

20090901 Retiree News

1. **The Promise.** **Retiree News** will contain information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about current, former, and 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.
- **Bad News – Probably no COLA Increase for 2010.** In his August 27, 2009 column, Tom Philpott wrote how there will be no COLA increase for retirees this year. After last year's 5.8% increase, the market has readjusted and it does not support an increase. Read his entire article at: <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,199178,00.html>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.
- **Yellow Ribbon Program Provides Support Services.** The following DoD press release reports on the new DoD Yellow Ribbon Program.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17, 2009 - The Yellow Ribbon Program is "off and running," said the program's deputy executive director, James "Scotty" Scott. The program's goal is to prepare servicemembers and their families for mobilization, sustain families during mobilization, and reintegrate soldiers with their families, communities and employers upon redeployment.

During the first nine months of fiscal 2009, reserve components have hosted more than 1,367 Yellow Ribbon events across the 54 U.S. states and territories. Through these events, more than 133,000 reservists and their family members have received valuable training and information about support services available to them before, during and after mobilization.

In addition to helping families understand their benefits and entitlements as they transition in and out of active-duty status, the program also links people to services such as referrals and counseling through Military OneSource, Veterans Affairs Vet Centers, TRICARE, and other state and local programs.

Ultimately, deployment support and military family programs are the responsibility of each unit commander. However, the program assists commanders by actively surveying the best practices from the military services, and combining those to form a joint program that servicemembers and their families can rely on for assistance and support regardless of service, component or location.

"The Yellow Ribbon Program represents an increasingly valuable resource that commanders are able to integrate into their overall deployment support, readiness and support program," said Dennis M. McCarthy, the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs.

Meanwhile, the newly formed Yellow Ribbon Advisory Board has conducted its second meeting in the Pentagon. In addition to Defense Department representatives, leaders from the reserve components and the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs were in attendance.

The advisory board's mission is to provide independent advice regarding the program to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Along with recommending improvements for delivery of services, the board is required to submit a report to the Senate and House Armed Services committees at least once a year. The board is completing its initial report to Congress, which is due in early September. It also is in the process of finalizing a department instruction, which will provide Yellow Ribbon guidance to the individual reserve components.

- Pacific Air Forces Change of Command. The Pacific Air Forces Change of Command has happened on Wednesday, August 18, 2009. **General Gary L. North** assumed command from **General Howie Chandler** at the ceremony on the Freedom Tower Mall on Hickam AFB. **General Norton A. Schwartz**, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Navy **Admiral Thomas J. Keating**, U.S. Pacific Command commander officiated.

General North is coming from command of 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central, headquartered at Shaw AFB, South Carolina. The general has led air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since early 2006. After just less than two years in the job, General Chandler is returning to the Pentagon in Washington DC where he'll be the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the service's second highest post.

For General North's full bio: <http://www.af.mil/information/bios/bio.asp?biolD=6617>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- Change in Non-Prior Service Enlistment Age. Change 1 to ANGI 36-2002, Enlistment and Reenlistment in the Air National Guard and as a Reserve of the Air Force, has raised the maximum enlisted age for non-prior service individuals to age 40. The change became effective on August 11, 2009. This change will provide Air Guard opportunities to older individuals who are interested in enlisting in the Air National Guard.

- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB will merge starting later this year. This action is a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. The Navy will serve as the lead.

There are many questions about joint basing. These two are the most commonly asked and are part of the Pearl Harbor-Hickam AFB joint basing website referenced below.

Q: Why is DoD going to a Joint Basing concept?

A: Modern warfare is joint warfare. In addition to saving scarce funds, this move to Joint Basing will allow us to build closer relationships and forge stronger ties between services. We will not only train as we fight, we will live as we fight. This is part of an ongoing effort to maintain the most efficient and effective force structure.

Q: What bases are affected by Joint Basing?

