

20090815 Retiree News

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1. **The Promise.** **Retiree News** will contain information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about current, former, or retired members. There will be no chain e-mail, cute pictures, or sales pitches. Publication of **Retiree News** is on a random schedule – as topics come up and time permits. If you change your mind about receiving issues of **Retiree News**, send an e-mail at retireenews@hawaiiintel.net and you will be off the **Retiree News** mailing list.

2. **Business.**

- **The New 154th Wing Commander.** As this issue of **Retiree News** is sent out, the command has not named the new 154th Wing commander. **Col Joseph Kim** continues doing an outstanding job leading the wing until the commander announcement is made. I will get announcement news out to you as soon as it is made by the command.

- **No COLA this year is looking more likely.** The following is an August 12, 2009 **Military Times** article written by Rick Maze.

Friday's announcement that consumer prices continue to fall makes the proposed 2010 military pay raise look even bigger while dimming chances of a cost-of-living adjustment for military retirees this December. The Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which tracks the price of goods and services, reported that prices fell by 0.2 percent in July and by 2.1 percent in the last 12 months.

The main reason for the drop is a 28 percent decline in energy costs in the last year. Energy costs climbed slightly last month but are still down for the year. Falling consumer prices would give the 3.4 percent military pay raise that is pending in Congress more buying power.

Military pay raises are not linked to consumer prices; they are based on comparability with private-sector pay raises. The 3.4 percent raise approved by the House and Senate — but not yet final — would be 0.5 percent greater than the average private-sector wage increase in 2008, the year used for comparison purposes in preparing the 2010 budget. The Obama administration had requested a 2.9 percent military pay increase that would have matched the 2008 private-sector increase.

For military retirees — as well as federal civilian retirees, Social Security recipients and other beneficiaries of federal benefits linked to consumer prices — the July report adds credence to the possibility there will be no Dec. 1 cost-of-living adjustment. By law, Social Security and government retirement automatically increase each year to keep pace with the rise in the Consumer Price Index, a measure of the cost of goods and services.

The annual Dec. 1 increase is determined by comparing costs in the last quarter of the fiscal year — July, August and September — to costs in the last quarter of the previous fiscal year. If costs fall from one year to the next, retired pay and benefits are not cut; they are simply frozen at their current level. The fate of the 2009 cost-of-living adjustment, which would take effect on Dec. 1 and first appear in January checks, will not be known until mid-October. But the 2.1 percent drop in prices in July 2009 compared to the same month last year is a strong indicator of what to expect.

According to the Labor Department announcement, the July drop, which follows a modest price increase in June, is a result of declines in both food and energy indexes, including drops in gasoline, fuel oil and electricity. Natural gas prices slightly increased. Other categories of goods also saw increases, including medical care, clothing, new vehicles and tobacco products, and airline ticket prices. Rent and mortgage costs were unchanged, and the cost of lodging away from home fell, the report says.

- Are You Overweight? Check Your BMI? A study published by the Centers for Disease Control shows not eating the right things can cost you. Obese people spend on average \$1400 more every year on medical bills. Healthcare costs for obesity has now skyrocketed to \$147 billion a year.

Overweight or obesity is determined by your BMI or Body Mass Index. The average BMI is 18.5 to 24.9. For someone 5'9", a normal weight range is 125 to 168 pounds. Above that is considered overweight. Obese is a BMI above 30 or about 203 pounds for a 5'9" person.

Check your BMI at the following website.

http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/adult_BMI/english_bmi_calculator/bmi_calculator.html

- USO looking for volunteers. The USO of Hawaii is looking for volunteers to staff their locations at Honolulu Airport and the Hickam AMC Terminal. **Elaine Ota**, the Deputy Director asked the following volunteer opportunities be published in Retiree News. Contact Elaine at 448-9966 or usohawaii3@juno.com. More information about duties and volunteer hours:

Center Volunteer Location: Hickam AMC Terminal. At the Hickam AMC USO, you will be responsible for providing hospitality to those traveling Space-A. You will also provide general information on military lodging and commercial hotels, area restaurants, bus and taxi services, as well as military travel and alternate commercial travel (when necessary).

Days/Hours: Sun.-Sat., between 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., minimum 4 hours (one shift) per month, number of days and hours flexible and based on need. Commitment: Three months minimum*.

Center Volunteer Location: Honolulu International Airport (between Baggage Claims E & F). At the Airport USO, you will be responsible for providing hospitality to those traveling on commercial airlines. You will provide contact and transportation information to inbound military personnel and their families traveling on PCS orders. You will also provide general information about the Airport and surrounding locations, area lodging (military and commercial), rental car information, and bus and taxi services. Parking is validated for all Volunteers.

