Arkle**, 844-6364 or **SFC Francine Fukunaga**, 844-6361

- When: Friday, March 20, 2009, starting at 1100
- Where: Hale Ikena, Ft. Shafter
- Costs: \$17.50 (meal); \$4.50 (suggested gift) or \$22.00 gift and meal
- Checks made out to: **Whitney Arkle** or **Francine Fukunaga**
- Suspense: Thursday, March 5, 2009

- **Brig Gen Berg's Retirement Ceremony.** **Brig Gen Kathleen Berg** will retire on Friday, April 3, 2009 after 32 years of service with the Hawaii Air National Guard. Her retirement ceremony will be at the Hickam AFB Officer's Club lanai, starting at 1430. A reception will follow the retirement ceremony. The invitation follows. Please RSVP if you are attending.

**From:** Kathy Berg

**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2009 7:14 AM

**To:** Galen Yoshimoto

**Subject:** retirement invite

Galen,

Retirement invitation attached. I hope you will join us. And you may share the invitation with the retired list so any of my old mentors/friends have the opportunity to come and cheer if they wish.



**The Headquarters, Hawaii Air National Guard**

*requests the pleasure of your company  
at a  
Retirement Ceremony  
in honor of*

***Brigadier General Kathleen F. Berg***

Mobilization Assistant to the Director, J6, USPACOM

**on**

*Friday, the third of April 2009  
at half past two o'clock  
at the  
Hickam Officers' Club Lanai  
Hickam Air Force Base*

*RSVP by 27 March 2009  
733-4230, 4231*

*Military: Uniform of the Day  
Civilian: Aloha Business Attire*

*Reception to follow*

- DOD Retirement and Awards Luncheon Update. Friday, April 17, 2009 is the date for the next DOD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. The names of the honorees attending will announced as the RSVPs are received.

- When: Friday, April 17, 2009, starting at 1100, lunch served at 1130.
- Where: Hale Koa Hotel, Banyan Tree Showroom
- Menu: Grilled flank steak & mahimahi filet, tossed salad, garlic mashed potatoes, ginger orange strawberry shortcake, coffee/tea
- Costs: \$25.00 (includes gratuity)
- Checks made out to: [DOD Retirement & Service Award Fund](#)
- Suspense: Monday, March 30, 2009
- Important Note: Because the Hale Koa Hotel uses an invoice system, there are no "pay at the door" guests allowed.

- POCs:

- HRO: [CMSgt Deb Brownhill](#), 672-1233
- USPFO: [Ms. Jeanette Sturges](#), 672-6310
- 201 CCG: [TSgt Jackie Jakahi](#), 448-7608
- 154 WG: [MSgt Larnette Doi](#), 448-7441
- State DoD: [Ms. Jeanne Hamamura](#), 672-1206
- HIARNG: [Ms Dora Ama](#), 672-1256

- Save the Date. As reported in an earlier issue of **Retiree News**, [Brig Gen Peter "Skipper" Pawling](#), the commander of the [154<sup>th</sup> Wing](#), will become the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, United States Pacific Command. His change of command ceremony will be on Saturday, June 6, 2009. The specific time is not set, but current plans have the ceremony immediately after his "fini flight" that morning.

There are plans for two other events to honor "[Skipper](#)" as he move on to his new position at PACOM. The first is a golf tournament on Wednesday, June 3, 2009. The second is a dinner on Friday, June 5, 2009. Definitely more specifics to come on these three events.

Save these dates on your calendar! We need to honor the "Last Deuce Pilot" as he leaves the [154<sup>th</sup> Wing](#) to assume his new job at PACOM.