A:

Navy as lead:

--- Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB HI

--- Navy Base Guam and Andersen Air Base, Guam

--- Anacostia Naval Station and Bolling AFB, Washington DC
--- Naval Station Norfolk and Fort Story, VA

Army as lead:

--- Fort Lewis and McChord AFB, WA
--- Fort Meyer and Henderson Hall (USMC), VA

Air Force as lead:

--- Charleston AFB and Naval Weapons Station Charleston, SC
--- McGuire AFB, Fort Dix, and Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, NJ
--- Andrews AFB and Naval Air Facility Washington, MD
--- Elmendorf AFB and Fort Richardson, AK
--- Lackland AFB, Randolph AFB, and Fort Sam Houston, TX
--- Langley AFB and Fort Eustis, VA

For more information, go to: <http://www2.hickam.af.mil/library/joint-basinginformation/index.asp>.
If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

● When a retiree passes away, the surviving spouse, or children are often unsure about what they should do in regard to the military retiree's pay and benefits. A retiree should create a list of names and phone numbers that need to be contacted when he or she dies and inform the spouse and family members as to what is on the list and where to find it. This list should include the:

- DFAS, Retired and Annuity Pay Center 1-800-321-1080 to stop retired pay, apply for Survivor Benefits, and obtain information about insurance and other allotments

- Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000 for Disability Pay and burial assistance and/or applying for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DICE) for the surviving spouse

- Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213 to discuss Social Security Survivor benefits

- Office of Personnel Management 1-888-767-6738 for retirees who are receiving civil service pensions in addition to military retired pay

● Discounts for Servicemembers. The Military.com discount center has thousands of exclusive discounts and coupons perfect for summer. Save on flights, car rentals, motorcycles, books, hotels, computers, tickets, toys, games, home and garden and more. Browse coupons now.

http://web50.military.com/cgi-bin/outlog.cgi?url=http%3A/www.military.com/DC/DealIndex.jsp?ESRC=mr.nl&code=mr_082409_deal

Please note – some of the discount links on the Military.com website require you to provide your e-mail address and it could generate future promotional e-mail from the linked site.

● 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@hawaiiintel.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.

Al Nebre (update)

Francis Hapenny

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....

George J. Osakoda, 67, of Honolulu, died August 6, 2009. Born in Hawai'i. Retired social worker; National Guard veteran. Survived by wife, Gail; son, Blayne; daughter, Mari; sister, Linda Hakoda.

William "Ching" Nakagawa, 45, of Mililani, died August 8, 2009. Born in Wahiawa. Sun Industry heavy equipment mechanic; and an Army National Guard veteran. Survived by wife, Melissa; sons, Kahi Hernandez and Justin; daughters, Justine, Jaynalyn, and Kishia Pasco; three grandchildren; mother, Shirley Lozano; stepfather, Miguel Lozano; brothers, Wilbur, Wendell and Wesley; sister, Debra "Naka" Maramba.

Derek Akira Kawamura, 57 of Honolulu, he passed away of pancreatic cancer on August 12, 2009. Derek is a 1970 graduate of St. Louis High School and New York Tech and spent much of his career as a television technician. He was also a member of the U.S. Army National Guard and served with the 298th Engineer Detachment in Afghanistan. He served 38 years in the Army National Guard. He is survived by his wife, Virginia Marie Kawamura; daughter, Jamie Mariko Kawamura; son, Shawn Akira Kawamura; grandson, Makana Keli'ikipi Kawamura; parents, Bert and Sadie Kawamura; sisters, Doreen (Michael) Noborikawa, Debbie (Raymond) Pena and Dale (Gregg) Takemoto; nieces, Erin and Kayla; nephews, Clint, Jase and Joshua.

David Mitsuo Ogura, 57, of Kailua, died August 14, 2009. Born in Honolulu. Retired Army National Guard staff sergeant. Survived by wife, Wilma Kam; son, Nathan Owens; daughters, Darnell Powers and Cheryl Ownes; stepchildren, Tricia Song, Stephanie Dizon and Aimee Yeap; mother, Dorothy; brothers, Ernest and Ross; sisters, Jane Kuriki and Joan Osato; seven grandchildren.

MG Alexis Lum, 82, died over the August 30, 2009 weekend. General Lum served as the State Adjutant General from 1983 to 1991.

The general began his military career as an army draftee in 1945, serving in World War II, and later in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was a 1950 graduate of the University of Hawaii, Manoa. He received his commission as an Army second lieutenant in through its ROTC program. In 1953, he joined the Hawai'i Army National Guard. He served in various command and staff positions. During the 29th Brigade's 1968 activation, he served in Vietnam as the executive office of the 31st Engineer Battalion. Following his Vietnam service, the general returned to Hawai'i and become the commander of the Headquarters Installation Command. In 1980, he became the Commander of the Hawai'i Army National Guard.