Days/Hours: Sun.-Sat., between 8:00 a.m.-Midnight, minimum 4 hours (one shift) per month, number of days and hours flexible and based on need. Commitment: Three months minimum*.

You can view other volunteer opportunities at their website www.uso.org/hawaii.

- Officers' Clubs Near Extinction. Did you know that the Hickam AFB Officer's Club is one of only nine remaining in the Air Force? The following article, written by Larry Copeland is taken from the August 3, 2009 issue of **USA Today** tells the rest of the story.

FORT BENNING, Ga. — This sprawling Army installation, where generations of infantry soldiers have come to train, boasts an Internet cafe, a brew pub sporting pool tables and big-screen televisions, and six gymnasiums. It even has the area's only do-it-yourself dog wash. People bring Fido, place him on a platform and give him a flea-ridding scrubbing. What Fort Benning does not have is an officers' club, a place where historically those with the rank of lieutenant and above could rub shoulders, break bread and drink with other officers.

This storied military post, which covers about 280 square miles near Columbus, reflects a trend: Officers' clubs — along with clubs for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel — are disappearing.

Just seven officers' clubs remain on Army installations in the USA — down from about 100 in the late 1970s. The Marine Corps, which boasted dozens of officers' clubs in the mid-1980s, has 10 left. The Air Force has nine, down from 27 in 2003, and the Navy is down to 20. Clubs are nearing extinction because of changing demographics of today's armed forces; what the military calls the "deglamorization" of alcohol; economic realities; cultural shifts; and the availability of wider dining choices nearby.

'Alcohol deglamorization'. "There's been a bit of a cultural shift in the Army that's gone away from a membership club where you pay your dues to belong to it. There is a lot of focus in today's Army on programs that meet family needs," says Alvin Gelineau, civilian director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, overseeing Fort Benning's non-duty functions. "The military demographics have changed," he says. "A lot of these youngsters that are coming into the Army now are already married. The important things to them are child care, libraries, activities for the family when the spouse is deployed."

"Alcohol deglamorization in the late '80s started the decline," says Carol Garland, head of the Marine Corps' Food and Hospitality, Personal and Family Readiness Division. "(Congressionally) appropriated funds to support the operation of clubs, including managers, were greatly reduced. Without appropriated funds, clubs had to be self-supporting businesses." She says base closures, unit realignments and the demands of family life also reduced the number. "Finally, competition, both on and off base, from quick-service and casual-dining establishments has greatly increased ... and impacted the use of clubs," Garland says.

At Navy installations, economics have prompted a shift toward clubs that welcome sailors of all ranks, says Lt.(j.g.) Laura Stegherr, a Navy spokeswoman.

The officers' club at the Army's Fort Bliss in Texas will close Sept. 3 after a 90-year run, says Mark Cauthers, civilian director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Fort Bliss. The club will be converted into a Family Readiness Center, which will offer child care, a video teleconference center and other services.

Clubs began as a way to offer benefits and prestige to often low-paid officers, says Geoffrey Wawro, director of the Military History Center at the University of North Texas. "The officers' club was a place where officers could meet socially. It gave them a certain cachet and standing they might lack in society."

Some mourn the clubs' passing. In the May issue of *Marine Corps Gazette* magazine, Lt. Col. Glen Butler traced the demise of officers' clubs to the 1991 Tailhook scandal, in which Navy pilots were accused of sexually abusing female officers at a convention in Las Vegas. "Shocked and embarrassed by the incident, the Navy and Marine Corps moved to lay the

foundation for dramatic, comprehensive changes that would ultimately shape the Services' cultural fabric of 2009," he wrote. "Many of the changes were positive and overdue; however, (some) have undoubtedly caused negative impact to today's Marines, sailors and families. The death of the O'Club is one example."

Gelineau says the Army regularly surveys soldiers and their families on what kinds of services they want. A recent survey found that "they're looking for kind of what you find off the installation. I don't recall seeing a need for a club, where you pay dues." The Fort Benning dog wash grew out of such a survey. "Many of the families here live in small units," says Fort Benning spokeswoman Elsie Jackson. "If they have a big dog, it can really get the place messy." "It was what the families wanted," she says. "We have a saying here — when a soldier's family is happy, a soldier is happy." The Java Café also grew out of the survey. On a recent afternoon, a civilian couple and a handful of uniformed soldiers sit sipping coffee and listening to rock music.

- The July issue of the **DFAS Retired Pay Newsletter** is located at: <http://www.dfas.mil/rna-news/july2009/RAJuly09Newsletter.pdf>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- The August issue of the 154th Wing's newspaper, the **Kuka'ilimoku**, is on the Hawaii State Department of Defense's website. Go to <http://hawaii.gov/dod/hiang/kukailimoku/2009-kukailimoku-issues/2009%2008%20Kukailimoku.pdf/view>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- **July-August Issue of Airman Magazine** is Online. To view the July-August 2009 issue, just log on to: <http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. You can view back issues (electronic issues only) by clicking on "back issues" on the scroll bar when you get to the website referenced.

- **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! **Retiree News** is looking for these Hawai'i National Guard members e-mail addresses or their addresses on file for them no longer works. E-mail their addresses to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net if you can share them.

Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Randy Solomon
Tom Gresch
Wayne Z. Higa

Russell Woodward
Byron Kim
Steve Ware
Katherine Asato
Edward Uyeda

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.

Ralph Kaneshiro
Gareth Ishida
Richard Kon

Haruo Shigezawa
Dennis Fred

The address total just passed **1100+** members. Be sure to ask your fellow retirees that you meet if they receive **Retiree News**. If not, send their e-mail address to retireenews@hawaiiintel.net. Mahalo for your support!

4. Condolences. These Hawai'i 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.

- OCS Class 02-09 Graduation Ceremony, 16 August 2009. The 298th Regiment Multifunctional Training Unit, Hawaii Army National Guard and the Graduating Class of Officer Candidate School invites you to attend the graduation ceremony of OCS Class 02-09 which will take place this Sunday, 16 August 2009 1630 hours at the 298th Regiment Multifunctional Training Unit Auditorium (BLDG 713) Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii. The four graduates are:

Keith D. Burkholder.
Brad P. Klopp
Renato O. Mansilungan Jr.
William A. Ting

- I ran into **Lt Col Eric Kanja** at a recent graduation party for a friend's son. Eric retired from the Hawaii Air National Guard many years ago, and went to work for the State. He retired from the State and is now retired retired. Great seeing Eric!

- Lisa Kubota's Aerobatic Adventure Over Oahu. KGMB9's anchor Lisa Kubota experienced a ride in stunt plane owned and piloted by **Col Clinton Churchill**. Clint is a former fighter pilot in the Hawai'i Air National Guard and purchased his high performance Extra 300L aircraft when he retired. It's the only one of its kind in the islands. The link to the video on the KGMB9 website is gone, but Lisa looked a little pale in some of the shots. Still think she had a great ride.

Clint remains a Campbell Estate trustee and serves as the president of the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island.

- I received an e-mail from **TSgt Misael "Sonny" Balayan**, who retired several years ago from the 154th Mission Support Flight. Since retiring, he worked in the IT area. He is pulling up roots and moving to a new job at Naval Station Rota in Spain. Know Sonny will do a super job there!

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

- DoD Retirement and Awards Luncheon Update. Friday, August 28, 2009 is the date for the next DoD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. In addition to honoring the department's retirees, there will be the presentation of the Adjutant General's Award and the State Employee of the Year Award. The following retirees and honorees will attend the luncheon.

Retirees: **Maj Gen Peter Pawling**, **LTC Robert Kauhane**, **Lt Col Dalwyn Wong**, **MSG Francis Hapenny**, **MSG Manny Viduya**, **SFC Mike Nii**, and **MSgt Carl Tonaki**.

30 Year Service Award: **Col Joseph Kim**

- When: 28 August 2009, starting at 1100, lunch served at 1130
- Where: Hale Koa, Banyan Tree Showroom
- Time: 1100- 1300
- Cost: \$26 per person (includes gratuity)
- Checks made out to: **DoD Retirement & Service Award Fund**
- Menu: Grilled, Marinated Chicken Breast and Scallops on Spaghettini, Chunky Banana Frozen Yogurt Pie with Chocolate Sauce, Hale Koa Salad w/House Dressing, Rolls, Butter, Coffee and Tea.
- POC's:
 - HIARNG: **Ms. Emmy Maikui-Grambusch**, 672-1257
 - USPFO: **Ms. Jeanette Sturges**, 672-6310
 - 201 CCG: **MSgt Jackie Jakahi**, 448-7608
 - 154 WG: **MSgt Larnette Doi**, 448-7441
 - State DoD: **Ms. Jeanne Hamamura**, 672-1206
 - HRO: **CMSgt Deb Brownhill**, 672-1233