In civilian life, the general was a Federal employee from 1954 until he retired in 1982. He served his entire Federal career at the Naval Ammunition Depot, now known as the Lualualei Naval Magazine.

Governor George Ariyoshi appointed General Lum as the Adjutant General in 1983. After his tenure as the Adjutant General ended in 1991, he joined the staff of Senator Daniel Inouye as the senator's military liaison. He served until December 2007.

The general is survived by his wife the former Leimomi Mookini and they have three children, Angela, Alexia and Oliver. Funeral services are pending.

5. Retiree Update.

- Welcome Home to all the Hawai'i Army National Guard soldiers who just returned from their yearlong deployment to Kuwait and other locations in the Middle East. The members of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (29 IBCT) served in Kuwait, but members did escort duty for new brigades into locations within Iraq. A Job Well Done!

- Hawai'i Army National Guard Personnel Changes. **BG Joseph Chaves**, Commander, Hawai'i Army National Guard announced the following personnel changes. The changes were effective August 17, 2009. Congratulations to all on their new positions.

COL Alika Watts is now assigned as the Deputy J4, Logistics. Alika previously served as the HIARNG G1, Personnel. Send congratulatory e-mail: alika.watts@us.army.mil

LTC(P) Douglas Kurt Jackson is the new HIARNG G1, Personnel. Kurt did a super job as the commander of the HIARNG Recruiting and Retention Command. Send congratulatory e-mail: douglas.kurt.jackson@us.army.mil

MAJ Loren Penney will service as the acting commander of the Recruiting and Retention Command. Send congratulatory e-mail: loren.penney@us.army.mil

- Organization Changes at the 154th Wing. Effective September 1, 2009, the National Guard Bureau has redesignated the 154th Mission Support Flight as the 154th Force Support Squadron. **Lt Col Randall Tom** will transition from the flight commander to the commander of the new squadron. In an accompanying action, the NGB deactivated the 154th Services Flight, and merged the mission and personnel into the new Force Support Squadron.

- A 50th anniversary of Hawai'i statehood luau in Iraq. Hawai'i Air National Guard members deployed to Iraq celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hawai'i statehood by hosting a traditional Hawaiian luau. **MSgt Sean Iida**, First Sergeant of 292nd Combat Communications Squadron, organized the luau that involved the nearly four dozen Hawaii Guard members of the 291st,

292nd and 293rd Combat Communications Squadrons. What started as a dinner for the 60 deployed Hawai'i Guard members soon mushroomed to a luau for the entire Kirkuk Air Base – over a 1,000 personnel. Talk about losing control of your guest list! A Great Job by Sean and all the deployed comm folks!

Read the Honolulu Star Bulletin's article about the luau at:

http://www.starbulletin.com/news/20090820_Isle_Guard_brings_luau_to_Iraq.html. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- Another Luau – this one in New York. **Lt Col Joseph Damiani**, former 204th Airlift Squadron member hosted a luau to celebrate his 50th birthday and his military retirement. His electronic invitation – evite – was sent to HIANG **Retiree News** readers earlier. Everyone who knows Joe knows it was a quite a party. Happy birthday and congratulations on his retirement!
- Fifty Years Ago... The Hawai'i Air National Guard played an interesting part in the Statehood Celebration in 1959. In an age lacking the modern electronics we have today, three F-86 Sabre jets transported copies of the Statehood proclamation to each of the islands from Honolulu. Flying the mission that day was: **Ross "Roscoe" England** to Lihue, Kauai, **Melvin "Humphrey" Souza** to Kahului, Maui, and **Carl Nakamura** to Hilo, Hawaii. It must have been a memorable day! A picture of one of them is on the home page of the State Department of Defense's website. <http://hawaii.gov/dod>

Updates:

--- Ross England passed away earlier this year, losing a battle with acute leukemia. His son, **SFC Charles England** continues the family military service with the Hawai'i Army National Guard.

--- Mel Souza retired from the Guard in the 1970s and currently serves as a docent at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island.