● Hawai'i National Guard Handicap Bowling Tournament. There will be a Hawai'i National Guard handicap bowling tournament over the Labor Day weekend. The goal is to bring camaraderie and the Hawai'i National Guard Ohana together as ONE. For more information and an entry form, contact **SSgt Arthur Hamabata**, 448-7692 or arthur.hamabata@hihick.ang.af.mil

- When/Where:
 - Saturday, September 5, 2009 at the Hickam AFB lanes (team event)
 - Monday, September 7, 2009 at the Schofield Barracks lanes (individual and doubles)
- Time: 0900-1200, 1300-1600 each day
- Who: open to all Army and Air Guard members and retirees only

● Retirement Luncheon for CMSgt Pamela Goya. **CMSgt Pamela Goya**, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is retiring and there will be a party in her honor in September. She leaves with over 34 years of service in the Hawai'i Air National Guard. View the electronic invitation at: <https://einvitations.afit.edu/Goya377/anim.cfm>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. The party specifics follow:

- When: Sunday, September 6, 2009
 - Cocktails and pupus starting at 1200
 - Luncheon starting at 1330, program to follow
- Where: Sunset Lanai, Camp H.M Smith
- Menu:
 - Tossed green salad, potato/mac salad, vegetables with dip, fresh fruits
 - Kalbi or Bulgogi, sautéed mahimahi, fried chicken
 - Steamed white rice, vegetable du jour, rolls and butter
 - Assorted cakes and pies
 - Coffee, punch
- Costs: \$30.00 (\$10.00 gift only)
- Checks made out to: **Jody Goya**
- Suspense: Saturday, August 15, 2009
- POCs:
 - **CMSgt Leilani Moniz**, 448-7400, leilani.moniz@hihick.ang.af.mil

--- **SMSgt Jody Goya**, 292-3128, jody.goya@hihick.af.mil
--- **SMSgt Edward Tang**, 448-7744, edward.tang@hihick.af.mil
--- **MSgt Rose Vendiola**, 448-7225, rose.vendiola@hihick.af.mil
--- **MSgt Robyn Montero**, 448-7379, robyn.montera@hihick.af.mil

● PACAF Air Force Birthday Ball. The 2009 PACAF Birthday Ball will be held on Friday, September 18, 2009 at the Hawai'i Ballroom, Sheraton Waikiki Resort. There will be a special guest appearance by the Air Force Thunderbirds during the social hour. **SMSgt Robbie Shigeta** is the HIANG OPR – his e-mail with more information follows.

-----Original Message-----

From: HIANG NEWS

Sent: Saturday, August 01, 2009 6:59 AM

To: ALL HIANG

Subject: AF BALL

ALCON,

I am the AF Ball POC for the HIANG. Ticket sales will begin on 3-27 Aug 2009. We only have a limited amount of tickets, so it will be sold first come first served. Below are the ROE's.

Dress:

- Officers- Mess Dress
- Enlisted- Mess Dress / Simi formal
- Guest/civilian – Formal

Payment:

- E1-E4=\$20
- GS1-GS9 / NSPS Pay Band 1 / E5-E6=\$35
- E7-E8=\$40
- Retirees=\$45
- E9=\$55
- GS10-12 / NSPS Pay Band 2 / O1-O3=\$50
- GS13-14 / O4-O5=\$60
- GS15> / NSPS Pay Band 3 / O6>=\$65

Technicians, AGR's and Traditional - Pay by your Rank

Duel military pay by your rank.

If you are buying a ticket for your spouse or someone else you pay at your cost.

Individuals sponsoring an E1-E4 must pay \$45 per ticket.

Meal Choices are:

- Kiawe grilled NY steak
- Pan roasted chicken breast

Need names and meal choice selection at the time of payment.

Make all checks payable to "[Air Force Birthday Ball Committee](#)"

Robby A. Shigeta, SMSgt
HQ PACAF/A4

Hickam AFB HI 96853
808-449-3694

- Save the Date - Hickam AFB Open House! The 2009 Hickam AFB Open House will be held September 18-19, 2009. The United States Air Force Thunderbirds and the United States Army Golden Knights will be performing at this year's event! POC for the Open House is **Lt Col Scott Weber**, scott.weber@hickam.af.mil
- Save the Date – the Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Ball is on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at the Ihilani Resort and Spa in Kapolei. This joint event celebrates the 373rd Birthday of our National Guard's beginnings. Last year's birthday ball was another fun and entertaining event. The specifics about the ball are forthcoming!