--- Carl Nakamura later transferred to the Hawai'i Army National Guard, and returned to the Air Guard in the 1980s, retiring in late 90s.

- Unexpected Passing. Sorry to report that **MSgt Robert Jaeger**'s wife, Diane passed away on August 6, 2009. She was only 46 years young. The full obituary follows. Aloha Pumehana Diane....

Diane Leslie Yap Jaeger, 45, of Kailua, died Aug. 6, 2009. Born in Honolulu. Bank of Hawaii Trust real estate officer. Survived by husband, Robert; daughter, Lindsey; parents, Lynette and Gordon Yap; sister, Dana Gibo; brothers, Dr. Joel, Dr. Gary and Eric Yap. Donations to Diane Jaeger Memorial Education Trust, c/o Bank of Hawaii, 636 Kailua Road, Kailua, HI 96734.

Bobby retired from the 154th Security Forces Squadron, but remains with the Honolulu Police Department. In the Guard, he served in the CATM section and remains a weapons instructor at the police department.

- DoD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. It was another outstanding luncheon at the Hale Koa Banyan Tree Showroom. The following new retirees were honored and received their wooden bowls.

--- **Maj Gen Peter Pawling**
--- **LTC Robert Kauhane**
--- **Lt Col Dalwyn Wong**

--- **MSG Francis Hapenny**
--- **SFC Mike Nii**
--- **MSgt Carl Tonaki**

Ms. Debra Harada of State Civil Defense was this year's winner of the Adjutant General's Award. She also was presented with a Sustained Superior Performance Award. Debbie will represent the Department of Defense for the annual Governor's Award for Distinguished State Service.

Ms. Suzanne Toguchi of State Civil Defense was this year's departmental winner of the State Manager of the Year Award. Suzanne will represent the State Department of Defense at the Governor's Award Ceremony.

Col Joseph Kim received his 30-year Service Award.

I got to see some Hawai'i National Guard retirees were at the luncheon – **MAJ Brooks Akana**, **MSgt Robert Finley**, **MSgt Lester Ho**, **SMSgt Galen Nakahara**, **TSgt Gary Saito**, **MSgt Leonard Tam**, **1SG Dave Wallace**, and **CMSgt Alwyn Yoshimura**.

It was a great luncheon chaired by **CMSgt Debbie Brownhill** and the Human Resources Office.

6. Upcoming Events. Events listed are by the event date.

- Freedom Walk Hosted by Operation Homefront – Hawai'i Chapter. **CSM Steven R. Abe**, who retired from the 1/487th Field Artillery, submitted this information about this year's Freedom Walk.

Freedom Walk is a free, nonpartisan, inclusive event open to the general public. This is not a platform to discuss politics or policies. The purpose of this event is simply to continue the tradition Operation Homefront started to reflect on the lives lost on September 11, 2001, renew our commitment to freedom and the values of our country, and to honor our military members. The title sponsor for this year's Freedom Walk is Lockheed Martin.

- When: Friday, September 11, 2009
- Where: The corner of Valkenburgh and Main Street
- Time:
 - 0800 - Registration Begins - no registration fee
 - 0900 - Ceremony Begins
 - 0930 - 1000 - Freedom Walk. The walk is approximately 1.5 miles
- Costs: free

If you would like to participate in our Freedom Walk sign up here.

http://www.operationhomefront.net/forms/freedom_walk_app.asp?Chapter_Id=7

Operation Homefront provides emergency assistance and morale to our troops, to the families they leave behind, and to wounded warriors when they return home. If you want to learn more about Operation Homefront - Hawaii Chapter:

https://www.operationhomefront.net/Chapter_root/chapter_index.asp?Chapter_ID=7

- 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! For more information about the Open House, go to: <http://www.hafb2009openhouse.com/Home.html>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

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. This year's birthday ball is on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at the J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa in Kapolei. This joint event celebrates the 373rd Birthday of our National Guard's beginnings. The specifics about the ball are forthcoming! The event chairs is **Brig Gen Stanley Osserman** and **BG Gary Hara** Division OPRS are:

HIARNG POC: **LTC Laura Soares**, 672-1321, laura.soares@us.army.mil

HIANG POC: **Lt Col Peter Ching**, 448-8331, peter.ching@hihick.ang.af.mil